

## Public Comments by Case

**Total Comments:** 311

**In Favor:** 1

**Opposed:** 302

**Undecided:** 8

Filing Support	Commenter	Source	Comments
No			
	Lawrence L. Fisher	E-mail	<p>I am opposed to any electric rate increases over years 2025 and 2026. Electricity rates should go no higher than they are now.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lawrence L. Fisher</p>
	Andrea M. Smiley on behalf Building Industry Assoc	E-mail	<p>*** See attachment for comment***</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>Please see the attached file for our comments regarding the consolidated docket, which includes UE-240004, UG-240005, and UE-230810.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Andrea M. Smiley, MPA Legislative Director Building Industry Association of Washington 300 Deschutes Way SW, Suite 300 Tumwater, WA 98501 O: 360-352-7800 ext. 114 C: 360-852-2733 andreas@biaw.com   BIAW.com</p>

	<p>Charles W. Crider Skagit/Island Counties Builders</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>***See attachment for comment***</p> <p>Attached is our input concerning the proposed PSE Rate Increases for 2025 and 2026.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Charles W. Crider Executive Officer Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association 360 757-6916 www.sicba.org www.nahb.org/savings for member savings programs</p>
	<p>Ed Primasing, Pacific Coast Building Products</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>***See Attachment***</p> <p>Please let me know if you have any further questions!</p> <p>Edward J. Primasing Director of Marketing &amp; Business Development   PCCI Marketing Department 10811 International Drive   Rancho Cordova, CA 95670 PH: 916.631.6604   CELL: 916-534-0505</p>
	<p>Robert E Lee, Building Industry Association of Wha</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>***See attachment for comment***</p> <p>Please find comments on behalf of the Building Industry Association of Whatcom County regarding proposed PSE rate increases for 2025/26</p> <p>Robert E Lee Executive Officer BIAWC</p>
	<p>Dylan Sluder, Master Builders Association of King</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>***SEE ATTACHMENT***</p> <p>Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission</p> <p>Please find the attached comments from the Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties regarding Puget Sound Energy’s General Rate Case (GRC) filing. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this important measure. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.</p>

			<p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Dylan Sluder</p> <p>Dylan Sluder   State Government Affairs Manager Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties</p> <p>p 425.460.8236 c 812.251.7187 335 116th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA 98004</p>
	Christina Janis	E-mail	<p>October 8, 2024</p> <p>Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Via email: <a href="mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov">comments@utc.wa.gov</a> and <a href="mailto:utility@atg.wa.gov">utility@atg.wa.gov</a></p> <p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concerns about Puget Sound Energy's proposed rate increases for 2025 to 2026. Utility rate increases harm my clients in several ways, especially during economic uncertainty. As a real estate agent and broker, higher utility costs make properties less attractive to potential buyers, especially those on tight budgets or fixed incomes. Increased rates also add to my business's operational expenses through higher energy costs in maintaining office space for our team.</p> <p>Furthermore, these higher costs can slow down the housing market, as potential buyers may hesitate to invest in a home when monthly utility expenses continue to rise at unprecedented rates. As you can imagine, this ultimately affects both the value of homes and the speed of transactions, that will greatly impact both buyers and sellers as well as my own livelihood.</p> <p>Please reject PSE's proposed tariff revision and put Washingtonians first.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Christina Janis Epic Realty / Rob Rice Homes 360-888-2295</p>

	John Erwin	E-mail	<p>October 8, 2024 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission</p> <p>Via email: comments@utc.wa.gov and utility@atg.wa.gov Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>As a remodeling contractor serving Thurston County and operating within Puget Sound Energy's service area, I am writing to express my concern over the proposed rate increases for electric and gas services in the coming two years.</p> <p>Many of my clients are already managing tight budgets, particularly due to the rising costs of labor and materials. Even a modest rate increase would exacerbate their financial challenges, making it harder for homeowners to afford essential upgrades that improve energy efficiency or address accessibility needs. A large portion of my clientele consists of retirees and individuals on fixed incomes, who are especially vulnerable to any increase in their monthly expenses.</p> <p>I urge you to reject PS E's proposed tariff revision in order to protect homeowners and ensure that necessary home improvements remain accessible.</p>
	William Jaques	E-mail	<p>Sep 30, 2024</p> <p>These are my comments on the requested changes to electric and natural gas rates on Dockets UE-240004 and UG-240005.</p> <p>I believe the rate increases proposed are excessive and downright demeaning. The cost of electricity and natural gas services has not increased nearly as much as the proposed rate increases, and the company is making an exorbitant amount of profit as demonstrated by the extravagant salaries of executives (and probably employees). They need to get their house in order and bring down internal costs instead of sticking it to their customers. They essentially have a monopoly on energy in this area and that is why a private foreign company bought PSE in the first place. Those of us who are on fixed incomes do not have a choice of using less and less energy to survive and the WUTC has as an obligation to deny approval of such an exorbitant rate increase. See below the windfall salaries of executives on the back of us common people. There are many more managers who make an exorbitant salary who may not even be needed. What ever happened to lean management?</p> <p>As President and Chief Executive Officer at PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC, Mary E. Kipp made \$2,942,831 in total compensation in 2019, \$5,296,566 in 2020, and \$4,414,245 in 2021 with a pay ratio of 34:1.</p> <p>As Former Senior Vice President Chief Financial Officer at PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC, Daniel A. Doyle made \$2,193,609 in total compensation in 2019, \$1,909,022 in 2020, and \$1,286,597 in 2021.</p> <p>As Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC, Kazi Hasan made \$1,116,080 in total compensation in 2021.</p>

			<p>As Senior Vice President, Chief Operations Officer at PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC, Booga K. Gilbertson made \$1,333,686 in total compensation in 2020, and \$1,122,110 in 2021.</p> <p>As Senior Vice President Shared Services and CIO at PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC, Margaret F. Hopkins made \$845,652 in total compensation in 2020, and \$819,748 in 2021.</p> <p>As Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Chief Ethics &amp; Compliance Officer at PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC, Steve R. Secrist made \$1,636,062 in total compensation in 2020, and \$1,374,934 in 2021.</p> <p>As Senior Vice President Regulatory and Strategy at PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC, Adrian J. Rodriguez made \$1,316,682 in total compensation in 2021.</p> <p>They no longer publish their salaries so these figures are probably low. Natural gas prices have declined in the past few years and upgrades and modernization projects of existing facilities are just buzz words to try to justify ripping off customers. New customer fees and payments should be enough to cover most improvements. An increase of \$17.29% for natural gas is ridiculous and shows that they are just taking advantage of us NORMAL people and using inflation as an excuse. There is no way the rich officers EARN these large salaries. Why are they MODERNIZING equipment anyway when the state has mandated that natural gas be eliminated? I believe they are gouging us now to cover their losses in the future. Us seniors are the ones that are really hurting and not making million dollar salaries.</p> <p>Thank you for your support in this matter, William Jaques</p>
	Eric Willacker	E-mail	<p>To whom it concern</p> <p>I recently saw that Puget Sound Energy is requesting ANOTHER rare increase, this is ridiculous! They are already so expensive that it's almost impossible for those of us on fixed incomes to afford to heat our homes as it is. This foreign owned corporation can afford to pay for their required upgrades without raising rates again. I'm sure their CEO makes millions of dollars a year, they can simply reduce his pay to afford the upgrades instead of passing it on to customers. Please, I'm begging you, do not approve their recent request for rate increase as it will be extremely damaging to those who are on fixed incomes. Please think about the citizens of WA first, we matter more than the CEO of a foreign corporation making millions. Thank you</p> <p>Eric Willacker</p>

Lisa Turnpaugh	E-mail	<p>To the incredibly outlandish rate increase that PSE is requesting. At a time when individuals and families are struggling to even afford groceries, PSE wants to add even more to the inability to pay for basic necessities.</p> <p>In 2 years' time, PSE is asking for an average \$19.00 per month increase for electricity and a \$15.47 per month increase for gas. If a PSE customer has both electricity and gas in their home, that is a \$34.47 increase per month. (\$413.00 more per year) This doesn't take into account if a customer needs to use more when the weather is brutal. I sincerely doubt that a minimum wage employee will be privileged to receive this type of wage increase! For some, who have to cut back on their groceries and medications, \$400+ a year is A LOT of money.</p> <p>Please show compassion and vote 'NO' to such outrageous increase proposals. Please help Washington residents NOT have to decide between utilities and groceries/medications.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Lisa Turnpaugh</p> <p>Sent from Mail for Windows</p>
Landon Labosky	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I was recently listening to a KUOW news podcast and they indicated that PSE will be increasing rates, over a two year period; 17% for electric and 20% for gas.</p> <p>I have concerns this increase will impact, just like every time increases happen, low-income, BIPOC and other marginalized communities in our area.</p> <p>Instead of pushing this burden on these communities, and more customers, I urge the commission to look at the salaries and bonus of the executive leadership of PSE, to start.</p> <p>According to SEC filings, in 2022, Mary E. Kipp, President and CEO of Puget Sound Energy, made almost \$1,000,000 as a base salary and over \$3.6 million in bonuses and incentive compensation. Totalling over \$4.7 million in total compensation for 2022.</p> <p>In comparison, the highest rate I could find for an employee being paid at Seattle City Light was \$157.88 an hour, equalling \$326,560 yearly.</p>

		<p>I urge the commission to take a look at this rate increase from PSE and really think if we should be putting this burden on the millions of people served in the community, or start with the few becoming millionaires from a utility company. I argue, as a well-educated government employee, that utility companies need to be run in good faith and nobody in those organizations should be making millions off the backs of customers, many of whom rely solely on PSE for utility services. This is unacceptable and needs to be corrected.</p> <p>I grew up in the Central Valley of California, where Pacific Gas and Energy (PG&amp;E) has become a monopoly and has gouged its customers in energy costs, supplying the salaries and bonuses of its executives, for years if not decades. We cannot allow PSE to go down this same path and must take action to stop allowing people to become millionaires off the backs of people relying on necessary utilities in their areas. Or, we at least need to start the conversation of transitioning this private company out of running a public utility and implementing a publically run utility for PSE's customers.</p> <p>Thank you for your time reading this and your work serving on a commission. Voicing the concerns of the citizens in your state is important work and must continue for a functioning society.</p> <p>-- Landon Labosky (he/him)</p>
	Nita Johnson	<p>E-mail</p> <p>I thought you should see how your decision has affected our family's residential bill for the first 2 billings of 2024 , compared to 2023:</p> <p>On two very mild months, our bill was \$150 per month higher than any time in the past, including colder months. It might not seem like much, but month over month that is a huge hit to our budget. With colder months it will be more. A \$2000+ increase in just power a year is huge. We will be paying between \$8k and \$9k annually just for PSE. My after tax take home pay to raise a family, make house payments, health insurance, and keep food on the table is about \$90k. You think it is ok to approve a rate increase that takes almost 10% of my take home pay just for power? Your approval is insane and completely out of touch with what your constituents are having to deal with. Did you not stop to think about the people you were affecting?</p> <p>(We do not run our heat high at all- 67 degrees during day and 60 degrees at night. I wear a fleece sweatshirt all day in the house 6 months out of the year. We only turn on A/C when it gets very hot out. Can you imagine if I was a senior person that needed the heat higher to be comfortable?)</p> <p>My last cost of living adjustment at work following the area CPI was 3.5%, and will be lower than that in 2024 and 2025 as inflation cools. Yet PSE gets 6.9% and 9.6% increases? I would love as a business owner to raise my prices this much, but customers would go elsewhere. I can't go elsewhere as PSE is the electrical provider</p>

			<p>for my area.</p> <p>You make decisions that don't make sense. No other business can pass on these kinds of rate increases, and as long as you approve them, they have no incentive to look at their costs and run their business more efficiently. Yes, PSE is building a new facility. Then PSE should have the foresight to have saved for that capital expenditure over time, not to gouge its customers to get it done.</p> <p>When rates go up, they never go back down. So my rates go up compounded over 20% over 3 years, and I have to keep paying that amount over time? The current growth rate in WA (state GDP) is 3.51%. A rate increase more in line with this and a similar employee increase as mentioned would make sense. No one can afford what you have approved.</p> <p>I elect representatives that are supposed to look after my interests, and yet we as PSE customers have been sold out. You are the regulatory body. Start regulating, not lining your own pockets.</p> <p>I implore you to reconsider your approval and take another look and put these rate increases back in line with what people can actually afford.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Nita Johnson</p>
	<p>Randall Francom</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>External Email</p> <p>Puget Sound Energy's requests to increase rates are way beyond what it should need. Nearly 16% increase for electricity and over 21% for natural gas over two years are more than three times the rate of inflation. How can that be justified? My income is not keeping up and I think that's the same for most customers.</p> <p>Randall Francom</p>
	<p>Darrell Davies</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>External Email</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I do not think that the UTC should approve this proposal. Residents of PSE are already paying quite high utility bills, and PSE is still raking in record profits nearly 3 billion dollars. I don't mind sharing the costs of making electricity and natural gas are more cost effective and lower the bills of hard working American, but each year PSE and this board approves increases, the only thing these increases are doing is increasing the bottom line for PSE.</p>



		<p>Please do the right thing and look after the average joe in Western Washington and don't approve this proposal. This is over 200.00 dollars a month for just heating and lights. For a below average electricity bill. Average is around 900 if not closer to 1000Kw per month per house. 2400.00 dollars a year, that is approximately 7% of a person earning the minimum wage in Washington. That is just for 1 utility company. Washington State is always saying that they want to help prevent homelessness and keep people from being poor, but when a company is already having profit year over year, and the cost of everything is rising everywhere, then people are going to be stretched too thin and eventually before they know it, broke. But basic living items, water, heat should be cheaper for us then about profits and increases.</p> <p>Thank you for hearing me out,</p> <p>Please do the right thing and help out the electric bill payer this time and deny the proposal.</p> <p>A PSE customer.</p>
	<p>Craig A. Russo</p>	<p>E-mail</p> <p>I saw the notice of rate increases, which I expected. I pose some questions though as to the expenditure of your resources. You've shuttered the last coal plant, you are closing down 4 Hydroelectric dams! I see not mention of building any new power plants, Gas , nuclear or thermal. You waste your resources on wind farms and solar, none of which are economic or efficient kw/\$ ratio. With all the volcanic mantel around Washington, I find it disheartening that no thermal plants are being thought about. I guess the wind farm and solar lobby is stronger than the thermal/fossil fuel or nuclear lobby. The rate of growth in Washington, coupled with the idiotic green house agenda, will leave our infrastructure crippled and costs will continue to rise and more power shortages as you squander your resources to wasteful energy endeavors. Our politicians seem out of touch with reality, as they push for an unaffordable green house agenda, tying your hands with nonsense laws to keep you from doing the right thing. Think outside the box and push/research thermal power plants.</p> <p>Thanks Craig A. Russo</p>
	<p>Janet Smoot</p>	<p>E-mail</p> <p>I just wrote to you about the increase request for Disposal Services and today another letter in my mail requesting another basic servies increase for Puget Sound Energy. Docket UE-240004 (electric) and UG-24005 (natural gas).</p> <p>As a newly retired person I am concerned about the price increase requested by Puget Sound Energy. They have requested prices inreases for electric services 6.74% and 9.30% for the next two years and 18.96% and 2.07% for natural gas services. That is certainly above the current 3.2% COLA currently projected for 2024 for social security recipients.</p> <p>In following the governors direction, we replaced the aging gas furnace with a "Smart" electric furnace. We still</p>

			<p>have a gas water heater and gas stove. The requested rate increases for electricity will negate any savings we would have realized for the new furnace. AND we still have a couple appliances we can't afford to replace. What are we to do - STOP using hot water and not cook meals?</p> <p>This increase request is extremely upsetting as I will not be getting more income over the 3.2% projected income for my social security income.</p> <p>PLEASE, Please consider carefully before approving such a request.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Janet Smoot</p>
	Sarajane Siegfriedt	E-mail	<p>Please reconsider the excessive rate increases you are proposing. Rather than replace outdated pipelines, you should be investing heavily in alternative energy systems. How about burying a new energy grid in those old pipelines?</p> <p>Sarajane Siegfriedt, retired Seattle WA</p>
	David Lewis	E-mail	<p>Rates are too high now, and they steal our solar arrays pence of cents and it is a fraud on payers. Turn down all rates until they pay us solar people what we are doing!</p> <p>Stopping the rate increases is an assault on us all!!!</p> <p>David Lewis</p>
	Kelton Montgomery on behalf of Cascade Irrigation	E-mail	<p>Public Utility Commission,</p> <p>On February 15, 2024, PSE filed a general rate case with the UTC. Attached please find a pdf of the overall rate change for electric that was sent to the customers. Cascade Irrigation District is considered #35 on the electric schedule as highlighted. As you can see the electric schedule 35 is for primary voltage irrigation. In 2022 PSE asked for 26%. Although they did not get the full 26%, with the increases/adjustments on the riders attached to the bill the bill did go up 26%. Now PSE is requesting 13.30% for 2025 and 11.94% for 2026. If the increases get approved our power bills will be 51% higher at the beginning of 2026 than they were in 2022. I do know that costs have been rising but I am willing to bet that the agriculture industry is not getting 51% more for the crops they produce. This past month our PSE bill was \$ 73,776.23 for the main pumps, if these proposed increases get approved the same bill would be \$93568.93 in 2026. The increase in power is not sustainable for the agriculture</p>

