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**BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Petitioner.

Docket UE- _____

Petition of Puget Sound Energy
for Exemption of
WAC 480-100-640(1)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-100-008, 480-07-110, and WAC 480-07-370(3), Puget Sound Energy (“PSE”) petitions the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (the “Commission”) to issue an order approving an exemption from the requirement outlined in WAC 480-100-640(1), which requires PSE to file its Clean Energy Implementation Plan (the “CEIP”) by October 1, 2021, and instead permit PSE to file its CEIP by December 17, 2021, as allowed by Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 19.405.060(1)(a).¹ Granting PSE’s request is in the public interest because an extension is necessary and appropriate to allow additional time for the new Equity Advisory Group to provide input on the CEIP. It may also have

¹ RCW 19.405.060(1)(a) requires PSE to file its CEIP by January 1, 2022.

1 the additional benefit of allowing PSE time to incorporate new and/or updated information
2 in the CEIP.

3 2. PSE is an electric company and public service company within the meaning
4 of RCW 80.04.010 and is subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction over PSE’s prices and
5 terms of electric service to PSE’s retail customers in Washington. PSE provides electric
6 service to over 1 million retail customers in western Washington.

7 3. PSE’s name and address are as follows:

8 Puget Sound Energy
9 355 110th Ave NE
10 Bellevue, Washington 98004
11 Attn: Kara Durbin
12 Manager, Regulatory Policy
13 Email: kara.durbin@pse.com

14 **II. PSE’s EXEMPTION REQUEST**

15 4. RCW 19.405.060(1)(a) provides, in pertinent part, as follows:

16 *By January 1, 2022, and every four years thereafter, each investor-*
17 *owned utility must develop and submit to the commission:*

18 (i) A four-year clean energy implementation plan ...²

19 Further, RCW 19.405.060(c) provides that “[t]he Commission, after hearing, must by order
20 approve, reject, or approve with conditions an investor-owned utility’s clean energy
21 implementation plan and interim targets.”

² RCW 19.405.060(1)(a) (emphasis added).

1 5. In WAC 480-100-640(1), the Commission sets forth the timing of the
2 submission of the final CEIP. Specifically, WAC 480-100-640(1) provides as follows:

3 Unless otherwise ordered by the commission, each electric utility
4 must file with the commission a CEIP by *October 1, 2021*, and every
5 four years thereafter.³

6 6. PSE respectfully requests that, for the 2021 CEIP filing, the Commission
7 issue an exemption of WAC 480-100-640(1), which requires PSE to file its CEIP by
8 October 1, 2021, and instead requests that it be allowed to file its CEIP by
9 December 17, 2021. An extension is necessary and appropriate to allow additional time for
10 the new Equity Advisory Group, as well as other advisory groups, to provide input on the
11 CEIP. This extension may also permit PSE to incorporate updated information into the
12 CEIP.

13 **A. An Exemption of WAC 480-100-640(1) Is Necessary to Allow the Equity**
14 **Advisory Group the Time and Space Necessary to Deliberate and Formulate**
15 **Informed Thoughts and Recommendations for the CEIP on Environmental**
16 **Justice, Economic Development, Highly Impacted Communities, Vulnerable**
17 **Populations, Social Services, and Affordable Housing Issues**

18 7. RCW 19.405.060(c) requires, in pertinent part, the Commission, after a
19 hearing, to issue an order approving, rejecting, or approving with conditions, a CEIP,
20 provided that the targets or timelines are capable of achievement in a manner consistent
21 with, among other requirements, that ensure that

22 all customers are benefiting from the transition to clean energy ...
23 [t]hrough the equitable distribution of energy and nonenergy
24 benefits and the reduction of burdens to vulnerable populations and
25 highly impacted communities; long-term and short-term public

³ WAC 480-100-640(1) (emphasis added).

1 health and environmental benefits and reduction of costs and risks;
2 and energy security and resiliency ...⁴

3 8. PSE has convened an inaugural Equity Advisory Group to help seek
4 perspectives from and broaden engagement with communities served by PSE, including
5 frontline communities of low-income people and Black, Indigenous, and People of
6 Color (BIPOC). Members of the Equity Advisory Group include community advocates,
7 businesses, and community members. Members include representatives of community
8 organizations, including (i) CISC, (ii) Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County,
9 (iii) El Centro de la Raza, (iv) Front and Centered, (v) GSBA, (vi) HopeSource,
10 (vii) Island Senior Resources, (viii) Lummi Indian Business Council's Office of Economic
11 Policy, (ix) Sustainable Connections, (x) Tacoma Urban League, (xi) Vadis, and
12 (xii) Washington Soldiers Home.

13 9. The members of the Equity Advisory Group share perspectives from their
14 lived or working experiences related to environmental justice, economic development,
15 highly impacted communities, vulnerable populations, social services, and affordable
16 housing. The goal of the Equity Advisory Group is to provide PSE with a better
17 understanding of community values and priorities as PSE works to deliver a just and
18 equitable clean energy future.

19 10. The Equity Advisory Group is a new advisory group convened in response
20 to the requirements of the Clean Energy Transformation Act, Chapter 19.405 RCW.
21 Members of the Equity Advisory Group have deep experience through professional and
22 lived experience. Members of the Equity Advisory Group may have—but are not expected

⁴ RCW 19.405.060(c)(iii).

