

June 2, 2011

✓ UTC

P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504

Public Counsel
Assistant Attorney General
800 5th Avenue
Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104-3188

RECEIVED
RECORDS MANAGEMENT
2011 JUN -7 AM 8:09
STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANS.
COMMISSION

Re: Puget Sound Energy

Docket No. UG-110723

In the notice published in the May 31, 2011 issue of the *Seattle-Times*, PSE states that the purpose is to establish a new program that allows the utility to recover in a timelier manner the costs associated with replacing aging natural gas pipelines. This statement provides the consumer with 2 conclusions:

- PSE's business model is flawed. In the past, PSE has done the same thing year after year. After all, why put required/adequate analysis into the business planning, when all that is required is to apply for, yet another rate increase to make up for the lack of sound business planning.
- PSE states that it does have a mechanism in place to recover pipeline replacement costs, just not as quickly as PSE would like. It is clear that the current pricing structure supports the recovery of replacement costs. With this requested new program. PSE now wants to double-dip its customers with a new increase on top of the original replacement cost mechanism.

And... the new rate is to be evaluated and adjusted annually with a November 1st effective date. Please read that as: a new and permanent rate increase. Who does the evaluation? Who sets the new rates? Are those 2 actions subject to the scrutiny of the UTC and the requirement for public review and comment?

PSE customers, over the years, have been subjected to continual rate increases/surcharges for natural gas and/or electrical service. What impetus does PSE have to aggressively/efficiently manage their business practices when all they have to do is suck more money from their customer base?

The UTC and the Public Counsel must finally take a stand and send a strong message to PSE that continual rate increases are not an alternative to effective and efficient business management.

I would like to know the names of the 3 member Commission who will review PSE's rate request. I would also like to know the date(s) and location(s) of the open meeting.

It is time for our representatives to live up to the premises of "our government of the people, for the people and by the people".

I appreciate your time to consider my comments.

Regards,



Richard J. Hedges
14926 14th Avenue SE
Mill Creek, WA 98012

COMMENT FORM FOR RALPH WOOD - ID# 25964

Consumer Information	
Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None	
Name	RALPH WOOD
Organization Company	
Address	309 1ST AVE WEST
City, State, Zip Code	GOLD BAR WASHINGTON 98251
Email	boulignywood@gmail.com
Primary Phone #	Fax #
Secondary Phone #	

Comment Information		
Theme		Open Date 06/02/2011
Filing Support	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>This is in response to the notice published in the Seattle Times on Tuesday May 31st, on page A6 about proposed rate changes for PSE natural gas.</p> <p>It is proposed to increase the residential natural gas bill to finance the "Pipeline Integrity Program"</p> <p>I am such a residential customer and I wish to go on record as approving the upgrading of the delivery infrastructure for the Natural Gas which I have come to depend on. It seems a small price to pay to improve the reliability and safety of the network of pipelines that I depend on.</p> <p>I want PSE to spend whatever they need to spend in order to keep the system healthy and dependable. I have no objection to helping to pay for this.</p> <p>Thank You</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	514

Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	110723	
Staff	Roland Martin	

Activites For Ralph Wood

Date	
06/30/2011	ID#4526 - 06/30/2011 Action >>> Send Letter
06/30/2011	ID#4525 - 06/30/2011 Document >>> AdHoc Letter
06/07/2011	ID#4491 - 06/07/2011 Action >>> Send Letter
06/07/2011	ID#4490 - 06/07/2011 Document >>> AdHoc Letter

STATE OF WASHINGTON

**Citizens Advisory Committee on
Pipeline Safety**

Committee Members

Tim Sweeney, Chair • David Taylor, Vice-Chair
Bob Beaumier • Terri Briere • Art Coulombe • Ron Schmitt
Andrew Martonick • Corey Herrick • Rosalie Ann Lopez
Ruth Mabrey • Jody Morehouse • Bill Rickard • Carl Weimer

November 22, 2011

Dear UTC Commissioners and Interested Parties:

Re: UG-110723 Puget Sound Energy's tariff filing to implement a charge for a Pipeline Integrity Program.

The Citizen's Committee on Pipeline Safety wishes to convey to commissioners, and all parties involved in this tariff filing, that it has a strong interest in seeing actions are eventually taken to encourage PSE's investment in replacing its older steel and plastic (polyethylene) distribution lines with safer, more dependable distribution pipelines at an accelerated pace.

The Committee understands that this filing represents a rate policy discussion that is beyond our scope of knowledge and responsibility. Our mission is the safety of the state's pipeline systems. We believe all the parties share this concern. If this particular case does not result in a replacement investment strategy for PSE, we encourage all parties to continue to work together to find a consensus approach to spurring investment in replacing vintage pipe. We ask the Commissioners to establish a process for such discussions to continue until resolution.

Sincerely,


Tim Sweeney
Chair, Citizens Committee on Pipeline Safety

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RECORDS MANAGEMENT
2011 NOV 23 AM 10:08
STATE OF WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANS.
COMMISSION