		<p>community. Cascade Irrigation is a special purpose district formed under RCW 87.03; we are not a for profit company. All cost accrued by the district are passed on to the customer through assessments. I understand that PSE is trying to make improvements and upgrades, Cascade Irrigation wishes to make upgrades and improvements as well. When the power costs continue to rise as proposed there is nothing left for the District to invest in improvements. I humbly ask that you consider all aspects before making your determination.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Kelton Montgomery District Manager Cascade Irrigation District 8063 Hwy 10 Ellensburg, WA 98926 Office (509) 962-9583 Mobile (509) 899-3311 Email cid@fairpoint.net</p>
Chad H. H. Johnson	E-mail	<p>Good afternoon - to whom it may concern</p> <p>I received the latest proposed rate increase from PSE and I have to say, this is disturbing to say the least.</p> <p>What could possibly warrant a 19% increase in natural gas and 7% increase in electricity rates with further rate increases planned? This is terribly impactful to those with a fixed income and is also poor planning on PSE's part. Putting a huge increase burden up front does not allow the consumer to adjust spending and plan accordingly.</p> <p>I read the reasonings but what warrants all of these changes immediately rather than a gradual step and input from communities?</p> <p>What cost cutting measures has PSE put in place trying to mitigate these rate increases for increased operating costs?</p> <p>I urge the commission to reduce these fee hikes to a reasonable steady growth and reasonable investment in infrastructure.</p> <p>Chad H. H. Johnson</p>

	Daniel Schall	E-mail	<p>Dear Sir or Madam,</p> <p>Between July 2019 and July 2024, my electricity cost increased 27% already (per kWh), exceeding the inflation rate by large. During that same time, my gas cost increased by 82% (per therm), costing PSE customers significantly more over the years!</p> <p>I STRONGLY oppose future price hikes. People in King county are already paying very high prices for power and we do not have a choice in our electricity or gas supplier like we would in a free market. We have to rely on UTC to regulate fair prices, since there is no competition. The proposed price increased by PSE are putting an unfair burden on consumers, and I expect UTC to push back on this.</p> <p>Thanks Daniel Schall</p>
	Eric Bartlett	E-mail	<p>I am appalled that our utility company is owned by foreign investors that have no interest in providing affordable energy to WA residents. It appears PSE was granted cumulative increases on residential customers in 2023 and 2024 of over 10.5% (electric) &amp; 8.1% (gas). Now they want another cumulative increase of 16% (electric) &amp; 21% (gas) for 2025-26?</p> <p>My income (nor inflation) has not increased anywhere near this much and I find it hard to believe a utility company has such high variable costs. I also thought PSE has been encouraging people to improve energy efficiency so why are costs skyrocketing under the management of these Canadian pension funds? Are we here to fund Canadians retirement plans as Washington residents (that have no alternative choice for power) or ensure Washingtonians have affordable energy?</p> <p>I request that you deny their increase and consider forcing the Canadian pension funds to sell their ownership (maybe to WA pension funds????).</p> <p>Eric Bartlett</p>
	Liubov Boujor	E-mail	<p>Gentlemen:</p> <p>I am AGAINST the gas and electric rate hikes that Puget Sound Energy is proposing.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p>

			Lioubov Boujor
	Richard Mikita	E-mail	<p>Gentlemen:</p> <p>I am AGAINST the gas and electric rate hikes that Puget Sound Energy is proposing.</p> <p>Respectfully, Richard Mikita Issaquah,WA</p>
	Fred Yancey	E-mail	<p>Puget Sound Energy recently mailed a notice about upcoming rate changes. I was stunned. Inflation has been a factor in recent times and the PSE rate proposals are just an example of how a company delivering essential services can gouge its consumers. Proposed rate changes for 2025 range from 7.19% increase for electric service to 17.29% for natural gas. In 2026, the range goes from an additional 9.58% to 1.59%.</p> <p>These proposed increases far exceed any salary, pension, or social security increases that would help an individual absorb these upcoming rates.</p> <p>PSE lists the reasons for what they call “adjustments” and they use words like “to continue, deploy, invest, fund” various company operations. the most important one that is never detailed is "To recover increased operating costs." It's these costs that would be the most telling. How many dollars will go toward 6 and 7 figure salaries? How many will fund stock buybacks? Dividends? How much is budgeted for profit?</p> <p>In these inflationary times, it is insensitive to heap such high increases on consumers when operating as a virtual monopoly providing a service that is mandatory, not optional. Hopefully, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission will insist that specifics are given for each of the reasons PSE is using to justify the rate changes. Then, even more hopefully, the Commission will determine if they are justified in their asks.</p> <p>Fred Yancey Sent from my iPad</p>
	Tina Embree	E-mail	<p>I received a notice from PSE that electric rate increases of 6.74% have been requested by PSE for 2025, followed by another 9.3% increase in 2026.</p> <p>I have concerns and questions about this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First, this seems excessive. The issue is that utilities are not optional discretionary income costs but rather required needs.</li> <li>• Why is our only choice for gas and electric a "for profit" company rather than a public utility? Why are there no options/competitors?</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why are consumers given no options for avoiding these increases (which PSE states are to "increase revenue")</li> <li>• What guardrails are in place to make the projects that PSE is proposing efficient and actually aligned to these rate increases?</li> <li>• Is there any responsibility on the part of PSE to not just maximize profits?</li> <li>• What protections are in place for consumers that did not anticipate these increases, in addition to the other huge increases in cost of living in the last few years?</li> <li>• It sounds like PSE wants to get back funds that they put into projects that they should be required to do anyway, in providing service and in the public safety.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you, -Tina Embree</p>
	<p>Suzanne Hensler</p>	<p>E-mail Dear Sir/Madam:</p> <p>It is my understanding that the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Office of the Attorney General represents residential customers of Puget Sound Energy. I am writing to OPPOSE Puget Sound Energy’s proposed rate increases in 2025 and 2026.</p> <p>We had a new energy efficient furnace and heat pump installed in July 2023. We have double pane windows. We had our attic insulation replaced. We use Energy Star appliances. We have replaced all lightbulbs with LEDs. We keep our thermostat on a schedule at reasonable temperatures and we routinely wear sweaters, robes, and/or jackets in the house trying to keep warm. We try to utilize off-peak hours whenever we can for doing laundry, etc. In winter months, we spend anywhere from \$800.00 to \$1,000.00+ per MONTH when heating our home, which uses a combination of PROPANE and ELECTRIC, which is already ASTRONOMICAL!</p> <p>Additionally, PSE’s “Overall Average Bill Impact” (Electric only) is based on only 800 kWh per month usage. We used nearly 3x that according to our December 2023 statement, which showed we used 2,353.475 kWh between 11/10/2023 and 12/11/2023. Our bill was \$313.47 that month. Our propane bill was over \$700. Total cost for heating + electric that month was over \$1,000.00!</p> <p>If PSE’s proposed rate increases are approved, by January 2026, the ELECTRIC ONLY “Basic Charge” would increase \$5.17. The cost for 0-600 kWh would increase \$10.40, and the cost for 600+ kWh would increase \$3.47. Based on their “average,” that’s an increase of \$19.04 for an “average” customer (800 kWh used per month). For us, we would have to multiply that by roughly 3, which would raise the rates to a minimum of \$60+ more per month since other charges and taxes would also increase accordingly. And that doesn’t include propane expenses.</p> <p>Thankfully, we do NOT use NATURAL GAS, although we do use PROPANE, which also has increased astronomically in recent years – especially during the winter months.</p>

			<p>Overall, for PSE customers using both ELECTRIC and NATURAL GAS, these proposed rate increases could be devastating for many. PSE is proposing to increase residential NATURAL GAS by January 2026 nearly 20% -- not including ELECTRIC! This is absolutely RIDICULOUS and unfair to middle class individuals, many of whom are struggling with the high cost of gas, food, medical, education, insurance, and utilities expenses. Most people do NOT get wage increases to sustain these massive increases imposed by greedy corporations and utility companies.</p> <p>Utility companies should not be able to price gouge their customers and they have been. There is no competition. We have no choice. We should be able to vote on this; unfortunately, that's not how this works. We have to trust Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to examine the proposed rates and either approve these rates at either a lower (or higher) rate than PSE's request. I request that you do NOT approve such a drastic increase.</p> <p>I oppose these extreme increases and have taken two hours out of my busy day to prepare and send this email to you. Unfortunately, most people will not be able to find the extra time in their busy schedules to oppose these increases proposed by PSE. I believe I speak for many who may not have the time to oppose these increases.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion, and I sincerely hope you take my opinion into consideration when deciding whether or not to approve the proposed rate increases by PSE.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Suzanne Hensler</p>
	Peter Tounas	E-mail	<p>The proposed increases are totally unacceptable. The way the increases are presented is a clever way of not showing the true effect. Over the next two years the total average increase for electrical and gas is over 35%. I am amazed that the proposed increases are so accurate they are in the two decimal format.</p> <p>I am not opposed to electric vehicles, but I am opposed to having to pay one dime for the people that want to drive one. Same for new housing developments. As a retired senior citizen, I have been paying for expansion all of my life. If more energy is required for new homes let them pay for it.</p> <p>So now PSE is proposing an increase for gas and electrical of over 35% at a time when the credit card indebtedness in this country is the highest in history. Let's face it, PSE is a monopoly, but there is no other reasonable recourse. Thank goodness we have a Utilities Commission to provide some sort of control over these absurd increases.</p> <p>The total increases over the next two years must not exceed 15%. If that cannot not be met, perhaps the problem</p>

			lies within the management of the PSE.
	Casey Smith	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern, Regarding the Proposed rate change to PSE rates. I think that the Information given is skewed and Not relaying the fact that the Basic Charge Currently \$7.49 increases by 30% in 2025 and an addition 30+% in 2026 for an overall increase of 69%. I believe that most people that are being charged only the Basic Fee are Solar Owners and PSE IS trying to Recoup dollars from them. I would understand if the rate per kWh increase was the same as the basic charge. I think that the Increase is Discriminating between solar and non solar customers.</p> <p>Best regards</p> <p>Casey Smith Vice president Matheus Lumber Co Inc.</p>
	Ron Lalime	E-mail	<p>These are huge rate increases! These add up to over \$35/month when complete. That is over \$400 per year. That is a financial hardship for most families when we are all struggling to make ends meet. Any increase larger than 3-5% is unfair to hard-working families.</p> <p>Thank you for listening,</p> <p>Ron Lalime</p>
	Leslie Norton	E-mail	<p>External Email</p> <p>The size of the rate increase proposed by PSE is almost laughable, given the inflationary period in which consumers have been struggling the past few years. Is this just a bargaining tool, e.g. ask for an 18% increase and plan to settle for 10-12%? PSE has presented a massive wish list of projects — and presumably all needed to be funded immediately?</p> <p>UTC — when evaluating this rate increase, please consider the substantial inflationary increases that consumers are already trying to manage in housing, food, gas, insurance, healthcare, etc. How do you expect household budgets to also absorb a double digit energy price increase when average salary and Social Security increases are in the low single digits?</p> <p>I suggest that PSE be asked to go back to the drawing board to scale back and re-prioritize their objectives into a plan that is more affordable to the average household. A rate increase of 5-8% should be the maximum range</p>



			<p>considered for approval.</p> <p>Regards, Leslie Norton</p>
	Wei	E-mail	<p>Hello there,</p> <p>The proposed Puget Sound Energy rate increase will be a big financial shock to many families struggling to make ends meet due to significant price increases across the board in recent years. It will negatively impact the affordability of their basic energy needs. Puget Sound Energy should first explore options to operate more efficiently and reduce unnecessary expenses before asking for any rate increases. Also, any reasonable rate increase should be done gradually over several years so people can have the time to make financial adjustments to accommodate the higher energy cost without suffering hardship. Thank you very much for protecting and advocating for the interest of our community.</p> <p>Best regards, Wei</p>
	Nicole	E-mail	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I read recently about the proposed price increases from PSE for electric and gas utilities in Whatcom County. I did not want to believe the increase in not only one, but two years in a row, but it seems as though that is the plan.</p> <p>Whatcom county is already struggling with long-time residents being priced out of our area. What was once an affordable quirky town, is now becoming out of reach for most individuals. I know that the overall economy in Whatcom County is not the issue of the UTC, but you could still have an impact for our community that is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Everything is going up in price. To suggest a price hike outpacing the national average is an undue burden to residents across the state.</p> <p>Please reconsider the effect this will have on lower and middle income individuals.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

			Nicole
	Thomas Fogg	E-mail	<p>To All Concerned Parties,</p> <p>The proposed rate hikes, especially affecting natural gas usage, are completely irresponsible and outrageous. Older customers who live on a fixed income are experiencing difficult times as it is with the out-of-control inflation causing prices to spiral. Now there is a proposed 18.96% increase in natural gas in a one-year period. Millions of dollars have been arbitrarily thrown at the homelessness crisis and it continues to grow. This is a good snapshot as to the reason why. Keep passing on the cost of poor budgeting and management on the part of government and large corporations to the elderly, retired, and low income wage earners and those people will continue to join the ranks of the homeless. If the out of touch political elite and high dollar techies want to pass laws requiring cap and trade, allowing natural gas appliance phase out, and other utility mandates, let them suffer and pay for the monetary consequences.</p> <p>Residential and small business customers have to carry the brunt of the poor decisions coming out of Olympia. Isn't it curious how in this case of rate increases being proposed these customers are represented by a division of the Washington State Attorney General's Office which reports to the same Governor who keeps passing mandates like cap and trade, and gas taxes that make our prices go up. And this same attorney general is now running for Governor on the same "raise the taxes and fees platform" as our current Governor. This sounds more like a conflict of interest than fair representation.</p> <p>If you want to recoup these investments PSE claims these proposed rate increases are attributed to, maybe look scaling up the rates for large scale pollutants like trucking industries, refineries, and the airlines. Compare the usage and pollution rates there verses our vehicles and homes. As a side note - When gas prices in downtown San Francisco or Honolulu are equal to or more than prices in Shoreline Washington there is a problem. Believe it. I have a picture.</p> <p>At what point do we admit this is excessive and abusive to the utility customers and when is it going to stop?</p> <p>Thomas Fogg</p>
	V. Wright	E-mail	<p>Hi,</p> <p>This email serves as a disagreement with PSEs request to steeply and unfairly increase in rates in Whatcom and Skagit county (ublic hearing information as well on the supplied image! Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024, at 6 p.m.).</p> <p>PSE has requested the following:</p>

		<p>Electric Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 – An overall 6.74% increase in rates generating an additional \$192.2 million in revenue. A typical residential customer using 800 kilowatt-hours would see an overall average 7.19% increase, or \$7.84 per month.</li> <li>• 2026 – An overall 9.30% increase in rates generating an additional \$285.2 million in revenue. A typical residential customer using 800 kilowatt-hours would see an average 9.58% increase, or \$11.20 per month.</li> </ul> <p>Natural Gas Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 – An overall 18.96% increase in rates generating an additional \$196 million in revenue. A typical residential customer using 64 therms would see an overall average 17.29% increase, or \$13.96 per month.</li> <li>• 2026 – An overall 2.07% increase in rates generating an additional \$25.3 million in revenue. A typical residential customer using 64 therms would see an overall average 1.59% increase, or \$1.51 per month.</li> </ul> <p>These increases are wildly unreasonable for a 1-2 year timeframe, and with no indications they will ever go back down. Just for reference, inflation this year has hovered around ~3.5%, nowhere near these amounts.</p> <p>As a citizen of Whatcom/Bellingham, I find these proposed increases to be wildly unreasonable, and a worryingly large burden on the middle and lower class. As a renter, these proposed increase will be terribly expensive on top of continuous rental increases. My family and I have no hope of switching to solar until owning a home. In an already uncomfortable economy, adding/increasing prices of services pose a larger challenge in saving funds to purchase for a home.</p> <p>Again, I refuse this request made by PSE.</p> <p>V. Wright They/Them</p>
	<p>Jerry Breese</p>	<p>E-mail</p> <p>Puget Sound Energy is proposing electric and gas utility increases for the upcoming year 2025 in the amounts of 7.19% and 17.29% respectively. My wife and I are on a fixed income. Last year our Social Security increased 3.2%. Any utility increase above that amount is deficit spending. I could more easily support their request IF it was of a reasonable amount more closely tied to COLA, or IF i were still working, which I am not. Therefore, please tell me exactly how you propose we pay an increase (17.29%) more than 5 times greater than our adjusted (3.2% in 2024) income? So, NO, I do not support their rate hikes as proposed.</p> <p>Perhaps PSE, in the spirit of working WITH senior citizens, not against them, should cap rates for senior</p>

