

October 31, 2024

Filed via Web Portal

Jeff Killip, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

Re: Filing Pursuant to RCW 80.28.440 – 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan of Puget Sound Energy

Dear Director Killip:

Pursuant to Regulatory Code of Washington (RCW) 80.28.440, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) reviewed and revised its wildfire mitigation plan to align with the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) template.¹ PSE hereby submits the attached 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission). The plan is being provided concurrently to the DNR and the Utility Wildland Fire Prevention Advisory Committee.²

PSE previously filed its 2023 Wildfire Mitigation and Response Plan to docket U-210254 on November 14, 2023. PSE revised its 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan to align with the template provided by the DNR and to update information on PSE's wildfire mitigation activities through 2024. PSE met with local fire protection districts on October 1, 2024 to gather their input on PSE's Wildfire Mitigation Plan and is committed to working with local emergency agencies throughout the year to prepare for and respond to potential wildfire events.

The 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan documents PSE's strategies, programs, procedures, partnerships, and specific actions to increase wildfire resiliency, mitigate PSE's electrical system's potential for ignition, as well as respond to and mitigate wildland fires. In its 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan, PSE incorporates best practice models from risk management, operations, emergency management, communications, and training. PSE's priority is the safety of communities, customers, and personnel.

¹ Recommended elements of a Wildfire Mitigation Plan prescribed in RCW 76.04.185, the Washington DNR provided version 1 of the Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan template on April 1, 2024.

² House Bill 1032 required investor owned utilities (IOUs) to review and, if appropriate, revise its wildfire mitigation plan by October 31, 2024 and every three years thereafter. IOUs are required to submit these plans to the Commission, DNR, and Advisory Committee. RCW 80.28.440 (1)(a).

The 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan includes updates based on learnings from previous years and ongoing discussions with peer utilities, local emergency authorities, PSE's customers, and public sector partners. PSE has outlined its wildfire program governance, incorporated equity into its planning and execution, and matured its outage and risk modeling. PSE's Wildfire Mitigation Plan focuses on four core elements: Situational Awareness, Grid hardening, Operational Procedures, and Communications and Outreach.

Throughout 2024, PSE has actively engaged customers and communities in town hall meetings to share information about PSE's wildfire mitigation plan and solicit community input. PSE has developed a framework to evaluate the need for, and implement if necessary, a public safety power shutoff (PSPS) as a last resort during critical weather events. PSE's Energy System Restoration plan lays the groundwork to recover from an outage or PSPS event, prioritizing customers with medical life support designations, critical circuits with hospitals, fire/safety facilities, etc., and vulnerable populations. PSE continues to engage a broad range of interested parties as it evaluates risks and adaptively manages plan implementation. PSE looks forward to continuing these discussions in 2025 with the Commission and with PSE's customers and partners.

Please contact Michelle Boll, Senior Program Manager – Wildfire Mitigation, at Michelle.Boll@pse.com or (425) 424-7303 for additional information about this filing. If you have any other questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

/s/ Wendy Gerlitz

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cc: Sheree Carson, Perkins Coie
Jeff Roberson, WUTC

Attachment: 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan