

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,  Complainant,  v.  PUGET SOUND ENERGY,  Respondent.	DOCKETS UE-230320 and UG-230323 (Consolidated)  ORDER 02  DISMISSING COMPLAINT AND ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS; ALLOWING TARIFF REVISIONS
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**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On April 28, 2023, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective electric and natural gas tariff Schedules 141N and 141R in Dockets UE-230320 and UG-230323, respectively. PSE characterizes its filing as tariff revisions necessary to implement PSE's recommendation in the Company's compliance filing made pursuant to the Commission's final order in Dockets UE-220066 and UG-220067 (Final Order), PSE's last general rate case (2022 GRC). The Company's proposed tariff revisions provided an effective date of May 28, 2023. PSE states that no refunds are due to customers for the provisional inclusion of plant into rates for 2022, and it requests that the Commission issue an order suspending the proposed tariff revisions during the four-month review period.
- 2 In the Final Order, the Commission approved a settlement subject to conditions that authorized the provisional recovery of plant projected to go into service from 2022 to 2024, subject to later review and possible refund. The settlement requires PSE to make a filing by March 31 of each year, which is subject to a four-month review process. At the end of the review period, the Commission may, where appropriate, authorize the transfer of property provisionally incorporated into rates for the year from rate schedules that are subject to refund to schedules that are not and order any required refunds.
- 3 On May 5, 2023, the Commission entered a Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revision (Complaint and Order) at the Company's request to allow parties the four-month period to review provisional plant that went into service through December 31,

2022. The Commission also ordered the consolidation of Dockets UE-230320 and UG-230323.

4 On September 8, 2023, PSE filed updated revised electric and natural gas tariff sheets (Updated, Revised Tariff Sheets) and supporting work papers that were in accordance with Commission Staff's (Staff) recommendation made during the four-month review process indicated in the Final Order.

5 The revised electric tariffs result in no change in customer rates. The updated revised natural gas tariffs result in approximately \$1.4 million refund which Staff recommends being made in conjunction with the Company's next purchased gas adjustment. Staff has no concerns with the tariff revisions filed on September 8, 2023. Staff recommends that the Commission dismiss its Complaint and Order and that the Commission allow the updated revised electric and natural gas tariff sheets filed on September 8, 2023, to take effect.

### **DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

6 We agree with Staff's recommendation. Following the entry of the Complaint and Order on May 5, 2023, Staff had approximately six months to conduct formal discovery and to review the Company's filing. The Company subsequently filed Updated, Revised Tariff Sheets on September 8, 2023, reflecting Staff's recommendations. We therefore find it consistent with the public interest to dismiss the Complaint and allow the Updated, Revised Tariff Sheets to take effect.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

7 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including electric companies.

8 (2) PSE is an electric company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

9 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 26, 2023.

- 10 (4) Staff recommends that the Commission find that the Updated, Revised Tariff Sheets result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, equitable and sufficient and that the Commission allow these tariff sheets to take effect.
- 11 (5) After reviewing the Updated, Revised Tariff Sheets PSE filed in Dockets UE-230320 and UG-230323 (consolidated), and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to dismiss the Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Dockets UE-230320 and UG-230323 (consolidated), dated May 5, 2023, and allow the revisions to Tariff WN U-60 and Tariff WN U-2, noted above as the Updated, Revised Tariff Sheets, to become effective on November 1, 2023.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 12 (1) The Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions in Dockets UE-230320 and UG-230323 (consolidated), entered on May 5, 2023, is dismissed.
- 13 (2) The tariff revisions Puget Sound Energy filed in these dockets on April 28, 2023, and revised on September 8, 2023, shall become effective on November 1, 2023.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Acting Executive Director and Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective October 26, 2023.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

KATHY HUNTER  
Acting Executive Director and Secretary