

COMMENT FORM FOR: michael j. sweeney - ID# 26807

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	michael j. sweeney	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	swecar@msn.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/04/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>to whom: please put me down as opposed to PSE's latest requested rate hike for natural gas service (docket no. UG-111049). in light of the nationwide oversupply of natural gas -- and the subsequent long and steady decline in the price of natgas in north america -- PSE cannot possibly justify the requested increase on fair and legitimate grounds. indeed, the utilities commission ought to be demanding that PSE immediately REDUCE gas rates to all customer groups. please stop this attempted consumer ripoff. sincerely, *****</p> <p>1/4/2012 Email response to consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations along with dates/times/locations for the public hearings. (((see attachment field for copy of the response)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Sweeney:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p> <p>State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough</p>	

to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.

On December 7, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) filed testimony recommending that PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates. This is significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June. The three-member commission, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012. Enclosed is a copy of the commission's press release which provides additional details.

You may comment to state regulators on the proposed increase at two scheduled public hearings. The first meeting is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue; and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia.

You may also comment through the "Public Comment" feature at the commission's website, at [utc.wa.gov](http://utc.wa.gov).

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
E-mail: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)  
Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

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If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

**State utility staff recommended deep cuts in Puget Sound Energy's rate  
increase request  
*Public invited to comment at February hearings***

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – State regulatory staff are proposing to give only a fraction of the revenues Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is seeking in its latest electric and natural gas rate increase request.

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make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012.

Under the staff proposal, a PSE average residential electric customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours-per-month would see their electric bill increase by \$2.05, for a bill total of \$98.84. The typical natural-gas customer using 68 therms a month would pay \$0.13 more, for a revised bill of \$81.72.

On June 13, PSE filed a general rate case with the UTC requesting an annual \$182 million overall rate increase for both electricity and natural gas service. Commission staff is recommending a \$40 million overall rate hike for both services.

Among the major differences between the company's request and the UTC staff's recommendation are reductions for PSE's development of the Lower Snake River Wind Project, power costs, storm-damage costs, incentive pay, federal income-tax issues and the utility's profit level.

Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

Staff also submitted testimony to address an ongoing problem with inaccurate meters, which has resulted in large retroactive bills for some customers. In 2008, the company was ordered by the commission to identify and correct the meter problems; however, the number of retroactive bills remains high. Staff is recommending that all inaccurate meter problems be resolved within four months for electric meters and six months for natural gas meters from the initial occurrence of the problem.

The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

PSE customers will be able to comment to state regulators at two public meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

In addition to the UTC staff and the company, other parties taking part in the

proceeding include advocates for large electricity and natural gas users, advocates for low-income customers, the Attorney General's Public Counsel Section, The Energy Project and the NW Energy Coalition.

Bellevue-based Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties.

The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Michael J. Sweeney

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: ANDREW BOER - ID# 27227**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	ANDREW BOER	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	WASHINGTON	
Email	andrewboer@gmail.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	High Rates	Open Date 01/30/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/27/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	PSE's proposed natural gas rate hikes (docket UG-111049) come at an inappropriate and poorly justified time. With Natural gas prices down significantly from this summer, even in the season of higher use, there is zero justification for this price increase. PSE needs to learn how to tighten their own belts for once, not just their customers. Please reject this hike.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Andrew Boer**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Carolyn Osborne - ID# 26848**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Carolyn Osborne	
Organization Company		
Address	430 Berkeley Avenue	
City, State, Zip Code	University Place Washington 98466	
Email	carolyn@creativeforcesbycarolyn.com	
Primary Phone #	253-566-8871	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Economic Conditions	Open Date 01/05/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>I think it is ridiculous that they are proposing rate increases at this time. People are struggling terribly and they feel they can kick people while they're down because they have us over a barrel because we have to use it. Shame on them!</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/5/2012 Email response to consumer. Informed consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public hearings. (((see attachment field for copy of the response)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Ms. Osborne:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p> <p>State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards,</p>	



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Enclosure



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Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Carolyn Osborne

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Charles Anderson - ID# 26727**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Charles Anderson	
Organization Company		
Address	12519 59th Ave NW	
City, State, Zip Code	Gig Harbor Washington 98332	
Email	knoodle@hotmail.com	
Primary Phone #	253-883-3212	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 12/22/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 12/22/2011
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	This is a comment regarding the absence of any price decrease for consumers using natural gas. Spot prices for natural gas have been low and declining for quite a while (since mid 2008). Current prices are about 1/4th of the peak prices of 2008. I would expect a minimal 10% decrease in residential bills to occur soon. Since private investors now own the company I think that it is incumbent on the Commission to rigorously defend the consumers right to fair prices for this commodity, since it is being provided by a monopoly. Thank you for considering this matter.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Charles Anderson**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: CHARLES A. FORSLAND - ID# 27474**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	CHARLES A. FORSLAND	
Organization Company		
Address	8917 81ST ST. SW	
City, State, Zip Code	LAKEWOOD WASHINGTON 98498	
Email	chuckaf@yahoo.com	
Primary Phone #	2535888263	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Costs have declined, Fixed Income, Frequent Increases, No Alternative	Open Date	02/06/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date	02/06/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi		
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
Description	<p>I am a gas customer of PSE. I oppose the increase in rates. It seems like PSE has had a continual increase in rates lately and most of the requests are rubber stamped by the state. We are captives of PSE as far as natural gas is concerned. There is no other alternative. We are retired, living on a fixed income and the increases are difficult to add to our costs. The price of Nat. Gas to PSE has gone down lately, not up, so how do they justify the request for an increase. There is little inflation, we are told, so we do not believe PSE should be so out of line with it's costs as to ask for an increase. Therefore, this is a request not to approve the request. Do not just reduce it and approve a lower amount as has been the practice in the past. PSE knows what you do and adjusts their request appropriately. Therefore, I request you disapprove the entire request and help the citizens of this state held captive by PSE.</p>		
Attachments			

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Charles A. Forsland**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)



**COMMENT FORM FOR: CHARLES J HUNT - ID# 27182**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	CHARLES J HUNT	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	dawgdirt23@aol.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>I have a hard time understanding why PSE is asking for a rate increase on natural gas. The price of natural gas at commodity exchanges is at historic lows. They should be offering a decrease!</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Charles J Hunt</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Charles J Hunt**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Corey Chu - ID# 26904**

Consumer Information	
Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None	
Name	Corey Chu
Organization Company	
Address City, State, Zip Code	2456 19th Ave E Seattle Washington 98112
Email	cgchu@hotmail.com
Primary Phone #	Fax #
Secondary Phone #	

Comment Information	
Theme	Costs have declined, Economic Conditions
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Web
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Description	<p>Dear Sir/Madam:I can hardly say that I'm shocked by PSE request to raise our gas rates (despite the fact that the wholesale cost of gas has been steadily decreasing) so soon after the sale of the company. In fact, from the wording of the justification statements, I tend to think that this was planned and timed accordingly. I do, however, find it interesting that they include "increased return on investor investment" as part of the justification. Perhaps they're required to reveal that but in this economy; I can't see how anyone of good conscious could go along with that. I also found it interesting how their requested increase compares with the amount consumers received for Merger Credit from the sale. Is anyone paying attention this?Sincerely,Corey Chu</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/10/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view a copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Corey Chu:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list</p>

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Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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Under the staff proposal, a PSE average residential electric customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours-per-month would see their electric bill increase by \$2.05, for a bill total of \$98.84. The typical natural-gas customer using 68 therms a month would pay \$0.13 more, for a revised bill of \$81.72.

On June 13, PSE filed a general rate case with the UTC requesting an annual \$182 million overall rate increase for both electricity and natural gas service. Commission staff is recommending a \$40 million overall rate hike for both services.

Among the major differences between the company's request and the UTC staff's recommendation are reductions for PSE's development of the Lower Snake River Wind Project, power costs, storm-damage costs, incentive pay, federal income-tax issues and the utility's profit level.

Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

Staff also submitted testimony to address an ongoing problem with inaccurate meters, which has resulted in large retroactive bills for some customers. In 2008, the company was ordered by the commission to identify and correct the meter problems; however, the number of retroactive bills remains high. Staff is recommending that all inaccurate meter problems be resolved within four months for electric meters and six months for natural gas meters from the initial occurrence of the problem.

The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

PSE customers will be able to comment to state regulators at two public meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call

toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

In addition to the UTC staff and the company, other parties taking part in the proceeding include advocates for large electricity and natural gas users, advocates for low-income customers, the Attorney General's Public Counsel Section, The Energy Project and the NW Energy Coalition.

Bellevue-based Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties.

The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Corey Chu

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: CURTIS CLARKE - ID# 27108**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	CURTIS CLARKE	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	curtisgclarke@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme		Open Date 01/26/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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	Natural Gas Prices continue to go down. They have gone down 50% in the last 10 years per the Wall Street Journal. Customer need more information re: the current price structure.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Curtis Clarke**



View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: DALE BEATTY - ID# 27279**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	DALE BEATTY	
Organization Company		
Address	7818 NE 165TH ST	
City, State, Zip Code	KENMORE WASHINGTON 98028	
Email	beatty.d@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #	425-488-1792	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/31/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/30/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	The supply and surplus of natural gas in the US is the highest in more than two decades. The cost of natural gas in the marketplace is correspondingly low and still decreasing. How on earth can this (Australian owned) company possibly justify a rate increase that is approvable by the Commission? No way !!!	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Dale Beatty**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: DAVE CASHIN - ID# 27200**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	DAVE CASHIN	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	dcash@isomedia.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined, Frequent Increases	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>Docket # UG-111049 (natural gas)</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>PS&amp;G customer Dave Cashin here. I oppose the rate increase. Why does PS&amp;G decrease rates late last year then need to increase them again? These are not good times to increase these numbers. Please see note below:</p> <p>Wall Street Journal, January 12, 2012 BY RUSSELL GOLD, DANIEL GILBERT AND RYAN DEZEMBER U.S. energy companies are pumping so much natural gas out of the ground that prices are plummeting, and the cheap gas isn't likely to evaporate anytime soon. Natural-gas prices fell 5.7% Wednesday to their lowest level in over two years—good news for people who use gas to heat homes and for companies that use it to power factories. Regards, -Dave</p>	

Attachments	

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Dave Cashin**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: DAVID DITTEMORE - ID# 27551**

Consumer Information	
	Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	DAVID DITTEMORE
Organization Company	
Address City, State, Zip Code	3601 BROADMOOR DR NE TACOMA WASHINGTON 98422-4723
Email	ddittemore@aol.com
Primary Phone #	253-590-8501
Secondary Phone #	
	Fax #

Comment Information	
Theme	Company should "tighten its belt", Economic Conditions, No Alternative
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Web
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Description	I don't see any reference to the company's allowed Rate of Return. With low interest rates, I would hope this figure would be lower than around 10% quoted in the company purchase a few years ago. I would think something around 7% would be appropriate in these economic conditions. My other point is that we are in times of economic crisis. Many are unemployed or underemployed - and this rate increase will hit them in a difficult time - wages are not increasing to take care of the rate increase. We talk about everyone tightening their belts - and I think utilities can as well. Some things can be delayed. Especially since the housing industry has slowed drastically, I wonder why PSE is seeking funds for distribution. Also, utility rates are very similar to taxes, since we don't have a competitive environment in most cases. Thus should we treat utility rate increases as tax increases - require a 2/3 majority of voters to approve?? Thanks..... :-)
Attachments	

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049

**Activites For David Dittmore**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Debby Davis - ID# 26697**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Debby Davis	
Organization Company	Northwest Door	
Address City, State, Zip Code	Tacoma Washington 98444	
Email	ddavis@northwestdoor.com	
Primary Phone #	253-620-1361 Cell	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Economic Conditions, No Alternative	Open Date 12/09/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>With the economy the way it is – people are trying to conserve energy and because they are – the power company has to increase the rates.....I see a problem with this. If my tv or phone provider did this, I'd change companies – but because it is the power company and they have a monopoly, I can't.....I have an even bigger problem with the power company being a monopoly!</p> <p>Trust me – If I had a choice, I would be "shopping" for a new provider.</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Debby Davis**



View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Dennis Ortblad - ID# 26841**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Dennis Ortblad	
Organization Company		
Address	149 NW 82nd Street	
City, State, Zip Code	Seattle Washington 98117	
Email	ortbladdj@hotmail.com	
Primary Phone #	2063256274	Fax #
Secondary Phone #	2063590901	

Comment Information		
Theme	Drastic Increase, Economic Conditions	Open Date 01/05/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/05/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>Docket # UG-111049 I oppose PSE's proposed increase in natural gas rates by 3.5%:--the cost of gas to PSE has not risen significantly (PSE does not cite gas costs as a grounds for increase).--in light of low inflation, PSE is not absorbing significantly higher costs for its equipment, materials, etc. -- at a time of high unemployment and weak economic growth, it is untimely to raise natural gas rates for a vague reason (PSE cites an unclear cost to increase "efficiency.")As a residential consumer, I was skeptical when a private consortium took over PSE. As I recall, it involved Australian and Canadian banks, which pledged better service at the same costs. As though to confirm my skepticism at once, the new PSE seeks major rate increases very soon after the takeover. I strongly urge the Commission to block these increases. I would find it baffling on what grounds these unreasonable could be approved.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/5/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations along with the dates/times/locations for the public hearings. (((see attachment field for copy of response)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Ortblad:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case</p>	

proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.

On December 7, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) filed testimony recommending that PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates. This is significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June. The three-member commission, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012. Enclosed is a copy of the commission's press release which provides additional details.

You may comment to state regulators on the proposed increase at two scheduled public hearings. The first meeting is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue; and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia.

You may also comment through the "Public Comment" feature at the commission's website, at [utc.wa.gov](http://utc.wa.gov).

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
E-mail: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)  
Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

A copy of the company's filing can be viewed at the commission website ([www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)) or by public records request by calling 360-664-1166.

If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you

have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



The commission is on Facebook, are you? [Become a Fan!](#)

Stay connected, [UTC Connections!](#)



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

**Editor's note: This news release reflects the position of energy staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) and NOT the views of the three-member commission. It discusses a staff recommendation that the commissioners have not yet reviewed. Any positions taken or comments offered by the commission staff regarding this proceeding should be attributed clearly to staff members and NOT to the UTC.**

Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

**State utility staff recommended deep cuts in Puget Sound Energy's rate increase request**

***Public invited to comment at February hearings***

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – State regulatory staff are proposing to give only a fraction of the revenues Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is seeking in its latest electric and natural gas rate increase request.

In testimony filed today, staff members of the Washington Utilities and

Transportation Commission (UTC) are recommending PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates, significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June.

The three-member UTC, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012.

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Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

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The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box

47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

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The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

#### Activites For Dennis Ortblad

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: DICK RONISH - ID# 27409**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	DICK RONISH	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON	
Email	dndronish@msn.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme		Open Date 02/03/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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	I am curious as to why the summary of requested rate increases sheet, sent in this months natural gas bill, did not include any effects it may or may not have, on the exclusive special transportation rate, (I believe it was rate schedule 99), which was granted to the Boeing company back in the 1990s?	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Dick Ronish**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)



**COMMENT FORM FOR: DORSEY ROWAN - ID# 27345**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	DORSEY ROWAN	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	d.rowan@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #	206-932-2581	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 02/01/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>Mr. Martin,</p> <p>I am forwarding some notes from a review of my most recent statement from PSE for your consideration. During the period ending 1/19/2012 my statement shows an amount due of \$139.74. This represents an increase of \$18.20 (14.97%) over the same period one year ago. During the same comparative periods my THRM use was 8.3% less (114.9 this year vs. 125.3 last year). In other words I was charged 14.97% more for using 8.3% less gas. It is also relevant to note that the actual cost of gas has declined from \$4.50 per unit to around \$2.75 (-38.88%) currently while the "Cost of Gas" charged by the utility has declined by less than .5%. (Shall we disregard the fact that the utility is charging a 45% to 120% premium over the actual cost of gas that is presumed to be a "no profit" pass through.) As you might imagine, I'm having some difficulty reconciling these figures.</p> <p>I would like to note however that it will take less than half the \$50 increase I received in my Social Security check to pay for this chicanery.</p> <p>Regards, *****</p> <p>2/3/2012 Spoke to the consumer about the cost of gas. Informed him that the company's cost of gas is NOT strictly tied to the spot markets because of the variability in the rates</p>	

from day to day and even hour by hour. However, if there is a trend that shows up one would expect, barring any unforeseen blips in the market, weather, storage capacities, etc., that the trend would be reflected in the PGA's that are generally filed in the Fall of each year. I agreed to send the consumer links to the Public Counsel's web site.

Dear Mr. Rowan,

Here is a link to Public Counsel's web page.

<http://www.atg.wa.gov/Utilities.aspx>

Here is a link to Public Counsel's contact form.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/atg/formhandler/ago/ContactForm.aspx>

Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions regarding PSE's rate case.

Thank you.

Attachments

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

#### Activites For Dorsey Rowan

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: DOUGLAS A. RAUH - ID# 27552**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	DOUGLAS A. RAUH	
Organization Company		
Address	12266 KENNETH PLACE NE	
City, State, Zip Code	BAINBRIDGE ISLAND WASHINGTON 98110	
Email	rauh01@msn.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme		Open Date 02/15/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC)                      Comment on Puget Sound Energy(PSE) rate increase                      Docket Number UE-111048(electric).                      comments@utc.wa.gov</p> <p>My concern is over the Residential rate increase paying for electric to natural gas conversion incentive which I cannot use because natural gas is not available on Bainbridge Island.</p> <p>The incentive is not an option for PSE electric customers that do not have natural gas available.</p> <p>PSE offers an incentive of between \$1,950-\$3,950 for electric customers to convert both water and heating to natural gas.  <a href="http://pse.com/savingsandenergycenter/ForHomes/Pages/Converting-to-Natural-Gas.aspx">http://pse.com/savingsandenergycenter/ForHomes/Pages/Converting-to-Natural-Gas.aspx</a></p> <p>Natural Gas is currently at a very low price and it looks like that price will not increase substantially for several years.                      Converting (water and air) heating to natural gas would save Bainbridge Island PSE</p>	

electric rate payers money while reducing the peak electric load during cold periods while improving reliability.

<http://pse.com/savingsandenergycenter/ForHomes/Pages/Natural-Gas-Cost-Comparison.s.aspx>

“Lower energy costs. Historically, natural gas has cost between 20 and 50 percent less than the equivalent amount of electricity, heating oil or propane. See reverse side for a complete cost comparison.

Reliability. Many natural gas appliances, such as water heaters, fireplaces and stoves, will operate during a power outage so you can stay warm, have hot water and enjoy a hot meal.

Versatility. In addition to home heating, natural gas can be used for water heating, cooking, clothes drying, stand-by generators, barbecues, etc.”

The conversion would substantially lower the Bainbridge Island’s peak period electric consumption.

