

Service Date: November 15, 2018

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

<p>WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Complainant,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>PUGET SOUND ENERGY,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Respondent.</p>	<p>DOCKETS UE-180899 and UG-180900 (<i>Consolidated</i>)</p> <p>ORDER 01</p> <p>COMPLAINT AND ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS; ORDER OF CONSOLIDATION</p>
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BACKGROUND

- 1 On November 7, 2018, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-60, Tariff G, Electric Service, as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. The effect of this filing is to increase rates and charges for electric service provided to customers in the state of Washington. PSE requests an overall increase in electric rates of approximately \$18.9 million (0.9 percent).
- 2 Also on November 7, 2018, PSE filed revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, Natural Gas, as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. The effect of this filing is to increase rates and charges for natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington. PSE requests an overall increase in natural gas rates of approximately \$21.7 million (2.7 percent).
- 3 Also on November 7, 2018, PSE filed revisions to its electric and natural gas Schedule 142 Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanisms, specifically, Delivery Revenue per Unit, Allowed Delivery Revenue per Customer, Fixed Power Cost Revenue Per Unit, and Allowed Fixed Power Cost Revenues.
- 4 PSE describes this filing as an expedited rate filing (ERF), consistent with the process and procedures used by the Commission in Dockets UE-130137 and UG-130138, and the parameters identified in Exhibit I to the Multiparty Settlement Stipulation and Agreement

in Dockets UE-170033 and UG-170034 (Multiparty Settlement). In addition, PSE requests and agrees to immediate suspension of the tariffs, commencement of discovery, and the entry of the Commission's standard protective order. PSE further requests that the Commission set a procedural schedule that will allow rates to become effective on March 7, 2019, pursuant to the Multiparty Settlement.

DISCUSSION

- 5 Because these tariff revisions might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and PSE has not demonstrated that the revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient, the Commission suspends the tariff filings and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed tariff revisions are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 6 The matters in the two dockets appear to involve related facts and principles of law. It is appropriate that they be consolidated for hearing and determination pursuant to WAC 480-07-320.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property, and affiliated interests of public service companies, including electric and natural gas companies.
- 8 (2) PSE is an electric company, a natural gas company, and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 9 (3) The tariff revisions PSE filed on November 7, 2018, would increase electric and natural gas charges and rates for service provided by PSE and could, if left unexamined, injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public.
- 10 (4) PSE has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

- 11 (5) PSE's rates and charges for electric or natural gas services shown on any tariffs that PSE does not propose to revise may also be investigated to determine if they are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 12 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission determines it is necessary to investigate PSE's books, accounts, practices, and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of PSE's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of PSE's operations. The Commission finds that these dockets meet the criteria of WAC 480-07-400(2)(b)(i) and that discovery will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 13 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), PSE bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 14 (8) PSE may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.020.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 15 (1) The tariff revisions Puget Sound Energy filed on November 7, 2018, are suspended.
- 16 (2) Dockets UE-180899 and UG-180900 are consolidated for hearing and determination under WAC 480-07-320.
- 17 (3) The Commission will give notice of, and hold, hearings at such times and places as may be required. Such hearings may also examine Puget Sound Energy's rates and charges for electric or natural gas service shown on any tariffs that Puget Sound Energy does not propose to revise.
- 18 (4) Puget Sound Energy must not change or alter the tariffs filed in these dockets during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.

- 19 (5) The Commission will institute an investigation of Puget Sound Energy's books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations as described above.
- 20 (6) Discovery will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 21 (7) Puget Sound Energy shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.020.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 15, 2018.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner

Appendix

**Proposed Tariff Revisions
WN U-60, Tariff G, Electric Service**

4 th Revision	Sheet No. 141-A	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
4 th Revision	Sheet No. 141-B	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
3 rd Revision	Sheet No. 141-C	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 141-D	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 141-E	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 141-F	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 141-G	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 141-H	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 141-I	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 141-J	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
3 rd Revision	Sheet No. 141-K	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
3 rd Revision	Sheet No. 141-L	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 141-M	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 141-N	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
9 th Revision	Sheet No. 142	Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanism
9 th Revision	Sheet No. 142-A	Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanism (Continued)
6 th Revision	Sheet No. 142-B	Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanism (Continued)
6 th Revision	Sheet No. 142-C	Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanism (Continued)
9 th Revision	Sheet No. 142-D	Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanism (Continued)

4 th Revision	Sheet No. 142-E	Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanism (Continued)
4 th Revision	Sheet No. 142-F	Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanism (Continued)
4 th Revision	Sheet No. 142-G	Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanism (Continued)

Proposed Tariff Revisions
WN U-2, Natural Gas

4 th Revision	Sheet No. 1141-A	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 1141-B	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 1141-C	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 1141-D	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
2 nd Revision	Sheet No. 1141-E	Expedited Rate Filing Rate Adjustment (Continued)
5 th Revision	Sheet No. 1142-A	Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanism (Continued)
5 th Revision	Sheet No. 1142-B	Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanism (Continued)
8 th Revision	Sheet No. 1142-C	Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Mechanism (Continued)