			<p>citizens.</p> <p>Thanks.</p>
	Teri Hall	E-mail	<p>To Whom it Mat Concern,</p> <p>I am emailing to protest the enormous rate hikes PSE is requesting. For 2025 they are requesting a hike that will bring them over 192 MILLION in revenue. For 2026, they want to bring in over 285 MILLION.</p> <p>There is no indicator that supports this sort of rate hike. Inflation? Nope. It's at around 3.5 now and likely to go down more. This is pure and simple GREED, and if these rate hikes are approved, please be assured that the folks who approve them will feel the wrath of the voters. To raise rates this high during a time (especially for Bellingham) when people can barely afford to hold on to the house they own, if they are so lucky, or can barely afford rent (which will go up as landlords pass this rate hike on to their tenants) is beyond the pale. REJECT PSE's rate hike request.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Teri Hall, a voter</p>
	Micah Rubart	E-mail	<p>As a member of the Whatcom county and resident of Bellingham, UE-240004 and UG-240005 are outrageous increases over a two year period.</p> <p>Those percentages are astronomical in comparison to the rates of wage increase and inflation. There must be checks and restrictions to protect the wallets of the people in the community. We have to take action to reject these proposed increases.</p> <p>Best, Micah Rubart</p>
	Tom	E-mail	<p>Hello -</p> <p>We disagree with PSE's calculations and it will have a negative impact. If PSE is unable to deliver reasonable service, we recommend the formation of a Public Utility District.</p> <p>Thanks,</p>

			Tom
	Grace N.	E-mail	<p>07/25/2024</p> <p>RE: Dockets UE-240004 (electric service) and UG-240005 (natural gas service)</p> <p>Dear Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Office of the Attorney General,</p> <p>My family has been Washington State residents for most of our lives. The continual rate increases for natural gas and electricity must slow down. Middle and low income families cannot keep up with the increased cost of living expenses for: housing, transportation, electricity, natural gas, groceries, car insurance, health insurance, water, garbage, etc. PSE's increase requests of 16.04% for Electric Service and 21.03% for Natural Gas Service by 2026 is outrageous! These utility rates had incurred a large increase over recent years, and now PSE wants to hike rates again.</p> <p>These rate increases are going to hurt middle and low income families the most. Seniors living on fixed incomes will also be hindered. Families are still trying to catch their breathe from all of the other increases in monthly budget expenses over the past few years. I assist with multiple rental homes in WA State. These homes have natural gas hot water tanks. PSE's desire to continually raise the cost of natural gas will hurt families that just want hot water. Converting these gas heated hot water tanks to HE tankless electrical water systems is not an option at this time. I had called for quotes and was told it would cost between \$5,000-\$8,000 to remove a gas hot water tank and change it to a tankless electrical system. As someone who is a small business owner, I can assure you that I don't have the excess funds to provide this upgrade for my tenants. I charge my tenants rents below market value. The tenants I work with aren't the customers driving electric vehicles that need charging stations. They aren't asking for solar panels. They aren't demanding that WA State become all electric.</p> <p>Puget Sound Energy must acknowledge that there is a large population of WA residents who desire to use natural gas for heating homes, cooking, and water. These families aren't rich. There are numerous families who are just trying to keep their lights and appliances on. I wish there were competitors in WA State to provide these resources and services. When I lived in Pennsylvania for four years, I had numerous companies to choose from that could provide electricity. I could shop around to find the most competitive prices and switch companies annually. I had the OPTION to pay for wind-produced, clean energy at a higher rate. I wasn't required to fund the clean energy projects of the state. The reasons listed for PSE's price increases in the July-August 2024 insert are not emergency needs. I believe PSE is trying to take on too many multi-million dollar projects for the wealthy living in WA State. I would like to see PSE request a reasonable increase with the UTC that covers the</p>

		<p>necessities of increased operating costs and providing a safe and reliable energy service. All of the other reasons listed for the price increase are wants and dreams for the wealthy. Customers should have the OPTION to donate to these projects and not expect every PSE customer to fund charging stations, solar panels, AI cameras, and huge capital projects that many middle and low income families will not benefit from.</p> <p>I'm not opposed to PSE upgrading and modernizing facilities and services. I am opposed to the dramatic rate of price increases PSE has requested over the recent years. Customers who are asking for projects and services above and beyond the basic needs of natural gas and electricity, should be the only customers forced to fund these capital investments and wind farms. Every line item in a family's budget is increasing for WA families. It's not going to stop with PSE's requests for utilities. My basic water bill increased by 40% over the past 2 years. My car insurance increased by almost 16% this past year. Every other service provider will expect an increase. The wealthy don't have a problem with this, but middle and low income families are struggling. I respectfully ask the UTC to approve rates that are far lower than PSE's request.</p> <p>Sincerely, Grace N.</p> <p>CC: comments@utc.wa.gov, customercare@pse.com</p>
	Gloria Woo	<p>E-mail</p> <p>Dear UTC:</p> <p>I received a notice of requested changes to PSE rates. It is a whopping 17.29% increase for natural gas. I did the math and it is about a \$180 increase for an average household for a year for natural gas alone. Plus 7.19% increase for electricity which is roughly \$100 increase for electricity. That is \$280 a year just for 2025. For the year 2026 there is another electricity increase of 9.58%.</p> <p>PSE is irresponsible. I understand going green is good but at what cost. When natural gas is so high, it is forcing people to use more electricity appliances. When there is a power outage in winter, we have to bear no heat and no shower for several days.</p> <p>PSE is proposing having a Beaver Creek wind farm to provide 248 megawatts of clean energy. Is the energy really clean?</p> <p>There is no place to dispose of the decommissioned windmill turbines. (Nebreska) <a href="https://www.npr.org/2019/09/10/759376113/unfurling-the-waste-problem-caused-by-wind-energy">https://www.npr.org/2019/09/10/759376113/unfurling-the-waste-problem-caused-by-wind-energy</a></p> <p>Wind turbines bound for landfill because of hefty recycling expenses (Australia)</p>

		<p><a href="https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-21/wind-turbine-waste-landfill-recycling-costs/101168442">https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-06-21/wind-turbine-waste-landfill-recycling-costs/101168442</a></p> <p>Please keep the PSE sensible and have a rate increase within 5% a year. We don't even get a 5% raise a year.</p> <p>--</p> <p>Gloria Woo Psalm 103:8-10 8 The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. 9 He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; 10 he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.</p>
	Nancy Balthazor	<p>E-mail As an 80 year old widow I'm very concerned about the proposed increases in rates for PSE. I'm on a fixed income but I don't qualify for a low income exception. The amount of the increase over two years is too much along with increased costs for PUD, food, taxes including property tax, water, income tax, etc. My opinion is that the rates can be increased but more gradually and for a lesser amount. Please consider how many citizens you will be impacting unfairly.</p>
	Jim Miller	<p>E-mail RE: Dockets UE-24004 and UG-24005</p> <p>Dear Commission,</p> <p>Please look very seriously at these requests to charge PSE customers rather healthy rate increases. Over a 2 year period their request is to increase electric service rates 17% and over the same period to increase natural gas service rates 19%.</p> <p>We have been "captured" PSE customers for many years. Over the years in their requests they always start off with similar "boiler plate" language we will get better service through "upgrades and modernization etc." Over the years we really have seen not any real change in our service as the quality of our service over a 10 year period is pretty much the same. I have not seen any information concerning PSE taking steps to reduce rates by being more efficient.</p> <p>How much of rate increases include providing stockholder equity rather than going directly to provide better service. I am not aware of PSE stockholders complaining about their dividends.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>

			Jim Miller
	Merle Merkt	E-mail	<p>These rare increases seem rather high, particularly since the costs for natural gas have been coming down. whatever is decided, I especially believe the rates for natural gas and electricity should be kept separate and not combined. This helps everyone to see what each energy source is actually costing them. Thank you. Merle Merkt</p>
	S Christiansen	E-mail	<p>You are asking for a second rate hike just a year after PSE took my bill higher by over 100% and it is the highest it has ever been. And now they want another \$11.20 a month followed by another \$1.51 per month. The missing information is how much will go to the stakeholders in these years while the wish list is set in motion.</p> <p>I think the capital investments need to be put forward rather than price hikes and vague goals enticing the general public. A more detailed explanation is required and not a blanket approval as it was given last year.</p> <p>I wrote last year. I am appalled how PSE wants another increase. This is horrible attempt to gain more profits.</p> <p>Their wish list seems attractive but budgeting sadly seems outside their paradigm.</p> <p>I cannot come to the zoom meeting so cannot participate. 77 year old customer of more than 60 years. S Christiansen</p>
	Barbara Sperling	E-mail	<p>I just received my most recent statement from PSE and was stunned by the proposed increases in costs. I am 72 years old, retired, live alone and am on a very limited income. I already only heat my home to 60 degrees. I use a small electric heater when needed, or a heating pad. Or I just go to bed early to keep warm. Nothing is turned on unless I am using it. These proposed increases are impossibly high for someone in my situation. And, I can assure you, I am not the only one in this situation.</p> <p>I will never own an electric car. I will never have solar on my roof. I can afford neither. I understand the desire to go green, but moving too fast is only going to severely harm the poor. In case you hadn't noticed, inflation in all areas is extreme right now. This changes will only make it that much worse.</p> <p>Perhaps this world would be better off if all of us seniors just froze to death, or died soon by some other means. It certainly is pointing us in that direction. Please consider reducing the amount of increase requested.</p> <p>Thank you, Barbara Sperling</p>



	Wendy Russell	E-mail	<p>I protest the suggested increase in natural gas service. An increase of 17.29% is outrageous. I can understand an increase, but that amount is a burden to many consumers. Please find a way to reduce this.</p> <p>Wendy Russell</p>
	Kelley T. Woods	E-mail	<p>I'm writing to object to the proposals by Puget Sound Energy requesting rate and fee increases in 2025 and 2026. A private company that is earning millions for stockholders and principals should be more sensitive to the financial struggles of its customers. A collective 17% increase in costs to NW consumers who are already reeling from inflated costs of housing, property taxes and other essentials is just plain greed! Please limit the hoarding of resources by corporations that hold a monopoly over necessary energy resources.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kelley T. Woods</p>
	Kirk Parce	E-mail	<p>To Whom it May Concern:</p> <p>As you consider the proposed rate increase, please consider those of us on fixed income. Please offer a fixed rate that is guaranteed as long as we are PSE customers.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Kirk Parce</p>
	TWeve Eden	E-mail	<p>I am writing to express my concerns regarding the recent electricity rate hike, which is placing an excessive burden on already over-taxed users. It is essential that we address this issue with fairness and equity for all utility users. Here are my suggestions for a more balanced approach:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Universal Utility Contribution: All utility users should be required to pay for electricity, regardless of their income level. The current system, which reduces rates for low-income users at the expense of others who do not qualify for these reductions, should include age, property taxes, and city as additional qualifications for rate reduction. Current practice disproportionately impacts elderly individuals who are already struggling with higher property taxes and other public expenses. It is only fair that elderly residents receive a discount on their utility bills to help alleviate this burden.</li> <li>2. Cost Recovery Strategies: Other avenues to reduce and recover costs should be explored:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) solicit input from untapped possibilities such as educational institutions, bright innovators involved in STEM and science projects</li> <li>(2) recover costs using reuse and prevention as the goal. Example, when schools are closed due to lack of attendance or abandoned homes and buildings, tap the volunteer communities such as Habitat for Humanities, or</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

		<p>incentivize developers to recycle content (cables, pipes, etc) before trashed by arson, vandals, squatters resulting in consuming stretch resources such as fire and enforcement.</p> <p>(3) our energy strategy should include balancing fuel sources to prevent over-reliance on a single source with no backup resources to resort to immediately as the primary source becomes stretched. This will help mitigate the risks associated with fuel shortages and price spikes.</p> <p><a href="https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/perks-deconstruction-colorado-recycling-construction-materials-woman-owned/">https://www.cbsnews.com/colorado/news/perks-deconstruction-colorado-recycling-construction-materials-woman-owned/</a></p> <p>3. Practical and Proven Environmental Policies: While addressing global warming is essential, one state alone cannot fix this global issue with extreme, one-sided solutions and unreasonable deadlines. Technologies used to meet environmental goals must be reliable and cost-effective before implemented to meet artificial deadlines. Look beyond state borders for strategies employed by other states and countries. For example, California and Massachusetts have implemented electricity rates based on peak and off-peak times, with discounted rates at night. This allows consumers to better plan their usage and manage costs.</p> <p>4. Legislative Solutions for Rate Increases: The solution to the rate increase must include efforts to reduce repair and recovery costs. Legislation should impose severe and enforceable penalties on those who steal copper and cables and vandalize power stations and infrastructure. The penalties should be high and used to reimburse enforcement, a justice system that actually imposes justice without bail, and fund research through STEM programs and think tanks.</p> <p>By taking these suggestions, hopefully a more equitable system that does not place an undue burden on any single category of users. It is crucial that we develop solutions that are fair, practical, and sustainable for all members of our community.</p> <p>Thank you for considering these suggestions. I look forward to your response on any followup on actions considered.</p>
	<p>Mitchell and Tara Klein</p>	<p>E-mail To the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC),</p> <p>We are writing today to strongly oppose PSE’s excessive proposed rate increases for electricity and natural gas. Thank you for taking time to consider our message below.</p> <p>My wife, Tara, and I live in Coupeville, Washington. I am 76 years old, and she is 64. We are both retired and spend virtually all of our time at home. As a result, our PSE home energy rating (compared to other homes in our neighborhood) is always very poor. We believe this is because we are home all day, every day, while others go to work during the day and/or spend time vacationing elsewhere during the winter months. In the past two years we have replaced our home heating and hot water systems with the most energy efficient systems available. We have also replaced EVERY light fixture and ceiling fan in our home with the most energy efficient led light fixtures and fans. We have our HVAC units inspected and maintained every year. We keep</p>

our thermostats at 78 degrees in the summer and at 68 degrees in the winter. Most of our lights are controlled by occupancy sensors. Our exterior walls were built with the highest R- value insulation available in 2013. Our roof and attic are extremely well insulated. Our home has been described by contractors who have worked here as ‘over-engineered’.

In any case, PSE’s table of the effects of proposed rate changes for residential customers is based on an ‘average’ customer using 800 kilowatts per month. Our actual use between June 10, 2024 and July 10, 2024, however, was 1,228 kilowatts, which is more than 50% higher than PSE’s ‘average’ customer! And, for this same billing period, our total electric bill was \$176.04

PSE is requesting nominal rate increases of 6.74% in 2025 and then an increase of 9.30% in 2026. Assuming their requested increases for 2025 and 2026 are approved by UTC, PSE calculated an increase of \$7.84 per month in 2025 and another \$11.20 per month in 2026. However, our real home increases would be approximately \$12.66 per month (or \$151.92 per year) in 2025, and \$18.07 per month (or \$216.84 per year) in 2026. These proposed increases, for us, would be like adding almost another month’s PSE bill in 2025, and adding another month’s bill PLUS about \$10.07 in 2026! And, of course, there is no promise or guarantee that there would be no further increases for 2027 and beyond.

When PSE presents its proposed rate increases using ‘averages’ and percentages, they are understating the real costs and concerns that real customers will be facing. When we look at the proposed rate increases in terms of actual electricity use and real dollars and cents, the proposed increases can be more clearly understood. Electricity and natural gas are necessities, not luxuries. And, for senior citizens, who are often characterized as persons who must live on fixed incomes, the real story is much, much worse. For many of us, the retirement accounts we have built while we were employed during our working years to supplement our Social Security and Medicare benefits have lost anywhere between 10% and 25% or more of their value due to a combination of overall financial market conditions, inflation, and more. And now, PSE has proposed a rate increase for electricity of more than 17% between 2025 and 2026!

Lastly, we respectfully suggest that the UTC look at the quality of services provided by PSE to its customers in recent years. We believe that PSE has, at best, provided services ranging from poor to fair in the past. In fact, power outages in 2021 and 2022 were so frequent and lasted so long that we decided to install a whole house generator at a great cost. We believe that past performance is a good indicator of future performance. Why then should UTC, on behalf of the citizens it represents, reward PSE with ANY rate increase for its performance?

We would propose the following: Since energy costs are a major component of our economy, any and all PSE rate increases for electricity and/or natural gas service should be limited to 3.2% per year for 2025 and for 2026. 3.2% is the current federal cost of living increase, and PSE – like all of its customers - must keep its costs down. Any future PSE rate increases should be tied to PSE’s performance metrics. PSE’s performance metrics should

			<p>be developed, defined, and measured by the UTC, not by PSE. Performance metrics should not only include service quality and reliability, but also PSE’s ability to operate within an annual balanced financial budget with oversight by UTC. Energy costs must be controlled effectively. PSE customers should not have to be fearful of rate increases that they cannot afford to pay. We urge the UTC to keep PSE’s rates affordable for all citizens.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mitchell and Tara Klein</p>
	<p>Brian</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>This is such a dumb idea. Natural gas is more efficient than electricity for creating heat (cooking, hot water, heating your house).</p> <p>Plus 23% of PSEs own power production comes from natural gas. If a large percent of pse customers switch from NG to electric, where do you think PSE will increase the extra capacity from? Wind and solar aren't a good match for evening and night use where NG is most used. And I sure hope they don't add more coal... so they will increase their NG generation to meet the new need.</p> <p>So we will be removing highly distributed NG usage used to directly make heat of one kind or another. And replace it with a centralized power generation that also uses NG, but now we take the convention loss to make electricity, add the transmission line losses to get it there (while adding load to our electric grid, that needs the added capacity for EV charging), plus when it gets to the consumer location, you take the conversion loss to c9nvert the electricity back to heat.</p> <p>This is just such a bad choice, made for purely political and business reasons that boarder on corruption and market manipulation.</p>
	<p>Tom &amp; Diana Christoe</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>We are writing to express our extreme 'NO!' to the requested increase of PSE rates. We continue to see costs increase at so many levels, at increases certainly way above the quoted '3%' rate some are trying to claim.</p> <p>To increase our rates by 7.19% in 2025, and then 9.58% in 2026 is absolutely unacceptable.</p> <p>Looking at the reasons for the rate adjustments, we see this 'management system to support electric vehicles' listed as one reason. To make everyone financially support this idea of electric vehicles is completely unjust!</p> <p>Another reason listed is the wind farm - please research the cost and sustainability, and overall 'effectiveness' of</p>

			<p>these wind farms. They will not work! Again, to make everyone financially support this failed idea is completely unjust!</p> <p>Thank you for reading this and we pray you will look honestly at these issues.</p> <p>Tom &amp; Diana Christoe</p>
	Debra Belaire	E-mail	<p>Please.</p> <p>The proposed increase of 16.8% is too great for senior citizens.</p> <p>Debra Belaire</p>
	Ingrid Blohm-Hyde	E-mail	<p>Hello</p> <p>I received notice of rate hikes and would like to oppose the rate hikes. Electricity has already gone up and we do not need another hike. Salaries are not going up, neither should utilities. STOP inflation!</p> <p>With kind regards, Ingrid Blohm-Hyde</p> <p>The person who says it cannot be done should not interrupt the person doing it.</p>
	Paul A. Lindberg	E-mail	<p>Of course PSE needs to raise rates - changing from reliable, plentiful, cheap hydropower to expensive, unreliable windmills, solar cells, and unicorns.</p> <p>My vote is to nix the rate increase and force them to stick with what works. Within ten years, you will see the wisdom of that when all their "clean" power junk is filling up the landfills.</p> <p>Thank you. Paul A. Lindberg</p>
	Lori Ekberg	E-mail	<p>Dear UTE:</p> <p>I am opposed to the expansion of wind turbines. This provides about 15% of the energy, and is extremely expensive. The push for this has its origin in the World Economic Forum, United Nations. This organization has no jurisdiction or power within the State of Washington, and should be ignored.</p>

			<p>Wind Turbines are enormous in size and destroy the natural environment, farmland, trees, and animal homes. I understand you have started this project, and the Montana land owner wants it. In the future, please do not construct anymore wind turbines.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lori Ekberg</p>
	Janet Groefsema	E-mail	<p>I have two comments on the proposed utilities hike that will truly hurt so many people financially.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Before you raise costs to the consumer I hope you are looking within to see if you have cut costs everywhere possible. Wasteful spending runs rampant in big business and I pray that you are auditing every department to see where you can cut costs without cutting service.</li> <li>2. I always wonder why utility lines are not put underground, especially in areas that are prone to higher winds and more trees. There would be such a long term savings if in the winter months crews did not have to work around the clock to restore services that may not be cut if it was not exposed to winds and snow.</li> </ol> <p>Please consider all aspects to this proposed rate hike for all customers.</p> <p>Janet Groefsema</p>
	Aleks Kazadayev	E-mail	<p>The proposed rate changes are outrageous. COLA is projected to be between 2.5-3% for 2025 yet PSE is requesting 6.7% and 18.9% for electricity and natural gas rate increases respectively. How are regular people supposed to absorb these types of increases?</p> <p>Rate increases need to be inline with general inflation and COLA otherwise this is unsustainable.</p>
	Gary Spindahl	E-mail	<p>I am totally against the 16% increase for 2 yrs for electricity and 20 % increase for 2 years for Natural Gas service! I am retired as many of us in Steilacoom and we do not get increases in retirement to keep up with these increases in utilities. I don't agree with all the reasons for these increases as they are a wish list of goals with no specific plans to initiate these changes.</p> <p>Most of us don't have full electric vehicles because of the price and infrastructure for charging stations and is the reason for not changing to electric cars.</p> <p>I hope you reconsider increases if necessary to keep up with maintenance and reasonable upgrades only as these increases are unrealistic for retirees.</p>

			<p>Sincerely, Gary Spidahl</p>
	Joe Ackerson	E-mail	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am writing about the proposed PSE electricity increases proposed for January, 2025 and 2026.</p> <p>The recent PSE proposals include raising the electricity base rate from \$7.49 to \$12.66 per month. I disagree with this rate increase for the base rate before any electricity is consumed. Rate increases should focus on actual energy usage. Increasing the base rate does nothing to encourage users to reduce their energy use or make their homes more efficient. Focusing any rate increase on energy used also allows lower income folks to work to reduce their bill, whereas a larger base rate increase falls equally on small, efficient households as well as large, inefficient ones.</p> <p>To a lesser extent, I don't understand why kilowatt hour charges are increasing to \$83.68 for each kWh used under 600 kWh per month and \$31.78 for each kWh used over 600 kWh per month. Doesn't this encourage heavy energy use, especially for the largest, most inefficient consumers and those most able to afford energy? Why not shift the larger increase on the largest users of energy so the cost of energy becomes more fair and those who consume the most shoulder more of the burden of rate increases?</p> <p>Thanks so much for addressing my concerns,</p> <p>Joe Ackerson</p>
	Mary Ann Gibson	E-mail	<p>Proposed increased for electric and natural gas service</p> <p>Greetings.</p> <p>The increase in rates is going to severely hurt senior citizens. It may not seem much in your eyes, but for those who are on strict income budgets, these increases become a major part of all the other utility increases, food increases, medication increases and so much more that how do you all plan to help those who are in need?</p> <p>I appreciate your feedback and knowing what plans have been put in place to help those in the senior community who are still trying to be independent in their own homes/apartments, but are on strict monthly budgets who are already struggling with all the inflation tack ons.</p> <p>Thank you,</p>

			Mary Ann Gibson
	Lana Hoover	E-mail	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I am writing to oppose the proposed rate changes for electricity (EU-24004) and gas (UG-240005) by Puget Sound Energy. The costs of living are already out of control, and this increase would make things even worse. Basic utilities are a necessity and need to remain affordable for families. Please do not allow these increases.</p> <p>Lana Hoover Residential PSE Customer</p>
	Roger Trail	E-mail	<p>Gentlemen:</p> <p>I wish to express my sincere disagreement with the request by PSE for their increases of 6.78% (2025) and 9.3% (2026) or a 16,04% for the two years.. These increases seem well above the cost-of-living increases. As an indivial on fixed income. My increase in Social Security for 2025 is estimated to be around 3%. I have just received notice that my rent will increase in excess of 9% on the 1st of October. So, as you can see, I just keep getting further and further behind.</p> <p>I am a transplant person and the cost of some of my medications have also increased in cost. It won't be long before I will have to make choices, food, medications, housing if these costs keep going. There are many other senior citizens in the same situation that I am in. While a cost of \$19.04 a month might not seem like much when you are on a fixed income it can be large.</p> <p>Thank you for allowing to voice my opinion regarding PSE request for the two increases in my electric charges.</p> <p>Roger Trail Puyallup, WA.</p>
	Ainsley	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>I'm reaching out to share my deep concerns with you regarding PSE's proposed 2025/2026 rate increases for UE-240004 (electric service) and UG-240005 (natural gas service). For a 1-2 year time frame they are wildly unreasonable. This would place an even heavier financial burden on the majority of Whatcom County and Bellingham who are largely middle and lower class citizens such as myself.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p>



			Ainsley
	Samantha Cowart	E-mail	<p>External Email</p> <p>Our area is a moderate to low income area. The estimated 18.96% rate hike is way too much. Please make it stop!</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Samantha Cowart</p>
	Jessica Mixer	E-mail	<p>Reference: Docket UE-240004</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to comment on the requested increases to PSE electrical rates. My usage of electricity has not significantly changed in the 3 years I have been in my home but my electrical rate requests have increased well over inflation and rates have increased every year. While I certainly understand the need to have capital improvements, it appears many of the planned projects are for households looking to increase their usage and those households need to bear a fair share of the costs rather than spreading it across people who will not see any benefit. I work full-time at a decent wage and struggle to pay my bills each month. If it's a struggle for me, then I can only imagine that those with less than full-time employment or at minimum wage are likely struggling as much if not more. Our area has seen too many costs go up and can't even pause long enough for prices to stabilize. I would appreciate it if rates were not raised at the requested levels and alternatives were considered like ev homes bearing more of the costs of the capital improvements needed, requesting grants, and longer timelines for capital improvements to spread out costs.</p> <p>Kind regards,</p> <p>Jessica Mixer</p>
	Julie W	E-mail	<p>Dear UTC,</p> <p>We have been residents in Edgewood since 2002. We have lived through increase after increase to our electric bill. Many times throughout the years we have struggled with excessive bills in the winter months which has forced us at times to make payment arrangements. Our home is nearly 50 years old and not very efficient. Although we have made many changes to conserve energy, including being cold, it has done little to curb the ever-increasing cost.</p>

			<p>Somehow PSE felt that sending a 'shaming' letter out to point out our usage was higher than our neighbors would be an effective tool. They did this without knowing anything about our family, such as the year of the house, how many occupants, was there a disabled person in the home who required more electricity than average? During one conversation a PSE employee said our bill was high because we used more energy, but the truth is the rates continue to soar.</p> <p>Now we hear there will be more increases in 2025 and 2026! The reasons listed include several 'green energy' items. These are strategies set forth by a one-sided political system in WA State which has no concern for average families trying to make ends meet in a very difficult economy. Everyone is taking their piece of the pie from the good citizens who are working very hard to support their families and live a healthy life.</p> <p>What PSE is proposing is unacceptable and places a heavier burden on the working class. Please consider the families and customers of PSE who can not afford even higher electricity and gas bills. Our electricity usage has remained the same, but our bill has doubled.</p> <p>Regards, Julie W</p>
	<p>Heidi Goodman</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>To Whom It May Concern.</p> <p>I received the notice that a rate increase is being proposed for Dockets UE-240004. I am writing to let you know I object to the rate increase as stated in the notice.</p> <p>In January 2025, the rate increase is expected to be 6.74% if approved by the commission. In January 2026, the rate increase is expected to increase by 9.30%. These rate increases are too high.</p> <p>In reading the reasons for the rate increases, the items are legitimate. The different projects might need to have a different timeline than planned at present.</p> <p>The increase you propose might not seem very much to you, but to the average family it will have an impact. Our family might receive a 3% increase in pay per year. Even with this increase, it does not keep up with other expenses going up such as property taxes, water bill, food, utility bills to name a few. Yes, I am aware there are “community help” programs and “senior citizens” programs available. Perhaps these programs help a few but for those of us that are slightly over the income cap, these increases are a real struggle.</p> <p>I am asking that you reduce the rate increase percentage to a cap of 3.5% per year. Yes, I realize that the companies also have expenses to cover, however I believe they can rearrange their long-term projects they listed to be covered with a lower percentage increase than the one proposed.</p> <p>Thank you. Heidi Goodman</p>

<p>Mary Lindblom</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am sending written comments to the UTC regarding the upcoming increase in rates by PSE.</p> <p>PSE is asking for an increase of 6.74% in 2025 and 9.3% in 2026 for electrical service. That is 16% for two years. That is excessive and should not be that high.</p> <p>For gas service, it is even worse. In 2025 they want an 18.96% increase in one year! That is too much of an increase. It is unfair to utility payers.</p> <p>PSE should be held to a maximum of 5% increases per year.</p> <p>I wish my business could get an 18.96% increase in revenue this next year! But that doesn't happen in one year. Please don't let PSE get away with us.</p> <p>If you would like to call me, please do at 360-556-6975.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mary Lindblom</p> <p>Molly Lindblom</p>
<p>Marc Pacifico</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>Docket Numbers UE-240004 and UG-240005:</p> <p>The requested rate increases are ridiculously high and are shifting expenses that should be part of Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) normal budgeting and operational practices to the rate payers. PSE's failure to plan and budget for its normal expenses should not be excused by allowing the proposed rate increases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrades and modernization are normal for any operation, or homeowner. The rate payers have no way to seek additional compensation to cover their normal upgrades and modernization (other than loans which must be paid back), PSE should adhere to the same practices.</li> <li>• Reducing the need for large infrastructure projects will save PSE money, therefore it is not a reason for a rate increase. Electric vehicles and rooftop solar have been around for many years. Rate payers are charged for service upgrades and increased consumption if they have an electric vehicle, and rooftop solar reduces the amount of electricity PSE must supply. This does not support a rate increase.</li> <li>• The proposed Beaver Creek wind farm is an investment that will be providing benefits to PSE in the future. They will recover more than what the new wind farm costs to build. Rate payers should not pay for this.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wildfire mitigation response is part of normal ongoing operation and maintenance. PSE has been doing this and it should continue without the need for a rate increase.</li> <li>• Operating costs should be reduced by the projects cited by PSE, not increased. This does not support a rate increase.</li> <li>• Upcoming capital investments and operating costs should be part of PSE’s normal planning and budgeting process. PSE’s failure to plan and budget for the future should not be rewarded with a rate increase.</li> </ul> <p>Rate payers have no option other than obtaining services from PSE. Eliminating the use of natural gas provides no relief because PSE also is the sole provider of electricity. This makes PSE a monopoly. The UTC should never have allowed them to control both natural gas and electricity service. Rate payers are at their mercy. Please do the right thing this time and deny PSE’s request for a rate increase.</p> <p>Sincerely:</p> <p>Marc Pacifico</p>
	Keri Ingraham	<p>E-mail</p> <p>Please ensure that there are no rate or bill increases for Puget Sound Energy customers from the legislatively passed Climate Commitment Act. An increase in cost would be devastating to customers who cannot afford the resulting rate increases.</p> <p>Thank you, Keri Ingraham</p>
	Bob Buchanan	<p>E-mail</p> <p>Of the 7 rate adjustments I disagree with # 2 (new mgmt system) and # 7 (capital investments)</p> <p>First a cumulative 16% increase in rates over 2 years really shatters the rate of inflation everyone is worried about, is I belive extremely hard to justify, and should be explained to the FEDERAL RESERVE as how PSE is fighting against their battle with USA inflation</p> <p>For specifics :</p> <p>For 2 I do NOT believe that ALL customers should have to pay higher rates because of 2 segments of users i.e. Electrical vehicle users and Solar users. If they require better or more advanced support from PSE then they should be charged a premium, NOT everyone. My fees should not support them because I already pay for gasoline for my car and normal electrical usage.</p> <p>This adjustment would mean I would effectively pay TWICE for features I neither NEED, USE, or WANT from</p>

			<p>PSE</p> <p>For 7 if PSE expects capital improvements later in the 2 year period then fees to recover those costs should ONLY be charged as the costs are incurred. There is NO reason my hard earned money should set in PSE's bank accounts earning interest before it is spent!</p>
	Karen Lawson	E-mail	<p>Thank you for this forum to offer my thoughts on the upcoming UTC review of proposed changes in the PSE rates.</p> <p>The 2nd bullet point under the “PSE requests rate adjustments for the following reasons” states “...to support customers’ growing use of electric vehicles...”</p> <p>Not every customer of PSE can afford electric vehicles! Those of us not using such electric energy consuming objects should be expected to pay for said use.</p> <p>Why should those of us NOT taxing the existing systems be charged?</p> <p>I pay for the electricity my household uses through your metering system. I should NOT be expected to pay for anyone else’s use of electricity, be it for running a television, clothes dryer, heating &amp; cooling a home or charging automobile batteries!</p> <p>Making everyone pay for the upper echelon’s extravagant vehicles is not fair not equitable.</p> <p>If you are going to remove the metering system to charge people for their use of electricity, I’d like to apply for the removal of the meter on the side of my home!!</p> <p>Karen Lawson</p>
	Patrick Nickell	E-mail	<p>Hello</p> <p>I am writing to ask that you deny the upcoming proposed rate hikes for Puget Sound Energy from a general rate case they opened with you on 02/15/2024.</p> <p>PSE is not an efficiently run company and their lack of any cost savings measures, particularly their lack of investment in updating infrastructure should not be passed onto me as their consumer.</p>

			<p>Please know that I will monitor this situation closely and will hold those responsible if an increase is granted.</p> <p>-Patrick Nickell</p>
	Jean Bulette	E-mail	<p>***See attachment for comments***</p>
	Robert Showers	E-mail	<p>Jesse and Michelle,</p> <p>As the cost of natural gas and electricity has continued to climb, do either of you have anything planned to stop these increases (3Pages)? We live in the Northwest and hydro power should be plentiful. I understand the push for windmills and solar, but this has gotten ridiculous. Is there any sanity left? I do not agree with these increases and want to know if there is anyone in the Republican Party trying to stop them. We continually pay for increases and it seems PSE isn't giving the customer the best service for the price. Why would we not use hydropower, and clean coal. I don't see any plans for nuclear power. What is the back up plan for the solar when the sun doesn't shine and the back up plan for the wind mills, when the wind doesn't blow. Also, who is doing the environmental impact of the windmills and solar panels on the environment and nature?</p> <p>Thank you Robert Showers</p>
	Bella	E-mail	<p>Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) recent filing for a multiyear adjustment to electric and natural gas rates. While I understand that utility companies need to maintain and improve their infrastructure, I believe that this proposed rate increase is not justified at this time, especially considering the economic challenges faced by many Washington residents.</p> <p><b>Economic Impact on Consumers</b></p> <p>The proposed rate increase would place a significant financial burden on consumers, many of whom are already struggling with rising living costs. Families and individuals on fixed incomes, low-income households, and small businesses are particularly vulnerable to such increases. The added financial strain could lead to difficult choices between essential services and basic needs.</p> <p><b>Lack of Transparency and Justification</b></p> <p>Before approving any rate increase, PSE should provide a comprehensive and transparent explanation of why the increase is necessary. This should include detailed information on how the additional revenue will be used and what steps PSE has taken to minimize costs and avoid passing unnecessary expenses onto consumers.</p> <p><b>Environmental and Efficiency Considerations</b></p> <p>PSE should also demonstrate how the proposed rate increase aligns with Washington's environmental goals, including reducing carbon emissions and promoting energy efficiency. There should be clear evidence that PSE is investing in sustainable and renewable energy sources, and that the rate increase is necessary to support these initiatives.</p> <p><b>Accountability and Cost Management</b></p>

			<p>PSE should be held accountable for managing its costs effectively. Rate increases should be a last resort, not a first step. I urge the Commission to carefully scrutinize PSE’s financial management practices and ensure that all other cost-saving measures have been exhausted before considering a rate increase.</p> <p>Alternative Solutions I encourage the Commission to explore alternative solutions that do not disproportionately impact consumers. This could include phased or conditional increases tied to specific performance metrics, or seeking alternative funding sources for infrastructure improvements.</p> <p>Conclusion In conclusion, I respectfully urge the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to reject PSE’s proposed rate increase. The potential negative impact on consumers, combined with the lack of transparent justification, warrants a thorough review and consideration of alternative solutions.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments. I hope that the Commission will prioritize the interests of Washington residents and ensure that any decision made is fair, justifiable, and in the best interest of the public.</p> <p>Sincerely, Bella</p>
	Bryan Higgins	E-mail	<p>Im emailing to comment on the proposed PSE rate hikes. The total proposed rate hikes for electricity at 16% and 21% are extremely outrageous. Im against any further rate hikes. The most recent round of rate hikes in the previous years have taken my electric and gas bills to over 200\$ per month. My home is 1500 Sq Ft. Consumers can not afford yearly rate hikes like these. Any increase should be capped at the state/county CPI for the year.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Bryan Higgins</p>
	Max A. Albert	E-mail	<p>Dear Sir or Madam</p> <p>I have reviewed and fully support Puget Sound Energy's proposed risk sharing mechanism, Docket UG-230968.</p> <p>The CCA is an immensely expensive, noodle-brained attempt to control the climate. The CCA contribution to Net Zero by 2052 would amount, by its own estimates, to less than 0.0001 deg. F reduction in global temperature--an effect too small to even be measured--at a cost of hundreds of millions to Washington state consumers.</p> <p>A voter's initiative, which I hope passes, would reverse this exercise in government greed. In the meantime, PSE's effort helps prevent senseless utility rate increases. We already suffer from a \$0.40+ hike in gasoline prices thanks to CCA.</p> <p>Max A. Albert</p>

	Stephen Bennett	E-mail	<p>This request for raising the cost of electricity is absolutely unacceptable. It comes very soon after the previous increase. It is more than the inflation rate was this year. There is no new work that PSE can attribute to this increase. Please deny this request. Susan and Stephen Bennett</p>
	Washington State Water Resources Association	E-mail	<p>***See attachment for comment***</p> <p>Attached, please find our comments related to the proposed PSE rate increase.</p> <p>Please let me know if you need any further information from me.</p> <p>Best Regards,</p> <p>John Stuhlmiller Executive Director Washington State Water Resources Association</p>
	Kelly Remy	E-mail	<p>Your documents indicate an expected \$14 per month increase in cost in 2025 and 2026. I don't support this increase.</p> <p>Please understand that many customers have natural gas heat and water heaters. Efficient heat pumps have propane used as heat when it is especially cold outside.</p> <p>In our environment of inflation and high cost of living in Washington, please don't increase our cost of living more.</p> <p>Kelly Remy</p>
	Jon Dykes	E-mail	<p>External Email</p> <p>I oppose the rate increases. It's ridiculous that everyone is pushing electric vehicles and climate change, and our prices for everything have to increase because of it as well. This is ridiculous. You should be working to lower our utility costs.</p> <p>-</p>



			Jon
	Colleen	E-mail	I'm on \$888 a month Social Security. A friend of mine in the valley gets about \$1200..... We senior citizens cannot afford these rate increases. Yes, I get your My Energy discount but what happens when those programs go away ?????????????? I, we, cannot afford these rates ! Rent has gone up, food has gone up EVERYTHING has gone up except for what those of us on a limited income get each month. The COLA for 2025 is projected to be 2.63% and yet you want to raise our rates around 17% by the end of 2025 ! How much does your CEO make ? what is his yearly raise ??? Sincerely, Colleen
	J Daily	E-mail	<p>Hello-</p> <p>I would like to make following comments regarding the public hearing on Wednesday, October 9th, 2024. I will be unable to participate by Zoom. My comments are directed to the electric rates as we do not have access to gas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why am I funding wildfire and mitigation response. We have other departments whose job it is to do this. This just sounds like an excuse to get in on the "ecology" money train in this state.</li> <li>2. What are the increased costs? Nothing is new in our area. We still lose power during storms and at odd times the power is "unstable" which triggers issues with our computers and other electronics. What are you buying that is going to make things better for the public?</li> <li>3. How much of the rate increase is to increase salaries for employees. Why are we paying more for pay and perks. I don't get the entire state paying for my pay raise. I have never gotten either a 7.19% raise or a 9.58% raise in my life. Just how am I to pay for "more" which is probably just so that employees get a big pay raise because they work so much harder than I.</li> <li>4. Who uses 800KW hours or less a month to get the "low rate"? Most will easily exceed this amount meaning their real rate increase will be considerably higher than what you way it will be.</li> <li>5. Why am I paying for Beaver Creek wind farm and the 83K homes. Wind farms do not reduce my electric useage and why are the developers who will benefit from selling 83K houses not paying for electricity for their planned operations.</li> <li>6. Who is exempt from these increases? Schools, fire departments, police departments, county and city offices, and others will just go to the taxpayer to fund the increase for them so I pay twice- for my residence and then for all these other tax and rate increase exempt people who pass the costs to residents.</li> <li>7. Again, what is better for the residents that justifies any increases that well outweigh what they can afford to</li> </ol>

		<p>pay. Fixed income and seniors will obviously be hurt most since Social Security and state pensions don't pay this type of increase as a IPD or COLA. If the rate of inflation is now below 3%, again; what justifies the high rate increases for just the same thing. Cable companies do the same thing- increased costs and less benefits.</p> <p>Cordially,</p> <p>J Daily</p>
	<p>Kevin Bannon E-mail</p>	<p>Regarding ue240004</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increases rates approximately 20% over a 2 year period following a similar increase the previous 2 year period, far exceeding the already high rate of inflation. These increases are harmful for all customers and for the growth of the economy.</li> <li>2. These increases are built upon poor direction from the state legislature and the UTC. The mandates for PSE to close generation facilities and try to open new more expensive facilities is harmful to the safety and soundness of the company, and to the energy security of the state.</li> <li>3. Multiple sources including redacted documents verify the company will have challenges meeting demand both in terms of meeting customer demand, bringing new sources on line and successfully financing.</li> <li>4. There will be even more painful and eventually unsustainable general rate increases in the future and likely interruptions of service.</li> <li>5. The UTC needs to deny this general rate increase. Instead the UTC needs to permit PSE to keep operating its existing generation assets and build new assets that are cost effective. The UTC has authority to so authorize PSE.</li> <li>6. The UTC should authorize this before the problems begin rather than fail its mission to provide affordable available energy to the citizens of this state.</li> <li>7. Finally both the ATG and UTC need to stop redacting submitted evidence. It's particularly silly because it sets a false narrative adjudicating the merits of this case and the information is also publicly available from the source.</li> </ol> <p>Regarding ug23068 &amp; ug240005</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increases in the high teen percentages over the next 2 years following similar increases in the previous 2 year period far exceeding the already high rate of inflation. These increases are harmful for all customers and for the economic security. Furthermore they place an inequitable and unjust burden on classes of customers the UTC is mandated to protect.</li> <li>2. These increases are predicated upon the direction the UTC and the legislature that create an unreasonable situation for PSE and customers.</li> <li>3. The company does not have the financial and technical resources to develop sufficient energy resources to replace natural gas. Moving in this direction will not only make energy unaffordable, and in short supply at any price. The company furthermore cannot realistically pass on all future costs and this will threaten its future</li> </ol>

		<p>financial soundness.</p> <p>4. Company focus needs to be on long term supply of natural gas to customers as it is the cheapest and easiest to produce energy source available.</p> <p>5. Any general rate increase needs to reflect that following the Russian invasion of Ukraine and worldwide prohibition of purchasing of Russian oil and natural gas exports, other supply sources increased but then natural gas prices dropped from the previous highs.</p> <p>6. The UTC should use its authority to authorize PSE to continue to distribute natural gas to address market demand indefinitely and focus on rate increases focused to cost of operations. New energy production sources need to be restricted to assets that can be quickly built and deliver value – defined as the best retail price as well as best customer utility (ease of utilization) for the amount of capital committed.</p> <p>Regarding both:</p> <p>1. The UTC should focus on PSE’s efficiency metrics, maintaining the current network and bringing in new production as technology and economic opportunities allow rather than trying to force changes at an unreasonable rate.</p> <p>2. The UTC should be mindful that conservation cannot do everything. A growing population requires new energy sources that are well considered and constructed at a optimal rate. Existing energy production should be kept for its full designed life and even retrofitted when feasible and operated on a best price per a energy unit delivered basis.</p> <p>3. In all cases, UTC and associated parties need to keep all submissions and evidence open to the public. Keep in mind the UTC says it is following a quasi-judicial process. A bulwark of the judicial process is open discovery and full disclosure of evidence and witnesses before the trial.</p> <p>4. Thanks to Mr. Andrew Roberts for assisting me gathering data.</p>
	<p>Brenda Wilmoth</p>	<p>E-mail September 17, 2024</p> <p>Puget Sound Energy, UTC, Public Counsel</p> <p>Subject :Formal Protest Against Utility Rate Increase</p> <p>Puget Sound Energy, UTC, Public Counsel, I am writing to formally protest the recent rate increase announced by Puget Sound Energy. As a long time customer I am deeply concerned how this will impact my household and the broader community. I especially am mindful of those with very limited incomes. We are conscientious of our use of our electricity.. The proposed rate hike comes at a time when many families are already struggling with the rising costs of living when as a long time customer my electric usage has remained constant, but not the cost it is continually increasing. In addition, the justification for this rate hike raises questions about necessity and fairness.</p>

			<p>I urge you to reconsider this decision and explore alternative solutions that do not disproportionately affect your customers. It is essential that any rate adjustments are made with careful consideration of the economic realities faced by your consumers.</p> <p>I also request that Puget Sound Energy ] provide a detailed explanation of the factors driving this rate increase and the steps being taken to mitigate its impact on customers. Transparency and open communication are crucial in maintaining trust and ensuring that customers feel heard and valued. I appreciate the opportunity to give public comments.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your prompt response and hope that a denial of increase of rates and that those in charge will take immediate action to address these concerns.</p> <p>Sincerely, Michael and Brenda Wilmoth</p>
	Shirley Brown	E-mail	***See attachment for comment***
	Linda Seltzer	E-mail	<p>As a private citizen, I am writing to oppose the proposed increase in utility rates by PSE.</p> <p>(1) The rate increases are much more steep than the percentage increases of Social Security for senior citizens.</p> <p>(2) Utility companies are accommodating increased corporate use of electricity for internet data collection, when most people don't want all of this data collected to begin with, when we often have to agree in order to use a website, when we are spammed with too much e-mail and when the results of the artificial intelligence on our data are often incorrect and when the ads they display don't match what we want to buy.</p> <p>We should oppose attempts by companies to collect data and perform AI analysis that we don't want, and we should be making policy in favor of conservation and on much greater restriction on our data collection.</p> <p>For example, to sign up NBC Peacock network, members of the public have to give NBC the right to collect data on whether we ever held a public office in a labor union and what positions we held in a political party. Why should that be required in order to watch a TV show?</p> <p>There should be less data collection, more conservation and lower electricity rates.</p> <p>Linda Seltzer Redmond, WA</p>
	Bob Johnson	E-mail	<p>Hello All,</p> <p>I'm a retired senior living in Bellevue since 1967. For the past 47 years in same home, I hope to be able to stay here my remaining years.</p>

		<p>I stayed employed until I was 71 in 2015 realizing the consequences of inflation, fortunately I really enjoyed my job. With all the amazing medical we have now more of us are living longer and every bill that goes up even \$8 to \$10 a month each year becomes more difficult for us.</p> <p>PSE has always been a good company to deal with and supported us well, I do understand their cost go up also. Any consideration for us seniors will be appreciated.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Bob Johnson</p>
Don	E-mail	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I have received the paper displaying the future cost raises for PSE energy.</p> <p>I have a few comments/ questions/ concerns.</p> <p>First, several reasons of the rate adjustments do not apply to my neighborhood nor many other neighborhoods.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. The neighborhood where I live does NOT allow any charging of electrical vehicles, or any solar panel installations.</li><li>2. Also, we do not use any form of gas or natural gas whatsoever, everything is electric (heaters, and stovetops).</li><li>3. I dont know if I will ever live in beaver creek, but Bever Creek can pay for their own wind farm project or get funding elsewhere (not from my pocket or anyone else who will not live in those 83,000 homes)</li><li>4. I am surprised that wildfires are still an issue to this day, with the growing advancements of technology and the amount of money the government has i think that PSE can find funding elsewhere. I really like the fact that someone had a lightbulb go off in their head to create gaps in the WA forest to give less fuel for wildfires and use such a preventative measure to limit wildfires, sometimes not everything requires a technological solution, although I do not support 90% deforestation , I would rather have trees reasonably cut for use, and not be burned by wildfires every single year.</li><li>5. If this rate adjustment is actually due to inflation then that is the governments fault and not "We the people" from what I learned the government is primarily responsible for inflation, so in that case the government can go ahead and help fund PSE and whatever projects PSE deems necessary due to the gov'n political demands.</li></ol> <p>Also if the gov'n wants only electrical vehicles by 2030 or later, they should use their logic and not a political ideology, it is good that PSE is trying to accomodate the electrical cars that more and more people will be using for this initiative, but will the updated electrical grid be able to accomdate enough even then?</p>

