

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKETS UE-160918
)	UG-160919
PUGET SOUND ENERGY,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	ORDER 01
)	
Seeking Exemption from the)	(PROPOSED)
Provisions of WAC 480-100-238(4))	ORDER GRANTING EXEMPTION
and WAC 480-90-238(4) Relating to)	FROM WAC 480-100-238(4) and
the Timing of Integrated Resource)	WAC 480-90-238(4)
Plan Filings)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 15, 2017, Puget Sound Energy (“PSE”) filed a petition requesting (1) an extension and modification of the filing date for its 2017 Integrated Resource Plan (“IRP”) from July 14, 2017, to November 15, 2017, and (2) retain its July 15 IRP filing date (established in Dockets UE-141169 and UG-141170, Order 01) starting in 2019.

- 2 WAC 480-100-238(4) and WAC 480-90-238(4) require electric and gas companies to file an integrated resource plan within two years of its previous filing or as required by the Commission. PSE’s next integrated resource plan is due on July 14, 2017, as shown in PSE’s IRP Work Plan filings of July 14, 2016.

- 3 In its petition, PSE explains that due to the need to acquire and study the peak capacity value of Montana wind generation and develop data regarding renewable resources, it would be advisable to allow PSE time to obtain this information and complete its analysis. The peak capacity contribution of Montana wind could be a primary driver for whether that resource will be a least cost resource in PSE’s 2017 IRP. For this reason, the extension will serve the public interest. The potential for a delay in filing the 2017 IRP was discussed with Commission Staff with several external stakeholders, and no opposition was expressed.

- 4 Commission Staff believes that the selection and timing of the lowest reasonable cost resource may be impacted by the inclusion of more robust data regarding renewable resources. Because the current IRP filing schedule would require PSE to proceed with less robust data, granting the exemption more appropriately serves the public interest and the underlying purpose of the IRP rule.

- 5 In addition to studying the peak capacity value of Montana wind generation, PSE has committed to providing additional clarifying information in several areas of the 2017 IRP that will better inform the IRP process and therefore advance the public interest. Those

areas, which are further outlined in PSE's petition, include: *review of wind and solar resource costs; PSE specific Greenhouse Gas Marginal Abatement Costs; Local System Planning such as Transmission and Distribution; Requirements for Montana Wind to be a Qualifying Renewable Resource for RCW 19.285; Repowering Hopkins Ridge; Lower Discount Rate for Conservation; Resource Assumptions and Offshore Wind in Action Plan; and Resource Cost Sensitivities.*

- 6 PSE has submitted an updated 2017 IRP Work Plan contemporaneous with this filing and will provide the draft IRP by September 12, 2017, if the Commission grants the extension. The draft IRP would be available for a public review and comment period beginning two months before the final IRP is issued.
- 7 Commission Staff recommends granting PSE's request for an exemption from WAC 480-100-238(4) and WAC 480-90-438(4), thereby allowing PSE to file its 2017 IRP on or before November 15, 2017.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas and electric companies. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.*
- 9 (2) PSE is engaged in the business of providing gas and electric services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 10 (3) PSE is subject to WAC 480-100-238 and WAC 480-90-238, which requires electric and gas companies to file integrated resource plans.
- 11 (4) Under WAC 480-100-008 and WAC 480-90-008, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in chapters 480-100 WAC and 480-90 WAC, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. *See also WAC 480-07-110.*
- 12 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on _____, 2017.
- 13 (6) After reviewing PSE's petition filed in Docket UE-160918 and UG-160919 on _____, 2017, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is reasonable and should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Puget Sound Energy's request for an exemption from WAC 480-100-238(4) and WAC 480-90-238(4) is granted to allow the Company to file its 2017 integrated resource plan on November 15, 2017.
- 15 (2) Puget Sound Energy's request to start its July 15 IRP filing date starting in 2019 is granted.
- 16 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Puget Sound Energy to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective _____, 2017.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner