

Dear Public Counsel

1-16-12

Why is it, that each year P.S.E. gets rate increase, working people don't get wage increase on their pay check! each year! I'm on social security I didn't get rate increase for 3 years

I say no rate increase on old customers and people

1. new electric infrastructures
2. increase administrative cost general transmission
3. new substation, transmission lines equipment rentals
4. service new customers, investments road projects

let new customers pay P.S.E. all of it, where ever they are! maybe out of state, I piss on P.S.E. if they are!

I would like for you to stop P.S.E. customer based service charge

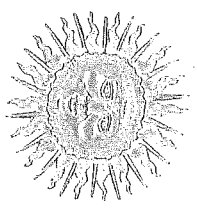
each time P.S.E. ask for rate  
increase, I'm on P.S.E. electric  
and I pay each month of \$7.25,  
no more, stop them

I'm on Lasalle natural  
gas line service and for many  
years I been paying each  
month of \$4.00 each month  
basic service charge

there is no reason for P.S.E. to  
keep jacking up basic customer  
service charge each time they get a rate  
yes I'm damn mad  
of 10 and only one of 99<sup>o</sup>

Thank you  
alex Parzkowski

Dear Art & Gen:



I'm writing you today re: PSE's attempt to raise their rates. It has to be pretty much of a stop not to know that gas rates have been going down because of the growing amount of gas available. PSE has very recently reduced its gas rates because of falling prices due to the blint take of gas. Now they're having to raise prices due to the high-livered utilities commission going to give a 10% increase. Are you going to give them the go-ahead to keep the rates from rising for the public. Let's take the "increase" out of the top executive's pay. Their job is easier due to expansion of supplies. The opponents of the gas bill are wrong.

Is not somebody watching this big robbery.  
Please don't send me a milk toast reply letter. Dig  
your heels in. Crack open those beer books and dis-  
cover how you can end this beer-soaked land and send  
those coned men back over the border. And esp-  
ecially put those illeg<sup>people</sup> licensed utilities back into the  
government and replace them w/ those who serve the public  
interest!!!

SAM LEVINSON

Mr. Sam Levinson  
7710 196th St. SW Apt. A  
Edmonds, WA 98026-6566

CYN 967-0652

To: Public Counsel  
Assistant Attorney General

January 17, 2012

Near Washington Utilities and  
Transportation Commission,

On June 1995, my family and I moved into the home where I still reside now. My natural gas bill back then was as reasonable as \$4.00 a month. My hot water tank is gas, everything else is electric.

By late 2001, my sons had grown and moved out. The gas rates kept steadily climbing. I was now paying way more for hot water than when my sons were home! They would sometimes take two showers a day and then there was laundry galore. No matter how I have tried to conserve, nothing helps. Here's the real kicker... in June 2010, I went 9 days without hot water while I waited for my landlady's son to finally put in a new hot water tank. I was thinking my bill would definitely go down for that period of time. It did not!

27

I am disabled now and have a meager fixed income to live on. Puget Sound Energy should offer a low-income discount for those of us like me, who only have Social Security, etc. Why don't they? How is it alright for a public utility to charge late fees?! Just one more expense I cannot keep up with!

I have heard on the news that other parts of our country are lowering natural gas rates. Also, I'd like to add I never used to need Energy Assistance for help with the gas bill. I'm just one little old lady. I don't use that much hot water! The news coming in is that Energy Assistance funding will go down in the next year.

Please stop the rate increases! People like me can't keep up. Is anybody going to help? Please stop the madness! We are suffering!

3)

Thank you for your attention  
to this. Yes, I would appreciate  
a written response.

Sincerely yours,  
Mrs. Kathleen Spear  
Rocket # UH-111049  
Account # 1028838009

Richard A. Klauber  
3219 40<sup>th</sup> Ave. West  
Seattle, WA 98199  
January 17, 2012

Public Counsel  
Assistant Attorney General  
800 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98104-3188

RE: PSE Revenue Request UG-111049 (Natural Gas )

This request for a proposed rate increase is another round of unrealistic demands filled with irrelevant arguments:

1. I quote the PSE flyer (3993 12/11 Notice issued December 2011-January 2012) with my latest bill: "The bulk of the natural gas revenue request (see pie chart) would recover investments in the natural gas distribution system to increase the reliability, to serve new customers, to accommodate public infrastructure projects and costs for compliance and safety improvements. The balance of the request would recover increased cost of local taxes and depreciation expense, and increased return on investor investment." Whatever happened to charging the NEW customers the costs described above?

A. Why should existing customers pay the costs for new customer needs for infrastructure? **The new customers should be paying these additional costs not existing customers.** The UTC has allowed additional basic service charges on a regular basis and what have I got to show for it: NOTHING. Make the utility charge new customers the costs for the above and stop allowing them to spread the charges among those of use that have been paying over and over for the same "infrastructure" that we paid for long ago!

B. Is it my fault that PSE needs to recoup "costs for compliance and safety improvements?" NO, it is the risk that investors take when buying shares of the parent company!

C. "Increased return on investor investment" is not a burden of a monopoly to force upon its customers, but rather place back upon the shoulders of its investors!

D. **Depreciation expense is only a booking entry.** This is simply a "paper" depreciation which **allows them to cut their income taxes** and has little to do with actual depreciation of the assets. They are able to write off the assets far more quickly than they are used up! Again this is only a benefit to the company not the customer.

2. PSE constantly asks us to conserve, so I sit in my house with an average temperature below 60 F and wear more clothing, but **the utility says I am too good at conservation so I have to pay them a higher basic service charge** because I do not use enough natural gas? **Something is terribly wrong here! Stop allowing the rate increases...**tell PSE to get their act together and stop raising salaries and wage scales.