			<p>Also considering not everyone will own an electric car why am I (or many other neighborhoods) that cant charge electrical vehicles paying for lets say, the rich ? This is absurd. Same thing with the beaver creek wind farm.</p> <p>I know that many other neighborhoods especially low income neighborhoods, or just general people renting houses also have limitations such as to what they are allowed to install regarding electrical equipment ( ie, and electrical vehicle home charging station) THIS IS especially more true for homes where people are renting out certain parts of a house and things like installing washers and dryers are not allowed due to there nor being enough water and, I guess electricity as well.</p> <p>So my primary concern and question in all of this is how will we spread the raised electrical cost fairly so that people who never, or will never use all these PSE projects don't pay for them? This is primarily for neighborhoods that rent out apartments, houses, or condos.</p> <p>Increase the price for homeowners who are actually allowed to install extra electrical charging stations, equipment, and so on. But please dont make us, the neighborhoods who have such restrictions pay for their luxuriuos living.</p> <p>I am looking forward to your response on all my points made.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>PSE consumer</p>
	Caroline and James Goulding	E-mail	<p>Hello,</p> <p>We would like to submit public comment regarding the requested PSE rate changes. With a recession and unemployment rates rising, we feel that these price increases for electricity and natural gas service are excessive. We understand that improvements are needed to our power grid, but a more reasonable rate of 3% each year would be much more appropriate and in line with what the average customer could reasonably afford. With the outlandish increases requested, there will be an increase in requests for financing options and coverage of basic energy costs.</p> <p>We urge the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to firmly reject the proposed increases and for the Public Counsel Unit of the Attorney General to do the same. As long time Puget Sound Energy Customers we know our household will struggle with these huge increases.</p>

			<p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Caroline Goulding 19338 SE 21st Street, Sammamish</p> <p>James Goulding 19338 SE 21st Street, Sammamish</p> <p>Cooie Goulding 425-233-7348</p> <p>Sent from my iPad.. Please excuse any mistakes</p>
	Janet and Robert Molina	E-mail	<p>Hello,</p> <p>We would like to submit public comment regarding the requested PSE rate changes. With a recession and unemployment rates rising, we feel that these price increases for electricity and natural gas service are excessive. We understand that improvements are needed to our power grid, but a more reasonable rate of 3% each year would be much more appropriate and in line with what the average customer could reasonably afford. With the outlandish increases requested, there will be an increase in requests for financing options and coverage of basic energy costs.</p> <p>We urge the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to firmly reject the proposed increases and for the Public Counsel Unit of the Attorney General to do the same. As long time Puget Sound Energy Customers we know our household will struggle with these huge increases.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Janet Molina Sammamish, Washington</p> <p>Robert Molina Sammamish, Washington</p>
	Mark Hartmann	E-mail	<p>Please consider this in response to the recently shared communication proposing unproportional increases in both 2025 and 2026 to the basic monthly charges for electric services.</p>

		<p>I realize this is a monopoly and an individual residential consumer has no influence over these fees and rate increases. However, how does one justify and support a 30% increase each year, almost doubling the monthly basic service charge in just a 2 year time period?</p> <p>We recently purchased at significant costs solar panels with the objective to stabilize our utility expenses as we near retirement. We never would have anticipated as a utility service provider that you could shift and subsidize the costs from KWH usage to flat monthly charges.</p> <p>If you would be good stewards of the revenue received, why are you not looking at other options instead of just hitting the consumers with significant and higher than inflation causing rate increases?</p> <p>If postage and print is such a concern and expense, than why not have an option that passes those costs on to just those consumers who find that material necessary and for others, allow them to opt into electronic records and payments.</p> <p>Also, if costs are increasing to pay labor and expenses to create monthly bills, why not move to bi-monthly or even quarterly to reduce your expenditures rather than continue to increase the fees you charge.</p> <p>While the market is likely not there yet due to battery storage costs and capacities, the actions being proposed here will start to have consumers like us re-think the net metering approach we currently have in place and consider updating our set-up to go completely off grid, eliminating all revenue as well as the extra power we're returning through the net metering program. Then you will have less consumers and be forced to raise rates even higher, resulting in more consumers taking similar actions until only those that have no option other than staying on your grid remain.</p> <p>So while you may be the only source to purchase electricity, there are becoming more options and capabilities to forgo your unreasonable increasing fees and costs.</p> <p>I would urge you and those that can influence the charges you are able to set to really think hard about the 30% year over year increase to the current basic monthly charge and how that is going to significantly impact those that have or are considering to have solar as an option.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mark Hartmann</p>
	Teri Shafer	E-mail Dear Sirs, I am asking you NOT to approve any rate increase and review the option of a DECREASE in rate. Our electric



			<p>bills have significantly spiraled upward the last 10 years. We have replaced the fridge, washer dryer, changed to LED bulbs, unplug every light, coffee pot or anything else when not in use. I am the “electric police” and have everyone turn lights off if they won’t be back in a room for more than 5 minutes. We have checked into solar but have too many trees so it is not efficient or cost effective. Even with our best efforts to reduce our usage, our bill is still double what it used to be (and that’s when we had 3 kids home). It is becoming a burden for retired empty nesters. Next step? Candles? My mother lives in Vancouver WA and has Clark PUD. Their rate is 35% less per Kw than ours.</p> <p>Please consider how bigger cities can manage with much lower costs of energy.</p> <p>Teri Shafer</p>
	James McKeever	E-mail	<p>In the face of an accelerating climate crisis, we must quickly reduce fossil fuel use. We should not continue to invest in a fossil fuel delivery system ('natural' gas) that will serve fewer and fewer customers. These systems continue to leak methane and create safety hazards (such as the devastating Greenwood explosion in 2016). Instead, PSE needs to move as quickly as possible towards electrification and clean energy sources.</p> <p>Wherever possible, aging and unsafe pipelines should be replaced with these cleaner alternatives rather than new pipes. The UTC should not approve PSE’s full rate increase. It would enable and reward additional investments that will ultimately become stranded assets, and would exacerbate the climate crisis rather than moving PSE in the direction of helping Washington consumers transition away from fossil fuels.</p>
	Elinor A. Graham MD, FAAP	E-mail	<p>Please do not let PSE increase electric rates at their proposed increase. They need to reduce their expenditures on fossil gas. We must quickly reduce fossil fuel use to slow global heating. Instead of sinking hundreds of millions of dollars into a fossil gas delivery that will serve fewer and fewer customers while continuing to leak methane and create safety hazards such as the devastating Greenwood explosion in 2016, we ask PSE to move as quickly as possible towards electrification and clean energy sources. In addition, the use of gas cooking is associated with worsening health for children with asthma and adults with COPD. It needs to be eliminated from home.</p> <p>Wherever possible, aging and unsafe pipelines should be replaced with these cleaner alternatives rather than new pipes. If the UTC approves PSE’s full rate increase, it will enable and reward additional investment that will ultimately become a waste of dollars funding the climate crisis rather than shrinking it.</p> <p>Elinor A. Graham MD, FAAP</p>
	Arthur Quigley	E-mail	<p>I do not think there should be an increase in the basic charge for existing customers. Once the account is established, there are not any additional expenses. Future costs of doing business and inflation do not change</p>

			that past cost of the establishment of the account. Maybe there should be an increase of the basic charge for new customers. Maybe there should be additional charges for kilowatt usage. For existing customers that basic charge should remain unchanged. Low income people will also be helped by keeping this basic charge unchanged for existing customers.
	Frances F Korten	E-mail	I am writing to request that the WUTC not approve the full rate hike that Puget Sound Energy has proposed. My understanding is that PSE plans to upgrade various gas lines, a process that will be very expensive. But this state is trying to phase out fossil fuels. This is no time to upgrade gas lines. In areas with deteriorated gas lines, phase out gas delivery and get rid of the lines. Save money! Don't reward PSE by approving their rate hike.  Frances F Korten
	Julia Gorton, Washington Hospitality Association	E-mail	****See Attachment***
	Sarah Arndt, North Urban Human Services Alliance	E-mail	***See Attachment*** Hello, I would like to submit the attached document as a public comment for the PSE hearing on October 9th at 6pm. Thanks you, -- Sarah Arndt, Senior Manager NUHSA (North Urban Human Services Alliance) P.O. Box. 60215 Shoreline, WA 98160
	Daimon Doyle, Doyle Construction	E-mail	***See Attachment*** Dear Commissioners,  As a home builder focusing on green and sustainable building practices, I am raising my concerns about Puget Sound Energy's proposed electric and natural gas rate increases for 2025-2026. Utility bill rate increases negatively impact my company as a green builder because they place additional financial strain on my customers. When utility costs rise, homeowners and businesses may be less inclined to invest in energy-efficient, sustainable building practices due to tighter budgets. This undermines adopting green building solutions that can reduce long-term energy use and promote environmental responsibility. My company's mission to promote energy efficiency could be derailed by the short-term financial pressures faced by customers who prioritize immediate affordability over sustainable investments.

			<p>These increases can also delay or deter clients from pursuing sustainable building practices that could otherwise reduce their overall energy costs. Please do not accept PSE's complete rate increase request, as it will disincentivize investments in more energy-efficient new builds and remodels. Sincerely,</p> <p>Daimon Doyle Doyle Construction</p>
	Kathleen Bailey	E-mail	<p>.It is highly disturbing to think this has progressed to the point where consumers will have no choice in this matter. The financial impact on individuals are impossible for the average person to incur. Much less to take away gas heat the only source of effective heat during power outages having a huge impact on the elderly.</p> <p>PSE was very recently granted permission to dramatically increase prices for natural gas and electric utility service. It highly disturbing when advertisements by PSE praise themselves for what they are doing to help "go green" when they simply passed the cost of this endeavor on to the customers. Talk to any PSE customer and you will hear how this past recent rate increase has affected personal finances. PSE is a huge monopoly. Customers have no choice but to use their service depending on location. PSE customers have given up to write or express their opinions in this by simply stating "no one" listens to us.</p> <p>My question is why wasn't this brought to a vote or at the very least made it known to whom this would impact other than describing it in a vaguely as "Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, AFFORDABLE, and reliable energy future". This should be on a Federal level infrastructure bill and/or shared by all electric and gas customers equally not a state edict forcing it. PSE customers should not fund this endeavor. This bill imposed on me was not in my financial plan. This is shameful! It's no wonder people are leaving Washington state.</p> <p>Kathleen Bailey</p>
	Leslie Geller	E-mail	<p>Hello UTC,</p> <p>I live in Bellevue. There are so many negative things I could say about PSE, their foreign owners, and their revenue- and profit-driven mission and strategies. I have no respect nor trust for PSE anymore because of their actions, including some really deceptive ones in cities on Seattle's eastside, including egregious ones in Bellevue.</p> <p>So I am writing to oppose any rate increases for PSE, per Dockets UE-240004 (electric service) and UG-240005 (natural gas service).</p>

			<p>Based on recent PSE actions, I do not believe anything PSE says. I hope and urge you to perform an exhaustive analysis of PSE’s rationale for these exorbitant rate increase proposals. And I hope that analysis includes a thorough review of PSE’s past and planned investments in and transition to clean and renewable energy. For many years, I paid extra to PSE for using “green” energy to provide gas and electricity to my house. Last year I stopped paying this extra fee because I could not trust that PSE was actually providing my energy use with “green” sources. I am pretty disgusted with PSE’s behavior and deceit.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my perspective.</p> <p>Leslie Leslie Geller</p>
	Jeanne Marie Kelly	E-mail	<p>My name is Jeanne Marie Kelly. I am 74 years old. I am a climate refugee, having moved very recently from Sonoma County, California fire contry, where my beloved forested mountain home was experiencing failing Redwood Trees, from fire, and from heat and drought., etc., etc., etc.. I am deeply saddened.</p> <p>I am now a resident of Lakewood, Washington. I am a retired Registered Nurse, and a very sad gardener, and a very concerned Mother and Grandmother. I am terrified at the prospect of worsening climate catastrophe....</p> <p>I truly believe that we must quickly reduce fossil fuel use to slow global heating. Instead of sinking hundreds of millions of dollars into a fossil fuel delivery system (fossil gas) that will serve fewer and fewer customers while continuing to leak methane and create safety hazards such as the devastating Greenwood explosion in 2016, we ask PSE to move as quickly as possible towards electrification and clean energy sources. Wherever possible, aging and unsafe pipelines should be replaced with these cleaner alternatives rather than new pipes. I do believe that if the UTC approves PSE’s full rate increase, it will enable and reward additional investment that will ultimately become a waste of dollars funding the climate crisis rather than shrinking it.</p> <p>Please help shrink funding of our climate crisis, rather than increasing the crisis.</p> <p>It is an existential concern.</p> <p>It is ! Please help.</p>

			Sincerely,
	Rosemary Moore	E-mail	<p>These comments relate to Dockets UE-240004 (electric service) and UG-240005 (natural gas service). I oppose these rate increases. PSE is moving far too slowly to replace fossil fuels with clean (not nuclear) renewable energy.</p> <p>We must quickly reduce fossil fuel use to slow global heating. Instead of sinking hundreds of millions of dollars into a fossil fuel delivery system (fossil gas) that will serve fewer and fewer customers while continuing to leak methane and create safety hazards such as the devastating Greenwood explosion in 2016, we ask PSE to move as quickly as possible towards electrification and clean energy sources.</p> <p>Wherever possible, aging and unsafe pipelines should be replaced with these cleaner alternatives rather than new pipes. If the UTC approves PSE’s full rate increase, it will enable and reward additional investment that will ultimately become a waste of dollars funding the climate crisis rather than shrinking it.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Rosemary Moore</p>
	John Stasny	E-mail	<p>We have done our part switching from our 2008 ICE AVEO5 to an EV 2023 Chevy Bolt &amp; in our home to an electric Heat Pump to help save our environment. Now PSE wants to raise our rates.... Have not the oil companies &amp; Wa. taxes done enough to us on fossil fuels??</p> <p>That sure HURTS those seniors on SSI !!!</p> <p>Yes, we have a WOOD stove but I am in my late 70's &amp; cutting firewood to 14" or smaller is getting to be much work, even if I can find the wood pile &amp; then transport it &amp; stack it. Dying from a heart-a-tack is not the best way to heat our home when the HP fails to heat in the cold weather. We have to fire up the OIL Furnace, &amp; oIL is more \$\$\$\$ than KWs currently.</p> <p>PSE has not given us any help &amp; the GM Credit to place a Level 2 charging outlet that would cost us over 5 times as much as the GM credit, was not doable. We plugin to a 120vac outlet &amp; find that charging @ 8 amps is enough for our needs &amp; 12 amps when we need a 100% charge to go past battery range 2 to 4 times a year. To charge at a public EVCS is so FAR from the experience of a gasoline station, YOU MUST DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT !!</p> <p>Last May I drove to Roseburg Or. for a memorial, &amp; the damage to my VISA from those that would even take VISA or those EVCS that would connect to my EUV, not Teslas nor Rinvan &amp; some others &amp; none of the EVCS posted \$\$/KWH. I had to look at the charges online when I got home.</p> <p>ALL-N-ALL our 30+ MPG 2008 AVEO5 would have been cheaper &amp; faster &amp; MORE convenient to drive</p>

			<p>down &amp; back. You need to stop all those EVCS from NOT posting \$/KWh &amp; requiring their RFID Credit card only &amp; all the plans they want you in where VISA or cash pay the most &amp; they are hard to find without an online map too. FOOD for thought in the Washington State investment of new EVCS. John Stasny</p>
	<p>Paul Tankel RA, LEED AP</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>Regarding proposed rate increases for both electric and gas service I have the following concerns: We must quickly reduce fossil fuel use to slow global heating. Instead of sinking hundreds of millions of dollars into a fossil fuel delivery system (fossil gas) that will serve fewer and fewer customers while continuing to leak methane and create safety hazards such as the devastating Greenwood explosion in 2016, I am asking PSE to move as quickly as possible towards electrification and clean energy sources. Wherever possible, aging and unsafe pipelines should be replaced with these cleaner alternatives rather than new pipes. If the UTC approves PSE's full rate increase, it will enable and reward additional investment that will ultimately become a waste of dollars funding the climate crisis rather than shrinking it.</p> <p>Paul Tankel RA, LEED AP</p>
	<p>Cathy Hubbard</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>Docket UE 240004 and EG 240005</p> <p>I am writing to oppose the PSE rate increases for 2025 and 2026. I find the proposed rates to be extraordinarily high and ambitious for the two year time frame. It seems like the proposed the activities would require ongoing funding past 2026. The ongoing costs were not readily highlighted in the information distributed in an understandable manner.</p> <p>The attached spreadsheet provided by PSE reflects increases from 2014-2023 of 64%, with 34% being in 2023. PSE did not provide me a succinct percentage increase for 2024.</p> <p>Now PSE is requesting a combined additional rate increase of 37% for combined electric and gas for 2025 and 2026. Simplistically wouldn't this constitute an increase of more than 100% since 2014?</p> <p>What are projected increases for 2027 and subsequent years? The projects for which PSE is seeking funding will go many years in the future-what do the long term costs look like and what are the projected costs that will be passed on to the rate payers in future years?</p> <p>These rate increases are way higher than inflation and way higher than those on a fixed income receive.</p> <p>I urge UTC to scale these projects back down to a more reasonable figure for 2025 and 2026 and to disapprove</p>