This is important because Bainbridge Island’s current load during peak periods may exceed the name plate capacity of our substations a couple of times per year during cold temperatures below about 36 degrees

Bainbridge Islanders are using energy conservation to keep the peak load demand below the name plate capacity but conversion of electric heating to natural gas heating would solve the problem for the next several decades.

PSE’s current transmission and distribution infrastructure would be sufficient to provide all of Bainbridge Island’s electric needs for several decades if the electric heat pumps and electric baseboard heaters were converted to natural gas.

Heating reliability on Bainbridge Island would increase because the natural gas energy delivery system would be underground unlike the current electric delivery system.

Underground natural gas pipes are much less vulnerable to wind, snow, ice and falling trees compared to above ground electric distribution lines.

Currently natural gas is available in Poulsbo just to the West of Bainbridge Island.

Is there some way the WUTC could get a Natural Gas supplier like PSE or Cascade to provide natural gas service on Bainbridge Island.

Thanks.

Attachments

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049

**Activites For Douglas A. Rauh**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Elifonso Leal - ID# 26866**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Elifonso Leal	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	eal58003@aol.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Fixed Income, Frequent Increases	Open Date 01/06/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>I wish to declare my opposition to this latest rate increase request from PSE. I'm frankly fed up with them running to the UTC for a rate increase request every year! Living on a fixed income, it is imperative that we be properly represented and the effects of these continuous increases be taken into account as the primary consideration when deciding on these requests. I'm only glad I don't have to rely on PSE for electricity too! 10.89 cents per kilowatt, are they kidding! Thats disgusting. Thank you in advance.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/6/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendation and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field for copy of response)))</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/6/2012 Email from consumer. thank you very much!</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Elifonnso Leal:</p>	

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Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
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P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
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Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

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I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

**Editor's note: This news release reflects the position of energy staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) and NOT the views of the three-member commission. It discusses a staff recommendation that the commissioners have not yet reviewed. Any positions taken or comments offered by the commission staff regarding this proceeding should be attributed clearly to staff members and NOT to the UTC.**

Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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Public invited to comment at February hearings**

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Among the major differences between the company's request and the UTC staff's recommendation are reductions for PSE's development of the Lower Snake River Wind Project, power costs, storm-damage costs, incentive pay, federal income-tax issues and the utility's profit level.

Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

Staff also submitted testimony to address an ongoing problem with inaccurate meters, which has resulted in large retroactive bills for some customers. In 2008, the company was ordered by the commission to identify and correct the meter problems; however, the number of retroactive bills remains high. Staff is recommending that all inaccurate meter problems be resolved within four months for electric meters and six months for natural gas meters from the initial occurrence of the problem.

The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

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The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase

proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

In addition to the UTC staff and the company, other parties taking part in the proceeding include advocates for large electricity and natural gas users, advocates for low-income customers, the Attorney General's Public Counsel Section, The Energy Project and the NW Energy Coalition.

Bellevue-based Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties.

The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Elifonso Leal

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: EUGENE FELISIANO - ID# 27145**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	EUGENE FELISIANO	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	WASHINGTON	
Email	ccirrocc@gmail.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined, Frequent Increases	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/27/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	Dear Commission I have seen our natural gas rates go up almost every year. A rate increase at this time would seem unjustified. Unless you want to count their(PSE) need to increase their profit and borses. Natural gas is at a 10 year low for wholesale prices. As proof of this I am including a link to CNBC's wholesale price chart. <a href="http://data.cnbc.com/quotes/NGCV1/tab/2">http://data.cnbc.com/quotes/NGCV1/tab/2</a> Thank you for listening.Sincerely Eugene Felisiano	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Eugene Felisiano**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: FRED & JUNE SMITH - ID# 27377**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	FRED & JUNE SMITH	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	smithfred1542@msn.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Fixed Income, Frequent Increases, Senior Citizen	Open Date	02/02/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input checked="" 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>To Whom it may concern:</p> <p>This is to let you know that us old folks on fixed incomes cannot stand these endless rate increases for PSE.</p> <p>You knew when you approved PSEs sale to foreign owners that we would get taken. And here it comes just like we knew it would.</p> <p>Not withstanding FRACKING and the rapid falling price of natural gas; Please make a very careful analysis of this request and keep us old folks in mind.</p> <p>RDGS: Fred M. Smith Graham Wa 98338</p>		
Attachments			

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Fred & June Smith**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

COMMENT FORM FOR: Gene Simmons - ID# 26695

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Gene Simmons	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	gsimmons52@yahoo.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Economic Conditions	Open Date 12/08/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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>I am writing to comment on Puget Sound Energy's request for rate increases.</p> <p>I am only a natural gas customer of PSE so won't comment on the electricity rate requests.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>As the link below shows, natural gas prices have cratered in the past year, down nearly 25% y-o-y.</p> <p><a href="http://wtrg.com/daily/gasprice.html">http://wtrg.com/daily/gasprice.html</a></p> <p>Given the decline in their raw material prices, how in the world can PSE justify a higher natural gas rate?</p> <p>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".</p>	



	<p>I think the truth is the final reason given: to "improve investor return".</p> <p>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.</p>
Attachments	

<b>Issue Information</b>	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Gene Simmons**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: GEORGE HOLZAPFEL - ID# 26981**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	GEORGE HOLZAPFEL	
Organization Company		
Address	5836 PRINCETON AVE NE	
City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98105	
Email	gsholzapfel@gmail.com	
Primary Phone #	206.523.2972	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/21/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/15/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>Re: Natural Gas increase UG-111049I am surprised and chagrined that Puget Sound Energy would be increasing it costs to natural gas customers when it has been widely publicized and is well known that there is a glut of natural gas on the market, and that natural gas prices have been significantly falling. Since PSE's cost of natural gas has gone down significantly, it should be REDUCING, NOT INCREASING, its cost to customers. In addition, part of the new, increased cost is to expand distribution to new customers. New customers should bear the costs of that expansion, not existing customers. Thank you for your consideration of these points.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/22/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Holzapfel:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p>	

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I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

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Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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Dec. 7, 2011

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Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

#### Activites For George Holzapfel

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: GLENN JOHNSON - ID# 27041**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	GLENN JOHNSON	
Organization Company		
Address	6828 30TH AVE NE	
City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98115	
Email	sfutesc@gmail.com	
Primary Phone #	206-527-9105	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined, Economic Conditions	Open Date 01/22/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>Dear UTC:</p> <p>My family and I oppose the proposed rate increases for natural gas service by Puget Sound Energy. With the price of natural gas plummeting, there is no reason beyond 'increased return on investment' on the part of PSE for filing for this increase. Identify efficiencies, and take any excess profits from those efficiencies, not from middle class families whose incomes are gradually being squeezed.</p> <p>A few points:                      How much is the ROI to increase?                      What amount of the increase in fees goes to ROI?                      Who isn't there a rate DECREASE, given the abundance of natural gas in the US? Heck, gas is being flared off in North Dakota, let's capture that and pipe it to customers since the cost of production must approach Zero, since it's being burned off.</p> <p>NO, to the increase in rates per therm, and NO NO NO to the increase in the basic charge, from \$10 to \$10.80. I'd say, let's roll that back to \$6, maybe \$7 max. Let developers, and new developments pay for the cost of new service. Housing built in the 1920s, and their owners, have paid for utility services FOREVER.</p>	

	<p>In advance, my thanks. ***** 1/22/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. ((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Johnson:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p> <p>State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.</p> <p>On December 7, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) filed testimony recommending that PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates. This is significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June. The three-member commission, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012. Enclosed is a copy of the commission's press release which provides additional details.</p> <p>You may comment to state regulators on the proposed increase at two scheduled public hearings. The first meeting is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue; and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia.</p> <p>You may also comment through the "Public Comment" feature at the commission's website, at <a href="http://utc.wa.gov">utc.wa.gov</a>.</p> <p>Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250 E-mail: <a href="mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov">comments@utc.wa.gov</a> Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)</p>



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Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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Dec. 7, 2011

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Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

Staff also submitted testimony to address an ongoing problem with inaccurate meters, which has resulted in large retroactive bills for some customers. In 2008, the company was ordered by the commission to identify and correct the meter problems; however, the number of retroactive bills remains high. Staff is recommending that all inaccurate meter problems be resolved within four months for electric meters and six months for natural gas meters from the initial occurrence of the problem.

The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This

accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

PSE customers will be able to comment to state regulators at two public meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

In addition to the UTC staff and the company, other parties taking part in the proceeding include advocates for large electricity and natural gas users, advocates for low-income customers, the Attorney General's Public Counsel Section, The Energy Project and the NW Energy Coalition.

Bellevue-based Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties.

The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Glenn Johnson

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: JARED WILLS - ID# 27147**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	JARED WILLS	
Organization Company		
Address	14219 90TH AVE NE	
City, State, Zip Code	KIRKLAND WASHINGTON 98034	
Email	ufo_foosball@hotmail.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/27/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	Hello, I saw on komotv that PSE has submitted a proposal to increase rates to its customers beginning this summer. I find this very surprising, particularly the proposed increase for natural gas rates. Given that natural gas futures have declined from \$4.30 last summer to \$2.60 currently, PSE should actually be giving customers a rate DECREASE. PSE should not be allowed to increase rates to consumers on a commodity that has decreased dramatically in price. I strongly oppose their proposal.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Jared Wills**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: JEFF HAZELTON - ID# 27247**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	JEFF HAZELTON	
Organization Company		
Address	1900 224TH PL NE	
City, State, Zip Code	SAMMAMISH WASHINGTON 98074	
Email	jhazelton2@frontier.com	
Primary Phone #	425-868-1851	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	High Rates	Open Date 01/30/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/28/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>Considiring that I have recently read that our supply of natural gas is at an all time high I don't feel a rate increase is warranted. Temperatures have been warmer than expected in the east easing demand. Overall demand is lower and supply is up with capacity for storage rapidly filling up. Economics says prices have to come down to stimulate the demand. Any proposed rate increase I feel can be met by the expected lower gas prices. Thus any increase is not warranted.</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Jeff Hazelton**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)



**COMMENT FORM FOR: JERRY RICHARD - ID# 27316**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	JERRY RICHARD	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	jerryrichard@usa.net	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 02/01/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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	Dear UTC: Before you agree to Puget Sound Energy's request for a boost in natural gas rates, please consider this Seattle Times piece: Prices continue to slide on gushers of natural gas  Natural gas's worst start to a year since 2001 has the most accurate forecasters predicting further price declines as surging U.S. shale production threatens to overwhelm the nation's storage facilities.  <a href="http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2017323646_natgas25.html">http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/business/technology/2017323646_natgas25.html</a>  Sincerely, Jerry Richard	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049

**Activites For Jerry Richard**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Jim Purkerson - ID# 26910**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Jim Purkerson	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	paigowteam@att.net	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/10/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input checked="" 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>Why do want an increase in gas rates ? When the cost of gas is very very low!!!!!!! Thank You ***** 1/10/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. ((see attachment field to view a copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Purkerson:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p> <p>State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it</p>	

cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.

On December 7, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) filed testimony recommending that PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates. This is significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June. The three-member commission, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012. Enclosed is a copy of the commission's press release which provides additional details.

You may comment to state regulators on the proposed increase at two scheduled public hearings. The first meeting is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue; and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia.

You may also comment through the "Public Comment" feature at the commission's website, at [utc.wa.gov](http://utc.wa.gov).

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
E-mail: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)  
Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

A copy of the company's filing can be viewed at the commission website ([www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)) or by public records request by calling 360-664-1166.

If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

**Editor's note: This news release reflects the position of energy staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) and NOT the views of the three-member commission. It discusses a staff recommendation that the commissioners have not yet reviewed. Any positions taken or comments offered by the commission staff regarding this proceeding should be attributed clearly to staff members and NOT to the UTC.**

Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

**State utility staff recommended deep cuts in Puget Sound Energy's rate  
increase request**

***Public invited to comment at February hearings***

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – State regulatory staff are proposing to give only a fraction of the revenues Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is seeking in its latest electric and natural gas rate increase request.

In testimony filed today, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) are recommending PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates, significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June.

The three-member UTC, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012.

Under the staff proposal, a PSE average residential electric customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours-per-month would see their electric bill increase by \$2.05, for a bill total of \$98.84. The typical natural-gas customer using 68 therms a month would pay \$0.13 more, for a revised bill of \$81.72.

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The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

PSE customers will be able to comment to state regulators at two public meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

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Bellevue-based Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties.

The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Jim Purkerson

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: JOHN PAHRE - ID# 27254**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	JOHN PAHRE	
Organization Company		
Address	23504 84 AVE W	
City, State, Zip Code	EDMONDS WASHINGTON 98026	
Email	edmonds1001@frontier.com	
Primary Phone #	425 778 5968	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Economic Conditions	Open Date 01/30/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/29/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	IF THE PRICE OF GAS IS DOWN WHY WOULD YOU PROPOSE A RATE INCREASE?MUST BE THE ANNUAL WAGE INCREASE AND PENSION CONTRIBUTION. THE ECONOMY IS FLAT AND THERE SHOULD BE NO WAGE INCREASES AND PENSIONS FOR PUBLIC EMPLOYEES OR EMPLOYEES IN MONOPOLIES CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT MUST CEASE TO EXIST AS IS THE CASE FOR PRIVATE SECTOR EMPLOYEES. ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, THE ELECTORATE WILL SPEAK NOV 2012!!	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For John Pahre**



View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Karin Virnig - ID# 26743**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Karin Virnig	
Organization Company		
Address	3222 208th Place SW	
City, State, Zip Code	Lynnwood Washington 98036	
Email	bkjmv@hotmail.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Frequent Increases	Open Date 12/27/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 12/25/2011
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>I'm not happy about your planned increase. We've been customers of PSE gas for well over 20 years and each time you increase your prices, we lower our heat. When we hear that folks are encouraged to lower the temperature in their house to 65 or 68 degrees, we chuckle. Years ago we lowered our temp. to 60 degrees. This year I tested my family at 58 degrees during the day when everyone is home! My teenage kids complain so I tell them to snuggle under a blanket, get a fire going in the fireplace (we get our wood for free off Craig's List) or get one of our pets on their lap for extra heat. During the summer months we hang our laundry out to dry so we don't have to use the gas dryer and our heat often goes on later in the year than our friends. Our only gas splurge is hot water. We're willing to be cold in the house, but long hot baths and showers are our treat. If you get your price increase, I'm going to put timers in the bathrooms to limit showers. I hate that we are constantly asked to conserve gas but then you raise your prices so I end up paying the same amount or more than before I conserved.</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049

**Activites For Karin Virnig**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: KATHLEEN WALKER - ID# 27273**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	KATHLEEN WALKER	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	kwalker0926@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/31/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>The cost of natural gas to PSE has been low since 2008/ 2009, and unless there is some other reason for its requested price increase, there is no reason to grant the requested increase.</p> <p>Please follow your staff's recommendation of 13¢ per (average customer's bill) or better, ask your staff why any increase in PSE's natural gas prices is warranted.</p> <p>Kathleen Walker 1716 Washington Street Steilacoom, Wash 98388 Kwalker0926@comcast.net</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Kathleen Walker**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: KENDRA WANZENRIED - ID# 26995**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	KENDRA WANZENRIED	
Organization Company		
Address	4118 105TH PL. SE	
City, State, Zip Code	EVERETT WASHINGTON 98208	
Email	kwanz1@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/21/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/15/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>Let's do the math...the prices are going down for the gas companies by 34% and yet the gas companies are charging their customers more. Help me on this one!</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/21/2021 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Kendra Wanzenried:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p> <p>State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on</p>	

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Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
E-mail: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)  
Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

A copy of the company's filing can be viewed at the commission website ([www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)) or by public records request by calling 360-664-1166.

If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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STATE OF WASHINGTON

## WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

**Editor's note: This news release reflects the position of energy staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) and NOT the views of the three-member commission. It discusses a staff recommendation that the commissioners have not yet reviewed. Any positions taken or comments offered by the commission staff regarding this proceeding should be attributed clearly to staff members and NOT to the UTC.**

Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

### **State utility staff recommended deep cuts in Puget Sound Energy's rate increase request *Public invited to comment at February hearings***

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The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

**Issue Information**

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Kendra Wanzenried**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: KEVIN SANDERS - ID# 26961**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	KEVIN SANDERS	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	2406 WHITECHUCK DR. EVERETT WASHINGTON 98208	
Email	bestlife97@yahoo.com	
Primary Phone #	425-337-3582	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined, Drastic Increase	Open Date 01/13/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/13/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>I wish to comment on the pending PSE request for an increase in Natural Gas Rates of 3.16% (\$33.3 million) that is part of a larger 8.08%(\$159.7 million)combined Natural Gas and Electric rate increase request.The reason given by PSE for \$17.6% of the \$33.3 million Gas Rate increase is: "Distribution and other expenses" including: "...reliability, to serve new customers, to accomodate public infrastructure projects and costs for complianceand safety improvements."Simply put, Commissioners, these are the costs of doing business and do not justify additional revenue.At a time when new natural gas exploration and extraction technologies (hydraulic fracturing of shale and other geological features) are yielding unprecedented new reserves of natural gas supplies, and dramatically increasing the known domestic reserves of natural gas, I find it outrageous that PSE is requesting a rate increase of any kind!When combined with a rate increase that basically revolves around the cost of doing business, I find this request to be avaricious, specious and completely without merit.I urge the commission to reject this PSE rate increase request.Thank you,Kevin SandersRetired HomeownerEverett, Wa.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/13/2012 Email response to consumer. Informed consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of response to the consumer)))</p>	
Attachments	Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049	

Dear Mr. Sanders:

Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.

On December 7, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) filed testimony recommending that PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates. This is significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June. The three-member commission, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012. Enclosed is a copy of the commission's press release which provides additional details.

You may comment to state regulators on the proposed increase at two scheduled public hearings. The first meeting is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue; and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia.

You may also comment through the "Public Comment" feature at the commission's website, at [utc.wa.gov](http://utc.wa.gov).

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
E-mail: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)  
Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

A copy of the company's filing can be viewed at the commission website ([www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)) or by public records request by calling 360-664-1166.

If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC

(9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



The commission is on Facebook, are you? [Become a Fan!](#)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

**Editor's note: This news release reflects the position of energy staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) and NOT the views of the three-member commission. It discusses a staff recommendation that the commissioners have not yet reviewed. Any positions taken or comments offered by the commission staff regarding this proceeding should be attributed clearly to staff members and NOT to the UTC.**

Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

**State utility staff recommended deep cuts in Puget Sound Energy's rate increase request  
Public invited to comment at February hearings**

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – State regulatory staff are proposing to give only a fraction of the revenues Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is seeking in its latest electric and

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The three-member UTC, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012.

Under the staff proposal, a PSE average residential electric customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours-per-month would see their electric bill increase by \$2.05, for a bill total of \$98.84. The typical natural-gas customer using 68 therms a month would pay \$0.13 more, for a revised bill of \$81.72.

On June 13, PSE filed a general rate case with the UTC requesting an annual \$182 million overall rate increase for both electricity and natural gas service. Commission staff is recommending a \$40 million overall rate hike for both services.