Others in private industry have been cutting costs through reducing wage inflation. **Its time for the monopolistic utilities to do the same!**

3. Today, January 17, **natural gas futures hit their lowest point since March, 2002.** It is time that we the customers get more of the benefit of the lower cost of natural gas that PSE *should be* taking advantage of in the open market. **PSE should be contracting for future deliveries at these low costs for GAS now while there is a glut. Customers should not be paying for the mismanagement of the Utility.**

**In closing I have been paying ever higher costs for “distribution and capital investments” that should be the burden of new customers not those of us that have paid for our infrastructure many times over. I am paying for wasteful wage inflation and underwriting profits for investors...where is the risk for investors? Depreciation expense is a tax accounting ploy to lower taxes for PSE and the customer should not be paying this and in fact it should be an offset for other taxes. Further rate reduction should be passed to the customers as the price of natural gas falls, and PSE should be smarter in buying forward contracts for natural gas at these low prices. If natural gas is the cheapest it has been since March, 2002 why is the customer having to pay so much more?**

**DENY THIS PROPOSAL FOR A NATURAL GAS REVENUE REQUEST.**

Sincerely,



Richard A. Klauber

26811 Downing Avenue  
Kent, WA 98032

January 16, 2012

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

RECEIVED  
JAN 20 2012

A&C FC DIVISION  
SEATTLE

Dear Public Counsel:

Enclosed is a letter we sent to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission regarding PSE's application for rate increases for both electricity and natural gas. We are opposed to these unnecessary rate increases for several reasons and will appreciate your support of our position in this matter.

To summarize, we believe these are the important issues:

- The proposed rate information PSE provided is incomprehensible when trying to compare their proposed numbers to our monthly bills. Despite my post-graduate education and years of experience in business accounting I cannot find way to do a rate analysis based on the information provided. We have written to PSE requesting the pertinent information, but have not even received an acknowledgement of our request. We are left to conclude that they have seriously underestimated the impact of these increases and do not want the public to know the details. You must protect us here.
- At no time in our lives have we been in such a weakened financial condition personally, with reductions in income occurring regularly and utilities costs rising. Utilities need to reduce their expenditures just like everyone else is, particularly government at all levels.
- The enclosed article that appeared on page A9 of the January 12, 2012 Seattle Times reports that natural gas prices supplies are in great abundance, partially due to reduced demand nation-wide due to the very mild winter. As a result gas prices are falling – down about 34% from 2011 – and are currently at 2002 price levels.
- Average heating bills this year per household are expected to be \$700 lower this winter, and more reductions in future months are scheduled.
- Electricity, especially that generated using natural gas, is also projected to decrease.
- PSE's proposed electricity and natural gas rate hikes fly in the face of all this evidence. This unjustified attempt to gouge customers further must be denied and direction must be given to decrease the rates.
- Future rate change proposals must be required to be in understandable language enabling homeowners to be able to analyze the impact of all proposed changes.

We are counting on your office to provide the scrutiny this case demands and to urge the UTC to not only flatly deny these rate increases but also order a rate rollback.

Thank you for listening to our views.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of John and Adelaide Haferbecker in cursive script.

John and Adelaide Haferbecker

PSE Account No. 927-090-900-6

Courtesy Copy

26811 Downing Avenue  
Kent, WA 98032

January 18, 2012

Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear UTC:

We are writing to request that you deny PSE's recent request for rate increases in both electricity and natural gas as PSE refuses to allow customers to be able to analyze the impact of their proposals in their monthly bills, and the facts do not support their need for increases. In fact, decreased natural gas prices in the market because of surplus inventories point toward justification for rate decreases in both gas and electricity.

Please consider our position points:

- We have requested, in writing, better information from PSE to analyze their proposals, but none has been forthcoming. This lack of transparency on their part causes us to conclude that their numbers understate the rate of increase.
- Future rate change notices must be required to be more specific and relevant to the average homeowner's needs for usable information. I am an accountant and am unable to make sense of the rate proposal information PSE circulated with their last bills. They cannot continue to operate this way.
- Rate increases in our severely depressed economy must be rare and thoroughly substantiated. This proposed action is completely out of line for our dire circumstances and limited ability to pay. Almost everyone is retrenching; PSE is oblivious to the current situation.
- The enclosed article that appeared on page A9 of the January 12, 2012 Seattle Times outlines how natural gas supplies are in great surplus due to the mild winter nationwide and natural gas prices are down about 34% from 2011, and are currently at 2002 levels. Average heating bills this year per household should be down \$700 and should continue much lower well into the future.
- Electricity rates should also drop, particularly for electricity generated by using natural gas.
- This action by PSE confirms the fears we've all had ever since investors were permitted to take over ownership of this "Public Utility." Unjustified rate increases are being demanded to maximize their profits and justify this purchase. We're quite sure you're familiar with a similar situation that occurred in Oregon a few years ago when other foreign investors attempted unjustified rate increases that were fortunately denied by the authorities. Now your time has come to do the same.

- You must not stop at simply denying these rate increases, you must take the next step of ordering rate reductions for both electricity and natural gas based on current and projected market conditions.

Your consideration of our comments and taking the appropriate action to deny these unjustified rate increases and to order a rate rollback will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

15/ John + Adelaide Haferbecker

John and Adelaide Haferbecker  
PSE Account No. 927-090-900-6

# Natural-gas prices slide; consumers should get break

BY CHRIS KAHN  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Natural gas is cheaper this winter than it's been in a long time.

Prices have dropped by more than 10 percent in the past week, including a plunge of almost 6 percent Wednesday, as mild temperatures cut into heating demand and a production boom pumps up supplies.

Homeowners should eventually benefit from lower heating and electric bills.

"There's just too much gas out there, and there's no evidence that people are shutting in gas production yet to compensate," said Ron Denhardt, an analyst with Strategic Energy & Economic Research.

Natural-gas demand usually soars in the winter, but the winter of 2012 has yet to pack punch, with average temperatures well above normal. In the Northeast, there have been only four warmer Decembers in the last 117 years, according to the National Weather Service.

Long-range forecasts show above-average temperatures over the next few weeks.

Natural-gas supplies were already above the five-year average at the start of the year, and that's expected to continue.

## Cheapest since 2002

So far in January, natural gas is about 34 percent lower than a year ago. It hasn't been this cheap at this time of year since 2002.

Cheaper gas prices should lower average heating bills this winter to about \$700 per household, according to Mark Wolfe, executive director of the National Energy Assistance Director's Association. That's a 3 percent drop from last year and the fourth consecutive year of declines.

By comparison, heating-oil bills are up 8 percent.

"If you are using natural gas, your situation is getting

for some consumers.

In other energy trading, oil prices dropped Wednesday, as weak U.S. energy demand pushed petroleum supplies sharply higher.

Benchmark crude fell by \$1.37 to finish at \$100.87 per barrel in New York.

The Energy Information Administration's weekly report on petroleum supplies showed gasoline demand fell by 4.8 percent last week from a year ago, while demand for all petroleum products dropped by 6.5 percent.

As consumers and businesses cut back, producers put more into storage than analysts expected.