			<p>the requested increases,</p> <p>Thank you</p> <p>Cathy Hubbard</p>
Christopher Sandford	E-mail	Dear UTC:	<p>I am a customer of Puget Sound Energy (PSE), and would like to object in the strongest possible way to PSE's recent application for a rate increase several times greater than even the already-high rate of consumer inflation. As usual on these occasions, it will be the vulnerable, infirm, elderly, or otherwise financially marginalized members of the community - as well as the many PSE customers, like myself, on a fixed income - who will most bear the brunt of the proposed increase. I am not physically able to attend the Public Hearing scheduled for October 8, but please take this email to register my strong opposition to the proposed PSE price rise. While I of course speak only for myself here, I feel sure I am far from alone in saying that my only recourse under the circumstances will be to severely limit my heating supply during the coming winter months, a regrettable state of affairs to have to be confronted with in old age - and also an indictment, I would suggest, of PSE's practice of wringing every last conceivable penny from their long-standing customers.</p> <p>Thank you for considering the matter.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p><b>CHRISTOPHER SANDFORD</b></p>
Sarajane Siegfriedt	E-mail	Please reconsider the excessive rate increases you are proposing. Rather than replace outdated pipelines, you should be investing heavily in alternative energy systems. How about burying a new energy grid in those old pipelines?	<p>Sarajane Siegfriedt, retired</p>
Hugh Hazle	E-mail	These comments pertain to Docket Number UG-240005 10-2-2024 Dear UTC, Puget Sound Energy is one of Washington State's largest utilities and is essentially a monopoly that has little competition. It is regulated by Washington State's Utilities and Transportation Commission to ensure they are	

		<p>charging fair prices. Since being acquired by a conglomerate of Australian and Canadian financial institutions, prices have skyrocketed. Since 2009, the parent company Puget Holdings LLC has made a tremendous amount of money off the venture.</p> <p>Since Puget Sound Energy has gone private, income figures for executives are not available to the public but continue in the multi-million dollar range. Our gas bills have continued to increase and now they are asking for more increases for a variety of reasons. Us senior citizens have received very small increases in social security for the last few years (sometimes zero) and I think it is about time for PSE to live within their means. Other companies such as Boeing have reduced salaries, bonuses, pensions, and health care benefits to make ends meet. Because PSE is a monopoly, the company feels justified to propose unrealistic increases in rates because users have no other choice. PSE needs to reduce staff, freeze salaries, and reduce pensions and benefits to match those reductions imposed by other employers. Natural gas prices have been going down and our bills just keep going up and up. A 17.29% increase in rates is ridiculous. This has got to stop and I expect the UTC and the attorney generals office to protect us by holding “administrative costs and investment returns of these financial institutions” to a reasonable level. It is important to hold the line on expenses and not line the pockets of the fat cat executives, their staffs, and banking investors. It seems to me that they are just trying to make people switch from natural gas to electricity with this big increase in rates.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Hugh Hazle Snohomish, WA</p>
	Chris Goelz	<p>E-mail</p> <p>This comment is directed at the structure of PSE rates. Given the urgent need to electrify and reduce GHG emissions, we need rates that encourage consumers to adjust their energy use accordingly. PSE's rate structure should drive people away from home gas, drive people toward electric vehicles, encourage conservation and be progressive. Low level usage for both gas and electricity should be affordable with electricity being the better deal. At higher levels of usage, gas needs to get really expensive, really quick. Electricity should be priced so that consumers can run a heat pump and electric car affordably but again at higher levels, it should become expensive in order to encourage conservation.</p> <p>The current rate structure doesn't not appear to do any of these things. Time of use pricing is an important tool, but PSE should not wait until the completion of it's TOU pilot program to begin work on a comprehensive rate redesign. PSE should be working hard on a new approach to rates -- sooner rather than later.</p> <p>A new approach to rates -- especially one that aims to influence consumer choices -- may not be received happily in all quarters. But careful consumer education and explanation can address many of those concerns.</p> <p>The current crisis demands action. There are many complicated pieces to the puzzle we need to put together. Rate structure is among the simplest. PSE should be required to get to work on it immediately.</p>



			Chris Goelz
	Carissa C	E-mail	<p>Dockets UE-240004 (electric service) and UG-240005 (natural gas service)</p> <p>Our family is a family of 4 with a single income already struggling to pay our electric/gas bill, among other bills, like many other citizens in the state of Washington. We have no other options in our area for these utilities which give PSE a monopoly and the power to charge whatever they wish. Please vote NO.</p> <p>Carissa C</p>
	Gad Epstein	E-mail	<p>The proposal to raise PSE rate subverts the competition needed in energy so we can get affordable energy prices. WA residents have been paying for year for infrastructure to make our electricity affordable. Instead of ripping the benefits, PSE is trying to fund their bloated and inefficient organization. Residents of WA needs protection from this monopoly and a plan on how to better compete this business. With the natural resources (hydro) in WA there is no justifications for this increase. You are burdening the residents. Prices of power in WA considering natural resources are very high on a global benchmark. No rate increase should be allowed. Employees in WA are not getting a raise to pay for it. This is a monopolistic behavior of an inefficient company growing on the back of residents.</p> <p>Take care</p> <p>Gad Epstein</p>
	John ODay	E-mail	<p>docket UG-240005 natural gas</p> <p>To UTC Utilities &amp; Transportation Commission</p> <p>Docket UG-240005 (natural gas service)</p> <p>To the UTC commission</p> <p>From John ODay, a homeowner in east Renton highlands at 20504 se 152nd st Renton WA 98059 and a user of PSE's natural gas</p> <p>I'm writing to express my opposition to PSE's proposed natural gas rate increase.</p>

			<p>I'm a retired home owner on a fixed income, and I'm opposed to the outrageous rate increase. This rate increase comes at a time when everything is costing more and I oppose the rate increase. Please really consider the impact of this rate increase on homeowners like me. I urge you to reject PSE's rate increase. Thank you. John ODay</p>
	Jayne Bell	E-mail	<p>To the Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong disapproval of the proposed rate changes planned by PSE. The effects of the rate changes to both gas and electric, as outlined by PSE in the Informational flyer dated July-August 2004 included in my statement, set out to increase my overall utility rate by over \$35 PER MONTH! That is over \$420 per year, and that is just for the average household. For homes with children or higher usage, it would be significantly more.</p> <p>Our nation has plenty of cheap natural gas and having our billing constituents foot the bill for building a windfarm for a fairly small community is not ethical, reasonable or good business.</p> <p>PSE, owned by Puget Holdings LLC is owned by several groups mostly in Canada and does not answer to shareholders or stakeholders, but to foreign investors. Although the state regulators, in approving the sale of a 31% interest of PSE to the Ontario Teacher’s Pension Plan Board and Macquerie Washington Clean Energy Inv. LP in 2022 stated ”By approving the sale, the three member commission found that the transfer will result in no harm to PSE customers and is in the public interest, as required by state law.” I beg to differ. By giving more control to foreign investors and a company whose main purpose is to expand energy supply into “green” sources rather than proven inexpensive sources, PSE customers are being harmed. We are footing the bill and the proposed increase is a financial burden to it’s customers.</p> <p>In this day of explosive interest rates and financial uncertainty, it is in the best interest of PSE customers to have management that is looking to fuel the future with cheap sustainable energy, not “green” windfarms that do not produce a return on investment for decades. Or the other unnamed “future capital investments” That may or may not be needed.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jayne Bell</p>
	Dana Olson	Phone	<p>Listed as someone to contact if we had a comment about the changes to PSE rates. I am just disgusted that they want to raise rates again. I don't understand how they think people can afford this. By 2026, the proposed</p>

			increase would almost double what we are paying now. Please give me a call. I will do whatever I can to prevent this. Just hold off on it, okay? Bye.
	Pamela Johnson	Phone	We're on a fixed income. These increases are ridiculous. \$500 more a month for PSE and you want us to convert over to electricity. It was PSE who wanted us to convert to gas. We can't afford this.
	Kathy Ossner	Phone	While I understand the need to reduce carbon emissions I don't think that it makes a difference to just increase the pressures on individuals, I think the problem needs to be solved on a systemic level to change to renewables I don't think making the gas more expensive solve the problem. It creates pressure on individual users without providing a way to address the real problem. Which is about renewable energy.
	Miray Abbott	Phone	When I got my PSE bill, garbage bill, etc., I saw lots of rates are going up. I wanted to call and say I'm against that. I hope that you can find other ways to economize. As far as garbage trucks go, if anyone is listening, I have had garbage fly out of garbage trucks and it is along the side of the road. It made me sad. I thought there was probably something that could be done about that. Thank you very much for all that you do.
	Not given	Phone	I was complaining about the rate increase with PSE. I sent an email and the email said to call his number. I want to voice my concerns because I'm extremely against the proposed rate increases. It seems like it is getting out of control. We get taxed more and more from everyone else saying go electric, go solar, and then the rates go up. I'm not even allowed to chop or burn my own wood. They are pushing more people to electric vehicles and that doesn't seem feasible. I think rates should go down. Feel free to give me a call back if you want. I appreciate you filing my comment.
	Jonathan Schwartz	Phone	Public comment UE 24004 and UG 24005. Residential and business customer. I read the information. I do not understand what would justify the large increase in rates given the other funding sources available. I am wholeheartedly against the increase. It is unacceptable. It is a public resource. I am very much against it. If you have any questions, you can reach me at 360-584-2746.
	Nancy Lopez	Phone	Taken Verbatim by Melissa Castaneda-Kerson: I live alone. I looked at the bill and the increase. I feel this is an exorbitant increase for gas and electric. I am a senior who is 82 years old and have limited income. It is a hardship. I have a two story house and don't run the heat all the time and still get \$350 bills in the winter time.
	Eric John Bailey	Mail	***See attached letter for comment***
	Linda Setchfiled	Mail	***See attachment for comment***
	John O'Day	Mail	***SEE ATTACHMENT
	Marilyn Kamcheff	Mail	***See attachment for comment***
	Nicola Robinson	Mail	***See Attachment

	Barbara Smith	Web	<p>I am going on record as being opposed to another rate increase. If we don't respond, it can appear that the general population approves.</p> <p>First, I am shocked that the utility has been allowed to have share holders that they guarantee a certain profit for their investment. This is our only choice for electric and gas and should be non-profit.</p> <p>It is one thing to charge higher rates for increased operating costs, but I don't like to be hit for funding solar or to provide for electric vehicles. That should fall on the shoulders of the individuals choosing those things.</p> <p>The proposed two year rate is ridiculously high for those on fixed incomes or those with low paying jobs. PSE always asks for huge amounts then is denied or given less. That is their game and we all know it. Why upset us all when they could be honest about the amount they really need. You can rely on their continual request for rate increases. It seems like they want us to take on the added expense of adding new customers when new homes and businesses are built. Maybe just say no they can't supply the power for such growth or charge the new people higher rates to pay for the added drain on the systems.</p> <p>Thanks, Barbara Smith</p>
	Jeremy Mistretta	Web	<p>While I understand the need for some cost increases being passed along to consumers, the rate increases proposed are way out of line even in periods of higher inflation. The proposal for 7.19%(2025) and 9.58%(2026) electric increases along with 17.29%(2025) and 1.59% (2026) increases are ridiculously high and out of line, especially as overall inflationary pressures are easing. These increases are difficult for families to accept and be able to afford, and I ask that you consider rejecting these proposed out of line increases.</p>
	Peter Jabin	Web	<p>PSE proposed/requested rate increases for 2025 and 2026 seem excessive. I make a good income and imagine that I will feel the bite of such increases. Households that make significantly less than me could really be pushed to edge by such increases.</p> <p>Moreover, we must quickly reduce fossil fuel use to slow global heating. Instead of sinking hundreds of millions of dollars into a fossil fuel delivery system (fossil gas) that will serve fewer and fewer customers while continuing to leak methane and create safety hazards such as the devastating Greenwood explosion in 2016, we</p>

			<p>ask PSE to move as quickly as possible towards electrification and clean energy sources.</p> <p>Wherever possible, aging and unsafe pipelines should be replaced with these cleaner alternatives rather than new pipes. If the UTC approves PSE’s full rate increase, it will enable and reward additional investment that will ultimately become a waste of dollars funding the climate crisis rather than shrinking it.</p>
	Daniel m Collins	Web	<p>You target gas users very strongly particularly residential homeowners. A Utility Commission is supposed to represent the people and aim for fairness. An increase of nearly 18% in gas rates for 2025 is unfair. You need to rethink your models... YEs people are switching to renewable resources but not all of us can afford the upfront costs. Your fees are punitive.</p>
	Tad Summerville	Web	<p>I am Responding to the notice of requested changes to PSE rates in an upcoming public hearing. According to a notice I received: it notes an 18.9% increase in PSE rates is being proposed for 2025. The CPI rate is currently 2.9% in July of 2024 and forecasted to descend. Natural gas futures are on the decline and we are at the lowest prices of the year. How can we propose an increase of this magnitude? The state legislature and many city leaders are currently focused on housing affordability. These increases will be passed on to renters and homeowners. They have no choice but to pay these dramatically increased energy prices. How can housing be affordable when the increase in natural gas prices is so dramatic? This is a travesty. I oppose this increase.</p>
	nicholas c hawkinson	Web	<p>The amounts of proposed rate hikes are ridiculous. We who are getting 3% annual cost of living wonder why pse cannot live within that kind of budget, or should we start heating our homes with campfires?</p>
	Vikram Verma	Web	<p>I understand that the company needs to increase rates as operational costs are rising. However, this increase should be coordinated with the annual compensation raises employees receive. Most employees receive an average raise of 3% per year, so the rate increase should align with that figure. An overall 18.96% increase is outrageous.</p>
	Michael Anderson	Web	<p>The proposed rate increases are clearly a strategy by PSE to maintain and increase revenue and share prices. PSE wants to maintain revenue in light of offering rebates for up to 95% PSE customer subsidized home insulation for buildings built before 1990. A KIRO 97.3 FM radio commercial plays for a private company called Crawl Pro’s with an offer of a 95% rebate for home insulation. Similarly, a KOMO 97.7 FM radio commercial plays for a private company called Insulation Northwest with the same aforementioned offer. We do not agree with a pseudo public entity, PSE, subsidizing private insulation companies such as the aforementioned when the subsidies are created through higher rates for PSE rate payers that have no option choose a different electric utility. If PSE wants to subsidize private companies, then, that needs to taken out of PSE profits and not rate increases. Vote NO on rate changes.</p>

	Dianna Torrico	Web	The proposed increase is much higher than the cost-of-living increase that I might get on my monthly social security check.
	Diane Coyne	Web	The rate increase for natural gas from PSE is ridiculously high with little justification. It feels like an attempt to make up for a slow down in new gas customers. Their increase is nowhere near current rate of inflation. Much like health insurance, utility companies are necessary for all citizens. Just because PSE is a private company, I don't think they should be able to seek excessive profits.
	Isobela Shaw	Web	In reference to Puget Sound Energy's proposed Dockets UE-240004 & UG-240005.  I speak for many when I say that the people of Whatcom and Skagit counties find these proposed increases in electric & natural gas rates to be wildly unreasonable. These increases will place a worryingly large burden on the middle and lower classes of our region. I fear that for some, these increases will be unmanageable, leading to people leaving our area.
	Brenda Druhall	Web	These rate hikes are absolutely ridiculous. The lower and middle classes of bellingham are already being priced out in every way imaginable. Local citizens are not being thought of with these proposed price hikes.
	Marci Hammons	Web	Dockets UE-240004 & UG-240005 I am against PSE raises their rates. I (we) do not have a choice of which company to buy our electric power from, and can not compare rates. Isn't that the definition of a monopoly? If it's not illegal, then it should be ethically, reasonably affordable. Please don't let them raise the rates, it's already very high priced.
	Kelly Wise	Web	PSE's proposed 2025/2026 according to Dockets UE-240004 rate hikes are unreasonable for such a short time period. I did not read any indication that they would possibly go back down. Inflation is in the 3-4% range, and the increases that PSE are proposing currently surpass inflation by a significant amount. The people that this would impact the most are lower and middle income people, who already struggle to pay the costs that have already gone up in the last couple years.
	Justin Shannon	Web	I am against the proposed rate hikes, these are in reasonable and outpacing wage increases. UE-240004
	Brian Benjamin	Web	PSE ads 'say' they are lowering our bills. However, their proposed rate increase for 2025 indicates otherwise. I am strongly opposed to the proposed basic charge increase over the next two years. In my opinion, this penalizes low income households. Instead of gouging the consumer to pay for our outgoing governors pet project, I would instead suggests that the base rate remains fixed but increase the kilowatt-hour charge for those consuming over 600 kwh. In my opinion, this would allow the consumer to modify their usage which is what I believe should be PSE's goal. Give the consumer an incentive to conserve electricity & gas. Finally, I do not believe the UTC has considered the increasing demand for electricity with regards to the use of AI. AI is going to place a strain on our electrical supply and grid network.
	John Suver	Web	

