

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Petitioner,

Seeking Approval of Tariff Revisions
to Schedule 95A and Requesting
Exemption from the Provisions of
WAC 480-100-198 Relating to Notice
Verification and Assistance.

DOCKET UE-161176

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING
EXEMPTION FROM RULE AND
ALLOWING REVISED RATES TO
BECOME EFFECTIVE
JANUARY 1, 2017

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 31, 2016, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a tariff filing to reflect an annual true-up of rates in Schedule 95A, Federal Incentive Tracker, with an effective date of January 1, 2017. PSE also requests an exemption from WAC 480-100-198.
- 2 In its revised Tariff Schedule 95A, PSE requests that a Federal Treasury Grant credit of \$51,711,943 be passed back to eligible customers over the twelve months beginning January 1, 2017. Of the total credit, \$38,133,957 represents the pass-through of the grant amortization, and \$13,577,986 represents the interest. The total amount to be passed back to customers includes \$802,331 that was not passed back in 2016 due to lower than forecasted loads. This filing reflects a reduced amount of credit, which results in an overall average rate increase of 0.32 percent. PSE has approximately 1,120,000 electric customers. This filing affects electric customers on all rate schedules except those on retail wheeling schedules.
- 3 WAC 480-100-198 provides that within 10 days of making a filing that requires customer notice under WAC 480-100-194, electric companies must file a statement with the Commission's records center showing that such notice has been posted, published, and/or mailed. WAC 480-100-194(2) requires that utilities proposing a rate change publish notice to its customers at least 30 days prior to the proposed effective date of the rate change.

4 In addition to this filing, PSE has proposed concurrent rate changes in two unrelated electric tariff schedules,¹ all with a proposed effective date of January 1, 2017. On November 30, 2016, the Company issued a single notice to its electric customers describing the rate impact of all three tariff revisions in an effort to avoid sending multiple rate change notices and reduce customer confusion.

5 Because the proposed changes to Schedule 95A were filed on October 31, 2016, and the Company waited until November 30, 2016, to publish a combined notice, the Company did not meet the technical requirements of WAC 480-100-198, which requires that verification of customer notice be made within 10 days of the date a proposed tariff revision is filed. Accordingly, PSE requests an exemption from WAC 480-100-198 as it relates to this Docket. The Company filed the required customer notice verification letter with the Commission on December 7, 2016.

6 Commission Staff has reviewed the requested tariff revisions and finds them to be fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Staff recommends the Commission issue an order allowing the tariff filing in this docket to become effective January 1, 2017.

7 Commission Staff also recommends granting PSE's request for exemption from WAC 480-100-198 for the filing in this Docket. Because three tariff revisions are scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2017, a single customer notice showing the combined rate impact is less confusing to customers, and is therefore in the public interest.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including electric companies.
- 9 (2) PSE is engaged in the business of providing electric services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under the provisions of RCW 80.28.
- 10 (3) PSE is subject to the provisions of WAC 480-100-198, requiring electric companies to file a statement with the Commission's records center within 10

¹ Docket UE-161251, concerning Renewable Energy Credit revenues, and Docket UE-161249, concerning the Merger Credit for Electric Operations.

days of making a filing that requires customer notice under WAC 480-100-194 to show that such notice has been posted, published, and/or mailed.

- 11 (4) WAC 480-100-008 provides that the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-100, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes.
- 12 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 22, 2016.
- 13 (6) The tariff revision presently under consideration is fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 14 (7) After reviewing the tariff revision filed in Docket UE-161176 by PSE and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to allow the revised rates and tariff revision filed on October 31, 2016, to become effective on January 1, 2017.
- 15 (8) After review of the petition filed in Docket UE-161176 by PSE on October 31, 2016, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is reasonable and should be granted for this docket only.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 16 (1) Puget Sound Energy is granted an exemption from WAC 480-100-198, Notice Verification and Assistance for Docket UE-161176.
- 17 (2) The tariff revision Puget Sound Energy filed in this docket on October 31, 2016, shall become effective on January 1, 2017.
- 18 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Puget Sound Energy to effectuate the provisions of this Order.
- 19 (4) The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective December 22, 2016.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVE V. KING, Executive Secretary