Among the major differences between the company's request and the UTC staff's recommendation are reductions for PSE's development of the Lower Snake River Wind Project, power costs, storm-damage costs, incentive pay, federal income-tax issues and the utility's profit level.

Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

Staff also submitted testimony to address an ongoing problem with inaccurate meters, which has resulted in large retroactive bills for some customers. In 2008, the company was ordered by the commission to identify and correct the meter problems; however, the number of retroactive bills remains high. Staff is recommending that all inaccurate meter problems be resolved within four months for electric meters and six months for natural gas meters from the initial occurrence of the problem.

The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

PSE customers will be able to comment to state regulators at two public meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE’s rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission’s deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

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###

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Kevin Sanders**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)



**COMMENT FORM FOR: Larry & Fran Madden - ID# 26814**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Larry & Fran Madden	
Organization Company		
Address	6021 130th St Ct NW	
City, State, Zip Code	Gig Harbor Washington 98332	
Email	lfmadden@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #	253 857-5445	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/04/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/03/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>I see in the business news that the price of Natural Gas is steadily dropping. Today, it is less than \$3.00 per unit. I don't understand why a rate increase is necessary, if the price of that, which we are buying is decreasing. Seems more likely to see a rate decrease instead. Thank you. Larry &amp; Fran Madden</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/4/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations along with dates/times/locations for the public hearings. (((see attachment field for copy of the response)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Larry &amp; Fran Madden:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p> <p>State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards,</p>	

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I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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*Public invited to comment at February hearings***

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

#### Activites For Larry & Fran Madden

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Leo Jacobs - ID# 26699**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Leo Jacobs	
Organization Company		
Address	10631 Farm to Market Road	
City, State, Zip Code	Mount Vernon Washington 98273	
Email	leo.jacobs@frontier.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Comments about UTC, Mismanagement	Open Date 12/12/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 12/08/2011
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	Why are customers made to pay more when PSE is not efficient in the way they conduct business. If people are using less energy now because of the down economy then the rates should go down not up. Encase you misread rates should go down not up. You are the people tasked with keeping these companies in check. Please do so.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Leo Jacobs**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: LEW MILLER - ID# 27319**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	LEW MILLER	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	lewcindymiller@msn.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Cost of Living	Open Date 02/01/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>Hello:</p> <p>I disagree with the new rate hike proposal by P.S.E and i have two reasons the first one is that the federal government only issued a 3.6% cost of living rise in 2012 and natural gas prices are at record low levels in history. In fact some natural gas companies have stop drilling to help increase their prices to their customers.</p> <p>Thank you for give me this opportunity to voice me concerns</p> <p>Lew Miller</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Lew Miller**



View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: MARILYN MARTINETTO - ID# 27266**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	MARILYN MARTINETTO	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	martinetto@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/31/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>Natural gas price increase requested by PSE should be denied.</p> <p>Natural gas prices reached their high in 2008, and since have been falling. So much so that gas producers have been storing their natural gas in hopes price will climb. If that would not end the excess supply over demand and cause prices to climb, the next step was planned to be further increase in different natural gas products for use in plastics, followed by increasing sales of natural gas in liquefied form to China and elsewhere overseas.</p> <p>However, prices remained low (\$2.231) until 23 Jan 2012, when Chesapeake Energy (NYSE: CHK] announced it would cut its natural gas production by 50%, causing an immediate spike in price that has since leveled off at \$2.51.</p> <p>In sum, the cost of natural gas to PSE has been low since 2008/ 2009, and unless there is some other reason for its requested price increase, there is no reason to grant the requested increase.</p> <p>Please follow your staff's recommendation of 13¢ per (average customer's bill) or better, ask your staff why any increase in PSE's natural gas prices is warranted.</p>	

	Marilyn Martinetto 2300 Worthington St. Steilacoom, WA 98388 martinetto@comcast.net
Attachments	

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Marilyn Martinetto**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Mark Wadlow - ID# 26751**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Mark Wadlow	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	maui-condo@embarqmail.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Cost of Living	Open Date 12/27/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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	I and my family are set against any form of a PSE rate hike. With natural gas rates at their lowest prices in years, PSE ought to be giving back funds to their customers vice asking for more. Inflation is really stagnant, in fact our government has frozen federal employee salaries through 2012. Where will these additional funds come from for your customers to pay this increase? As was said earlier in this email this PSE price increase is not warranted.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Mark Wadlow**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: MARY THORSEN - ID# 27057**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	MARY THORSEN	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	thorsenmary112@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	High Rates	Open Date 01/22/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>There is nothing we consumers feel we can do to halt these continuous rate increases.</p> <p>But I wish to point out a misleading comment on the reverse side of the PSE notice issued Dec. 2011-Jan. 2012. The heading is "Effects on residential customers". Then under the Natural gas service column it tells the amount of a current bill based on 68 therms per month and then the right hand column tells the amount after proposed rate increase as of May, 2012. At the bottom of this column it says "Total Bill at 68 therms per month, and lists the current total and what the total will be in May of 2012, leading a homeowner to believe their total bill for 68 therms per month will be \$87.96 as shown on that example.</p> <p>No mention is made of what I feel are exorbitant delivery charges. I have gas heat, try to be very conservative, and in the last month used 112 therms. The cost of the gas seems to be \$73.44, but delivery charges were a whopping \$42.62. This totals \$116.06. My total bill was \$135.69, the difference being a basic charge of \$10.00, Gas conservation Program Charge and Gig Harbor City Tax. My neighborhood is mainly senior citizens, many of us on fixed incomes, and because the natural gas is only for heat and hot water, we still have a fairly high electricity bill from another company for electric service.</p>	

Thank you for your attention to my comment.

Sincerely,

\*\*\*\*\*

1/22/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))

Attachments

Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049

Dear Ms. Thorsen:

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P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250

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

Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

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If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

**Editor's note: This news release reflects the position of energy staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) and NOT the views of the three-member commission. It discusses a staff recommendation that the commissioners have not yet reviewed. Any positions taken or comments offered by the commission staff regarding this proceeding should be attributed clearly to staff members and NOT to the UTC.**



Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

**State utility staff recommended deep cuts in Puget Sound Energy's rate  
increase request  
*Public invited to comment at February hearings***

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – State regulatory staff are proposing to give only a fraction of the revenues Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is seeking in its latest electric and natural gas rate increase request.

In testimony filed today, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) are recommending PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates, significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June.

The three-member UTC, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012.

Under the staff proposal, a PSE average residential electric customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours-per-month would see their electric bill increase by \$2.05, for a bill total of \$98.84. The typical natural-gas customer using 68 therms a month would pay \$0.13 more, for a revised bill of \$81.72.

On June 13, PSE filed a general rate case with the UTC requesting an annual \$182 million overall rate increase for both electricity and natural gas service. Commission staff is recommending a \$40 million overall rate hike for both services.

Among the major differences between the company's request and the UTC staff's recommendation are reductions for PSE's development of the Lower Snake River Wind Project, power costs, storm-damage costs, incentive pay, federal income-tax issues and the utility's profit level.

Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

Staff also submitted testimony to address an ongoing problem with inaccurate meters, which has resulted in large retroactive bills for some customers. In 2008, the company was ordered by the commission to identify and correct the meter problems; however, the number of retroactive bills remains high. Staff is recommending that all inaccurate meter problems be resolved within four months for electric meters and six months for natural gas meters from the initial occurrence of the problem.

The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity

to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

PSE customers will be able to comment to state regulators at two public meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

In addition to the UTC staff and the company, other parties taking part in the proceeding include advocates for large electricity and natural gas users, advocates for low-income customers, the Attorney General's Public Counsel Section, The Energy Project and the NW Energy Coalition.

Bellevue-based Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties.

The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

**Activites For Mary Thorsen**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Matthew Senft - ID# 26700**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Matthew Senft	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	Washington	
Email	utcdotwadotgov@senft.net	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 12/12/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 12/11/2011
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	Natural Gas costs have come down considerably over the last year. It's hard to understand why these increases would make sense. The cost of the Natural Gas is a substantial portion of the Natural Gas bill so if anything the rates should drop not increase.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Matthew Senft**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: MICHAEL CUMMINS - ID# 27150**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	MICHAEL CUMMINS	
Organization Company		
Address	3035 NE 181ST ST	
City, State, Zip Code	LAKE FOREST PARK WASHINGTON 98155	
Email	egmcummins@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/27/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	Given the decreased prices for natural gas, a rate increase does not seem justified at this time.Has PSE considered the impact of lower natural gas prices in its application for a rate increase for natural gas customers?	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Michael Cummins**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: MILDRED & TOM JOHNSON - ID# 27255**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	MILDRED & TOM JOHNSON	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	4107 HARBOR RIDGE RD NE TACOMA WASHINGTON 98422	
Email	harborridg1@msn.com	
Primary Phone #	253-927-6003	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Fixed Income	Open Date 01/30/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/29/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	The proposed increase for natural gas is too large to be implemented at this time. An increase that amounted to .50 increase per month would be more acceptable. My husband and I are both retired and we are not having our income increase but everything else has increased. Perhaps some of the upper management employees could take a cut and other wages could be frozen. It is about time that business that provides a product required for survival realize that prices cannot continually be increased.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Mildred & Tom Johnson**



View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: NICHOLAS STAGLIANO - ID# 27250**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	NICHOLAS STAGLIANO	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	4162 AUGUSTA DR. NE TACOMA WASHINGTON 98422	
Email	nstag@aol.com	
Primary Phone #	253-927-5959	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	High Rates	Open Date 01/30/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/28/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	PSE should not be increasing rates for natural gas. In fact, they should actually be reducing rates for natural gas. It is well documented that there is currently a surplus of nature gas on the market, as well as lower natural gas futures. The relatively mild winter across the nation combined with increased production has resulted in the surplus of natural gas nationwide. A rate increase to PSE customers will only reslut in more profit for PSE since they will be buying natural gas at a lower cost. Any proposed increase in natural gas rates by PSE is absurd and should be denied.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Nicholas Stagliano**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: PARL GUTHRIE - ID# 27054**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	PARL GUTHRIE	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	parlguthrie@frontier.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	No Alternative	Open Date 01/22/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>Dear Assistant Attorney General,</p> <p>I'm responding to requests for comments on the proposed Puget Sound Energy rate increase scheduled to start May 2012;</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	

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 customers 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,

\*\*\*\*\*

1/22/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))

\*\*\*\*\*

1/27/2012 Email from consumer

Thanks again for the information you have been sending, it will be very helpful. I agree that companies need to increase rates in order to stay in business. As a previous manager for the U.S. Postal Service I know very well how hard it is to justify raising the price of a stamp. However, a company like PSE has the ability to manage the way they allocate the money they receive. It seems to me that if they were the least bit interested in customer satisfaction, they would build those bank card fees into their overall rate increase, and not nickel and dime their customers to death.

Besides, most people who pay on line use an electronic check, not a bank card, so bank card fees wouldn't even come into play. I would think that my electronic check on line would be considerably less expensive to a company than having an employee get the mail, open all the envelopes, separate the recycling from the check and receipt, and then enter the information into the system. So I want to hear how they justify charging me a \$5,00 fee for my electronic check, and will ask them what it costs for one of their employees to do everything by hand when it comes in the U.S. Mail.

I wouldn't have a problem if they increased their general fund to offset the fees, but I don't believe they are interested in doing that. They want to force people into going paperless so they can charge an extra fee for late payments when they forget to check their email, because I would venture to say that there are more late payments with people that go paperless than with people who receive their bill in the mail.

When all is said and done, I would like to pursue the matter if they continue to charge fees. I will ask for detailed information under the Freedom of Information Act and see who is being charge extra fees, and for what.

Thanks, Parl Guthrie

Attachments

Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049

Dear Parl Guthrie:

Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

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Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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###

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Parl Guthrie**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: PAT RICHMOND - ID# 27013**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	PAT RICHMOND	
Organization Company		
Address	5102 GREEN HILLS AVE. N.E.	
City, State, Zip Code	TACOMA WASHINGTON 98422	
Email	pbenji@aol.com	
Primary Phone #	253 927-0320	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Cost of Living	Open Date 01/21/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/14/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>3.16 percent increase in natural gas will be difficult for most gas customers to handle. In my circumstance with cost of living taken away from my pension it will be a hardship. Please limit your increase to less than 2 percent. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/22/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>	
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Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

#### Activites For Pat Richmond

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: PATRICIA ALLEGRETTI - ID# 27015**

Consumer Information	
	Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	PATRICIA ALLEGRETTI
Organization Company	
Address City, State, Zip Code	1227 RUCKER AVE. EVERETT WASHINGTON 98201
Email	patricia_allegretti@yahoo.com
Primary Phone #	425-330-5068
Secondary Phone #	
	Fax #

Comment Information	
Theme	Costs have declined, Fixed Income, Senior Citizen
Open Date	01/21/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web
Web Create Date	01/15/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Description	<p>One often loses confidence for a single voice's ability to make a difference. Nonetheless I write and believe that I speak for the many struggling to make ends meet. I recently received a notice from PSE regarding this rate increase. Gas is my primary source of heat. I'm a senior on a fixed income, and in spite of taking many measures to keep my heat at a minimum, the winter bills are overwhelming.. Days after receiving that notice, I read in the Seattle Times an article headed "Natural-gas prices slide; consumers should get a break" (<a href="http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9S6UJM81.htm">www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9S6UJM81.htm</a>). The content of the article would certainly suggest that this increase request is certainly not a reasonable one. Thank you, Patricia Allegretti</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/21/2021 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Ms. Allegretti:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding</p>



the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

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Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

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If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your

comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

#### Activites For Patricia Allegretti

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: PAUL BAILEY - ID# 27038**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	PAUL BAILEY	
Organization Company		
Address	6501 FRANCIS LOOP SE	
City, State, Zip Code	AUBURN WASHINGTON 98092	
Email	paulebailey1@gmail.com	
Primary Phone #	253-833-2668	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Company should "tighten its belt", Costs have declined	Open Date	01/22/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input checked="" 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>With Natural Gas Prices hitting an all-time low I see no reason to allow PSE to increase their rate. They can take their needed improvements out of their margin, period.</p> <p><a href="http://www.metalprices.com/FreeSite/metals/ng/ng.asp">http://www.metalprices.com/FreeSite/metals/ng/ng.asp</a></p> <p>Thank you, *****</p> <p>1/22/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>		
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Bailey:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p>		

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I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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Dec. 7, 2011

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Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Paul Bailey

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: PHIL LOE - ID# 27044**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	PHIL LOE	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON	
Email	loe@sigmaxi.net	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/22/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>To the UTC: (Docket No. UG-111049 - Puget Sound Energy)</p> <p>The price of natural gas remains low. This company wishes to extend service to new customers and have its old customers pay most of the cost of the additional facilities. We would prefer that the new customers to be served pay a larger share of these new capital expenditures, perhaps as a larger connection fee.</p> <p>The UTC should also consider whether investment in new facilities should be borne in greater part by investors.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/22/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Loe:</p>	

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Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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COMMISSION

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Phil Loe

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)



**COMMENT FORM FOR: Phillip C. Coates - ID# 26799**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Phillip C. Coates	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	7702 63rd Aveune West Lakewood Washington 98499	
Email	pcoates@ix.netcom.com	
Primary Phone #	253-588-1051	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/04/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>It seems that with all the new natural gas supplies coming on line, in the not too distant future, that a rate increase now is going to result in excess profits when the benefits of the lower cost is realized. I am suspicious of the validity of the reasons stated for the increase. I would like to see the actual numbers. Is that possible?</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments. *****</p> <p>1/4/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations along with dates/times/locations for the public hearings. (((see attachment field for copy of the response)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Coates:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p>	



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Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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Dec. 7, 2011

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Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Phillip C. Coates

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Randy Noll - ID# 26820**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Randy Noll	
Organization Company		
Address	6715 So. Thayer St.	
City, State, Zip Code	Seattle Washington 98178	
Email	rgnoll@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #	206.725.0547	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Company should "tighten its belt", Costs have declined, Drastic Increase, Economic Conditions	Open Date	01/04/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date	01/02/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi		
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
Description	<p>HelloJust got notice in my bill that they are requesting a rate increase for Nat. Gas service. This seems absurd imo, NG prices ("their product") are down to the lows of 2009, which were / are the lowest all the way back to 2002 (far as I could pull up pricing). Fuel prices are down from their highs (relative to delivery prices). New single &amp; multi- family home building is nearly non-existent (relative to new customer service costs). Accordingly, their profitability of their providence of product Should have increased substantially. Even at that, in this economy Business's should be equally charged with tightening their budget as the private citizen. They Obviously need to be better stewards of their monies. As for the Electrical request for increase. This request seems even more absurd. Development of wind farm..Why?! The current wind farms off I-90 above the Columbia River are often shut down, which was a surprise to me as I thought they were always running (ie producing). My Son lives in Ephrata, WA on my trips over during Christmas, I noticed only a few running, thought that was odd, on my trip back, all were off. My son told me this happens all the time, he figures so they can regulate rates. Enron came to mind straight away. Why build more if the current ones are Not being utilized. Just seems like another ploy to raise rates. Have always found that rate increases for new projects or increase product costs, ect. have never been recinded upon project completion or lower product costs. IE..when costs go down, the</p>		

consumer NEVER gets a reduced rate nor rebate..WHY is that??!! They require the consumer to share in increased costs but not in the decreased costs, nope just more \$\$'s for the top tier folks whilst the consumer continues to tighten their belts.

\*\*\*\*\*

1/4/2012 Email response to consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations along with dates/times/locations for the public hearings. (((see attachment field for copy of the response)))

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**Issue Information**

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Randy Noll**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Richard Banghart - ID# 26878**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Richard Banghart	
Organization Company		
Address	7310 91st Ave SW	
City, State, Zip Code	Lakewood Washington 98498	
Email	banger@eskimo.com	
Primary Phone #	2068980129	Fax #
Secondary Phone #	2068980129	

Comment Information		
Theme	Comments about UTC, Costs have declined	Open Date 01/09/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/08/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>This request is outlandish. These natural gas bills have done nothing but go up despite the dramatic fall in natural gas prices. The cost per BTU is many times the actual wholesale cost of natural gas. The fact that this private equity group overpaid for this company does not make me want to pay higher rates. One of the reasons cited by the company is to increase investor return. I too would like a higher return on my investments but I do not have a compliant state agency to grant it. With T Bills now yielding less than .01% what is it that they have done to justify their greed. I am sure one reason that They chose to invest in this state was the reputation for a compliant and easy regulatory commission. This rate increase is unjustified and needs to be met with a ruling for a significant DECREASE in rates. The commission does have this power and should use it.</p> <p>1/8/2012 Comments from the consumer to the commissioners. Dear Commissioners:</p> <p>I have submitted comments to the UTC regarding the Puget sound energy Rate increase for natural gas. However I wanted to follow up with a communication to the commission as well. I am not surprised that they are requesting one even with the the wholesale price of natural gas which has declined from \$15.00 to less than \$3.00. In this environment of low yields why should this company be allowed to increase rates in</p>	

order to "increase return on investor investment"? ( They should have their rates halved just for writing that sentence). I do not believe that the rate payers in Washington state should suffer increased rates because this company was purchased at too high a price for natural gas or electricity.