1 to have—experience with, or understanding of, the requirements of regulated utilities, such
2 as PSE. Similarly, PSE has some understanding of the issues represented by the expertise
3 of the Equity Advisory Group members but has much to learn from participating in the
4 Equity Advisory Group. Accordingly, there is an understandable “learning curve” that PSE
5 and the Equity Advisory Group members are currently undertaking to understand the
6 issues.⁵

7 11. Recently, PSE has received feedback from members of the Equity Advisory
8 Group expressing concern that the requirement that PSE file its CEIP by October 1, 2021,
9 does not provide the Equity Advisory Group and PSE sufficient time necessary to
10 (i) consider information and provide meaningful input into key CEIP topics; and
11 (ii) explore options for expanded community engagement, including identifying all
12 channels to engage BIPOC and underserved communities. PSE values this feedback from
13 members of the Equity Advisory Group and seeks to accommodate the request for
14 additional time necessary to address these, and perhaps other, issues. It is PSE’s
15 understanding that certain members of the Energy Advisory Group, or the organizations
16 whom such members represent, may provide letters to PSE or file letters with the
17 Commission in support of the request for an extension.

18 12. PSE has committed to the Equity Advisory Group members that it will seek
19 an extension of the deadline to file PSE’s CEIP to December 17, 2021. Such an extension,
20 if granted, would provide the Equity Advisory Group the time and space necessary to
21 deliberate and formulate informed thoughts and recommendations. It would also allow PSE

⁵ See, e.g., Puget Sound Energy, *Clean Energy Implementation Plan; Equity Advisory Group*, available at <https://www.cleanenergyplan.pse.com/#1388287572>.

1 additional time to consult with its other advisory groups, such as the Conservation
2 Resource Advisory Group, Low Income Advisory Committee, and the Integrated Resource
3 Plan Public Participation group. Consistent with this commitment, PSE respectfully
4 requests that the Commission issue an order approving an exemption from the requirement
5 outlined in WAC 480-100-640(1), which requires PSE to file its CEIP by October 1, 2021,
6 and instead permit PSE to file its CEIP by December 17, 2021. Additionally, as part of the
7 draft CEIP filing, PSE anticipates it would also include an updated public participation
8 plan.

9 **B. An Exemption of WAC 480-100-640(1) Permits PSE to Potentially**
10 **Incorporate Updated Information Into its CEIP**

11 13. RCW 19.405.060(b)(iii) requires PSE’s CEIP to identify specific actions to
12 be taken by PSE over the next four years, consistent with PSE’s long-range integrated
13 resource plan and resource adequacy requirements, that demonstrate progress toward
14 meeting the standards of the Clean Energy Transformation Act and the interim targets
15 proposed under RCW 19.405.060(a). PSE filed its most recent long-term electric integrated
16 resource plan (the “2021 IRP”) on April 1, 2021, in Docket UE-200304.

17 14. PSE also filed a draft All-Source Request for Proposals (RFP) on
18 April 1, 2021, and after securing Commission approval, issued the RFP on June 30, 2021.
19 PSE may update the RFP based on new information as it becomes available. One area of
20 the RFP that may change as new information becomes available is the identified resource
21 need. For example, PSE has prepared a draft F21 load forecast and anticipates it may go to
22 its Energy Management Committee for approval as early as late July of this year. Once the

1 F21 load forecast is approved, the identified need in the RFP may change based on the
2 effects of the new load forecast. Additionally, PSE committed to conducting two
3 workshops in August and September regarding its effective load carrying capability
4 (ELCC) methodology and its market reliance assessment. In preparation for the August
5 workshop on ELCC methodology, PSE plans to consult with a third-party to review its
6 ELCC methodology. PSE is also conducting further analysis on both ELCC and market
7 reliance to support these workshops.

8 15. By delaying the final CEIP to December 17, 2021, this allows additional
9 time for PSE to potentially incorporate some limited but timely updates into the draft and
10 final CEIP. These changes may include the effects of: (1) the F21 forecast on the CEIP
11 proposed targets and actions; (2) any direction provided in any IRP acknowledgment or
12 compliance letter issued by the Commission, if applicable; and (3) other new information
13 that arises, where possible. While there always may be new information to consider, some
14 of the items listed above, if PSE is able to incorporate them into the CEIP, would be
15 particularly timely and relevant updates for the 2021 CEIP filing.

16 15. Absent an extension in the date by which PSE must file its CEIP with the
17 Commission, PSE cannot incorporate any new or updated information into this CEIP prior
18 to filing. PSE has slightly more than two months to complete and file the CEIP. Under the
19 current schedule, insufficient time exists for PSE to be responsive to recent questions raised
20 by members of the Equity Advisory Group, update analytical work with new information,
21 complete a final CEIP, and file the final CEIP with the Commission on or before
22 October 1, 2021. If the Commission were to issue an order approving this Petition, then

1 PSE may have the time to incorporate some new and/or updated information in the CEIP
2 and file it by December 17, 2021.

3 **III. CONCLUSION**

4 16. Based on the foregoing, PSE respectfully requests that the Commission
5 exempt PSE from the requirement in WAC 480-100-640(1) to file its CEIP by
6 October 1, 2021. Instead, PSE respectfully requests that the Commission allow PSE to file
7 its CEIP by December 17, 2021. Granting this Petition is in the public interest because the
8 extension would allow the Equity Advisory Group more time to inform the CEIP. The
9 extension may also allow PSE to incorporate some updated information that will improve
10 the final CEIP. PSE does not anticipate that an order of the Commission granting this
11 Petition would necessarily affect the implementation of the CEIP.

12 DATED: this 21st day of July, 2021.

13 Respectfully submitted,

14 /s/ Jason Kuzma
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