Oil prices began falling after Germany said its economy contracted in the final three months of 2011. That raised concerns about the rest of Europe.

At the pump, U.S. gasoline prices were unchanged at a national average of \$3.37 per gallon for regular, according to AAA, Wright Express and Oil Price Information Service.

Nationally, a gallon of regular is about 10 cents higher than a month ago and 28 cents more than a year ago.

In the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett region, AAA reports the current price for regular gas is \$3.52, down a nickel from last month, but up 30 cents from last year.

If the value is there, we'll do the repair



Help  
Don't  
or log

Make 2012 the year you  
**BRING SEX**



(over)

non. That's a 3 percent drop from last year and the fourth consecutive year of declines.

By comparison, heating-oil bills are up 8 percent.

"If you are using natural gas, your situation is getting steadily better," Wolfe said.

"If you are using heating oil, your situation is getting steadily worse."

Just over half of U.S. households heat with natural gas. Their bills will likely shrink further in the coming months.

Because of the way utilities are regulated and buy natural gas, it can take a year before the full effect of a change in natural-gas prices can reach a customer's bill.

Some utilities use natural gas to run generators that produce electricity, so electric bills could also come down

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20  
Pictures are m

A Note from  
Barbara Otto

TO ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL

PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW P.S.E.  
TO RAISE THE ELECTRIC  
RATE AGAIN.

EVERYTHING - INSURANCE  
RATES - MEDICAL - CAR -  
HOUSE - ALL CONTINUE TO GO  
UP - WE CAN BARELY  
CONTINUE TO LIVE IN OUR  
HOMES ANY LONGER.

I AM 78 YRS OLD & STILL  
WORKING TO SURVIVE -

THANK YOU -  
Barbara Otto

PS: WAGES ARE NOT GETTING  
ANY RAISES - AT LEAST  
WHERE I WORK - IN HOME  
HEALTH CARE

NORBERT ROSING/GETTY IMAGES

A proud supporter of World Wildlife Fund



7630 South Lakeridge Drive  
Seattle, Washington 98178  
January 2, 2012

RECEIVED  
JAN 9 2012  
A60 PC DIVISION  
SEATTLE

Public Counsel  
Assistant Attorney General  
800 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 2000  
Seattle, Washington 98104-3188

Dear Public Counsel:

Hello. I hope this finds you well.

It's my understanding that you represent me, the public, when electric and natural gas rate increases are requested. If this is the case, please do everything that you can to see that the current Puget Sound Energy rate increase requests are denied.


I live on a very modest fixed income. I don't have a salary that goes up each year to cover the cost of price increases. Yet in the past couple of years, even in the midst of a major recession when costs should remain stable or go down, the costs for all of my essential services: water, sewer, health care, etc., have gone up. I can't afford any more rate increases. And, because of the horrible economy, there are a lot of other people, many unemployed, who can't either.

I don't know how to say this more clearly. I have a modest fixed income. I live frugally. Times are very bad. I don't have money for any rate increases, and many, many others don't either.

So, again, please do all that you can to see that these rate increase requests are denied.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jeff Ehlen

January, 2nd 2012

Dear Assitant Attorney General,

I am writing to greatly urge you to say no to P.S.E. on the requested rate increase. Like many other seniors we just cannot handle another rate increase.

Businesses must start cutting or freezing salaries at the top. Just like us they have to cut spending.

My husband and I were raised to recycle, repair, and conserve We even buy green power. We do not see where there is any reward anymore for doing this. We are already wearing sweaters and jackets in the house to stay warm.

Nearly every~~one~~ they want more money. Well, there has to be a point to say "NO".

RECEIVED

JAN 4 2012

A60 PC DIVISION  
SEATTLE

Sincerely, Sandra Wilson

*Sandra Wilson*

None of the residents of the South Puget Sound ever plans to have a seriously long power outage. Thurston County has become a place where a backup generator for major storms has become necessary. Why is this the case? Over the past twenty five years each time that we have had an ice storm the differences between the types of utilities we have in our region comes in to sharper focus. The consumer owned utilities have continued to make capital improvements in their systems, surveyed their poles given new emphasis to maintenance of hookups and have conducted in house year round tree trimming crews. The results are better performance, outages are fixed more rapidly.

Here are the local comparisons in our area:

Utility	Customers	Outages	%	When service was restored
Grays Harbor PUD	41,719	7800	19	majority in first 8 hours
Lewis PUD	31,060	2500	8	majority in first day remainder by Sunday
Mason PUD 3	32,520	3600	11	2900 back in 45 minutes remainder by Saturday
Tacoma Power	169,000	48,200	29	January 20 down to 2750 remainder restored in five days
PSE in Thurston	>100,000		90	Over one half still out after two days Remainder restored in five to eight days
PSE in Pierce			50	?

Total PSE outages in Western Washington service area: 457,000

These outages show that PSE needs to upgrade it's infrastructure, dedicate resources towards maintenance and generally improve it's equipment failure rates. A good place to start would be to eliminate the use or substitution of used or second hand components in it's repairs. Cutting costs has gotten them into this situation, that approach must change. Attention to service efficiency must be emphasized. Why are smaller utilities out classing our states largest one?

The company needs to rethink the dispatch of it's emergency repair operations. Renton, as the centralized dispatch is basically failing the peripheral service areas for PSE. What are the symptoms of this failure? Counties to the periphery have had citizen groups organize to leave PSE's service area: Skagit, Island, Jefferson and now Thurston Counties. All these counties did not feel best served from Renton.

Having our states largest utility rely on the help of out of state crews puts us at risk in two principled ways. This over reliance puts our states largest grid out of order if the emergency disrupts our transportation system as a major subduction zone earthquake. Also this over reliance will not work if these crews are already busy should a massive snowstorm impact the entire region all at once, keeping them busy at home unable to immediately help our PSE.

Out of state crews unnecessarily run up costs due to the difficulty to coordinate them and properly dispatch them where they are needed, a great deal of this service was idling either waiting or trying to ascertain where to go. This cost plus approach adds ten percent more for poor management to our rate payers costs. Please consider this.

Finally why are we relying on out of state repairmen when we should be employing our own local work force? Is PSE trying to avoid a dependable union workforce inside our state? This makes no economic sense.

My last comments on are on the companies actions that you may or may not be aware of regarding municipalization and the company's resources that are dedicated to it:

Next year on or before 4-1-13 PSE will be receiving a cash payment amount well over 103 million in Non Operating Revenue for the sale of it's system in eastern Jefferson County. I would ask if that amount will be accounted for in the Future Test Year in this rate case.

PSE due to the agreement it signed with Jefferson PUD is actively engaged in system upgrades currently underway in that county. What accounting for costs of the sale is separated from the remaining actual rate base after 4-1-13?

PSE's municipalization unit covers right of way issues and relationships with local governments. It should not be using this staff's time for fighting off efforts inside it's service area that chooses to go public. Ratepayers should not bear these costs by the company which include staff time, public relations work, excessive advertising budgets and public activities to gather up support for it's continued operations. This is an expense to be borne by it's two shareholders and not the ratepayers that it serves!

Thank you for your interest and careful consideration of these issues.

Chris Stearns



By mail at:  
By phone at:

UTC, P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504  
1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitc  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

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**From:** Gene Simmons [<mailto:gsimmons52@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 08, 2011 2:08 PM  
**To:** Public Comments DB  
**Cc:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PSE Rate Increase Request

I am writing to comment on Puget Sound Energy's request for rate increases.

I am only a natural gas customer of PSE so won't comment on the electricity rate requests.

I find it outrageous that PSE is trying to raise gas prices in light of the collapse in natural gas prices in the past year.

As the link below shows, natural gas prices have cratered in the past year, down nearly 25% y-o-y.

<http://wtrg.com/daily/gasprice.html>

Given the decline in their raw material prices, how in the world can PSE justify a higher natural gas rate?

As for the reason for their request - to improve the distribution system, etc, isn't that what current rates are supposed to cover? That is, their justification sounds like "to cover standard operating costs".

I think the truth is the final reason given: to "improve investor return".

In this age of cutbacks, layoffs, salary decreases, etc., you need to send a message to PSE that their increase in margins due to raw materials cost decreases while holding rates steady is reward enough. If things were equitable, they would be returning some of that improved margin to customers through rate decreases. The fact that they are asking for rate increases is just appalling. Please do not allow this corporate greed to move forward, enough is enough.

Gene

Via online comment form at: <http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment/form>  
By mail at: UTC, P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504  
By phone at: 1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

---

**From:** Fred & Sheri Yeatts [<mailto:flysay@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 30, 2011 6:33 PM  
**To:** Public Comments DB  
**Cc:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** docket numbers UE-111048 and UG-111049

In our latest monthly bill we received notice of the proposed rate increase submitted by PSE. With a national cost of living at 3.6%, it would seem that a request for an 8.3% increase for residential service is indefensible. The broad brush justification does not give the consumer much information. The UTC and AG should insist on an adequate explanation and justification for any increase; e.g. increased return on investor investment, new infrastructure, increased expenses in many categories, etc.

If I read the proposal correctly, it would seem that because PSE was able to realize energy efficiency services, it feels that this is basis for a Conservation Savings Adjustment to justify increasing the costs to the consumer.

I urge the Utilities and Transportation Commission to reject the proposed rate increase because of inadequate justification, especially in light of the fiscal problems at our state and national levels and the economy in general.

Respectfully,

Fred L. Yeatts  
10839 NE 19<sup>th</sup> Place, Bellevue, WA 98004  
(425) 454-8509

[flysay@msn.com](mailto:flysay@msn.com)

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

-----Original Message-----

From: dmhess [<mailto:dmhess@comcast.net>]  
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2011 9:43 AM  
To: ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
Subject: PSE proposed rate increase

I just checked the consumer price index summary, published 16 december 2011. It showed natural gas down 4.4 percent. With that decrease, how is it reasonable to ask for an increase? I look forward to your answer.

Dan Hess  
1620 45th Ave. SW  
Seattle, Wa., 98116  
[dmhess@comcast.net](mailto:dmhess@comcast.net)

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

-----Original Message-----

From: Anoop Anantha [<mailto:anoopa@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2011 5:21 PM  
To: ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
Subject: Another PSE rate increase is preposterous

Hello,

I was notified that PSE is once again increasing utility rates despite a reduction in the cost of natural gas.

The whole arrangement for a utility is that a monopoly is granted by the state in exchange for a cap on rate increases and profits. In this case, the state seems to be asleep at the wheel while the utility price gouges its customers.

Since July 2008, the wholesale price of natural gas has plunged from \$13/mbtu to less than \$3/mbtu currently but the price extracted from the customers has not gone down. Instead, it has shot to an all time high and kept increasing steadily.

I understand the cost of raw natural gas is not the only factor in my bill (distribution and taxes being the other) but it is the largest portion in my bill. I strongly oppose the requested rate increase and instead look forward to an explanation for a lack in a rate DECREASE over the past 3 years despite a 77% plunge in the cost of raw natural gas.

Sincerely,  
Anoop Anantha.  
Kirkland, WA.



By phone at:

1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

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**From:** MAX FISCHBACH [s] [<mailto:sig516ar@comcast.net>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 01, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel; Public Comments DB  
**Cc:** [generalratecase@pse.com](mailto:generalratecase@pse.com)  
**Subject:** PUGET SOUND ENERGY PROPOSED RATE INCREASE  
**Importance:** High

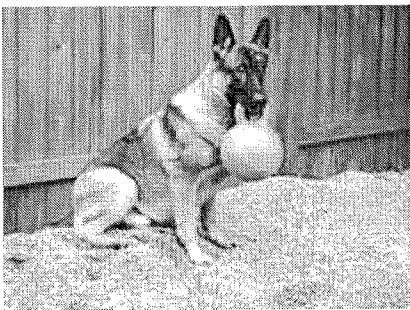
As projected at the time purchase of PSE by FOREIGN investors, current PSE owners goal is to maximize the rates for profit at the expense of the captive user of the services. The original approve of PSE being purchased by those FOREIGN investors was a grave error on the part of those claiming to regulate this utility. The regulators are allowing PSE to run amok with their rate increase and thus NOT safeguarding those of us forced to utilize this monopoly!

The proposed rate increase just compounds the gouging of those forced to use their services! I OPPOSE ANY ADDITION RATE INCREASE FOR PSE!

MAXWELL S. FISCHBACH  
P.O. BOX 2057  
LYNNWOOD "SOCIALIST STATE" of WA 98036-2057

---

Impeach  
Obama



***GO AHEAD, JUST TRY & TAKE IT, OR***

**" überleben zu kämpfen an einem anderen Tag" [ LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY ]**

By phone at:

1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitc  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

---

**From:** gunny 1811 [<mailto:gunny1811@hotmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 02, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** Public Comments DB  
**Cc:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel; [generalratecase@pse.com](mailto:generalratecase@pse.com)  
**Subject:** rate increase???

1-2-2012 Happy new year???????? I don't think so, I just received my utility bills from PSE and the City of Buckley, my god folks what is a retired family to do.

PSE \$221.96 due on the 17th Jan 2012. City of Buckley \$291.45 due on 15th jan 2012 Total: \$513.41

We are not wealthy people, I a retired Marine rated 100% by the VA, on Social Security, the wife works for Walmart, in this economy you want a increase? How about cutting the pay of upper managent and the waste that go's on, tighten your belts like the rest of us have had to do.

**I vote no to an increase at this time.**

My god people, I just received a 3% increase in my retirement, let me use some of it to catch up after a two year of no increase.

By phone at:

1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

---

**From:** [STCOLT@aol.com](mailto:STCOLT@aol.com) [mailto:STCOLT@aol.com]

**Sent:** Monday, January 02, 2012 10:35 AM

**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel

**Subject:** Puget Sound Energy rate increase request.

I do not understand why Puget Sound Energy is asking for rate increase of 3.16 percent for natural gas. The market has plenty of natural gas and it is relatively cheap by past standards. Instead of a rate increase they should be offering a decrease for the consumer. Please work to oppose this increase.

Steven Colthurst  
6140 139th PL SE  
Bellevue, WA 98006

By phone at:

1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

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**From:** [LinFisHof@aol.com](mailto:LinFisHof@aol.com) [mailto:[LinFisHof@aol.com](mailto:LinFisHof@aol.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 09, 2012 9:59 AM  
**To:** Public Comments DB; [generalratecase@pse.com](mailto:generalratecase@pse.com)  
**Cc:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PSE Rate Increase UE-111048

1/9/2012

TO: UTC

FROM: Lindsay Hofman, 21107 Westside Hwy SW, Vashon, WA 98070 ([linfishof@aol.com](mailto:linfishof@aol.com))

RE: PSE's requested rate increase UE-111048

Having read over PSE's rather convoluted "Notice of Requested Rate Increase And Public Hearings" in which they refer to "lower electric generation costs" and "reductions in costs of power production and other operating expenses", I could only find two reasons they were requesting the rate increase, neither one of which appeared to me to be justified. The first is "investments in new electric infrastructure including the new Lower Snake River Wind project". But I understood we were already paying for this through the Green Power Purchase fee (\$4 a month) many of us are paying voluntarily.

The other is "increased return on investor investment". This seems a bit like taking from the 99% to give money to the 1%. Electricity is a basic necessity which is needed by rich and poor alike and we all pay the same rate. It is one of those things that has to be paid for whether one has a job or not, is sick or well. Most households in this area depend on it for heat, cooking, bathing, light and, for those of us on a well, water. Investments are something one chooses to do with money not required for basic, everyday living. The other requests are related to the two discussed as they have already noted that generation costs and power production costs of traditional energy are down as mentioned in the last sentence, "The request reflects reductions in costs of federal income taxes, distribution, administrative and general expenses."

In summary, I see no justification for an increase in electricity rates and if I could look more closely at the numbers, might see justification for a reduction!

**From:** cccranch@hotmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, January 27, 2012 10:42 AM  
**To:** ATG WWW Email AGO  
**Subject:** Contact AGO - PSE & PUD proposed rate increase  
**Attachments:** SaveData.txt

CETA 229643  
 Responded via  
 email  
 on 2/22/12  
 Cull/

The following message has been submitted to staff at the Attorney General's Office. Depending on the complexity of your request and the volume of messages received, please allow up to 10 business days for a member of the AGO staff to help you with your request. Please do not respond to this message. The ATG WWW Email AGO mailbox is an unmonitored box.

From:	Carlson, Ron Eugene		
Email Address:	cccranch@hotmail.com		
Address:	27302 59th Ave. NE		
	Arlington WA 98223		
Address Type:	Home		
Phone:	360.435.4664	Phone Type:	Home
Subject:	PSE & PUD proposed rate increase		
Message:	<p>           Snohomish county PUD (electric company) and Puget Sound Energy (PSE) are seeking rate increases in the millions of dollars. The state of Washington imposes a nearly 4% tax on consumers electric bill, when the electric rates spike like this the state of Washington gets a "win-fall" of tax dollars. This is not right and in my view needs to be adjusted or frozen. In tough times like were in now this win-fall tax is unfair and places an additional burden on the folks just trying to heat their home.. I ask your office to do whatever possible to see this injustice corrected.         </p>		
Previous Contact:	No	Date:	
Regarding:			

**Williams, Carol (ATG)**

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**From:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 4:07 PM  
**To:** 'roperth@comcast.net'  
**Cc:** Williams, Carol (ATG)  
**Subject:** RE: PSE Proposed Rate Increase

Dear Mr. Roper,

Thank you for your comments on PSE's general rate increase request, filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) in May 2011. Public Counsel represents residential and small business utility consumers in proceedings before the UTC. Public Counsel will be participating on behalf of PSE customers in the case to consider this new request.

As a part of our work in this case, we collect public comments received by our office and the Consumer Protection and Communications Section of the UTC, and submit them as an exhibit to be considered by the Commission in making its decision. **Your comment will be included in this exhibit.**

On December 7, 2011 Public Counsel submitted testimony in the case recommending reductions to PSE's rate request. This testimony, as well as testimony from other parties, is available on the UTC website at <http://www.utc.wa.gov>. (Enter 111048 in the docket lookup field).

The UTC has examined the testimony and evidence presented by Public Counsel and other parties. Beginning on February 14, 2012, the UTC held four days of evidentiary hearings to cross-examine expert witnesses on issues presented in the case. The UTC is expected to issue a decision by May, 2012. For more information about Public Counsel, see our website at [www.atg.wa.gov/utilities.aspx](http://www.atg.wa.gov/utilities.aspx).

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

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**From:** [roperth@comcast.net](mailto:roperth@comcast.net) [mailto:[roperth@comcast.net](mailto:roperth@comcast.net)]  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 19, 2012 2:35 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PSE Proposed Rate Increase

I strongly object to the proposed residential electrical rate increase of 8.3% or any residential rate increase. There is a severe economic downturn in the economy at this time and many people are having a hard time. The proposed Wind Tunnel

project should be self supporting and other PSE customers should not be paying for this. These new technology projects are suspect; I well remember the failed Washington State nuclear WPPSS projects and a new debacle has developed with the bankrupt federal backed solar panel SOLYNDRA company. Other troubled federal projects are coming into focus at this time such as the costs of substituting ethanol for gasoline.