The private equity industry has a history of unbridled greed and must be met with a strong response. I look forward to hearing from you as this attempt to extort an exorbitant return from the ratepayers in this state makes it's way through the regulatory process. The commission has the power to decrease rates as well as grant increases and I would look forward to your showing this company that the Washington state UTC is aware of what is actually occurring in the real economy rather than on the spreadsheets of the private equity managers. Prices have declined in the market place lets pass some of that on to the consumers.

Regards,

\*\*\*\*\*

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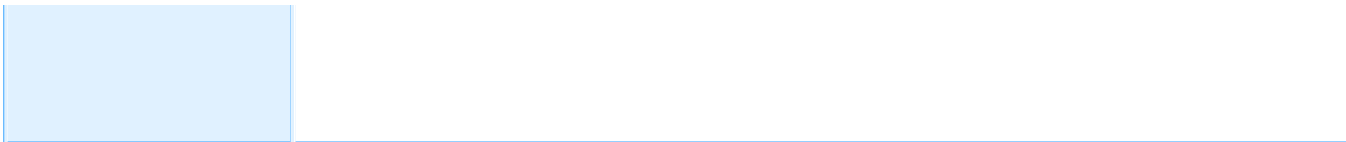
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Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Richard Banghart**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)



**COMMENT FORM FOR: Richard Lawrence - ID# 26879**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Richard Lawrence	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	1120 N 78th St Seattle Washington 98103	
Email	akoolmom@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #	206-523-5029	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/09/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/07/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>Re:Docket #UE-111048 &amp; #UG-111049 You are looking to increase revenue to replace revenue lost due to conservation efforts made by customers and by their own increased efficiency. The whole point of conservation is to use less energy. This should not increase the cost but lower the cost for all involved. If the cost are going to continue to go up..what's the point of conserving energy? PSE should be satisfied with the cost savings gained by more efficient generation of electricity. As far as natural gas costs, we are being told that United States has more natural gas than Saudi Arabia has oil. The law of supply and demand should indicate the prices of natural gas should come down and not go up. This is just another example of a money grab by the energy industry that hasn't learned the lessons of Enron.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/9/2012 Email response to consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Lawrence:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding</p>	

the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.

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I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your

comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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***Public invited to comment at February hearings***

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Among the major differences between the company's request and the UTC staff's recommendation are reductions for PSE's development of the Lower Snake River Wind Project, power costs, storm-damage costs, incentive pay, federal income-tax issues and the utility's profit level.

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PSE customers will be able to comment to state regulators at two public meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at

[www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

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The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Richard Lawrence

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Richard Vaughan - ID# 26757**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Richard Vaughan	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	richard_vaughan@hotmail.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 12/27/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>Please do not allow the 8% increase in the Basic Charge for natural gas as requested by UG-111049. The basic charge is both regressive and does not do anything to encourage conservation.</p> <p>If additional revenue is needed by Puget Sound Energy, instead increase the incremental Rate per Therm.</p> <p>However, given that U.S. natural gas power prices are the lowest they have been since 2002, I don't understand why any increase is needed by natural gas utility companies.</p> <p>For reference, please see: <a href="http://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/hist/n3045us3M.htm">http://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/hist/n3045us3M.htm</a> and <a href="http://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_pri_sum_dcu_nus_a.htm">http://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_pri_sum_dcu_nus_a.htm</a></p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Richard Vaughan**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: ROBERT CAMPBELL - ID# 27019**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	ROBERT CAMPBELL	
Organization Company		
Address	2110 31ST AVE S	
City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98144	
Email	campbellrobertp@hotmail.com	
Primary Phone #	2062297430	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/21/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/15/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>Since Jan 2010 natural gas prices have fallen almost 50% from \$5.50 to around \$3.00 why isn't PSE asking for a rate reduction?</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/22/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Campbell:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p> <p>State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on</p>	



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I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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Dec. 7, 2011

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Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Robert Campbell

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: ROBERT DICKENSHEETS - ID# 26964**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	ROBERT DICKENSHEETS	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	MUKILTEO WASHINGTON 98275	
Email	usmules@msn.com	
Primary Phone #	425-315-9879	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined, Frequent Increases	Open Date 01/13/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/13/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>I see that it is time for the ANNUAL rate increase request by PSE. How can they request an increase in natural gas prices when the natural gas market is down and futures are depressed? They are presently charging \$0.65195 per therm when the latest market is in the area of \$0.2710. Their Basic charge is up 21% since December of 2007 and their cost of delivery is up 25% since that same time. That is an annual increase of about 6%. This company has the highest rates anywhere in the state of Washington, and they request an increase in rates at least once a year and some times twice. They are asking for an increase in rates of over eight percent. That is outrageous. The next time I move I will make certain that I am not in their service area. I am against any increase in their rates. Disgustedly RD Incidentally, the last time I received an email correspondence from your office it was unreadable.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/13/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. ((see attachment field to view a copy of the response to the consumer)))</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/13/2012 Email from consumer. Thank you for a most prompt and informative email concerning the PSE rate increase. R Dickensheets</p>	
Attachments	Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049	

Dear Robert:

Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

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Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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###

**Issue Information**

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

**Activites For Robert Dickensheets**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Robert J. MacEwan - ID# 26860**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Robert J. MacEwan	
Organization Company		
Address	319 N. W. 82nd St.	
City, State, Zip Code	Seattle Washington 98117	
Email	rjmacewan@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #	206-783-0211	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Economic Conditions	Open Date 01/06/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/06/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>These are tough economic times. People are trying to find work and keep their homes. To ask for a 8% increase in rates seems to me to be a poor case in timing. I am sure most working people would appreciate a 8% increase in their weekly pay check. No to this price increase.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/6/2012 Email response to consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations along with the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field for copy of response)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. MacEwan:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p> <p>State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards,</p>	

and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.

On December 7, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) filed testimony recommending that PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates. This is significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June. The three-member commission, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012. Enclosed is a copy of the commission's press release which provides additional details.

You may comment to state regulators on the proposed increase at two scheduled public hearings. The first meeting is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue; and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia.

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Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
E-mail: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)  
Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

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I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

**State utility staff recommended deep cuts in Puget Sound Energy's rate  
increase request  
*Public invited to comment at February hearings***

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – State regulatory staff are proposing to give only a fraction of the revenues Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is seeking in its latest electric and natural gas rate increase request.

In testimony filed today, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) are recommending PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates, significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June.

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On June 13, PSE filed a general rate case with the UTC requesting an annual \$182 million overall rate increase for both electricity and natural gas service. Commission staff is recommending a \$40 million overall rate hike for both services.

Among the major differences between the company's request and the UTC staff's recommendation are reductions for PSE's development of the Lower Snake River Wind Project, power costs, storm-damage costs, incentive pay, federal income-tax issues and the utility's profit level.

Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

Staff also submitted testimony to address an ongoing problem with inaccurate meters, which has resulted in large retroactive bills for some customers. In 2008, the company was ordered by the commission to identify and correct the meter problems; however, the number of retroactive bills remains high. Staff is recommending that all inaccurate meter problems be resolved within four months for electric meters and six months for natural gas meters from the initial occurrence of the problem.

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The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

In addition to the UTC staff and the company, other parties taking part in the proceeding include advocates for large electricity and natural gas users, advocates for low-income customers, the Attorney General's Public Counsel

Section, The Energy Project and the NW Energy Coalition.

Bellevue-based Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties.

The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

#### Activites For Robert J. Macewan

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: RODNEY J JOHNSON - ID# 26718**

Consumer Information			
		Contact Method	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	RODNEY J JOHNSON		
Organization Company			
Address	11506 206TH PLACE SE		
City, State, Zip Code	ISSAQUAH WASHINGTON 98027		
Email	rodnejjohnson@msn.com		
Primary Phone #	425-204-4986	Fax #	
Secondary Phone #	425-281-1566		

Comment Information			
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date	12/20/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" 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>How is the price of natural gas explained when the price has gone up approximately 30 % over the past five years when the price of natural gas continues to decline. *****</p> <p>12/20/2011 email response to consumer. Dear Mr. Johnson,</p> <p>Thank you for your interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate proceeding. Your name has been added to the commission’s interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p> <p>The current general rate case does not address the cost of gas. The major components in PSE’s \$33.3 million increase in gas revenues is for distribution and other expenses; infrastructure capital investments; and conservation measures. Gas costs are address separately typically in the fall of each year in the Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment (PGA). Here is a link which described the PGA regulatory tool.</p> <p>Here is an overview of how gas costs work.</p> <p>§ The company does not rely on a single type of gas supply. PSE's portfolio is made up of long term, medium term, short term, daily and hourly purchases. So, it is</p>		



hard to compare the company's cost of gas with a single data point on the wholesale spot market. PSE estimated its annual gas supply costs using a model that creates a least cost supply portfolio of fixed and variable priced contracted supplies, gas storage operations, and transportation costs. Variable priced (market based) contracts were priced in the model using an average of forward market prices for the basins from which PSE acquires gas, during the 3-month period (June 7 through September 6, 2011).

§ The commission has implemented a regulatory tool called a Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment (PGA) to adjust the price of natural gas to reflect the changing cost of gas in the wholesale market. The single largest cost of operating a gas company is purchasing gas to sell to customers.

§ Companies buy gas from producers in Canada and the United States, and the price fluctuates over time. The PGA allows gas companies to periodically adjust their prices to reflect the increasing or decreasing cost of gas. Gas companies must file PGA's at least every 15 months, or within 13 months of the effective date of their last PGA they must file documents to show that a rate change is not necessary at that time (WAC 480-90-233). The total cost of gas is passed through to customers. This means the company does not earn a return on or lose any money on the cost of prudently incurred gas costs.

§ In summary, there are reasons why PSE's purchased gas costs do not exactly mimic the wholesale cost decreases on the spot market. It is a lot how the stock market works. You can win or lose depending on when you buy. Just like the stock market, it is difficult to accurately predict the swings in the wholesale gas market. Commodity trading these days are extremely volatile. Timing is everything.

If you are interested, here is a link to our web site showing the increases and decreases in rates since 2000.

I am hopeful this addresses your concerns. If you have questions, please feel free to give me a call at 1-888-333-9882.

\*\*\*\*\*

12/20/2011 Email from consumer.

I appreciate the response. Nevertheless, the average cost of natural gas has been dropping whereas the average cost of gas with PSE has been rising gradually. I could understand if the PSE gas price went up for a few weeks and then dropped or oscillated, but ultimately reflected a trend of lower cost; it does the opposite over time. It really does not make sense.

\*\*\*\*\*

1/12/2012 Additional comment from the consumer.

This is a follow-up to my earlier e-mail, taken from today's Wall Street Journal:

BY RUSSELL GOLD, DANIEL GILBERT AND RYAN DEZEMBER

U.S. energy companies are pumping so much natural gas out of the ground that prices are plummeting, and the cheap gas isn't likely to evaporate anytime soon.

Natural-gas prices fell 5.7% Wednesday to their lowest level in over two years—good news for people who use gas to heat homes and for companies that use it to power

factories.

For U.S. energy companies, however, the domestic natural-gas market is looking increasingly out of whack. Despite a 32% drop in prices last year, onshore production rose 10%, and it is expected to rise another 4% this year, according to Barclays Capital.

This flies in the face of your previous comments.

Any response?

\*\*\*\*\*

1/22/2012 Email comment from the consumer.

Today's (1/18/2012) Wall Street Journal, page C4: "natural gas futures fell to the lowest level in nearly a decade". Can you try one more time to explain to me why Puget Sound Energy has raised the price of natural gas over 30 % in the past three years?

Rodney J. Johnson

\*\*\*\*\*

1/22/2012 Email response to the consumer.

Dear Mr. Johnson,

I'll respond in two parts. The first on Staff's audit procedures and the second on current status and conditions.

Audit procedures: There are two component to the annual Purchase Gas Adjustment (PGA) filings. The first component is prospective gas costs. This component is where the rate is set to cover expected gas costs for the upcoming year. The rate is based on actual known prices (fixed price contracts, financial hedges, and storage inventory costs are included) and expected or best estimate pricing of commodity (using forward strips). Staff analyses these projections by reviewing actual supply contracts, storage injection calculations, load projections, hedging strategies and contracts, forward strip information, etc.

The second component of the annual PGA is the deferral amortization. Since the companies do not make or lose many money on gas costs (gas costs are a pass-through) they defer the difference between what is embedded in rates and what they actually pay for gas. This component is where prudence determination is done. Questions such as: were the company's purchasing decisions correct and in the best interest of customers based on the information known at the time the decisions were made? Staff reviews company sales reports to verify volumes sold, they review actual purchases (down to the invoice), they review management decisions regarding capacity management and utilization, off-system sales, basin utilization, storage management, etc. These reviews do not include every single transaction or every single month in the deferral period (12 months). Staff utilizes random sampling in its analysis.

Here is an overview of how gas costs work.

The company does not rely on a single type of gas supply. PSE's portfolio is made up of long term, medium term, short term, daily and hourly purchases. So, it is hard to compare the company's cost of gas with a single data point on the wholesale spot

market. PSE estimated its annual gas supply costs using a model that creates a least cost supply portfolio of fixed and variable priced contracted supplies, gas storage operations, and transportation costs. Variable priced (market based) contracts were priced in the model using an average of forward market prices for the basins from which PSE acquires gas, during the 3-month period (June 7 through September 6, 2011).

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Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Attachments

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Rodney J Johnson

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Roger - ID# 26778**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Roger	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	rkouchi@utc.wa.gov	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme		Open Date 12/30/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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		
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Roger**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: ROGER WALKER - ID# 27269**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	ROGER WALKER	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	bev@orcasound.org	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/31/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>Has no one been following the street price of natural gas? It has plummeted. PSE should be lowering rates, not proposing increases. Who is watching the henhouse?</p> <p>Roger Walker 544 129th Avenue SE Bellevue WA 98005</p> <p>Homeowner since 1973</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Roger Walker**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)



**COMMENT FORM FOR: ROLF MORSTAD - ID# 27211**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	ROLF MORSTAD	
Organization Company		
Address	5019 N. DEFIANCE	
City, State, Zip Code	TACOMA WASHINGTON 98407	
Email	rolfmor@gmail.com	
Primary Phone #	253-576-1368	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined, Frequent Increases	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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	With the wholesale cost of natural dropping year after year how can they keep requesting increases. Who actually owns PSE? Thanks	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Rolf Morstad**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: ROSALIE MARCANTONIO - ID# 27271**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	ROSALIE MARCANTONIO	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	roept@aol.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme		Open Date 01/31/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>Dear Sir/Madam:</p> <p>Please disallow any rate increase for natural gas. There is an abundance that has been stored and managed to artificially cause a shortage, only now to be used to justify a rate increase.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Rosalie Marcantonio</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Rosalie Marcantonio**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Roy Mishra - ID# 26880**

Consumer Information	
	Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Roy Mishra
Organization Company	
Address City, State, Zip Code	Washington
Email	mishrar2@hotmail.com
Primary Phone #	Fax #
Secondary Phone #	

Comment Information	
Theme	Company should "tighten its belt", Cost of Living, Economic Conditions, Executive Salaries/Bonuses
Open Date	01/09/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web
Web Create Date	01/08/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Description	<p>Docket number: UG-111049. The increase in natural gas prices to cover PSE costs is just a simple way for an organization to increase salaries, and stake holders profits. For PSE to state it is a way to recover costs that would go unrecovered means they should look at how they can make their company more efficient to lower cost internally. As a customer of natural gas, we are already stretched to the limits, most of us did not receive a cost of living adjustment, are not getting raises and there are no promotions. What is happening at PSE are they receiving COLA's, promotions or raises? It is interesting that at a time that the country is suffering economically, organizations such as PSE the banks and other institutions are continuously trying to raise rates and force hard working individuals and families into poverty. Large institutions such as PSE needs to re-evaluate their costs, benefits and structure and trim costs internally. The saddest part of it all is that residential customers are already paying a higher rate than any other service receiver and the proposed rates are not going to distribute the cost any further but penalize residential customers even further. PSE is another example of corporations taking advantage of the "little people".</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/9/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings.</p>

((see attachment field to view a copy of the response))

Attachments

Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049

Dear Mr. Mishra:

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P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
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Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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*Stay connected, [UTC Connections!](#)*



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

*1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203*

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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

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In addition to the UTC staff and the company, other parties taking part in the proceeding include advocates for large electricity and natural gas users, advocates for low-income customers, the Attorney General's Public Counsel Section, The Energy Project and the NW Energy Coalition.

Bellevue-based Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties.

The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Roy Mishra

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: R. DURHAM - ID# 27181**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	R. DURHAM	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	rtbirdmom@aol.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Cost of Living	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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	Rate Increase - UG-111049 To the Powers at Be:  Really, a rate increase? It is hard enough for us to pay the rising gas prices, just to get to and from work. I have not had a pay raise in three years. Food prices, which we need to survive, are going up. I really hope this increase is reconsidered.  Thank you. R. Durham Tacoma, WA	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For R. Durham**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: SCOTT DROWN - ID# 26207**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	SCOTT DROWN	
Organization Company		
Address	19504 78TH AVE SE	
City, State, Zip Code	SNOHOMISH WA 98296	
Email	s.drown@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #	425-483-1472	Fax #
Secondary Phone #	425-357-8000	

Comment Information		
Theme	No Alternative	Open Date 08/03/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 08/02/2011
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>I know that the Commission reviews rates on a regular basis and thought I would offer this comment.</p> <p>For years the cost of a product had it's administrative costs included as part of that product cost. But lately it seems that companies are being more inventive - like the airlines - in finding new cost centers. Inventing them, so to speak, from what was never charged for before. In the case of an airline you do have a little bit of a choice. But in the case of a natural gas provider the choice is minimal. Where else are you to go? I manage a small community club and noted last year that we were charged for "Delivery", even when we used no gas. It was nominal, I think about \$14. But it seems that this year that fee is now a "Basic Charge" - \$32.32 and a "Delivery Charge" \$2.67.</p> <p>My charge for natural gas? \$5.82. So I am paying about 6 times the cost of the product for add on fees. Seems pretty ridiculous to me. Is this regulated?</p> <p>*****</p> <p>8/3/2011 Email response to the customer regarding his specific questions. Dear Mr. Drown,</p> <p>Thank you for contacting the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) regarding the gas rate increase requested by Puget Sound Energy (PSE). Your name has been added to the UTC's interested persons list and your comments are part of</p>	

the record.

You had some specific questions regarding the individual charges you see on your PSE monthly bills (i.e., delivery charge, and basic charge. It has been the general practice in rate design to break out the individual charges in the overall rates into their component parts. This helps the UTC track the separate costs of providing service and allows customers to see which costs are affected during a rate case.

- Delivery Charge – This usage-based charge reflects the utility’s cost to bring service to the door of customers’ homes and businesses. The delivery charge covers such things as installing and maintaining the delivery infrastructure (e.g., gas mains, electric transmission/distribution lines, service lines, meters, labor costs, taxes, vehicle maintenance and administrative costs).

- Basic Charge – The basic charge covers a portion of the costs for billing, meter reading and other related fixed costs. The intent is to allow the utility to recover these fixed costs which do not vary with the amount of usage.

I will keep you informed of the status of the rate case. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator  
1-888-333-9882; 360-664-1101  
fax: 360-664-4291  
Email: rkouchi@utc.wa.gov

Attachments

**Issue Information**

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Scott Drown**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: SERGEY SHLYKOVICH - ID# 27022**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	SERGEY SHLYKOVICH	
Organization Company		
Address	4020 250TH AVE SE	
City, State, Zip Code	ISSAQUAH WASHINGTON 98029	
Email	sshlyk@gmail.com	
Primary Phone #	240-271-3164	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme		Open Date 01/21/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/15/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>Effects on residential customers is misleading. It states that bill would increase by ~\$3 if you use 68 therm per months. However, I live in 2100 sqfeet house just me with my wife. We have energy efficient heaters and keep thermostat as low as possible (usually 66 degeree). Our usage comes up as 120 therm per months. That means my bill would increase by ~\$6. I am pretty sure the increase will be even more for the houses with children when you need to keep the heat for the whole day. Furthermore, basic charge fees seems unfair because for my electricity bill it is 30% of the bill and I can not cut it down. Basic charge fee should be removed completely and not increase. That would encourage me save more energy instead of paying some fee for nothing. Thank you.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/22/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Sergey Shlykovich:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list</p>	



and your comments are part of the record.

State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.

On December 7, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) filed testimony recommending that PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates. This is significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June. The three-member commission, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012. Enclosed is a copy of the commission's press release which provides additional details.

You may comment to state regulators on the proposed increase at two scheduled public hearings. The first meeting is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue; and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia.

You may also comment through the "Public Comment" feature at the commission's website, at [utc.wa.gov](http://utc.wa.gov).

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
E-mail: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)  
Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

A copy of the company's filing can be viewed at the commission website ([www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)) or by public records request by calling 360-664-1166.

If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



The commission is on Facebook, are you? [Become a Fan!](#)

Stay connected, [UTC Connections!](#)



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

**State utility staff recommended deep cuts in Puget Sound Energy's rate  
increase request**

***Public invited to comment at February hearings***

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – State regulatory staff are proposing to give only a fraction of the revenues Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is seeking in its latest electric and natural gas rate increase request.

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significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June.

The three-member UTC, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012.

Under the staff proposal, a PSE average residential electric customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours-per-month would see their electric bill increase by \$2.05, for a bill total of \$98.84. The typical natural-gas customer using 68 therms a month would pay \$0.13 more, for a revised bill of \$81.72.

On June 13, PSE filed a general rate case with the UTC requesting an annual \$182 million overall rate increase for both electricity and natural gas service. Commission staff is recommending a \$40 million overall rate hike for both services.

Among the major differences between the company's request and the UTC staff's recommendation are reductions for PSE's development of the Lower Snake River Wind Project, power costs, storm-damage costs, incentive pay, federal income-tax issues and the utility's profit level.

Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

Staff also submitted testimony to address an ongoing problem with inaccurate meters, which has resulted in large retroactive bills for some customers. In 2008, the company was ordered by the commission to identify and correct the meter problems; however, the number of retroactive bills remains high. Staff is recommending that all inaccurate meter problems be resolved within four months for electric meters and six months for natural gas meters from the initial occurrence of the problem.

The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

PSE customers will be able to comment to state regulators at two public meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Sergey Shlykovich

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: SHER STULTZ - ID# 27203**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	SHER STULTZ	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	sherstultz@gmail.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Storm/Weather issues	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>Regardless of the poor response and preparation by PSE during the January snow storm, it is obvious to me and the rest of the public that the rate hike appears to be imminent despite declines in gas prices. This is wrong and the rate hike should receive a critical analysis. Is the general public receiving a cost of living increase to deal with the INCREASES to our living expenses? NO. In fact, most of us are not getting those raises and even some of us like me, public school teachers are being asked to take a cut in pay. How is approving this rate hike ethical or logical?</p> <p>Sher Stultz Puyallup WA</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Sher Stultz**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: SONIA BELL - ID# 26748**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	SONIA BELL	
Organization Company		
Address	4008 NE 195 PL	
City, State, Zip Code	seattle Washington 98155	
Email	mytootsie_14@msn.com	
Primary Phone #	2063641490	Fax #
Secondary Phone #	2063641490	

Comment Information		
Theme	High Rates	Open Date 12/27/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 12/26/2011
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	To whom it may concern, My current gas bill was \$248.15 of which only \$138.43 was the cost of gas. I keep my house at 64 degrees in the daytime and 61 at night. I am one cold old lady! Tell me, how warm is it in your office? Or home? I'll come and visit you. Another rate increase is a sin and hardship to senior citizens and working families. Enough already.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Sonia Bell**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)



**COMMENT FORM FOR: STEPHANIE OVENDALE - ID# 27156**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	STEPHANIE OVENDALE	
Organization Company		
Address	31420 47TH PL. SW	
City, State, Zip Code	FEDERAL WAY WASHINGTON 98023	
Email	myualani@gmail.com	
Primary Phone #	253-344-1981	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/26/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	Reference: UG-111049, PSE rate increase request for natural gas. With natural gas prices at historic lows - the lowest in 10 years - why on earth are they requesting a rate increase? They should be lowering rates. Please DENY their request!!!	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Stephanie Ovendale**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: STEVE REISLER - ID# 27027**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	STEVE REISLER	
Organization Company		
Address	4500 SAND POINT WAY NE	
City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98105	
Email	sr@zipcon.net	
Primary Phone #	206-522-7081	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/21/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/19/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>PSE is requesting a rate increase for natural gas. However, pursuant to the business press, there is a glut of natural gas and prices are dropping. Therefore, the only conceivable reason for a rate increase is to maintain PSE's profit margins. This is a sterling example way public utilities ought to be owned by the public and not by the private sector. But since we have the system we have, there is no reason for a rate increase when the resource at issue has dropped in price. Certainly, PSE would also request a rate increase if the price of natural gas production increased, so either way they will demand a price rise. If we are truly in a "free market economy," then PSE ought to live by the rules of supply and demand. If we do not have a "free market economy," then we ought to fess up to reality and return to publicly owned public utilities. See background story at Bloomberg re Natural Gas Glut: <a href="http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-01-17/electricity-declines-50-in-u-s-as-shale-brings-natural-gas-glut-energy.html">http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2012-01-17/electricity-declines-50-in-u-s-as-shale-brings-natural-gas-glut-energy.html</a> Gracia.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/22/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Reisler:</p>	

Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

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Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



The commission is on Facebook, are you? [Become a Fan!](#)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Steve Reisler

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)



**COMMENT FORM FOR: STEVEN COLTHURST - ID# 26953**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	STEVEN COLTHURST	
Organization Company		
Address	6140 139TH PL SE	
City, State, Zip Code	BELLEVUE WASHINGTON 98006	
Email	stcolt@aol.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/13/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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>I don't see how there can be a justification for Puget Sound Energy getting their 3.16% request rate increase for natural gas given the very low price of the commodity.</p> <p>Please read the article in the January 12 edition of the Seattle Times, page A 9, titled "Natural-gas prices slide; consumers should get break." I think the title says it all. Hope that you agree.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/13/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations of the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view a copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Colthurst:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p>	

State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.

On December 7, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) filed testimony recommending that PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates. This is significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June. The three-member commission, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012. Enclosed is a copy of the commission's press release which provides additional details.

You may comment to state regulators on the proposed increase at two scheduled public hearings. The first meeting is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue; and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia.

You may also comment through the "Public Comment" feature at the commission's website, at [utc.wa.gov](http://utc.wa.gov).

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
E-mail: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)  
Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

A copy of the company's filing can be viewed at the commission website ([www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)) or by public records request by calling 360-664-1166.

If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

**Editor's note: This news release reflects the position of energy staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) and NOT the views of the three-member commission. It discusses a staff recommendation that the commissioners have not yet reviewed. Any positions taken or comments offered by the commission staff regarding this proceeding should be attributed clearly to staff members and NOT to the UTC.**

Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

**State utility staff recommended deep cuts in Puget Sound Energy's rate  
increase request**

***Public invited to comment at February hearings***

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – State regulatory staff are proposing to give only a fraction of the revenues Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is seeking in its latest electric and natural gas rate increase request.

In testimony filed today, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) are recommending PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates, significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June.

The three-member UTC, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012.

Under the staff proposal, a PSE average residential electric customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours-per-month would see their electric bill increase by \$2.05, for a bill total of \$98.84. The typical natural-gas customer using 68 therms a month would pay \$0.13 more, for a revised bill of \$81.72.

On June 13, PSE filed a general rate case with the UTC requesting an annual \$182 million overall rate increase for both electricity and natural gas service. Commission staff is recommending a \$40 million overall rate hike for both services.

Among the major differences between the company's request and the UTC staff's recommendation are reductions for PSE's development of the Lower Snake River Wind Project, power costs, storm-damage costs, incentive pay, federal income-tax issues and the utility's profit level.

Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

Staff also submitted testimony to address an ongoing problem with inaccurate meters, which has resulted in large retroactive bills for some customers. In 2008, the company was ordered by the commission to identify and correct the meter problems; however, the number of retroactive bills remains high. Staff is recommending that all inaccurate meter problems be resolved within four months for electric meters and six months for natural gas meters from the initial occurrence of the problem.

The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

PSE customers will be able to comment to state regulators at two public meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

In addition to the UTC staff and the company, other parties taking part in the proceeding include advocates for large electricity and natural gas users, advocates for low-income customers, the Attorney General's Public Counsel Section, The Energy Project and the NW Energy Coalition.

Bellevue-based Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties.

The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Steven Colthurst

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

COMMENT FORM FOR: Susan - ID# 26849

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Susan	
Organization Company		
Address	Ruuska	
City, State, Zip Code	Seattle Washington 98103	
Email	sueruu@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #	2065250109	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Economic Conditions	Open Date 01/05/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/05/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>I can see that some rate increase can be justified for improvements to infrastructure, increase in taxes, and depreciation expense, etc. What upsets me is that in this time of economic hardship when so many people are hurting financially, that there is to be an increased return on investor investment. Why can't this be frozen until times are better? *****</p> <p>1/5/2012 Email response to consumer. Informed consumer of staff's recommendations along with dates/times/locations for the public hearings. (((see attachment field for copy of response)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Susan:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p> <p>State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards,</p>	

and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.

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I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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increase request  
*Public invited to comment at February hearings***

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Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

Staff also submitted testimony to address an ongoing problem with inaccurate meters, which has resulted in large retroactive bills for some customers. In 2008, the company was ordered by the commission to identify and correct the meter problems; however, the number of retroactive bills remains high. Staff is recommending that all inaccurate meter problems be resolved within four months for electric meters and six months for natural gas meters from the initial occurrence of the problem.

The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

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Section, The Energy Project and the NW Energy Coalition.

Bellevue-based Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties.

The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

#### Activites For Susan

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: S.J. ESTEP - ID# 27290**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	S.J. ESTEP	
Organization Company		
Address	6324 129TH PL SE	
City, State, Zip Code	BELLEVUE WASHINGTON 98188	
Email	office@lithodesign.com	
Primary Phone #	206-574-3000	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/31/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/30/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	This mornings (1/30/2012) news from American Public Media "Marketplace" report states there is a glut of natural gas. That the price of natural gas has decreased by 50% since September 2011. Why is Puget Sound Energy asking for a rate increase when their costs for the purchase of natural gas should have gone down by 50%?	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For S.J. Estep**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: TAD SUMMERVILLE - ID# 27060**

Consumer Information	
	Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	TAD SUMMERVILLE
Organization Company	
Address	4336 53RD AVE. NE
City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98105
Email	tads@uw.edu
Primary Phone #	206-300-3425
	Fax #
Secondary Phone #	

Comment Information	
Theme	Costs have declined
Open Date	01/23/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided
Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person
Web Create Date	
	<input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> Web
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Description	<p>They need to provide higher degree of transparency, regarding increase return on investment before considered for a rate increase. They should treat customers re: information on investing in a timely fashion and return calls.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>2/1/2012 Spoke with the consumer. I agreed to send him PSE's rate history from the UTC web site.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>2/17/2012 Email comment from consumer.</p> <p>Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission:</p> <p>On June 13, 2011 Puget Sound Energy (PSE) filed a general rate case with Washington State's UTC requesting a rate increase for all customer groups. I am opposed to any rate increases for the sale and delivery of natural gas by Puget Sound Energy. The NYMEX gas futures prices are near historic lows at approximately \$2.50/MMBtu. PSE has not been transparent with the costs of delivering the product and the maintenance of its system, and until it provides complete transparency in such regard, all rate increases should be denied.</p> <p>Secondly, overall transparency is poor. We, the rate-payers, should be able to have access to clear and concise information from PSE regarding its rate case. The website to</p>

which PSE directs rate-payers in such regard is poor and lacking of substantive information. On this website, PSE makes the following statement, "In today's filing with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, PSE seeks to increase annual revenues by \$193 million and to set an allowed return on common equity of 10.8 percent and a regulatory capital structure of 48 percent equity. The filing also proposes a conservation savings adjustment mechanism related to the energy efficiency services for business and residential customers."

Why should PSE receive a 10.8% ROE and a regulatory structure of 48% equity? PSE did not state its case for these financial goals and why they are important. Furthermore, it should have demonstrated why the rates that it currently receives put it at a financial disadvantage compared to other regulated monopoly natural gas providers in the United States.

In summary, PSE has failed in making its case for any rate increase. Furthermore, you at the WUTC should demand that in the future, if PSE wants a rate increase, it will have to provide more substantive and transparent information that is easily accessible for rate-payers to obtain and analyze.

Finally, I would like to compliment the professionalism of Roger Kouchi. Not only was he very helpful in helping me find information, but he was a very friendly person with whom to communicate. Please express my thanks to him.

Sincerely,

Attachments

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Tad Summerville

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: THIRUMALES BHAT - ID# 27397**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	THIRUMALES BHAT	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	bhatth@gmail.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 02/03/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>Customer comments:</p> <p>I came across this news article in Seattle Times:</p> <p><a href="http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2017312435_apwapoweroutages1stld.html">http://seattletimes.nwsourc.com/html/localnews/2017312435_apwapoweroutages1stld.html</a></p> <p>While I don't have any issues in providing customers with \$50 credit, I do have issues when it is paid by rate increases on people like me. The natural gas prices have plummeted over the years, yet the cost of power keeps going up.</p> <p>It is the utility that is responsible for the outage and pay for it and not customers like me who had nothing to do with the outage.</p> <p>best regards, *****</p> <p>2/3/2012 Additional email from the consumer. Hello,</p> <p>I have questions about the utility bills I have been getting from PSE - especially the increase in rates for natural gas.</p>	

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,

\*\*\*\*\*

2/2/2012 Email response to consumer from Public Counsel

Dear Thirumalesh Bhat,

Thank you for your email to the Public Counsel Section of the Washington State Attorney General's Office. Public Counsel represents the general public interest in utility proceedings before the Washington Utility and Transportation Commission (UTC). Public Counsel is not staffed to respond to individual complaints or inquiries. Thus, your concern is being forwarded to the Consumer Protection and Communications department of the UTC which is staffed to respond to individual consumer inquiries or complaints regarding rates, services and equipment of investor owned telephone, water, natural gas and electric utilities in the state. They can also be reached by email at [consumer@utc.wa.gov](mailto:consumer@utc.wa.gov) or by phone at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

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

Sent: Friday, January 27, 2012 6:23 AM

To: ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel

Subject: Re: The utility bills and gas prices

Hello -

I know you collect public comments but what is your rationale to agree for the increase in prices when gas prices have plummeted?

Since PSE is a quasi monopoly, they cannot come up with a proposal to increase prices without getting agreement from the government.

best,



On Tue, Jan 24, 2012 at 4:22 PM, ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel

<Utility@atg.wa.gov> wrote:

Dear Mr. Thirumalesh Bhat,

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>. 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 ffitch  
Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Public Counsel Section

\*\*\*\*\*

2/3/2012 Email to the consumer explaining PGAs ... (see below)

The Attorney General's Office asked me to respond to your questions about the cost of gas and PSE's latest rate increase request.

It is important to recognize that Puget Sound Energy does not profit from the purchases of the gas itself. PSE earns its profit from the return on the pipes and plant necessary to deliver the natural gas.

Spot market prices are not reflective of gas available for longer term contracts. Spot market prices are for gas purchased and delivered today. Our utilities must purchase gas many months in advance of the delivery date.

Our utilities are discouraged from betting everything on what markets may be at one point in time; and are encouraged to engage in prudent purchasing plans which mitigate the risks of the volatile market.

There are two rates, or tariffs, which work together to set the cost of gas for customers. One is the purchased gas adjustment which sets the base for gas costs for the next year. This tariff is Schedule 101. PSE filed the revisions to Schedule 101 based on the known price of contracts entered throughout the year, on the known price of gas injected into storage, and on unknown, projected prices for gas which has not yet been purchased.

The second rate, the deferral account adjustment (Schedule 106) recovers the difference between last year's projected rate and the actual costs realized over the past year. This difference is passed through to customers, either up or down, with interest.

Audit procedures: There are two component to the annual Purchase Gas Adjustment (PGA) filings. The first component is prospective gas costs. This component is where the rate is set to cover expected gas costs for the upcoming year. The rate is based on actual known prices (fixed price contracts, financial hedges, and storage inventory costs are included) and expected or best estimate pricing of commodity (using forward strips). Staff analyses these projections by reviewing actual supply contracts, storage injection calculations, load projections, hedging strategies and contracts, forward strip information, etc.

The second component of the annual PGA is the deferral amortization. Since the

companies do not make or lose many money on gas costs (gas costs are a pass-through) they defer the difference between what is embedded in rates and what they actually pay for gas. This component is where prudence determination is done. Questions such as: were the company's purchasing decisions correct and in the best interest of customers based on the information known at the time the decisions were made? Staff reviews company sales reports to verify volumes sold, they review actual purchases (down to the invoice), they review management decisions regarding capacity management and utilization, off-system sales, basin utilization, storage management, etc. These reviews do not include every single transaction or every single month in the deferral period (12 months). Staff utilizes random sampling in its analysis.

The second area I'd like to address is more about the current status and conditions. On October 1, 2010, PSE had a substantial increase in rates to cover gas costs. At that time the company had storage reserves full and had finalized its hedges prior to the winter heating season (both creating fixed prices for gas). Then gas prices started falling. The company was only minimally able to take advantage of lower market prices due the level of fixed prices. PSE filed in the fall of 2011 to reflect expected prices for the upcoming year. The commission approved a 4.10% rate decrease for the purchase gas adjustment (PGA).

To reiterate, Puget Sound Energy receives no profit from the commodity sales of gas and any difference between what the projected cost is today and what actual costs are over the next year will be passed on to customers next year.

I have attached a copy of the commission's PGA Fact Sheet. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions. Thank you

\*\*\*\*\*

2/4/2012 Email from consumer

Dear Mr Roger Kouchi:

Thank you for your response. While it is true that PSE doesn't earn its profit from the purchase of gas itself, gas price is the largest component of cost. Plant and equipment need upkeep and don't constitute the biggest component of cost per the document that you attached.

The question is straight forward. Despite significant downward draft in the price of natural gas, how is it possible that the price is increased?

Your answer however is not straight-forward. What percentage of the cost is plant, property and equipment? What percentage of the cost is executive compensation? What part of the cost is re-imburement to people who didnt have power? Now, I know the utilities are a regulated monopoly and get to earn a decent return on investment. It is one thing to earn a decent return on investment and it is another to bloat expenditures and over bill the citizens.

If anything, the downward economic trend should have reduced the cost of maintenance and repair. My city in Sammamish was able to get reduced prices for construction projects after the 2008 recession. Meanwhile the gas prices have

plummeted.

Your department needs to do more before blanketly increasing rates on customers. As this newspaper article shows, prices have been going up in 2010 and 2011 that guarantees 10.8% ROE to the utility.

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2011/06/13/1704558/puget-sound-energy-proposes-big.html>

\*\*\*\*\*

2/6/2012 Email response to the consumer.

Dear Thirumalesh Bhat,

I regret that you are dissatisfied with the previous explanations to your issues about the high cost of energy and the number of increases. Here is some additional information regarding frequently asked questions pertaining to the rate making process.

How does the Commission review rates?

Commission staff looks at five main issues:

1. The actual cost to provide service based on 12 months of financial information, excluding items for which money cannot be recovered from customers (e.g., political contributions and fines);
2. The company's total investment in equipment used to provide service (called rate base);
3. The appropriate profit level (called rate of return) the company should be allowed for its investments;
4. The appropriate amount that each customer class (i.e., residential, commercial or industrial) should pay;
5. The rate design.

A regulated utility may seek a change in rates with 30-days notice to the commission. During those 30 days, the commission can either allow the rate request to go into effect or suspend it for further investigation. If suspended, the commission has an additional 10 months to review the merits of the request.

State law requires that staff be a party to the case with the goal of promoting the "public interest." The Public Counsel of the Office of the Attorney General also is a party to the case, serving as the state-appointed legal representative for the consumer. Other parties with an interest in the case might also be allowed to participate.

During the case, the company must prove that the proposed rate increase is needed by showing what its costs are during a given test year. Often the definition of the test year is a point of contention and adjustments to the test year are considered during the case. For example, if the test year included severe storm-related costs, one party might propose an adjustment that would bring the test year costs more in line with an average year's storm costs. The company's costs and expenditures are reviewed and possibly challenged during this process.

The case will also consider the company's rate-of-return on its investment—its profit.

The various parties will comment on what would be a fair return. Other financing costs, such as construction loans, are taken into account. All these numbers are used to derive the company's annual revenue requirement.

The rates you ultimately pay are intended to give the company a reasonable chance of earning its revenue requirement.

During the rate case, the commission will hear conflicting views on several dozen issues. It's up to the commission through the hearing process and its review of the testimony to settle these disputes and come out with an order, defensible in court. Any of the parties to the case may request clarification or reconsideration of the order. Parties can also appeal the commission's decision to Superior Court.

What are the steps in a rate case?

1. Company files for a rate increase.
2. The rate increase becomes effective unless the commission suspends the filing at the commission's regular open meeting.
3. If the rate increase is suspended, an administrative law judge convenes a prehearing conference. This meeting identifies what groups will actively participate in the case, and sets the schedule for discovery, testimony and hearings.
4. The company's request is accompanied by supporting documents and written testimony. These materials are often based on information collected during the discovery process—a period of time when the company must respond to questions and data requests posed by case participants.
5. Parties submit written testimony responding to the company's request.
6. The company files written testimony rebutting the testimony by the parties.
7. All witnesses are made available for cross-examination in a series of hearings that can take from one day to two weeks.
8. One or more public hearings are held to hear directly from customers. This information, along with letters and e-mails from customers, as submitted as evidence.
9. Final arguments or briefs are presented in writing to the commission.
10. Commissioners make a decision and issue an order.

What is rate design?

The two primary goals of rate design are to (1) provide rates that lead to utility revenues matching the revenue requirement and (2) allocate both fixed and variable costs to responsible customers. Rate designs also:

1. Minimize complexity, recognizing differing degrees of customer sophistication;
2. Maximize cost predictability and stability for customers and revenue certainty for utilities;
3. Incent utilities to minimize costs;
4. Incent customers to consume electricity efficiently by minimizing peak demand and/or total consumption;
5. Improve electric affordability for poor or vulnerable populations (i.e., "lifeline rates");
6. Promote economic development, often by providing lower rates for industrial

customers; and

7. Maximize customer choice.

What does cost recovery mean when you say that utilities are allowed to recover their costs?

The traditional approach to cost recovery is to determine cost recovery at project completion. Until the last quarter of the 20th century, regulators commonly made cost recovery decisions concerning new capital projects when construction was completed and the facility had entered commercial production. Under this traditional approach, referred to as the “prudent investment rule,” cost recovery was available only on satisfaction of two conditions: costs were prudently incurred, and the project was “used and useful,” i.e., providing actual benefits to the public.

The mechanics of the traditional approach are straightforward: once the plant enters commercial operation, the utility for accounting purposes, puts its construction and associated financing costs into its rate base and books associated depreciation. The utility then seeks a rate increase to pay for the plant. In computing its proposed new rates, the utility includes the net book value (i.e., original investment in its proposed annual expenses. The depreciation expense gives the utility the return of its investment, while the cost of capital applied to the rate base gives the utility a return on its investment.

In connection with the proposed rate increase, the regulator engages in several assessments, the aim of which is to determine whether the costs proposed for inclusion in rates were prudently incurred and whether the resulting utility plant is used and useful for serving the public. Those assessments include: (1) examining the utility forecasts that supported the decision to build the project, thereby satisfying itself that the project was, in fact, needed; (2) assessing the project choice, including reviewing whether potentially less expensive alternatives were considered and, if so, why they were not pursued; (3) evaluating whether the methods and sources of plant financing reflect prudent decision-making; and (4) conducting a review of the reasonableness of construction costs and the timeliness of completion. Upon completing this review, the regulator disallows costs that it finds were caused by the utility’s imprudence.

In setting utility rates, the commission typically does not guarantee cost recovery, but rather provides a reasonable opportunity for recovery. That reasonable opportunity exists when the regulator includes the designated costs in the utility’s revenue requirement when setting rates. Whether the utility actually collects that full revenue requirement depends on the extent to which its actual expenses and sales volumes match the levels assumed in the commission-approved revenue requirement.

Sponsors of the traditional approach assert that it offers customers important benefits, including encouraging utility management to complete the project on schedule and on budget (if not sooner than forecast and less expensively). Moreover, in an after-the fact cost recovery review, regulators have access to all relevant construction facts before making prudence and rate recovery decisions.

What are the types of increases? Please explain.

· Renewable Energy Policy (wind, and solar)  
Initiative Measure No. 937

ü This measure, approved by voters in November 2006, imposes targets for energy conservation and the use of eligible renewable resources on all electric utilities that serve more than 25,000 customers in Washington.

ü (1) Energy conservation. By January 1, 2010, utilities are required to identify their “achievable cost-effective conservation potential” through 2019. Each utility will set an annual target consisting of a certain share of this achievable cost-effective conservation potential, and will have to meet that share of conservation.

ü (2) Renewable resources. Each utility will have to use renewable resources to serve at least three percent (3%) of its load by 2012 through 2015; nine percent (9%) of load by 2016 through 2019, and fifteen percent (15%) of load by 2020 and after. Wind farms, solar panels, and geothermal plants are examples of eligible renewable resources. With limited exceptions, use of fresh water by hydroelectric dams and plants is not included as an eligible renewable resource.

ü (3) Cost recovery, penalties, reporting and enforcement. Utilities can recover from its customers all costs prudently incurred to comply with the measure. Utilities that fail to comply with either the energy conservation or the renewable energy targets will pay a penalty of \$50 for each megawatt-hour of shortfall, adjusted annually for inflation. Penalty payments will go into a special account, and can only be used for the purchase of renewable energy credits or for energy conservation projects at state and local government facilities or publicly-owned educational institutions.

ü In each year beginning in June 2012, utilities are required to report to the state Department of Community, Trade, and Economic Development (CTED) on the utility’s progress in the preceding year in meeting the targets. Investor-owned utilities will supply the same information to the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC). Utilities are also required to make these reports available to their customers.

ü The UTC is authorized to implement and enforce the measure as to investor-owned utilities, and to adopt rules accordingly. For publicly-owned utilities, CTED would be authorized to adopt procedural rules and documentation requirements. The state auditor will audit compliance with the measure and the Attorney General’s Office is responsible for enforcement.

ü The initiative was approved by 1,042,276 (51.73 percent) of the voters.

- Smart Grid (meters, OMS, GIS, etc.)
- Aging Infrastructure
- Safety
- Conservation to include rebates for energy efficient appliances and decoupling (i.e., company is allowed to recover lost revenue due to increased conservation efforts).
- Weatherization (subset of conservation). Pays for efficiency rebates on various weatherization methods to reduce consumption.
  - Low-income program costs.
  - Local taxes
  - Storm damages
  - Wholesale cost of natural gas
  - Increased demand (i.e., increased customer base; new industry; increased consumer demand due to additional energy use). This will include increases in demand due to electric cars. These increases are due to costs associated with new facilities to

increase capacity. In some instances it results in a separate line item on a bill called a “tracker”.

Why do I have to pay for the cost to increase capacity to satisfy the needs of new customers?

Every regulated public utility has a statutory obligation to satisfy its customers’ needs, reliably and cost effectively. To meet that obligation, the utility must, among other things, forecast demand accurately and commit to appropriate capital projects. Those projects must then be completed on time and constructed in a prudent and cost-effective manner.

Common to these decisions is the commitment of dollars. Using its legal powers to approve projects, sites, and rates, the regulatory commission commits ratepayer dollars to the project. Using its legal powers to enter contracts, the regulated utility condemns lands, borrows money, issues stock, and commits corporate resources—and ultimately shareholder dollars—to the project.

Taken together, these corresponding commitments present a multi-million dollar, multi-part question: When a public utility proposes to undertake a major capital project, at what point in time should a commission provide assurance that the utility will recover its investment? What conditions, if any, should be placed on whatever assurance is provided? Phrased differently, how much ratepayer money should regulators commit, when should regulators commit it, and under what conditions should such commitments be made?

Beginning in the 1970s the combination of inflation, fuel cost, and construction material cost increases meant that internal utility funds were less available for use on construction projects. Moreover, access to needed capital became more difficult as construction projects grew larger, employed new technologies, required longer construction periods, and had to meet new and uncertain regulatory requirements (such as those emanating from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission). These facts made capital markets less optimistic about whether, and when, ratepayers would pay up. In response, capital—both shareholder capital and debt capital—became more expensive and less available.

I appreciate your concerns over rising energy rates. Energy is an essential part of modern life and the cost of energy has been of increasing concern. The commission’s mission is to protect consumers by ensuring that utility services are fairly priced, available, reliable and safe. But, the commission is also required by law to protect the interests of the utility and its shareholders by allowing the utility to recover its costs of doing business and an opportunity to earn a fair profit on its investment. The commission may not prevent a regulated company from requesting an increase in rates. Nor may the commission simply dismiss a company’s request for increased rates.

The commission’s resolution of these issues occurs through a public hearing process in which extensive testimony is provided by expert witnesses representing a wide array of consumer and company interests, including the regulated company, commission staff,



Public Counsel--the division of the Attorney General's Office that represents residential ratepayers before the commission--and other consumer groups.

I hope you find this additional information helpful. Please feel free to contact me if you have additional questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Attachments

**Issue Information**

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

**Activites For Thirumalesh Bhat**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Tim Chidester - ID# 26787**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Tim Chidester	
Organization Company		
Address	5612 171st PL SW	
City, State, Zip Code	Lynnwood Washington 98037	
Email	tchid777@msn.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 12/30/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 12/30/2011
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>Regarding PSE Proposed Rate Increase, Natural gas supply is at an all-time high and natural gas price is at an all-time low:  <a href="http://www.marketwatch.com/investing/future/NATURAL%20GAS">http://www.marketwatch.com/investing/future/NATURAL%20GAS</a> Yet PSE is raising natural gas rates? The reasons for spiking rates are not good enough (i.e. customers cannot afford it in this economy). Sincerely, Tim Chidester                      *****</p> <p>12/30/2011 Provided response to consumer with dates/times of public hearings.                      (((see attachment field for copy of email)))                      *****</p> <p>12/31/2011 Email response from consumer.                      I appreciate your efforts to protect families from the added financial burdens of uncaring bureaucracies during these harsh economic times. Please continue to be a concerned advocate for the people.                      Thank you,</p>	
Attachments	<p>Dear Mr. Chidester,</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p>	

State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.

On December 7, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) filed testimony recommending that PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates. This is significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June. The three-member commission, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012. Enclosed is a copy of the commission's press release which provides additional details.

You may comment to state regulators on the proposed increase at two scheduled public hearings. The first meeting is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue; and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia.

You may also comment through the "Public Comment" feature at the commission's website, at [utc.wa.gov](http://utc.wa.gov).

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
E-mail: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)  
Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

A copy of the company's filing can be viewed at the commission website ([www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)) or by public records request by calling 360-664-1166.

If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



The commission is on Facebook, are you? [Become a Fan!](#)

Stay connected, [UTC Connections!](#)



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

**Editor's note: This news release reflects the position of energy staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) and NOT the views of the three-member commission. It discusses a staff recommendation that the commissioners have not yet reviewed. Any positions taken or comments offered by the commission staff regarding this proceeding should be attributed clearly to staff members and NOT to the UTC.**

Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

**State utility staff recommended deep cuts in Puget Sound Energy's rate  
increase request  
Public invited to comment at February hearings**

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – State regulatory staff are proposing to give only a fraction of the revenues Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is seeking in its latest electric and natural gas rate increase request.

In testimony filed today, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) are recommending PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates, significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility

originally requested last June.

The three-member UTC, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012.

Under the staff proposal, a PSE average residential electric customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours-per-month would see their electric bill increase by \$2.05, for a bill total of \$98.84. The typical natural-gas customer using 68 therms a month would pay \$0.13 more, for a revised bill of \$81.72.

On June 13, PSE filed a general rate case with the UTC requesting an annual \$182 million overall rate increase for both electricity and natural gas service. Commission staff is recommending a \$40 million overall rate hike for both services.

Among the major differences between the company's request and the UTC staff's recommendation are reductions for PSE's development of the Lower Snake River Wind Project, power costs, storm-damage costs, incentive pay, federal income-tax issues and the utility's profit level.

Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

Staff also submitted testimony to address an ongoing problem with inaccurate meters, which has resulted in large retroactive bills for some customers. In 2008, the company was ordered by the commission to identify and correct the meter problems; however, the number of retroactive bills remains high. Staff is recommending that all inaccurate meter problems be resolved within four months for electric meters and six months for natural gas meters from the initial occurrence of the problem.

The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

PSE customers will be able to comment to state regulators at two public meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public

comments is Feb. 17.

In addition to the UTC staff and the company, other parties taking part in the proceeding include advocates for large electricity and natural gas users, advocates for low-income customers, the Attorney General's Public Counsel Section, The Energy Project and the NW Energy Coalition.

Bellevue-based Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties.

The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

#### Activites For Tim Chidester

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: VAL BRUSTAD - ID# 27363**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	VAL BRUSTAD	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email	val.brustad@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 02/02/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>It would see in light of the glut of natural gas and its decrease in price that the need for a rate increase for natural gas service for PSE is not appropriate at this time. In their request for a rate increase PSE notes the cost of improvement but makes no mention of fall prices for the basic commodity which should offset their need for an increase in this area.</p> <p>With widely report drop in natural gas prices why are we again being asked to pay more for our natural gas. It would seem that the increased costs for infrastructure improvements could be realized in the decreased cost for the basic commodity there by giving us a reprieve from this continuing spiral of increasing costs. There is no mention of the decrease costs for the resource in the notice of request for rate increase. I think some balance is required.</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049

**Activites For Val Brustad**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)



**COMMENT FORM FOR: Val Brustad - ID# 27375**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Val Brustad	
Organization Company		
Address	822-23rd St SE	
City, State, Zip Code	AUBURN Washington 98002	
Email	val.brustad@comcast.net	
Primary Phone #	253 8547658	Fax #
Secondary Phone #	253 8547658	

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 02/02/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 02/02/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	With widely report drop in natural gas prices why are we again being asked to pay more for our natural gas. It would seem that the increased costs for infrastructure improvements could be realized in the decreased cost for the basic commodity there by giving us a reprieve from this continuing spiral of increasing costs. There is no mention of the decrease costs for the resource in the notice of request for rate increase. I think some balance is required.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Val Brustad**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Valerie Sammons - ID# 26896**

Consumer Information	
	Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Valerie Sammons
Organization Company	
Address	6511 23rd Ave. NW
City, State, Zip Code	Seattle Washington 98117
Email	valkyrie93@hotmail.com
Primary Phone #	206-789-4463
Secondary Phone #	
	Fax #

Comment Information	
Theme	Company should "tighten its belt", Economic Conditions, Low Income, Senior Citizen
Open Date	01/09/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web
Web Create Date	01/09/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Description	<p>At a time when most of us are suffering from shrinking incomes why should PSE be allowed to recover so-called "money lost as a result of energy efficiency"? I practise energy efficiency by keeping my thermostat lower than I would like and putting up with a less than comfortable temperature. I am a low income senior and cannot afford the "outgo creep" that is happening to all of us. Tell PSE to put on a sweater like I do.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/9/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view a copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>
Attachments	<p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Ms. Sammons:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.</p> <p>State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough</p>

to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.

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You may comment to state regulators on the proposed increase at two scheduled public hearings. The first meeting is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue; and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia.

You may also comment through the "Public Comment" feature at the commission's website, at [utc.wa.gov](http://utc.wa.gov).

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
E-mail: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)  
Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

A copy of the company's filing can be viewed at the commission website ([www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)) or by public records request by calling 360-664-1166.

If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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Stay connected, [UTC Connections!](#)



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

**Editor's note: This news release reflects the position of energy staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) and NOT the views of the three-member commission. It discusses a staff recommendation that the commissioners have not yet reviewed. Any positions taken or comments offered by the commission staff regarding this proceeding should be attributed clearly to staff members and NOT to the UTC.**

Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

**State utility staff recommended deep cuts in Puget Sound Energy's rate  
increase request  
*Public invited to comment at February hearings***

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – State regulatory staff are proposing to give only a fraction of the revenues Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is seeking in its latest electric and natural gas rate increase request.

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Under the staff proposal, a PSE average residential electric customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours-per-month would see their electric bill increase by \$2.05, for a bill total of \$98.84. The typical natural-gas customer using 68 therms a month would pay \$0.13 more, for a revised bill of \$81.72.

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Among the major differences between the company's request and the UTC staff's recommendation are reductions for PSE's development of the Lower Snake River Wind Project, power costs, storm-damage costs, incentive pay, federal income-tax issues and the utility's profit level.

Commission staff also recommends rejecting PSE's request for a Conservation Savings Adjustment representing an additional increase of \$7.4 million or 0.4 percent for electric service, and \$1.5 million or 0.1 percent for natural gas service.

Staff also submitted testimony to address an ongoing problem with inaccurate meters, which has resulted in large retroactive bills for some customers. In 2008, the company was ordered by the commission to identify and correct the meter problems; however, the number of retroactive bills remains high. Staff is recommending that all inaccurate meter problems be resolved within four months for electric meters and six months for natural gas meters from the initial occurrence of the problem.

The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

PSE customers will be able to comment to state regulators at two public meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

In addition to the UTC staff and the company, other parties taking part in the

proceeding include advocates for large electricity and natural gas users, advocates for low-income customers, the Attorney General's Public Counsel Section, The Energy Project and the NW Energy Coalition.

Bellevue-based Puget Sound Energy serves more than 1 million electric customers and nearly 750,000 natural gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Lewis, Thurston and Kittitas counties.

The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

#### Activites For Valerie Sammons

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: WILLIAM SWIGART - ID# 27128**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input checked="" type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	WILLIAM SWIGART	
Organization Company		
Address	2319 S. WILKESON ST.	
City, State, Zip Code	TACOMA WASHINGTON 98405	
Email	bs9@mac.com	
Primary Phone #	206-328-2288	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined, Frequent Increases	Open Date 01/26/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/26/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>There is a new request for a rate increase for both electricity and natural gas. I personally only buy gas from PSE and have no choice to buy from an alternative provider. Why does a company need a rate increase when their profits have been substantially higher than in the past. They can make their own capital investments just as any other privately owned business does. The rest of us can not raise our rates nor have we gotten pay raises anywhere near what PSE is asking for. What is wrong with their finance and investment teams that they continuously need to raise rates? This isn't a sustainable way going forward. They need to be more efficient in their operations. Wholesale prices for natural gas have dropped some 50% in the recent past. At the same time their retail prices haven't dropped a single penny leaving them an immensely larger margin. Let them figure out how to make do with what they have. If they want to sell more then they can add more customers via hooking them up to the distribution lines in the street or at the corner. With the current exploration and shale extraction happening there is sure to be an even greater supply available. Thank you.</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049



**Activites For William Swigart**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Betty Britton - ID# 26724**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Betty Britton	
Organization Company		
Address	9503 Odin Way	
City, State, Zip Code	Bothell Washington 98011	
Email		
Primary Phone #	425-488-8524	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	High Rates	Open Date 12/21/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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	The company is already charging too much. The basic charge and delivery charge come to approx. \$64. This is just too much. The commission needs to stop PSE from increasing our bill. I hope something can be done about it.	
Attachments		



Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Betty Britton**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: ED PUTMAN - ID# 26685**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	ED PUTMAN	
Organization Company		
Address	2359 ROSEMONT PLACE WEST	
City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98199	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Comments about UTC	Open Date 12/06/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input checked="" type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input checked="" 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>Consumer objects to the way the basic charge is computed. Low users of gas are subsidizing high volume users. Consumer believes that this is a conservation disincentive and penalizes low-income consumers.                      (((see attachment field for copy of letter)))                      *****                      1/30/2012 Second letter from consumer.                      I spend more money on postage trying to shape you guys up than I do on gas. Of course the way you set up the billing system means I pay almost ten times more to PSE for the privilege of being a customer.                      (((see attachment field to view copy of consumer's response)))</p>	
Attachments	 letter from ed putnam.pdf  Letter from Ed Putnam 3.pdf	

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy

Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	


**Activites For Ed Putman**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: ED PUTMAN - ID# 27180**

Consumer Information	
	Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	ED PUTMAN
Organization Company	
Address City, State, Zip Code	2359 ROSEMONT PLACE WEST SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98199
Email	
Primary Phone #	(206) 402-4235 Fax #
Secondary Phone #	

Comment Information	
Theme	Comments about UTC, Cost of Living, Economic Conditions, High Rates, Mismanagement
Open Date	01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided
Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> Web
Web Create Date	
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No
Description	<p>Mr. says:</p> <p>Is this perversity or bureaucracy run smok? Both? ok, because I know you know my/our issues have nothing to do with the current rate case. Is there any change you, Jeff &amp; I could get together to discuss why a group of natural gas users must pay \$10.00 for a few cents worth of product, monthly? Let's meet! Please call (206) 402-4235. Thank you, Ed.</p> <p>In another note Mr. says:</p> <p>It's almost a half year - any change Mr. Goltz might be able to start finding time to consider whether he should think about drafting a preliminary reply to my letter, our letter? Hey, did you ever find the original and investigate why there was no record of receipt? Thanks, Ed.</p> <p>Enclosed letter - Mr. says he has been communicating for several months with PSE and the WUTC about the rates and fees they pay for natural gas. Mr. said has paid \$79.14 for \$7.53 worth of natural gas. He wants to be sure the chairman is aware that PSE billing practices impact them as well as other low volume gas users. Mr. would like to know</p>

	<p>what the chairman's reaction is to their situation. Mr. would like to know what value we think we are getting for the gas. Mr. is surprised the chairman keeps no data for those consumers whose monthly natural gas consumption is less than the \$10.00 basic charge. Mr. believes customers such as him subsidize high volume users who basic charges amount to a fraction of their total bills. He asks if we agree. Mr. believes he is paying too much to the profit making of PSE. Mr. said in speaking with one of our reps. he found them to be selective in answering questions. Mr. says one of the key measurements for the PSE "2010 Service Quality Report Card", should be customer opinion on cost, price, or value of services.</p>
Attachments	 <p>20120127085607708.pdf</p>

<b>Issue Information</b>	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Ed Putman**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: ELISABETH MELOVIDOFF - ID# 26771**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	ELISABETH MELOVIDOFF	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	11603 MOUNTBROOK LANE SW Lakewood Washington 98499	
Email	none	
Primary Phone #	(253) 983 0321	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Frequent Increases	Open Date 12/29/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Description	Gas rate increase  Ms. said the rate increases are never ending and this is just another rate increase. They are always asking for increases. She said her area always gets hit the hardest. Ms. said all the hearings are at the night and she does not drive at night. She would like to see our hearings during the day.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda


**Activites For Elisabeth Melovidoff**



View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: FRAN DEBRULER - ID# 27059**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	FRAN DEBRULER	
Organization Company		
Address	3715 W. DRAVUS STREET	
City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98199	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/22/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input checked="" 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 request for a proposed rate increase is another round of unrealistic demands filled with irrelevant arguments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Why should existing customers pay for new customers?</li> <li>- Why should ratepayers have to pay for costs of compliance and safety?</li> <li>- No to increased return on investor investment.</li> <li>- Ratepayers should not have to pay for depreciation costs.</li> </ul> <p>((see attachment field to view copy of consumer's letter))</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/22/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings.</p> <p>((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer))</p>	
Attachments	 Letter from Fran DeBruler .pdf *****	

3715 W. Dravus Street  
Seattle, WA 98199

January 22, 2012

Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049

Dear Ms. DeBruler:

Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

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Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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*Stay connected, [UTC Connections!](#)*



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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***Public invited to comment at February hearings***

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###


Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Fran Debruler**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: GEORGE W. MAUER - ID# 27195**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	GEORGE W. MAUER	
Organization Company		
Address	1430 NW 191ST ST	
City, State, Zip Code	SHORELINE WASHINGTON 98177	
Email		
Primary Phone #	(206) 533-0160	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Comments about UTC, Costs have declined, Economic Conditions, Mismanagement	Open Date	01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date	
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi		
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Description	<p>Mr. is in opposition to the proposed rate increase by the company of 3.5% to its natural gas customers. Mr. says the price if natural gas is decreasing. We must know that the natural gas supply market is at an all-time high and its distribution costs are at an all-time low. The future projections of supply are significantly trending up. There is no market evidence to support a rate increase. There is no factual market evidence that can rationalize any increase in the current rate charged to Washington State residents. Any rate increase authorized by the commission under these market circumstances would likely be financially burdening customers with ineffective management. Mr. believes there should be a rate reduction. Mr. would like us to advise him of any commission staff support for this company's rate increase. He would also like to know how he can testify before the commission in opposition to any rate increase.</p>		
Attachments	 20120126164413082.pdf		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049




**Activites For George W. Mauer**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Gerald Wik - ID# 26857**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Gerald Wik	
Organization Company		
Address	10020 Lake Shore Blvd NE	
City, State, Zip Code	Seattle Washington 98125-8158	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/06/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Description	<p>Mr. says the current rate of natural gas is down around 35% over the past year. He believes because of this the company natural gas rates should also be down. Mr. believes the company should lower the price of natural gas to the wholesale level. Mr. believes the rates should be cut and recommends the commission give this rate increase consideration.</p> <p>-SEE ATTACHED CONSUMER LETTER- *****</p> <p>1/6/2012 Letter response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations of the public hearings. (((see attachment field for copy of the response)))</p>	
Attachments	 20120106084204813.pdf Gerald Wik 10020 Lake Shore Blvd NE Seattle, WA 98125  January 6, 2012	

Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049

Dear Mr. Wik:

Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

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P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
E-mail: [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)  
Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

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If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If

the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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COMMISSION

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(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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Public invited to comment at February hearings**

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The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

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The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

#### Activites For Gerald Wik

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: JOHN CHROMY - ID# 26952**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	JOHN CHROMY	
Organization Company		
Address	21323 103RD PLACE SE	
City, State, Zip Code	KENT WASHINGTON 98031	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined, High Rates	Open Date 01/12/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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>I can't understand why PSE wants an increase in natural gas when the price of natural gas is going down. I know they have lots of reasons for wanting a rate increase, but their bottom line is to try to make money for their investors and they shouldn't be allowed to do so on the backs of the rate payers.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/12/2012 Letter response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view a copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>John Chromy 21323 103rd Place SE Kent, WA 98031513</p> <p>January 12, 2012</p> <p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Chromy:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case</p>	

proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

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I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you



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Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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###

#### Issue Information


Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For John Chromy

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Karen L. Olinghouse - ID# 26858**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Karen L. Olinghouse	
Organization Company		
Address	7614 Fair Oaks Rd SE	
City, State, Zip Code	Olympia Washington 98513-6421	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Cost of Living, Economic Conditions, Fixed Income, Frequent Increases, High Rates, Low Income, No Alternative	Open Date	01/06/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date	
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi		
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Description	<p>Customer can't believe company is asking for another rate increase. She is a state employee who has had her pay cut by 3% for 2 years. She says it is frustrating to have basic need bills going up &amp; up. She says she cannot stip usin gelectrictiy to save money because her entire home is electric. She downsized to a smaller, newer home and her bill has doubled. She says her bill is becoming more like a car payment without a car. Her husband is on a fixed income due to retirement and they feel helpless. She feels it is unfair because the company is a monopoly and she can't go elsewhere.</p> <p>-SEE ATTACHED CONSUMER LETTER- *****</p> <p>1/6/2012 Letter response to the consumer. Informed consumer of staff's recommendations along with the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. ((see attachment field for copy of response)))</p>		
Attachments	 20120106084132297.pdf		

Karen L. Olinghouse  
7614 Fair Oaks Road SE  
Olympia, WA 98513

January 6, 2012

Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049

Dear Ms. Olinghouse:

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Enclosure



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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	


#### Activites For Karen L. Olinghouse



View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: KATHLEEN SPEAR - ID# 27307**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	KATHLEEN SPEAR	
Organization Company		
Address	2525 MAPLE ST.	
City, State, Zip Code	EVERETT WASHINGTON 98201-3225	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Cost of Living, Costs have declined, Disabled Person, Fixed Income	Open Date	01/31/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date	
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi		
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Description	<p>Mr. and family moved into their home in 1995. Mr. used to get a bill of \$4 a month. Mr. said rates have steadily increased. Mr. used to have more people in the home and the rates are still higher now. He had tried to conserve and does not help. Mr. is disabled and is on a fixed income. Mr. thinks PSE should offer a low income discount for those on disabilities. Mr. does not agree with the late fees. Mr. says the rates of natural gas have declined.</p> <p>-SEE ATTACHMENT</p>		
Attachments	 20120130163301410.pdf		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Kathleen Spear**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Laura McGowan - ID# 26783**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Laura McGowan	
Organization Company		
Address	1408 ESHOM ROAD	
City, State, Zip Code	Centralia Washington 98531	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Economic Conditions, Frequent Increases, High Rates	Open Date	12/30/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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			
Attachments			

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Laura McGowan**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: LEONARD RUTHERFORD - ID# 26946**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	LEONARD RUTHERFORD	
Organization Company		
Address	3002 S UNION AVE	
City, State, Zip Code	TACOMA WASHINGTON 98409	
Email	leo_8686@hotmail.com	
Primary Phone #	253 312-5439	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Economic Conditions, Frequent Increases, No Alternative	Open Date	01/12/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date	01/12/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi		
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No		
Description	<p>Reference docket number UG-111049. I am opposed to the requested rate increases that Puget Sound Energy is requesting. In this current economy these increases are not what is needed for their customers. Also this is the rate increase is the second increase that they have requested in the past 2 years.Referencing their pie chart, they are requesting 1.5 million dollars for conservation recovery. With the push for more energy efficient appliances, and making homes more energy efficient, why would they wish to punish this with a rate increase?It seems to me that since they have a monopoly on natural gas distribution within the Puget Sound that they can charge whatever they want. This takes more disposable income from their customers pockets and causes more hardship for the citizens of this area.Please deny this rate increase for all the customers sake.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/12/2012 Letter response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>		
Attachments	<p>Leonard Rutherford 3002 S Union Avenue Tacoma, WA 98409</p> <p>January 12, 2012</p>		

Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049

Dear Mr. Rutherford:

Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

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I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

PSE customers will be able to comment to state regulators at two public

meetings scheduled at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Ave. NE, Bellevue, and 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15 at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW, Olympia.

The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

#### Activites For Leonard Rutherford

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Linda Carter - ID# 26734**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	Linda Carter	
Organization Company		
Address	11418 12th Ave SW	
City, State, Zip Code	Burien Washington 98146	
Email		
Primary Phone #	206 829-8007	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Disabled Person, Drastic Increase, Economic Conditions, Fixed Income, Frequent Increases, Low Income, Senior Citizen	Open Date	12/23/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Description	This is the most expensive bill this customer receives. Customer also receives low income discounts with Seattle City Light, Sewer, and Water but can not get discounts through PSE. Customer is a low income disabled senior living on a very limited income. Customer is on food stamps, Medicare and Social Security and does not support another rate increase, especially with today's poor economy.		
Attachments			

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Linda Carter**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: MIKE LINDAL - ID# 26935**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	MIKE LINDAL	
Organization Company		
Address	8520 45TH DRIVE NE	
City, State, Zip Code	MARYSVILLE WASHINGTON 98270	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Costs have declined, Frequent Increases, High Rates	Open Date	01/11/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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>It is absolutely ridiculous that PSE wants another increase in natural gas. Natural gas is at a 5 year low. I don't know why they want to raise the price again - I have never seen anything like all the items I am billed for on my bill. I believe we should just pay for what we use. The high end users are not paying their fair share. The Co. shouldn't be asking for more money.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/11/2012 Letter to consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>		
Attachments	<p>Mike Lindal 8520 45th Drive NE Marysville, WA 98270</p> <p>January 11, 2012</p> <p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Lindal:</p>		

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Enclosure



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Dec. 7, 2011

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#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Mike Lindal

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: MRS. BAKER - ID# 27570**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	MRS. BAKER	
Organization Company		
Address	9425 60TH AVENUE W	
City, State, Zip Code	MUKILTEO WASHINGTON 98275	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Economic Conditions, Fixed Income, Senior Citizen	Open Date	02/16/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Description			
Attachments			



Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Mrs. Baker**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: MRS. HELKE - ID# 26942**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	MRS. HELKE	
Organization Company		
Address	3915 BALSAM AVENUE	
City, State, Zip Code	OLYMPIA WASHINGTON 98506	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Cost of Living, Fixed Income, Frequent Increases	Open Date	01/12/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date	
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi		
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Description	<p>Ms. says everything continues to rise such as food, gas, housing property and taxes. She us conservative with her heat and her bill still goes up. She said everyone wants more money including the UTC. She is on a fixed income.</p> <p>-SEE ATTACHED- Consumer letter</p>		
Attachments	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">               20120112080204000.pdf           </div> <div style="text-align: center;">               20120112080215453.pdf           </div> </div> <p>Mrs. Helke            3915 Babam Avenue            Olympia, WA 98506</p> <p>January 12, 2012</p> <p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mrs. Helke:</p>		

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Enclosure



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#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Mrs. Helke

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)



**COMMENT FORM FOR: RANDY WHITE - ID# 27234**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	RANDY WHITE	
Organization Company		
Address	5210 BROADVIEW AVE NE	
City, State, Zip Code	TACOMA WASHINGTON 98412	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Comments about UTC, Costs have declined	Open Date 01/30/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Description	Mr. said gas prices are increasing even though nationally gas prices are decreasing. Mr. would expect the UTC to deny the request and do what's right. Mr. thinks its outrageous.	
Attachments		


Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Randy White**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: RICHARD A. KLAUBER - ID# 27218**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	RICHARD A. KLAUBER	
Organization Company		
Address	3219 40TH AVE. WEST	
City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98199	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Comments about UTC, Company should "tighten its belt", High Rates, Mismanagement	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Description	Mr. believes the new customers should be charged the costs for infrastructure projects and cost for compliance and safety improvements. Mr. explains the new customers should be paying the additional costs. Mr. says the UTC has allowed additional basic service charges on a regular basis and there is nothing to show for it. Mr. feels like it shouldn't be his fault the company needs to recoup "costs for compliance and safety improvements". Mr. says the company is a burden and a monopoly. Mr. says the company asks him to conserve then they turn around and charge him a higher basic service charge because he does so. Mr. said natural gas is at its lowest point since March 2002. The company is mismanaged.	
Attachments	 20120127135824826.pdf	

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Richard A. Klauber**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: RICHARD SMITH - ID# 27384**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	RICHARD SMITH	
Organization Company		
Address	9307 46TH DRIVE NE	
City, State, Zip Code	MARYSVILLE WASHINGTON 98270	
Email		
Primary Phone #	360 659-7000	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme		Open Date 02/02/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Description	Customer basic service fee is unfair.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Richard Smith**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: ROB HEMINGSON - ID# 26831**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	ROB HEMINGSON	
Organization Company		
Address	4682 140TH AVENUE NE	
City, State, Zip Code	BELLEVUE WASHINGTON 98005	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Company should "tighten its belt", Costs have declined	Open Date	01/04/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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>I would like to make a comment with using Natural Gas in the NW as much as possible for home heating and all commercial activities. Basically we are trying to make a transition from transitional forms of energy in the NW which includes water, gas, coal, we're getting started with wind and we need to push more toward using natural gas as a cheaper fuel for the future.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/4/2012 Letter response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations along with the dates/times/locations for the public hearings. (((copy of response attached in attachment field)))</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>2/17/2012 Consumer called in additional comments. I made comments on the phone already and I went to the Bellevue Meeting. I was disappointed in the meeting because I was hoping to see what percentage of power we were receiving from gas, wind, and others. The intro by the Chair with the PSE original request and then PSE proposing another number. The number had not bases for the numbers being presented. There was not discussion as to what PSE is doing to save money. Each month we receive a flyer in our bill to save as consumers, however, PSE does not provide ways to conserve such as smaller cars running off of electricity smaller trucks running on gas. I was suprised at the number of people talking about the</p>		

wind power. But cheapest form of energy is natural gas.

Attachments

Rob Hemingson  
4682 140th Avenue NE  
Bellevue, WA 98005

January 4, 2012

Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049

Dear Mr. Hemingson:

Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

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Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW



P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
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Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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The UTC is the state agency in charge of regulating the private, investor-owned electric companies in Washington. It is the commission's responsibility to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing them the opportunity to earn a fair profit.

###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Rob Hemingson

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: ROMAN LUKAFIEWICZ - ID# 27366**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	ROMAN LUKAFIEWICZ	
Organization Company		
Address	6815 57TH CT. SE	
City, State, Zip Code	OLYMPIA WASHINGTON 98513	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Costs have declined, High Rates, Mismanagement	Open Date	02/02/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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	Natural gas is at an all time low, and PSE wants to increase the rate - that is ridiculous. I just want to express my outrage because PSE doesn't think about people. I don't understand why PSE keeps asking to increasing our rates when they don't do anything to help lower their own costs, they just keep asking for more from us.		
Attachments			

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Roman Lukafiewicz**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: SCOTT STRICKLAND - ID# 26923**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	SCOTT STRICKLAND	
Organization Company		
Address	414 WEST GAYLOR	
City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98119	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Comments about UTC, Costs have declined, Economic Conditions	Open Date	01/11/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Description	<p>Mr. is against any gas increase. He said the UTC authorized the sale of PSE to a foreign company ownership. He doesn't know why we would allow the company to be sold during a time of depression. Mr. said gas prices are at an all-time low and no increase should be allowed.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/11/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view a copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>		
Attachments	<p>Scott Strickland 414 West Gaylor Seattle, WA 98119</p> <p>January 11, 2012</p> <p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Mr. Strickland:</p>		

Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

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I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

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Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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Dec. 7, 2011

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Scott Strickland

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: THOMAS FLORA - ID# 26829**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	THOMAS FLORA	
Organization Company		
Address	5015 70TH AVENUE CRT. W.	
City, State, Zip Code	UNIVERSITY PLACE WASHINGTON 98467	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Comments about UTC, Company should "tighten its belt", Cost of Living, Economic Conditions, Executive Salaries/Bonuses, Fixed Income	Open Date	01/04/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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>With unemployment like it is in this state and every other state in the U.S. how can the company do this to us? I'm on a fixed income which is social security and I have had no increases until this last year which is not much. Why can't they tighten their belts instead of asking all of us to do it? I also worked for PSE in the past and the CEO was making over a million dollars a year with his benefits and wages. His house was even paid for and his wife even had a chauffeur. The vice president of the company also got so much money a year and they are always crying poverty. They have a reserve from Olympia and they buy at a lower rate and sell at a higher rate. I would like to know why the UTC doesn't say no to them instead of always saying yes. I would like to see the UTC step up and represent the people instead of the company. You guys need to help us not them.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/4/2012 Letter response to the consumer. Informed consumer of staff's recommendations along with the dates/times/locations of the public hearings. (((see attachment field for copy of letter)))</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>2/1/2012 Customer made additional comments.</p>		

Mr. states the letter he received does not add up. He states the letter says he uses more. He says the electric bill from the city is \$50 a month. His gas bill from PSE is \$148.29 for one month. He says that is triple what the the electric company is. He says that the gas should be cheaper. The company will continue to ask for more money and I worked for them and I know if they don't get it this year, they will tack it on next year. I'm upset. Everyone out of work and the way things are, the state needs to look at things better. When I was in business for mysel, I had to make it on my own and I don't understand why the company cannot make it on their own. The CEO is making too much money and I don't think they do much and he gets over \$1 million a year. The secretary does everything and it is not right. Everyone is walking away rich and digging into our pockets. They need nothing because they do not deserve it. They don't provide the things they are suppose to do for the customer.

Attachments

Thomas Flora  
5015 70th Avenue Court West  
University Place, WA 98467

January 4, 2012

Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049

Dear Mr. Flora:

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Enclosure



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Dec. 7, 2011

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Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

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The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

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###



Issue ID	518	
Company	Puget Sound Energy	
Filing	111049	
Staff	Kathryn Breda	

**Activites For Thomas Flora**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: TOM SIKOV - ID# 27157**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	TOM SIKOV	
Organization Company		
Address	12232 N. PARK AVE. N.	
City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98133	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined, Frequent Increases	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/26/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	As the UTC is well aware, natural gas prices have continued in a downward trend to the point that they are lower than they have been for several years. Furthermore, due to new exploration and extraction technologies, as well as expanded pipelines, experts believe that prices will remain quite low for several more years. In addition to an abundance of low cost natural gas, we are currently experiencing a very low interest rate environment. Expected rates of return on investments have decreased, and so should the returns expected by PSE. Finally, while I appreciate that PSE has capital needs, and I can be supportive of expenditures relating to the general maintenance of existing lines, I am not in favor of charging customers more so that they can expand their service area and add customers. If they want to grow, let them do it on their dime. Ratepayers have supported increases over several years, but now that the cost of capital has decreased and the cost of natural gas is reaching historic lows, it's time to ratchet back. I believe rates should decrease, not increase.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049

**Activites For Tom Sikov**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: VALERIE ROCHEFORT - ID# 27118**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	VALERIE ROCHEFORT	
Organization Company		
Address	1106 S 56TH STREET	
City, State, Zip Code	TACOMA WASHINGTON 98408	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Fixed Income, Senior Citizen	Open Date 01/26/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No	
Description	Customer feels the increase is too much. I have PSE for my gas and \$284 a month. For a fixed income person, that is quite high. For those of us on social security that is a lot for us to keep up on and I don't think the company should get more and more and we do not get more money.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Valerie Rochefort**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: WENDY J. NOWAK - ID# 27221**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	WENDY J. NOWAK	
Organization Company		
Address	2502 197TH ST. SE	
City, State, Zip Code	BOTHELL WASHINGTON 98012	
Email	fourdressage@hotmail.com	
Primary Phone #	425-806-9239	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Cost of Living, Disabled Person, Frequent Increases, High Rates	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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	In the last couple of years this has been about the 16th request PSE has made for a rate increase. When things get better we never see a rate decrease. Right now we're paying for their employee retirement. They keep getting the green light. There has got to be a point where this tops. We have one income - I am disabled. We have two kids in college. We keep our house at 58 and I'm paying \$85 a month. My husband hasn't had a raise in years. We can't keep paying more. I'm begging you - don't give them the increase!!	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Wendy J. Nowak**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: WILLIAM & CAROLYN RUSSELL - ID# 26915**

Consumer Information	
	Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Mail <input type="radio"/> None
Name	WILLIAM & CAROLYN RUSSELL
Organization Company	
Address	1304 PALM DR.
City, State, Zip Code	FIRCREST WASHINGTON 98466
Email	
Primary Phone #	Fax #
Secondary Phone #	

Comment Information	
Theme	Costs have declined, Economic Conditions
Open Date	01/10/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided
Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" type="radio"/> Phone <input type="radio"/> In person
Web Create Date	
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Description	<p>My husband is in investments and the costs of gas and electric have dropped. The rates should either be the same or going down. The company should not be allowed to raise rates. Everyone is struggling with finances and seems to be having a hard time and the company and the UTC should take that into consideration.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/10/2012 Email response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view a copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>
Attachments	<p>William &amp; Carolyn Russell 1304 Palm Drive Fircrest, WA 98466</p> <p>January 10, 2012</p> <p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear William &amp; Carolyn Russell:</p>



Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding the case. Your name has been added to the commission's interested persons list and your comments are part of the record.

State law requires rates to be fair and reasonable for customers, yet high enough to allow the company a chance to recover reasonable operating expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment. The commission may set service standards, and take action against a company that fails to meet those standards. However, it cannot deny rates that are needed to cover company costs. Rates are based on each company's specific needs. Rates for one company may be higher or lower than rates for another company.

On December 7, staff members of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) filed testimony recommending that PSE be allowed to raise electric rates by only \$39 million a year and \$1.5 million for natural gas rates. This is significantly less than the \$152 million and \$30 million, respectively, the utility originally requested last June. The three-member commission, which is not bound by the staff recommendation, will make a final decision on the utility's rate-hike request next spring. The proposed increase is slated to take effect May 2012. Enclosed is a copy of the commission's press release which provides additional details.

You may comment to state regulators on the proposed increase at two scheduled public hearings. The first meeting is scheduled at 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 1, at Bellevue City Hall, 450 110th Avenue NE, Bellevue; and 6:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 15, at commission headquarters, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, Olympia.

You may also comment through the "Public Comment" feature at the commission's website, at [utc.wa.gov](http://utc.wa.gov).

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW  
P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
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Telephone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

A copy of the company's filing can be viewed at the commission website ([www.utc.wa.gov](http://www.utc.wa.gov)) or by public records request by calling 360-664-1166.

If you are experiencing service-related problems, you should first contact PSE. If the company does not respond to your inquiry or complaint to your satisfaction, you may contact our consumer complaint representatives at 1-888-333-WUTC (9882).

I hope this information is helpful to you. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for contacting the commission with your comments about this proceeding.

Sincerely,

Roger Kouchi  
Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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*Stay connected, [UTC Connections!](#)*



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

**Editor's note: This news release reflects the position of energy staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) and NOT the views of the three-member commission. It discusses a staff recommendation that the commissioners have not yet reviewed. Any positions taken or comments offered by the commission staff regarding this proceeding should be attributed clearly to staff members and NOT to the UTC.**

Dec. 7, 2011

Media contact: (360) 664-1116 or [media@utc.wa.gov](mailto:media@utc.wa.gov)

Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

**State utility staff recommended deep cuts in Puget Sound Energy's rate increase request  
*Public invited to comment at February hearings***

**OLYMPIA, Wash.** – State regulatory staff are proposing to give only a fraction of the revenues Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is seeking in its latest electric and natural gas rate increase request.

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Under the staff proposal, a PSE average residential electric customer using 1,000 kilowatt hours-per-month would see their electric bill increase by \$2.05, for a bill total of \$98.84. The typical natural-gas customer using 68 therms a month would pay \$0.13 more, for a revised bill of \$81.72.

On June 13, PSE filed a general rate case with the UTC requesting an annual \$182 million overall rate increase for both electricity and natural gas service. Commission staff is recommending a \$40 million overall rate hike for both services.

Among the major differences between the company's request and the UTC staff's recommendation are reductions for PSE's development of the Lower Snake River Wind Project, power costs, storm-damage costs, incentive pay, federal income-tax issues and the utility's profit level.

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The UTC regulatory staff recommends the company be provided the opportunity to earn a 7.59 percent overall rate of return, not the 8.42 percent the company originally sought. The company's current target rate of return is 8.1 percent. This accounts for \$85 million of the difference between what the company requested and the UTC staff proposed for combined gas and electric operations.

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The commission has received 62 public comments on PSE's rate-increase proposal – 49 opposed, one in favor and 12 undecided. Customers who would

like to comment on the case are encouraged to write the UTC at: P.O. Box 47250 Olympia, Wash. 98504, submit comments online at [www.utc.wa.gov/comment](http://www.utc.wa.gov/comment), e-mail comments to [comment@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comment@utc.wa.gov) or call toll-free 1-888-333-9882. The commission's deadline for accepting public comments is Feb. 17.

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For William & Carolyn Russell

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: FRAN KNOWLTON - ID# 26927**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> None
Name	FRAN KNOWLTON	
Organization Company		
Address	3811 NE 3RD CT.	
City, State, Zip Code	SEATTLE WASHINGTON 98106	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Cost of Living, Low Income	Open Date 01/11/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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>I am on limited income. and I am having a hard time keeping up with rising costs. The low income people are struggling and we cannot afford the increases. It's just too hard for those on disability. Now disabled people aren't even able to get help.</p> <p>*****</p> <p>1/11/2012 Letter response to the consumer. Informed the consumer of staff's recommendations and the dates/times/locations for the public comment hearings. (((see attachment field to view copy of the response to the consumer)))</p>	
Attachments	<p>Fran Knowlton 3811 NE 3rd Court Seattle, WA 98106</p> <p>January 11, 2012</p> <p>Docket Number: UE-111048/UG-111049</p> <p>Dear Ms. Knowlton:</p> <p>Thank you for interest in the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) general rate case proceeding. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update regarding</p>	

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Public Involvement Coordinator

Enclosure



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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

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(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

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Dec. 7, 2011

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Docket Number: UE-111048 and UG-111049

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###

#### Issue Information

Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

#### Activites For Fran Knowlton

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: LINDA BARBER - ID# 27072**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> None
Name	LINDA BARBER	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code		
Email		
Primary Phone #	Fax #	
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme		Open Date 01/24/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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	She is against the Nat. Gas increase. Nat. Gas is at an all time low.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Linda Barber**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: LIZ TUNISON - ID# 27230**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> None
Name	LIZ TUNISON	
Organization Company		
Address	6633 NORTHILL DR SW	
City, State, Zip Code	OLYMPIA WASHINGTON 98512	
Email	solituni@hotmail.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Economic Conditions	Open Date 01/30/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/27/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	UG-111049-- Please do not let PSE increase their rates. There is no justifiable reasoning for them to increase their rates at this time. Thank you	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Liz Tunison**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: Lynda Hudson - ID# 26798**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> None
Name	Lynda Hudson	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	Everett	
Email		
Primary Phone #	(425)316-3965	Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Frequent Increases, No Alternative	Open Date 01/04/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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	Tired of frequent increases.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Lynda Hudson**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: MIKE RYAN - ID# 27168**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> None
Name	MIKE RYAN	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	RENTON WASHINGTON	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Company should "tighten its belt"	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/27/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	Puget Sound Energy needs to go on a diet!! This agency is extremely bloated and is not taking the necessary steps to compete and to reduce gas and electricity rates to customers. The UTC needs to develop and enforce substantial cost savings targets for all public utilities. Without targets, these companies will continue to grow and become less and less efficient. They MUST be forced to become more efficient.I strongly oppose increases to both gas and electric utility rates. This is NOT the time to increase rates to residential customers who are barely able to keep their homes (or who have already lost them) or for small businesses that are trying to increase payrolls.Please reject PSE's request for higher utility rates.Respectfully, Mike Ryan	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Mike Ryan**



View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: M. Schwartz - ID# 26756**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> None
Name	M. Schwartz	
Organization Company		
Address City, State, Zip Code	Seattle Washington	
Email	twocats86@att.net	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Frequent Increases, High Rates	Open Date 12/27/2011
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date
Source	<input checked="" 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>I am sure my comment reflects the majority of natural gas customers: NO to proposed rate increase! Didn't we just get hit with one not too long ago? I was shocked when I opened our recent gas bill...\$174+. Too much.</p> <p>My husband and I are both retired, and are very conservative in our use of all energy. If rate increase is approved, it will be a real hardship on us. We 'make too much money' to qualify for any of your programs; what a joke that is! We are being punished for being responsible customers, paying our bill in full every month since converting to gas (1985). I know what the 'arguments' are for the proposed increase...not buying it.</p> <p>I hope you seriously reconsider this as the timing couldn't be worse with so many already struggling.</p>	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For M. Schwartz**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: ROBERT KNIGHT - ID# 27298**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> None
Name	ROBERT KNIGHT	
Organization Company		
Address	7716 A ISLAND VIEW COURT	
City, State, Zip Code	MUKILTEO WASHINGTON 98275	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information			
Theme	Drastic Increase, High Rates, Maintain current level of service	Open Date	01/31/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Undecided	Closed Date	
Source	<input type="radio"/> Email <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> No		
Description	Customer would like to see the request denied. Doesn't believe the company should be applying for an increase every single year.		
Attachments			

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Robert Knight**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: ROGER GEORGE - ID# 27155**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> None
Name	ROGER GEORGE	
Organization Company		
Address	7728 FILLY CT SE	
City, State, Zip Code	OLYMPIA WASHINGTON 98501	
Email	rkgge@yahoo.com	
Primary Phone #	3607532817	Fax #
Secondary Phone #	3607532817	

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined, Economic Conditions	Open Date 01/27/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/26/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	How is it possible that PSE is looking for a gas rate increase when natural gas costs are at a multi-year low? This makes no sense. Thank you for helping to control our utility costs. Times are tough right now. Roger George	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Roger George**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: SUSAN MCMULLIN - ID# 27028**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> None
Name	SUSAN MCMULLIN	
Organization Company		
Address	8608 232ND ST CT E	
City, State, Zip Code	GRAHAM WASHINGTON 98338	
Email		
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Economic Conditions	Open Date 01/21/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/15/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	It's a very bad time for rate increases when times are already tough enough and many people cannot afford many necessities of living and having to make choices of what they can and cannot afford.	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Susan Mcmullin**



View: (vwComtActyEmbed)

**COMMENT FORM FOR: TOM BOYCE - ID# 27030**

Consumer Information		
		Contact Method <input type="radio"/> Email <input type="radio"/> Mail <input checked="" type="radio"/> None
Name	TOM BOYCE	
Organization Company		
Address	9610 PIPERHILL DRIVE SE	
City, State, Zip Code	OLYMPIA WASHINGTON 98513	
Email	tomboyce1@q.com	
Primary Phone #		Fax #
Secondary Phone #		

Comment Information		
Theme	Costs have declined	Open Date 01/21/2012
Filing Support	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" 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 checked="" type="radio"/> Web	Web Create Date 01/19/2012
Public Involvement Lead	Roger Kouchi	
Duplicate Comment	<input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No	
Description	The price of Natural Gas continues to fall, 35% in the last year. It is currently \$2.37 per million BTU. With this level of decrease, why it PSE proposed rate hike for a host of reasons (infastructure, new customers, etc.) not offset by a massive decrease based upon this long-term drop in rates that has continued over the last three years of more?Where is the 35% decrease in rates based upon the actual cost of natural gas? While PSE can submit a request for increase at any time, how large a decrease in the actual cost of natural gas is necessary before PSE is required to submit a decrease in rates?Thanks. Tom	
Attachments		

Issue Information	
Issue ID	518
Company	Puget Sound Energy
Filing	111049
Staff	Kathryn Breda

**Activites For Tom Boyce**

View: (vwComtActyEmbed)