

**EXH. TAH-13
DOCKETS UE-240004/UG-240005 et al.
2024 PSE GENERAL RATE CASE
WITNESS: TROY A. HUTSON**

**BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,**

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Respondent.

**Docket UE-240004
Docket UG-240005
(consolidated)**

In the Matter of the Petition of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

**For an Accounting Order Authorizing
deferred accounting treatment of
purchased power agreement expenses
pursuant to RCW 80.28.410**

**Docket UE 230810
(consolidated)**

**THIRD EXHIBIT (NONCONFIDENTIAL) TO THE
PREFILED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF**

TROY A. HUTSON

ON BEHALF OF PUGET SOUND ENERGY

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

**Dockets UE-240004 & UG-240005
Puget Sound Energy
2024 General Rate Case**

WUTC STAFF DATA REQUEST NO. 189:

REQUESTED BY: Byron Harmon

RE: Equity

In the Direct Testimony of Troy A. Hutson, Exh. TAH-1T, page 21, PSE states, “Many active service families are contending with the high cost of living in the Pacific Northwest and may be energy burdened.” Please answer the following questions:

1. Is this the only metric of vulnerability faced by military families?
2. Is the “high cost of living in the Pacific Northwest” unique to military families?
3. In what way are military families uniquely susceptible to the “high cost of living in the Pacific Northwest”?
4. Is there data indicating military families are inordinately energy burdened compared to the general population or nearby/surrounding population?
5. Is PSE contemplating any equity investments to lower the “high cost of living in the Pacific Northwest”?
6. Is PSE contemplating any equity investments to reduce energy burden among military families that is unique to military families?
7. Has the Commission provided any guidance highlighting military families as an energy justice community?
8. Can PSE cite to any sources such as, but not limited to, scholarly research, philosophy, advocacy groups, Energy Justice communities, or history to support the inclusion of military families as an energy justice community?

Response:

1. No. This is not the only metric of vulnerability faced by military families.
2. No. The high cost of living in the Pacific Northwest is not unique to military families.
3. Military families are geographically constrained to the area near the base they report to where they must contend with regional prices for housing, childcare, and food, with compensation based on national standards. Please see PSE’s response to part 8 of this request for more detail.

4. Yes, the geographies surrounding military bases where military families are located are consistently classified as high vulnerability within PSE's service area. Please see PSE's Equity Investment Zone Story Map for more detail:
<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1895091220d54ff9bd13550b317cdfdc>
5. PSE can only directly address the energy portion of the high cost of living. However, PSE is able to partner with other organizations as detailed in the answer to part 8 to make that portion a part of the portfolio of resources addressing other dimensions of the high cost of living in the Pacific Northwest.
6. While military families feature many of the same characteristics as other vulnerable communities, they have unique social networks in the same way that tribal communities and communities co-located with the agricultural industry in Skagit County do. To that extent, PSE must engage social networks unique to military families in order to be effective in its equity efforts.
7. No. The Commission has not provided any guidance highlighting military families as an energy justice community.
8. Yes, below are some of the sources:
Food Lifeline provides detailed information regarding food insecurity for military families on their campaign page link: <https://foodlifeline.org/militaryfamilyhunger/>

Food Lifeline provides specific detail regarding restorative justice efforts here:
<https://foodlifeline.org/a-win-for-military-families-experiencing-food-insecurity/>

The Military Family Advisory Network conducts research on food insecurity available here: <https://www.mfan.org/research-reports/causal-factors-of-military-and-veteran-family-food-insecurity/>

Congresswoman Marilyn Strickland has introduced legislation in support of military families via the Military Food Security Act and the Military Family Nutrition Access Act. More information is available here:

[Press Release Representative Marilyn Strickland Introduces Legislation to Address Military Service Members Food Insecurity](#)

In its partnership with the Kitsap Veterans Advisory Board, PSE learned that the second line item on their annual budget is utility assistance. Contact information is available at their website here: <https://www.kitsap.gov/hs/Pages/VAB-ADVISORY-BOARD.aspx>

PSE is working with U.S. Navy Fleet and Family Services (<https://kitsap.navylifepnw.com/programs/553970a8-60e2-44b2-8f7f-f23b9cc8df71>) and the Navy Marine Corp Relief Society (<https://www.nmcrcs.org/>)

to coordinate providing utility assistance to PSE customers in the military community.