

August 15, 2022

UTC  
PO Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504

Puget Sound Energy  
PO Box 97034  
Bellevue, WA 98009-9734

Re: Docs UE-220066 and UG-220067

Dear Council Members:

I am in receipt of the proposed rate increase notice for both gas and electric services provided by Puget Sound Energy.

Given that the attorney general is questioning the validity of the information you've provided, I also disagree whole-heartedly of raising these rates by over 28% in **one** year. Those of us who live on social security sure don't get that kind of rate increase to compensate for this drastic hike in our utility bills. This ridiculous amount needs to be tossed out and try out again for a more reasonable amount or none at all, which is my preference.

As stated in your notice, "To recover more than four years of capital and operating investments made on behalf of customers and not currently included in PSE's rates" is not a viable excuse for a rate increase. Any business owner who wishes to expand and/or improve his own business will do so out of the profits his company makes. He doesn't expect the public to foot the bill TWICE. Nor do they overextend unnecessarily. Neither do we need to pay for "**upcoming** capital investments and operating costs over the three-year period". You cannot tell the public PSE has been "carrying" them for years and expect us to believe that with continued rate increases every year. Is there a refund in order for any funds collected on a project that ends up not being built? What if I'm not here in three years? Do I get a refund for paying for something I'm not using? If your operating costs are increasing that much, then you need to reflect on whether your employees (especially the top tier) are being too highly compensated as is the case with most businesses of your stature. Spread around the savings from these unnecessary salaries, and you'll find funds to help pay for those capital "investments". You don't need to take any more of my money for it. Sounds like a lot of poor/misguided planning on your part.

As I have stated in letters of years past, my energy use footprint is extremely low compared with others in the community. My house now, instead of being at 64 degrees in 2012, is now at 62-63 for my day time high. How many people do you know who would put up with sitting in the cold to reduce the utility costs? I can't do any more to reduce my usage but every time I try, YOU keep raising the rates! This is a Catch-22 for all your customers as no matter what we do, you're going to continually raise rates to where no one can afford to turn a light on. I even unplug anything I can that's not in use just to keep from drawing even a spark of electricity!

You also need to stop STEALING from me to pay someone else's bills. If you want to provide energy to someone who is unfortunate to not afford your charges, or someone too lazy to pay their bills, then take it

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out of your profits. **DO NOT STEAL** it from ME to pay their bills. **You don't have the right to force me to donate in this manner and I want a REFUND for all you've taken from me! I'll donate to whom I please, when I please; not at your bidding.**

So council members, please reconsider this proposed rate hike and either lower it or get rid of it altogether, and remove the forced donations. Get off the socialist/Marxism bandwagon of this day and get back to running an honest, for the people business of integrity. Otherwise you're going to end up with a homeless population you can't control and you'll still have no profits. And the only ones left to pay the astronomical prices will be you.

Respectfully submitted,

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Bonney Lake, WA

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