Proposed rate increases for administrative costs are also suspicious. Proposed salary increases, especially for management personnel, should be eliminated. Also there should be no increased return on investor investments at this time.

Tom Roper

Dear Sir,

Puget Sound Energy is one of Washington State's largest utilities and is essentially a monopoly that has little competition. It is regulated by Washington State's Utilities and Transportation Commission to ensure that they are charging fair prices. Since being acquired by a conglomerate of Australian and Canadian financial institutions, prices have skyrocketed. Since 2010, the parent company Puget Holdings LLC has made a tremendous amount of money off the venture. For the fiscal year ending December, 2010:

**Sales:** \$3,122.2M

**One year growth:** (6.2%)

**Net income:** \$30.3M

**Income growth:** (83.8%)

Since Puget Energy has gone private, further income figures are not available to the public. Our bills have continued to increase yearly and now they are asking for more increases for a variety of reasons, including administration and increased "return on investment". Us senior citizens have not received an increase in social security for two years and I think it is about time for PSE to live within their means. Other companies such as Boeing have reduced salaries, bonuses, pensions, and health care benefits to make ends meet. Because PSE is a monopoly, it feels justified to propose unrealistic increases in rates because users have no other choice. They need to reduce staff, freeze or reduce salaries, and reduce pensions and benefits to match those reductions imposed by other employers and government benefits. Natural gas prices are at a historic low and our bills just keep going up and up. This has got to stop and I expect the UTC and attorney generals office to protect us by holding "administrative costs and investment returns" to an extremely low level. It is important, especially in this poor economy, to hold the line on expenses and not line the pockets of the fat cat executives, their staffs, and banking investors. If this foreign company has money for a \$5 million dollar infusion to the Puget Sound Energy Foundation, then they are making too much money period.

Thanks you for your consideration,

William Jaques

Note: Data obtained from <http://www.answers.com/topic/puget-sound-energy#ixzz1mPkHv0gV>



## Williams, Carol (ATG)

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**From:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Sent:** Friday, February 24, 2012 4:05 PM  
**To:** 'davidwayne.mail@gmail.com'  
**Cc:** Williams, Carol (ATG)  
**Subject:** RE: ENOUGH UTILITY HIKES!!!

Dear Mr. Wayne,

Thank you for your comments on PSE's general rate increase request, filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) in May 2011. Public Counsel represents residential and small business utility consumers in proceedings before the UTC. Public Counsel will be participating on behalf of PSE customers in the case to consider this new request.

As a part of our work in this case, we collect public comments received by our office and the Consumer Protection and Communications Section of the UTC, and submit them as an exhibit to be considered by the Commission in making its decision. Your comment will be included in this exhibit.

On December 7, 2011 Public Counsel submitted testimony in the case recommending reductions to PSE's rate request. This testimony, as well as testimony from other parties, is available on the UTC website at <http://www.utc.wa.gov>. (Enter 111048 in the docket lookup field).

The UTC has examined the testimony and evidence presented by Public Counsel and other parties. Beginning on February 14, 2012, the UTC held four days of evidentiary hearings to cross-examine expert witnesses on issues presented in the case. The UTC is expected to issue a decision by May, 2012. For more information about Public Counsel, see our website at [www.atg.wa.gov/utilities.aspx](http://www.atg.wa.gov/utilities.aspx).

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitich  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

-----Original Message-----

**From:** David Wayne [<mailto:davidwayne.mail@gmail.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 16, 2012 7:33 AM  
**To:** [generalratecase@pse.com](mailto:generalratecase@pse.com); ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** ENOUGH UTILITY HIKES!!!

No more!!

Couldn't get enough gold from your Mother's teeth so you come after us!!  
How do you expect people to pay these humongous bills? You just keep raising, and raising, and raising, and raising, and every time you do, more people can't pay your outrageous costs!!  
Your greed is disgusting!!

David Wayne  
[davidwayne.mail@gmail.com](mailto:davidwayne.mail@gmail.com).

By mail at:  
By phone at:

UTC, P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504  
1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

---

**From:** GEORGE MAUER [<mailto:gmauer0231@msn.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 21, 2012 2:39 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:**

Dear Sirs:

Below is my letter to the Commission in opposition to the proposed PSE 3.5% rate increase. Please advise if I need to provide additional information in support of this opposition.

Sincerely,

George W. Mauer  
Shoreline, WA

George W. Mauer  
1430 NW 191st St  
Shoreline, WA 98177

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S. W.  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

1-21-2012

Dear Sirs:

This is to register my opposition to the proposed rate increase by Puget Sound Energy of 3.5% percent to its natural gas customers.

Wall Street Journal 1/7/12: "Natural-Gas Supplies Bulge, Pressuring Prices". "Prices fell below \$3 a million BTU on Dec 30 for the first time in more than two years".

Each of you must know that the natural gas supply market it at an all time high and its costs to distributors at a all time low. The future projections of supply are significantly trending up. Clearly there is no market evidence in support of this company's rate increase whatsoever, that is there is no factual market evidence that can rationalize any increase in the current rate charged Washington State residents. Any rate increase authorized by the Commission under these market circumstances would likely be financially burdening customers with ineffective PSE management. Frankly given the market supply scenarios for natural gas country wide, the Commission should be considering a rate reduction.

Please advise of any Commission staff support for or against this company's rate increase. I would also like to know how I can be of help in testifying before the commission in opposition to any rate increase proposed by Puget Sound Energy.

Sincerely,

George W. Mauer  
206-533-0160

By phone at:

1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitc  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

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**From:** Parl Guthrie [<mailto:parlguthrie@frontier.com>]

**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2012 1:27 PM

**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel

**Cc:** [generalratecase@pse.com](mailto:generalratecase@pse.com); Public Comments DB; [newstips@king5.com](mailto:newstips@king5.com); [newstips@heraldnet.com](mailto:newstips@heraldnet.com); [karmstrong@seattletimes.com](mailto:karmstrong@seattletimes.com); [newstips@thenewstribune.com](mailto:newstips@thenewstribune.com)

**Subject:** PSE Rate Increase

Dear Assistant Attorney General,

I'm responding to requests for comments on the proposed Puget Sound Energy rate increase scheduled to start May 2012;

I understand that businesses have reason for periodic increases. However, many PSE customers feel that they are being nickel and dimed to a point where PSE is telling us to go find another service if we don't like what we have. I would gladly do that if there were another gas company available, but PSE has a monopoly and can do anything they want. I'm not so much disturbed about the rate increase as I am about their lack of consideration for their customers.

