

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

In the Matter of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Petitioner,

Seeking Approval of Tariff Revisions
to Schedule 120 and Requesting
Exemption from the Provisions of
WAC 480-80-111(1)(b) Relating to
Substitute Tariff Filings.

DOCKETS UE-220137 AND
UG-220138

ORDER 01

GRANTING EXEMPTION FROM
RULE AND ALLOWING
REVISED RATES TO BECOME
EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2022

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 1, 2022, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) annual revisions to its Electricity and Natural Gas Conservation Service Riders, both Schedule 120, with an effective date of May 1, 2022.
- 2 On March 29 and 30, 2022 (for gas and electric, respectively), after discussion with Commission staff (Staff), the Company filed substitute tariff pages that include a mix of slight increases and slight decreases in tariff rates with respect to the original filing. These substitute tariff pages reflect the resulting rates with the inclusion of a new load forecast that came available to the Company just after the initial filing was submitted. The revenue requirement did not change between the original filing and the substitute pages.
- 3 On April 18, 2022, the Company filed a substitute cover letter in each docket, which requested an exemption from WAC 480-80-111(1)(b) (Petition). WAC 480-80-111(1)(b) states that a utility may file substitute tariff sheets within a pending tariff filing if “(t)he change does not increase the rates contained in the pending tariff sheet.” Because the substitute tariff pages result in an overall 0.06 percent increase to the electric rates and an overall 0.10 percent increase to natural gas rates from the original filing, the Company requested this exemption.
- 4 PSE also proposed revisions to Schedule 120 Conservation Service Riders for both Natural Gas and Electricity. These revisions include an increase of \$21,593,954 in the

revenue requirement for electric and \$2,841,436 for gas due to increases in the conservation budgets and partially offset by true ups from the prior year load and expenditures. The average bill for an electric residential customer using 800 kWh per month would increase by \$0.88 or 1.0 percent. The average bill for a gas residential customer using 64 therms per month would increase by \$0.22 or 0.3 percent.

5 Staff has reviewed the proposed tariff revisions and finds them to be fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Staff recommends that the Commission allow the tariff filing in this docket to become effective May 1, 2022.

6 Staff also reviewed the Company's Petition and recommends granting PSE's request for exemption for the present filing. Staff submits that granting this one-time exemption is in the public interest because the resulting rates will reflect the Company's most up-to-date projection of their load, which should limit the necessary true-up adjustments in the Company's 2023 filing.

DISCUSSION

7 We grant PSE's Petition. Pursuant to WAC 480-07-110, the Commission may, in response to a request or on its own motion, grant an exemption from its own rules when "consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes."¹ WAC 480-80-111(1)(b) states that a utility may file substitute tariff sheets within a pending tariff filing if "(t)he change does not increase the rates contained in the pending tariff sheet." Although the PSE filed substitute tariff revisions on March 29, 2022, and March 30, 2022, that include slight increases to certain charges, it is appropriate to allow the Company an exemption from WAC 480-80-111(1)(b) so that these tariff riders reflect updated load forecasts and more recent discussions with Staff. It is consistent with the public interest to grant the Company a one-time exemption from this rule.

8 We also agree with Staff's recommendation to allow the Company's annual revisions to its Electricity and Natural Gas Conservation Service Riders to take effect May 1, 2022.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

9 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules,

¹ See also WAC 480-80-015.

regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including electric and gas companies. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.28, RCW 80.08, and RCW 80.12.

- 10 (2) PSE is engaged in the business of providing electric and gas 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.
- 11 (3) PSE is subject to the provisions of WAC 480-80-111(1)(b), allowing electric and gas companies to file substitute tariff sheets within a pending tariff if the change does not increase the rates contained in the pending tariff sheet.
- 12 (4) WAC 480-80-015 provides that the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-80, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes.
- 13 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 28, 2022.
- 14 (6) The tariff revision presently under consideration is fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 15 (7) After reviewing the tariff revisions filed in Dockets UE-220137 and UG-220138 by PSE and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to allow the revised rates and tariff revisions filed on March 29 and 30, 2022, to become effective on May 1, 2022.
- 16 (8) After review of the petition filed in Dockets UE-220137 and UG-220138 by PSE on April 18, 2022, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that a one-time exemption is reasonable and should be granted for these dockets only.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 17 (1) Puget Sound Energy's Petition is GRANTED and the Company is given an exemption from WAC 480-80-111(1)(b) as discussed in paragraph 7 of this Order.

- 18 (2) The tariff revisions Puget Sound Energy filed in these dockets on March 29 (gas)
and March 30 (electric), 2022, shall become effective on May 1, 2022.
- 19 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Puget Sound
Energy to effectuate the provisions of this Order.
- 20 (4) The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public
interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective April 28, 2022.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary