To: Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
From: Daniel Dalley, 1520 Chuckanut Crest Drive, Bellingham, WA 98229
Subject: PSE's ridiculously-high proposed rate increase
Docket: UE-220066
Date: August 19, 2022

Last winter my wife and I lost power from PSE. Since we use a water pump to bring water into the house, we cannot use the drip method of preventing frozen pipes. Our septic system also requires a pump to send effluent to the leach field. Otherwise, the effluent tank would overflow. Since there was no power and no liquid was flowing, part of our water pipe froze, and some of our effluent pipeline cracked and broke.

Given our experience, I was appalled to see a proposed 15.8 percent increase by PSE for electric service next year. The federal government keeps telling us that the long-term inflation rate is 2%. I hope that this proposal is just a bargaining tool, like the car salesman starting by saying the price is $3k over MSRP. 15.8% is unacceptable.

Also, there is no reason to raise return on equity to 9.9%. I just read this month that public pension plans have reduced their expected rate of return below the historical 7% assumption. Banks offer the general public one percent rates for our savings.
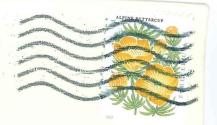
Every year PSE has blackouts with the first November winds and multiple power outages during the winter. Last year's outages seemed longer and more frequent, and the weather was colder. If PSE improved their outage record, they wouldn't need the promotional brochures they send with their monthly bill.

Based on the number of ads I see, local HVAC companies must be making a bundle on whole house generators. I think people are feeling that they may not be able to rely on their utility company.

I understand there may be a need to raise electric rates, but implement increases that are reasonable and manageable for customers.

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