



# ATTORNEY GENERAL OF WASHINGTON

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December 17, 2021

## **SENT VIA WEB PORTAL**

Amanda Maxwell  
Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
P. O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: *2022/2023 Utilities Biennial Conservation Plans,*  
Dockets UE-210822, UG-210823, UE-210830, UG-210838, & UG-210831

Dear Director Maxwell:

The Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Attorney General's Office ("Public Counsel") respectfully submits these comments in response to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission's ("UTC" or "Commission") Notice of Opportunity to File Written Comments, issued on November 10, 2021. These comments address the Biennial Conservation Plans for Puget Sound Energy, PacifiCorp, Cascade Natural Gas, and Northwest Natural Gas (the "Companies" or "Utilities"). Public Counsel appreciates the opportunity to comment.

### ***Public Counsel's Recommendation***

Public Counsel generally recommends the Commission approve the Companies' respective Biennial Conservation Plans, subject to the electric and natural gas conditions presented by Commission Staff.

On November 1, 2021, the Companies filed with the Commission reports concerning biennial conservation targets ("Biennial Conservation Plans" or "BCPs") for the period 2022–2023, pursuant to RCW 80.28.380 for natural gas services and RCW 19.285.040(1) and WAC 480-109-120(1) for electric services.

To: Amanda Maxwell, Executive Director and Secretary  
 Re: 2022/2023 Utility Biennial Conservation Plans, Dockets UE-210822, UG-210823, UE-210830, UG-210838, & UG-210831  
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The Companies submit for approval the following targets:

Utility	Electric			Natural Gas
	10-year Conservation Potential	2022/2023 Total Conservation Goal (MWh)	2022/2023 EIA Penalty Threshold (MWh) <sup>1</sup>	Total Target (Therms)
Puget Sound Energy	2,487,820	536,717	469,182	9,791,327
Pacificorp	505,954	98,960	93,901	
Cascade Natural Gas				1,931,751
Northwest Natural Gas				619,200

Public Counsel has reviewed each of the filings and participated in stakeholder engagement that assisted in drafting the filings, including attending and participating in the energy efficiency and conservation advisory groups of each utility.

In addition to reviewing the BCP documents, Public Counsel assisted Commission Staff and other stakeholders in drafting a list of conditions in this Docket intended to ensure conservation program accountability and efficacy. The final version of this document has not yet been filed, and Public Counsel reserves the right to change their comments regarding the conditions based on the final version.

Broadly, Public Counsel anticipates the finalized conditions will require the Companies to retain responsibility for compliance with applicable WAC and RCW, continue efforts with advisory groups, increase transparency regarding program selection and achievement, appropriately calculate cost-effectiveness, ensure equitable distribution of energy and non-energy benefits to named communities, and continue innovative research, among other things.

Public Counsel recommends the Commission approve the BCPs, subject to the conditions set forth. We believe these conditions adequately protect ratepayers and promote achievement on behalf of the Companies. We appreciate the effort and collaboration on behalf of Commission Staff, The Energy Project, NW Energy Coalition, and the Companies in drafting this thorough list of conditions and reviewing the BCPs.

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<sup>1</sup> See Report on 2018 Washington State Investor Owned Utility Energy Efficiency Joint Advisory Group Activities and Outcomes at 6, *In re Puget Sound Energy Report Identifying its 2018-2019 Electric Biennial Conservation Target Under RCW 19.285.040, and WAC 480-209-120*, Docket UE-171087 (filed on June 11, 2019). Consistent with Commission standard practice, each electric utility subtracted Northwest Energy Efficient Alliance (NEEA) forecasted savings.

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Public Counsel appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments. If you have any questions about this filing, please contact Shay Bauman via e-mail at [Shay.Bauman@ATG.WA.GOV](mailto:Shay.Bauman@ATG.WA.GOV).

Sincerely,

*/s/ Ann Paisner*

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