# WA. UT. & TRANS. COMM. ORIGINAL UG-230695

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SUB Sep 22, 2023

20th Revision of Sheet No. 1129 Canceling 19th Revision of Sheet No. 1129

WN U-2

**PUGET SOUND ENERGY Natural Gas Tariff** 

## **SCHEDULE 129 LOW INCOME PROGRAM**

AVAILABILITY/APPLICABILITY: The benefits available under this Low Income Program ("Program") (as approved in Docket Nos. UE-011570 and UG-011571) are available to Customers of the Company meeting the criteria described herein. The charges under this schedule apply to all Customers of the Company who are billed for therms except Customers taking service under existing special contracts.

#### **BENEFITS:**

- 1. Benefits under this Program are available through designated agencies (herein "Agencies") that: a) meet the criteria for a "Qualifying Organization" as defined in RCW 82.16.0497, b) the Company accepts as capable of performing necessary obligations under this Program, and c) executes a contract with the Company that is: (i) consistent with this schedule, (ii) provides for periodic auditing, and (iii) provides for an annual administration evaluation. The Agencies will ascertain whether specific Customer households seeking assistance with their natural gas bills are eligible for assistance under the Program.
  - a. The Agencies will determine whether a Customer meets the federal definition for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program ("LIHEAP") qualification. (i) If the Customer is eligible, they will receive LIHEAP funds in addition to funds under this Program unless or until LIHEAP funds are exhausted. (ii) If the Customer is not eligible to receive LIHEAP funds, but meets the Company criteria, the Customer will be considered for this Program. (iii) If the Customer meets all applicable criteria, the Customer will be eligible to receive assistance under the Company's Program.
  - b. Total Benefits for the program year (where Total Benefits is equal to benefits to eligible Customers under this Program plus the Agencies' administrative fees and the Company's program costs) under this Program and the Total Benefits of the Low Income Program under the Company's electric tariff are subject to a combined Annual Cap of \$35.640 million, provided that Total Benefits not expended in one program year will be included in Total Benefits for the following program year and be allocated along with funding for the current program year. The Annual Cap for the program year is allocated into Annual Caps of \$30.294 million for electric and \$5.346 million for natural gas Low Income Programs. Total Benefits are equal to the Annual Caps plus carry-over of funds not expended in the prior year.
  - c. A qualifying Customer may receive assistance through this Program once during a program year. Customers shall be requalified annually by one of the Agencies (except where noted otherwise). Total benefits to an individual eligible Customer under this program are subject to an annual cap equal to the sum of (i) the LIHEAP cap (currently \$1,000.00) and (ii) the benefit amount specifically for the applicable Schedule 171 charges.

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Birud D. Jhaveri Title: Director, Regulatory Affairs

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WN U-2

PUGET SOUND ENERGY Natural Gas Tariff

# SCHEDULE 129 LOW INCOME PROGRAM (Continued)

### **FUNDING:**

- There will be a prescribed agency administrative fee structure based on actual costs to local
  contractors to operate the LIHEAP program in Washington State. The administrative fees paid to
  Agencies will be considered part of the Total Benefits paid under this Program. Funding of benefits
  under this Program will be allocated in the Company's service area proportionate to LIHEAP
  payments to PSE for natural gas in the most recent LIHEAP fiscal year.
- 2. There will be a surcharge on all natural gas Energy (therms, either delivered or minimum quantity) and all electric Energy (kWh) to all customers classes that will be subject to an annual true-up to reflect changes in billing determinants so that the Annual Cap of \$35.640 million under the natural gas and electric Low Income Programs are equal to the Funding amounts collected by this schedule, plus the Electric Schedule 129, minus the effect of all of the Company's revenue sensitive costs such as taxes.

**RATE:** The surcharge rate is shown on the following sheet shall be added to the rate(s) shown on each schedule for natural gas service.

(Continued on Sheet No. 1129-B)

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