PSE is the only utility in the region that requires their customers to pay a \$5.00 fee to pay their bill online; either pay their required fee, or require customers to go paperless to pay online. Many senior citizens like myself need that paper billing in the US Mail to help remind us to pay our bills. But according to PSE, unless we mail the bill back to them, or drive to a certain location, they want that \$5.00 fee for allowing us to pay online. I pay all my bills online, and no one else including PUD requires a fee for paying that way. At one time Alderwood Water District charged their customers for paying online, but they decided to give their customers a break and stop charging.

1. Why would anyone grant PSE a free hand at scalping their customers?
2. Why is it so important to PSE that they need to demand so much from their customs when no one else does?
3. Why can't PSE at least give senior citizens the opportunity to pay on line without restrictions or fees?

Please do NOT give PSE a free pass to rip-off their customers. Either stop the increase request, or take away the online payment fee!

Thank You,

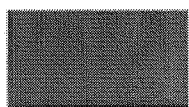
Parl Guthrie  
[parlguthrie@frontier.com](mailto:parlguthrie@frontier.com)



# ***NOTICE OF REQUESTED AND PUBLIC HEARINGS***

## ***Proposed rate increase***

On June 13, 2011, Puget Sound Energy filed a general rate case with Washington state's Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) requesting an increase for all customer groups except natural gas equipment rentals. The filing included a request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment which is designed to recover costs that would otherwise go unrecovered by PSE as a result of energy efficiency services provided by PSE. The initial filing was updated to reflect lower electric



**Feb.**



**You**

By phone at:

1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

---

**From:** chic bales linda bales [<mailto:randlbales@comcast.net>]

**Sent:** Friday, January 20, 2012 2:12 PM

**To:** Public Comments DB

**Cc:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel

**Subject:** PUGET SOUND ENERGY

These are my comments re: Puget Sound Energy's request for a big 8.3 percent electric rate increase. They are certainly justified in passing on to us any increases in their costs of producing and buying power, maintaining and improving infrastructure, etc.

But there are two items in the request that need real scrutiny. One is "increased administrative" costs. If that includes management salary increases, I say no. In this economy no one else is getting increases, and too many don't even have jobs.

But my real concern is with "INCREASED return on investor investment". NO WAY! When Puget Power was allowed to be sold to alien investors, they knew what they were getting into. The general public is forced to use this REGULATED monopoly. And should not be victimized by these investors trying to slip their GREED by and onto us.

What we really need is a non-profit public utility district.

Richard Bales



By phone at:

1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

---

**From:** ken G Bright [<mailto:kenbright@isp.com>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 14, 2012 11:41 AM  
**To:** Public Comments DB  
**Cc:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** Please deny excessive rate increase

PSE is requesting a rate increase of 8.3% for residential electric power (their figures).

**The rate of increase seems excessive, especially in a time when the economic impact on society is more burdensome than usual.**

The increase includes higher payouts to foreign ownership / shareholders, and road projects to enhance public infrastructure investments.

It seems to me that someone needs to stand up with conscience to mitigate the thirst of PSE ownership for more and more value / profit to their account at the expense of the consumers who both depend on them and fund them.

Please deny their request as it stands.

Ken G Bright  
January 14, 2012.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

-----Original Message-----

From: sandra kruize [mailto:[sandrakruize@yahoo.com](mailto:sandrakruize@yahoo.com)]  
Sent: Monday, January 16, 2012 2:20 PM  
To: Public Comments DB  
Cc: ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
Subject: Puget Sound Energy's requested rate increase

[comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)

Dear Commission Members:

I was shocked at the amount of Puget Sound Energy's proposed rate increases. It is excessive compared to all aspects of my income and budget. It is out of line and way too high.

I can understand having to severely alter my own personal spending to recuperate from the costs of a life crisis. That is how I would define and experience this amount of increase.

I do not know the details of the decisions that preceded this proposal. I only know my budget does not allow for this increase without a high level of struggle and that I strongly disagree with it.

I propose that Puget Sound Energy examine its infrastructure to control internal waste and thus contribute to the recuperation of its investment losses.

I also question why PSE is not required to fully disclose its investment plans before going ahead with them. I personally apologize if this process happens and I am not aware.

I question why no plans are publicly disclosed and along with the plans; a budget to allow them and a way to pay for excess loss should it occur.  
Please let me know about this.

My neighbors and I and everyone else I know will comment. I sincerely hope a more reasonable outcome will result.

Sandra Kruize

By phone at:

1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

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**From:** [temjrmd@g.com](mailto:temjrmd@g.com) [mailto:[temjrmd@g.com](mailto:temjrmd@g.com)]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 24, 2012 1:27 PM

**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel

**Subject:** Rate Increase by PSE

The requested natural gas rate increase by Puget Sound Energy UG-111049 makes no sense in view of falling national natural gas rates. Natural gas rates are reported to have fallen by two-thirds in the eastern states due to warm weather and the delayed onset of winter. We can confidently expect Washington and overall national rates to fall, not increase.

Puget Sound Energy's rate increase request should be denied.

Thomas Morgan  
7034 50th Ave. NE  
Seattle WA 98115

By phone at:

1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

---

**From:** Thirumalesh Bhat [<mailto:bhatth@gmail.com>]

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2012 10:06 PM

**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel

**Subject:** The utility bills and gas prices

Hello,

I have questions about the utility bills I have been getting from PSE - especially the increase in rates for natural gas.

The whole arrangement for a utility is that a monopoly is granted by the state in exchange for a cap on rate increases and profits. In this case, the state seems to be asleep at the wheel while the utility price gouges its customers.

Since July 2008, the wholesale price of natural gas has plunged from \$13/mbtu to around \$2.65/mbtu currently but the price extracted from the customers has not gone down. Instead, it has shot to an all time high and kept increasing steadily.

I understand the cost of raw natural gas is not the only factor in my bill (distribution and taxes being the other) but it is the largest portion in my bill. I strongly oppose the requested rate increase and instead look forward to an explanation for a lack in a rate DECREASE over the past 3 years despite a 77% plunge in the cost of raw natural gas.

