



Puget Sound Energy
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PSE.com

October 15, 2021

UE-210792

Filed Via Web Portal

Ms. Amanda Maxwell, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

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State Of WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

**Re: Advice No. 2021-35
PSE Electric Tariff Revision - Filed Electronically**

Dear Ms. Maxwell:

Puget Sound Energy (“PSE”, “Company”) hereby submits proposed revisions to its electric Schedule 129, Low Income Program. This filing, pursuant to RCW 80.28.060 and Chapter 480-80 WAC, proposes revisions to the following electric tariff sheets.

WN U-60, Tariff G - (Electric Tariff):

- | | |
|---|---|
| 17 th Revision of Sheet No. 129-A | - Schedule 129 Low Income Program (Continued) |
| 2 nd Revision of Sheet No. 129-A.4 | - Schedule 129 Low Income Program (Continued) |
| Original Sheet No. 129-A.5 | - Schedule 129 Low Income Program (Continued) |
| Original Sheet No. 129-A.6 | - Schedule 129 Low Income Program (Continued) |

The primary purpose of this filing is to establish a Supplemental Crisis Affected Customer Assistance Program (“CACAP”) utilizing carry-over funds not expended in any prior years under PSE’s Schedule 129 Low Income Program. This proposal does not change the current Schedule 129 rates. The Supplemental CACAP is designed to provide assistance to Customers who have been affected by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic. PSE’s new supplemental CACAP will be available to the following PSE Residential Customers:

1. Residential Customers who have a past due balance on their PSE electric or natural gas service account; and
2. Have a total net household income which is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (“FPL”) guidelines, based on household, as determined by the Company.

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The Supplemental CACAP benefits, for both electric and natural gas Residential Customers, will be available through PSE and are a combined total of \$34.587 million. The total benefits of the Supplemental CACAP available to natural gas customers are capped at \$10.845 million. The total benefits of the Supplemental CACAP available to electric customers are capped at \$23.742 million.

The source of benefits available for the Supplemental CACAP is the collected but unspent PSE HELP funds under both of the electric and natural gas Schedule 129 programs as of September 30, 2021. Currently, electric arrearages are higher than the \$14 million available in unspent PSE HELP funds. UTC Order 03 in Docket U-200281 required the Company to provide a COVID Bill Assistance program equal to 1% of retail revenue, with those dollars to be collected in the future. In order to address the electric arrearages, PSE proposes to collect the entire \$27.7 million allocated to the COVID Bill Assistance Program from electric ratepayers, rather than the original split of \$20 million electric and \$7.7 million natural gas. In turn, PSE would use unspent and uncollected PSE HELP gas funds for both the COVID Bill Assistance Program as well as this Supplemental CACAP Program, and then transfer the additional \$7.7 million in funding from the electric COVID Bill Assistance Program to the Supplemental CACAP. This would allow the Company to maximize use of unspent gas PSE HELP funds, as well as provide assistance to more electric customers in need.

Additionally, this filing removes outdated language from the Income Eligibility Criteria section of the tariff which states that customers who elect to certify their program eligibility for a two-year period must demonstrate a steady income that meets 150% of the federal poverty level. The proposed revision to the language states that customers who elect to certify their program eligibility for a two-year period must demonstrate a steady income that meets current program guidelines.

After the initial effective date of this proposal, the Company will identify those customers who meet the criteria described above and will automatically provide the qualified Supplemental CACAP benefit amount to the qualifying residential service account. An opt-out function will be available to all qualified customers.

The tariff sheets described herein reflect an issue date of October 15, 2021, and an effective date of November 15, 2021. Posting of proposed tariff changes, as required by law and the Commission's rules and regulations, is being completed through web, telephone and mail access in accordance with WAC 480-100-193.

Please contact Veronica Martin at (425) 457-5624 for additional information about this filing. If you have any other questions, please contact me at (425) 456-2142.

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Sincerely,

/s/ Jon A. Piliaris

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cc: Lisa Gafken, Public Counsel
Sheree Carson, Perkins Coie

Attachments:
Electric Tariff Sheets (listed above)