

## Customer Input to UTC regarding Puget Sound Energy requests for Rate Increases

Oct 3, 2022

The "Notice of requested changes to PSE rates and public hearings" has prompted me to provide a consumer input to the UTC decision process.

The announcement of a 14% increase in energy rates for natural gas and electricity in 2023 and (17% increase in 3 years) is attributed, as you put it, to 1. Decarbonization and 2. Compliance with State Mandates, among other things.

I am against these rate increases for several reasons:

1. Puget Sound Energy (PSE) should be charged by UTC to provide not only reliable and safe energy, but AFFORDABLE energy to its customer base. These rate increases are not AFFORDABLE for much of your customer base.
2. Decarbonization of our energy systems is a high risk and very controversial, not to mention highly politicized, objective. There are many scientists that have provided scientific data and analysis that stipulate there is NO Man-made Global Warming or "Climate Change" or that "Climate Change" is a threat to our environment or planet. There are many economists that project economic turmoil and uncertainty on our complex-economic system based on cheap and readily available fossil fuels. Germany, the UK and California have all been on a pathway toward so-called "Green Energy" with disastrous consequences. Energy systems impacted by Green Energy initiatives, or Decarbonization as you have referred to it, is no longer reliable nor is it affordable.
3. While many who spoke at the meeting on Sep 28 gave voice to support "Green Energy", their primary objections to rate increases had to do with inappropriate and apparently illegal investments made by PSE for the LNG plant in Tacoma and the High Energy Transmission lines. I agree with those reasons to object to these rate increase (referred in your notice as "recover more than four years of capital and operating investments". It appears PSE is out of control of UTC for making investments and causing rate increases which were not approved by UTC.

To expound on the experience of others in pursuing decarbonization or green energy systems:

Germany, after shutting down several Nuclear Power plants and other energy production capabilities in their own country in pursuit of green energy, has now become 95% dependent on foreign oil & gas - they are now facing an energy crisis with the shutdown/destruction of the Nord Stream pipelines from Russia.

The UK, having also made reductions in nuclear, coal and oil & gas continuous duty base-load energy sources are now reported to be getting rid of Net O Energy policies as being unreliable.

California, which abandoned Nuclear plants starting in the 1980's, coal plants in the 90's, and Combined Cycle Gas Plants in 2010 thru 2012. After adding 19 million people during this period of time, CA with now a population of 40 million people has added NO base-load energy capability and is now 37% dependent on imported energy with 35% solar and wind

which are intermittent and non-reliable, non-baseload-continuous-energy sources. So at 4PM, when energy demands go up when people get home after work, the energy is not there and black-outs are the result. California is even said to be stealing energy from the lines that run thru Northern CA to Arizona and New Mexico for contracted energy from hydroelectric plants in the NW.

Is Washington going to follow in the footsteps of Germany, the UK and California with these totally unreliable and disastrous energy policies of “Decarbonization”. Is Washington State and Puget Sound Energy going to ignore the hundreds of scientists that condemn the so-called Climate Crisis claims and high risk / low reward Green Energy policies. Is Puget Sound Energy going to leave their customers, like me, high and dry without ready, reliable and affordable supplies of electricity and natural gas to power our homes with heat and light?

Respectfully submitted,

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Adendum:

**CLIMATE ECONOMICSENERGY FAIL**

## **Wave Of German Insolvencies Picks Up Speed...”Tenfold Increase in Gas, Electricity Prices”**

3 days ago Guest Blogger 109 Comments [From the NoTricksZone](#)

By *P Gosselin*

As Germany’s electricity and natural gas prices soar, a wave of companies – some having a long tradition – are filing insolvency. Many midsize companies rely on natural gas as a source of energy, but **prices have multiplied** since early this year.

**Blackout News here reports** toilet paper maker Hakle has filed for insolvency, citing “increased energy costs”.

**“Tenfold increase in gas and electricity prices”**

Others include shoe retailer Görtz, who cite low sales as consumers cut back on their discretionary spending, and automobile supplier Dr. Schneider. Steel producer ArcelorMittal in Hamburg und Bremen are also following.

“With a tenfold increase in gas and electricity prices, which we had to accept within a few months, we are no longer competitive in a market that is 25% supplied by imports. We see an urgent need for political action to get energy prices under control immediately,” said Reiner Blaschek, CEO of ArcelorMittal Germany ([Financial Market World](#)).

Another industry sector facing extreme hardship is the bakery industry, which relies heavily of affordable energy. According to Blackout News: “For bakeries, the energy crisis is now worse than the Corona pandemic, according to industry sources. ‘We have the problem as a micro baker that we have to adjust our prices to the raw material and energy prices, of course, which also burdens the customer, if he is also a bit tighter on cash,’ says an affected baker from Heilbronn.”

One baker in our local area has seen his monthly gas bills go from 3000 euros earlier this year to 11,000 euros!

### **“Severe and long-lasting recession”**

The wave of insolvencies has just begun, and is “picking up speed”, writes [Blackout News](#). “What we are seeing now is just the tip of an iceberg. Increased energy prices are affecting all industries, whether directly, as in the case of steel mills and bakeries, or indirectly, as in the case of shoe retailer Görtz. If politicians do not take countermeasures here, Germany will fall into a severe and long-lasting recession, with mass unemployment and a massive loss of prosperity.”