Sincerely,  
Thirumalesh

## Williams, Carol (ATG)

---

**From:** Anoop Anantha [anoopa@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2012 1:29 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Cc:** Williams, Carol (ATG)  
**Subject:** Re: Another PSE rate increase is preposterous

Thank you for your response. I look forward to a PSE rate decrease instead of an increase this time.

Sincerely,  
Anoop Anantha.

On Mon, Jan 9, 2012 at 4:37 PM, ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel

<[Utility@atg.wa.gov](mailto:Utility@atg.wa.gov)> wrote:

> Dear Anoop Anantha,

>

> Thank you for your comments on PSE's general rate increase request,  
> filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)  
> in May 2011. Public Counsel represents residential and small business  
> utility consumers in proceedings before the UTC. Public Counsel will be  
> participating on behalf of PacifiCorp customers in the case to consider  
> this new request.

>

> As a part of our work in this case, we collect public comments received  
> by our office and the Consumer Protection and Communications Section of  
> the UTC, and submit them as an exhibit to be considered by the  
> Commission in making its decision. Your comment will be included in this  
> exhibit.

>

> On December 7, 2011 Public Counsel submitted testimony in the case  
> recommending reductions to PSE's rate request. This testimony, as well  
> as testimony from other parties, is available on the UTC website at  
> <http://www.utc.wa.gov>. The UTC will examine the testimony and evidence  
> presented by all parties. Hearings to cross-examine expert witnesses are  
> scheduled to begin February 14, 2012 and the UTC is expected to issue a  
> decision by May, 2012. You can also find more information about this  
> case on the UTC website at <http://www.utc.wa.gov> (enter 111048 in the  
> docket lookup field). For more information about Public Counsel, see  
> our website at [www.atg.wa.gov/utilities.aspx](http://www.atg.wa.gov/utilities.aspx).

>

> We also encourage you to attend a public hearing on the general rate  
> increase request. At this hearing, consumers can comment directly to the  
> UTC Commissioners. Representatives from the Company, UTC Staff, and our  
> office will be on hand to answer questions as well. The hearing will  
> take place at the following dates, times, and locations:

>

> February 1, 2012  
> Bellevue, WA  
> 6-7:30 p.m.  
> Bellevue City Hall, Council Chambers  
> 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA

>

>

> February 15, 2012

> Olympia, WA  
> 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
> Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
> 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Hearing Room 206  
>  
>  
> Comments can also be sent directly to the UTC:  
>  
> Via email at: [consumer@utc.wa.gov](mailto:consumer@utc.wa.gov)  
> Via online comment form at: <http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment/form>  
> By mail at: UTC, P.O. Box 47250,  
> Olympia, WA 98504  
> By phone at: 1.800.562.6150  
>  
> Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this  
> important matter.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
>  
>  
> Simon ffitich  
> Senior Assistant Attorney General  
> Public Counsel Section  
>  
> -----Original Message-----  
> From: Anoop Anantha [<mailto:anoopa@gmail.com>]  
> Sent: Saturday, December 31, 2011 5:21 PM  
> To: ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
> Subject: Another PSE rate increase is preposterous  
>  
> Hello,  
>  
> I was notified that PSE is once again increasing utility rates despite  
> a reduction in the cost of natural gas.  
>  
> The whole arrangement for a utility is that a monopoly is granted by  
> the state in exchange for a cap on rate increases and profits. In this  
> case, the state seems to be asleep at the wheel while the utility  
> price gouges its customers.  
>  
> Since July 2008, the wholesale price of natural gas has plunged from  
> \$13/mbtu to less than \$3/mbtu currently but the price extracted from  
> the customers has not gone down. Instead, it has shot to an all time  
> high and kept increasing steadily.  
>  
> I understand the cost of raw natural gas is not the only factor in my  
> bill (distribution and taxes being the other) but it is the largest  
> portion in my bill. I strongly oppose the requested rate increase and  
> instead look forward to an explanation for a lack in a rate DECREASE  
> over the past 3 years despite a 77% plunge in the cost of raw natural  
> gas.  
>  
> Sincerely,  
> Anoop Anantha.  
> Kirkland, WA.

By mail at:  
By phone at:

UTC, P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504  
1.800.562.6150

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

---

**From:** Nancy Lawson [[mailto:n\\_lawson01@hotmail.com](mailto:n_lawson01@hotmail.com)]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, January 11, 2012 12:35 PM  
**To:** Public Comments DB; ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PUGET SOUND ENERGY RATE INCREASE PROPOSAL

DEAR SIR,

I AM RESPONDING TO THE PROPOSED RATE INCREASE REQUEST BY PUGET SOUND ENERGY. I AM A RETIREE AND ON A VERY FIXED MONTHLY INCOME. WITH ALL THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WE ARE FACED WITH PRESENTLY, A RATE INCREASE IS LUDICROUS TO EVEN SUGGEST OR CONSIDER AT THIS TIME . TOO MANY FAMILIES ARE OUT OF WORK AND JUST MANAGING TO GET BY , AND DO WITHOUT. NOT ONLY ARE THEY ASKING FOR AN INCREASE BUT IN LOOKING BACK AT PAST RATE INCREASE , RE RATES ARE CALCULATED FROM THE DATE OF THE FILING ( THIS TIME 6-12-2011). PLEASE TAKE A HARD LOOK AT THIS REQUEST AND CONSIDER THE COST AND THE IMPACT TO THE AVERAGE PERSON JUST MANAGING AT GETTING BY ( WHAT CAN WE DO WITHOUT NOW ! ) . THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION .

SINCERELY ,

Nancy Lawson  
14009 14TH Ave NW  
Gig Harbor , Wa 98332

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact our office on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Simon ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

-----Original Message-----

From: Sheldon and Nancy Levin [<mailto:levinmailbox@gmail.com>]  
Sent: Friday, January 13, 2012 2:22 PM  
To: ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
Subject: Oppose PSE Electric Rate Increase (UE-111048)

This time do your job and successfully argue against any PSE electric rate increase! Not only should Public Counsel oppose any PSE electric rate increase, but you should argue for a rate decrease. Bonneville was all but giving away electricity to utilities this spring and the cost of gas-generated electricity has plummeted. More and more Washington residents need assistance to pay their electric bills, making PSE a taxpayer subsidized profit making industry.

OPPOSE ANY PSE ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE.

Sheldon Levin--  
Port Orchard