	LAWRENCE D BRAUN	Web	<p>Once again the owners of PSE are trying to lay off the cost of capital investments on their customers. If they want us to fund their projects, we should receive a share of the returns on those investments instead of higher energy costs. I stand in opposition to these rate increases.</p>
	Doug Winge	Web	<p>PSE proposes a residential electric "Basic Charge" increase of 30% effective 2025, along with another 30% increase in 2026. Please do not approve these.</p> <p>Thinking only of the residential category, these increased would seem to have a disproportionate impact on modest power users and perhaps also those of modest means.</p> <p>High use residential customers would seem to get a break on overall power cost. They will be less incentivized to moderate/reduce consumption... compared to a similar PSE income model that instead has a lower basic service rate and a higher kilowatt rate increase that might product the same income to PSE.</p> <p>High use residential customers are likely generating an overall larger carbon footprint, while also being in a position to more easily reduce consumption in a significant way.</p> <p>Please consider a smaller Basic charge rate change, even if that means a slightly higher price per kilowatt hour. Thanks.</p>
	Marianne McNabb	Web	<p>We recently received notice from Puget Sound Energy of a proposed electric and gas rate increase they are requesting approval for 2025 and 2026. We were shocked to see the proposed rate changes-as retired professionals, neither our social security nor our pensions come anywhere near the rate increases proposed. It would be interesting to see what the salaries of PSE executives look like. Perhaps they see these kind of increases every year.</p> <p>Our second concern is the rational they provided for this rate increase-many of them are the predictable cost of doing business and should be covered by current revenue. Other reasons cited are vague and don't tie back to any benefits consumers may realize.</p> <p>We've seen rate increases before from PSE but none of this magnitude. They have routinely been approved by the UTC. This is one request that should be DENIED-it's a burden on the citizens of Thurston County and represents an unfair request.</p>
	Norman Oakes	Web	<p>I am commenting about the Climate Commitment Act in general and the requested increase in natural gas and electric rates proposed in turn by PSE.</p> <p>I do not agree with the principle of the CCA in that I do not agree that it has been scientifically proven the greenhouse gases will raise the earth's temperature nor that man is a major contributor to the earth's</p>

			<p>environment. In general, repetitive cycles of natural dominate the earth's climate, especially marine and land effects. Ice ages and heat waves are all part of the normal cycle. I do not agree with spending vast amounts of money to reduce greenhouse emissions.</p> <p>Therefore I disagree with the UTC trying to limit natural gas use and increase utility prices to spend it on trying to reduce greenhouse gases. The ~20% increase in gas costs in 2025 is ridiculous considering recent inflation has only been ~10% in 2024. Commercial and industrial rate increases are even higher. This will throttle Washington State's commercial profitability and cause businesses to locate elsewhere for lower costs. Boeing has already relocated its workforce due to the State's increased taxes and utility costs. The more these businesses relocate, the lower tax revenue you will see. Please keep utility rates low for all of us.</p>
	Paul Arand	Web	<p>I don't approve of the exorbitant proposed PSE rate increases for 2025-2026. You shouldn't either. PSE had a surplus of \$96,000,000 in 2023. The CEO is paid over \$1,000,000 per year with incentives in the multi-millions. PSE is asking the public to pay an extra 17% over the next two years to deliver electricity and an extra 21% to deliver gas. They also plan to make a few superficial capital improvements. Still, people are restricted from getting total credit for their home solar energy and only consumers like myself can't take advantage of half-hearted programs that exclude customers, for example, from converting propane households to heat pumps. A recent PSE flyer states their solar production is &lt;1% and wind production is 16%. PSE promised to move to sustainable energy sources but hasn't moved fast enough. Customer service is minimal. There are only a handful of private electric car chargers in my area. PSE is creating inflation in our economy because price increases don't match the value added to our economy. Please don't allow such steep utility rate increases. The company hasn't proven itself with the recent past excessive rate increases. It's obvious that public is being overcharged to line the pockets of management and maximize profit for shareholders.</p>
	Haylee Nighbert	Web	<p>During a time of increased financial insecurity among residents in Washington state, PSE has announced an increase in our electric bills. The increase is alarmingly high and electric bills have increased 15-20% in only a 2 year period. The increase will only put more of a burden on already struggling residents of Washington and I believe it should be fought against.</p>
	Nancy Hepp	Web	<p>PSE has proposed a 69% rate increase for basic service by January 2026, from \$89.98/year to \$151.92/year. This is a substantial increase that is far larger than the overall 17.4% rate increase proposed. The basic rate increase should be proportional to the overall increase.</p>
	Kevin Hjelstrom	Web	<p>I have recently learned about PSE's proposal for increasing utility rates in whatcom county. These rate increases would place an unfair burden on lowe a middle class families, and strongly disincentivizes consumers from switching over to electrical vehicle adoption. I do not support the rate change.</p>
	Kennia	Web	<p>Docket UE-240004 UG-240005</p> <p>Very expensive price hikes that the average consumer is going to struggle to afford. I don't understand why there</p>



			are such steep increases for such a short time frame of 1-2 years. These hikes are unreasonable with no indication that they will stop increasing or lower anytime soon. It does not make sense that we have to be responsible for 2025 there will be a 6.7% increase in gas and a 18% increase in gas. This is outrageous and only continues with 9% and
	Fred Shackelford	Web	You folks, members of the Inslee gang are already getting way to much as it is. Stop with the bull and cancel this act today. If not we will this fall...
	Richard Sanford	Web	The two-year residential rate increases of nearly 20% for gas and 17% for electricity are extreme, inflationary, and punitive for those on fixed incomes. The wildfire management piece should be coordinated more closely with the Department of Natural Resources, which is already publicly funded.
	Lori Pierce	Web	The newly proposed rates for both gas and electric are unacceptable. We have gas heating, water and cooking as well as fireplace and the increase PSE is asking for is absolutely ridiculous. With the cost of property taxes doubling in the last four years, as well as gasoline and food prices, this is really going to push many people over the edge of being able to survive in their homes. The pandemic is no longer an excuse to gouge the public/customers.
	Paul William Routt	Web	Re: Dockets UE-240004 and UG-240005. Puget Sound Energy is already well funded so it doesn't need more rate hikes. Maybe it shouldn't pay its management and Board of Directors so much.
	Charles L Cross	Web	MY WIFE AND I LIVE ON SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME ALONE. WE BELIEVE PSE'S REQUEST FOR RATE INCREASES HAVE NO BASIS IN FACT. THEIR REQUESTS ARE KNEE JERK REACTIONS TO ENEGRY LEGISLATION RECENTLY PASSED BY THE WASHINGTON LEGISLATURE. WITHOUT THURSTON COUNTY'S SENIOR CITIZENS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION PROGRAM, MY WIFE AND I WOULD BE UNABLE TO REMAIN IN OUR HOME. THE "GREEN ENERGY" OPTIONS BEING FORCED UPON THE PUBLIC, AS WELL AS THE FORCED MOVE TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES, IS DOING NOTHING MORE THAN FORCING RELIANCE ON HIGHLY EXPENSIVE OPTIONS.
	arlen notch	Web	Decrease the monetary amount of discounts given enough to cancel rate increase.
	Cadence Corvus	Web	Referencing Dockets UE-24004 and UE-24005: these proposed rate increases are inexcusably expensive, even for our area. While many companies cite inflation as the reason for rate increases, these particular increases do not reflect rates comparable to inflation rates. Things are already expensive enough in our area and many have been struggling to make ends meet as it is. I implore PSE to reconsider a more affordable rate, so as to not leave middle and lower class occupants in our area without necessary resources. We deserve to be able to afford power for day to day living. We do not take this lightly.
	Paula D Tyner	Web	Do Not support increase in rates for electricity.
	Janeah Burdick	Web	These increases are wildly unreasonable for a 1-2 year timeframe, and with no indications they will ever go back down. Inflation this year has hovered around ~3.5%, nowhere near these amounts, so it seems preposterous.

			I find these proposed increases to be wildly unreasonable, and a worryingly large burden on the middle and lower class.
	Melodi Cottongim	Web	PSE's proposed rate hikes will negatively impact my household. I have done everything I can to make my house more efficient. The proposed gas and electric hikes are out of reach for retirees like me on fixed incomes.
	Jay A Lovato	Web	PSE's proposed rate increases for residential electricity customers is not in alignment with the CPI for this area/region and should be adjusted. Additionally, other rate payers are provided generous rates, well below residential customers. All rates should be adjusted so everyone bears the cost of electricity generation and distribution. Residential electricity rates are the highest of the 13 rate plans listed in their recent "Notice of Requested Changes to PSE Rates and Public Hearings" mailer.
	Kristina L Irelan	Web	I do not want the Commission to allow PSE to raise the rates. My family and I already pay over \$300/month in the winter time for heat and electricity. We have solar to help offset some cost, but that really only works in the summer. Please consider all the rate hikes customers are dealing with: gasoline, natural gas, electricity, water, and food. As part of the middle class, we cant sustain this constant price hike. Respectfully, Kristina L Irelan
	Vikram Verma	Web	I understand that the company needs to increase rates as operational costs are rising. However, this increase should be coordinated with the annual compensation raises employees receive. Most employees receive an average raise of 3% per year, so the rate increase should align with that figure.
	Eugenio Bautista	Web	<p>To the Utilities and Transportation Commission,</p> <p>My name is Eugenio Bautista. I am an immigrant U.S. Resident, fmr. U.S. Army serviceman, and Small Business Proprietor in Renton, Washington. Concerning these proposed rate increases, I am not in-favor of them. The reasoning being as follows:</p> <p>1) The Extra ~\$100.00 USD increase in costs per-year on Electricity for the average home, is unaffordable for the masses who already are stretched-thin by this egregiously out-of-control Inflation the Economy and the People of Washington State have been subjected to the last three years. It is already reaching the point where people must "choose" between food and utilities! No one should have to choose that at all!</p> <p>2) Concerning the Electrical Infrastructure "upgrades" for Electric Vehicles, it is time to stop the molly-coddling of the EV Owner, and make them stand on their own two feet. Those who own EVs, should NOT be subsidized by the average customer for their life-choices. Also, the further you get away from dense-Population Centers, the less a Fully-Electric Vehicle makes sense as daily transportation. Replacement Batteries eat-up the cost of all the gasoline saved, come the 10-year mark, you only beak even against gasoline/diesel at the 7-year mark, and Environmentally speaking, Lithium Mining is Hugely Disastrous to the Environment. The People's Republic of China is the Largest Battery Producer and Lithium Reserve holder, Afghanistan (with its huge, untapped Lithium)- is an unsavory place to operate in, the Salar de Uini Desert of Chile and Bolivia is running-out of water, and Slovenia is declared an Environmental Sacrifice Zone by the European Union because despite Germany having the Most Lithium Reserves in EU Territory, they don't want to Mine it! If we were concerned</p>

about the Environment, we'd be Diversifying Energy Sources, funding Vertical Wind Turbine development/deployment, focusing on Carbon Neutrality, and Reducing Carbon Release from the Oceans through Coastal Kelp Beds and other means. Yes the Power Grid NEEDS to be Upgraded, but it should focus on keeping the grid safe, while increasing capacity to fully-accommodate all people, not just the "privileged" Fully-EV users.

3) The Extra ~\$160.00 USD increase in costs per-year on Natural Gas for the average home is unaffordable for the masses who are already stretched-thin by this egregiously out-of-control Inflation the Economy and People of Washington State have been subjected to the last three years. Again, we are at the point where people must "choose" between feeding themselves and their families, and heating their residences.

4) The Natural Gas system NEEDS upgrades, to be safe and reliable. However such investment is disproportionately negated by the Prohibition of New Customers & Transition of Existing Customers to Electricity- particularly in Seattle, and eventually across the State of Washington. Upgrades will be worthless if we do not have new customers to help stabilize usage and distribute the costs over. Natural Gas is an efficient and clean system for heating, and will NOT over-tax any existing and/or new electrical infrastructure, concerning the Heating and Cooking needs of Washingtonians. Having used Natural Gas and Portable Electric Heaters in combination (electric during the day; gas in the overnight), as well as using Natural Gas for hot water, we are able to balance ourselves decently. However some use it electricity all the way, some use gas for cooking and heating. It's a matter of what suits the needs of the people living their own lives, and as a Service-based Company, PSE should Accommodate their Customer Base, in such ways that respect both the customers and the governing bodies, without compromise of either's trust.

So those are the Primary Reasons I am opposed to such cost increases. While such things such as "...Wildfire and mitigation response..." sound nice, what guarantee do We the People of Washington State have, to ensure that the money paid-out, will go to the upgrades proposed on that front? What guarantees do we have that this money actually covers "...Increased operating costs..."? As a business owner, my own operating costs have shot-up extensively these last three years, but I mitigate passing rising costs to my customers as much as possible. Is Puget Sound Energy really doing everything they can to mitigate passing costs to their customers? Their Monopoly of Franchises for Energy and Gas Distribution in Western Washington is "unsettling", especially concerning these Rate Increases. An Examination of their "Operating Ratios" against these Proposed Rate Increases is prudent in this situation. We need to know with guarantee where and how much of the money is going to what, and a reliable mechanism of examination that holds the powerful- accountable on the topic of these PSE Gas and Electricity Rate Hikes, which I hope the U&TC shall and will be able to do.

I thank the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission for their time and consideration. Hopefully, mine, and others' public comments concerning this issue, will lead to a balanced and fair solution for all Washingtonians- affected by this proposed Rate Hike. We need Safe Electricity and Gas Distribution, but

		<p>Not at the Cost of the Struggling Families and Downtrodden Masses of Washington State- suffering in this Egregiously Inflated, Out-of-Control Economy.</p> <p>Signed,</p> <p>- Eugenio Bautista August 5th, 2024 A.D.</p>
Daniel Katsanis	Web	<p>RE: Dockets UE-240004 &amp; UG-240005</p> <p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong disapproval of Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) proposed rate increases for both electric and natural gas services for 2025 and 2026. The proposed increases are excessive and place an undue financial burden on residential customers, particularly those in the middle and lower-income brackets.</p> <p>Electric Service:</p> <p>2025: PSE requests an overall 6.74% increase in rates, generating an additional \$192.2 million in revenue. This translates to an overall average increase of 7.19% for a typical residential customer using 800 kilowatt-hours, amounting to an additional \$7.84 per month.</p> <p>2026: PSE requests an overall 9.30% increase in rates, generating an additional \$285.2 million in revenue. This translates to an overall average increase of 9.58% for a typical residential customer using 800 kilowatt-hours, amounting to an additional \$11.20 per month.</p> <p>Natural Gas Service:</p> <p>2025: PSE requests an overall 18.96% increase in rates, generating an additional \$196 million in revenue. This translates to an overall average increase of 17.29% for a typical residential customer using 64 therms, amounting to an additional \$13.96 per month.</p> <p>2026: PSE requests an overall 2.07% increase in rates, generating an additional \$25.3 million in revenue. This translates to an overall average increase of 1.59% for a typical residential customer using 64 therms, amounting to an additional \$1.51 per month.</p> <p>These proposed increases are wildly unreasonable, particularly within such a short 1-2 year timeframe. For reference, inflation this year has hovered around approximately 3.5%, which is significantly lower than the proposed rate increases. The substantial discrepancy between the rate increases and the inflation rate highlights</p>

		<p>the disproportionate financial burden that will be placed on PSE's customers.</p> <p>I urge the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission to carefully consider the significant impact these rate increases will have on the citizens of Whatcom/Bellingham. Many residents are already struggling to keep up with rising living costs, and these additional expenses will only exacerbate their financial difficulties.</p> <p>In conclusion, I strongly encourage the Commission to reject PSE's proposed rate increases. It is essential to protect the interests of the community and ensure that utility rates remain fair and manageable for all residents.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Daniel Katsanis</p>
Robert Edgmon	Web	<p>The rate increases are beyond reason. I understand raising rates the rate of inflation but not to the point that Puget Sound Energy is asking.</p> <p>Proposed Electrical service rate increase 2025 &amp; 2026: 16% increase. That's an 8% annual increase.</p> <p>Proposed Natural gas rate increase 2025 &amp; 2026: 21% increase. That's a little over a 10% annual increase.</p> <p>2024 Puget Sound inflation rate is on track to be ~3%. The average Puget Sound inflation rate over the past 10 years, including the COVID spike, has been 4.3%. What can possibly be the justification of an average rate increase of 9%, 125% greater than the average rate of inflation.</p> <p>I can tell you that I won't be getting a 9% increase in my pay each of the next two years.</p> <p>I understand that a company needs to raise rates due to inflation but a monopoly, which is what Puget Sound Energy is, needs to be checked when it tries to increase rates more.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Robert Edgmon</p>
Scott Krueger	Web	<p>I am a PSE customer only for natural gas. I do not want to pay more for gas to help PSE pay for "green" electricity. Thier electric customers need to pay any increases that PSE pays for new electricity sources.</p>
Tracy Fuentes	Web	<p>I can not afford the proposed rate increases for both energy and natural gas. This is ridiculous</p>
Reagan Troupe	Web	<p>Puget Sound Energy is taking advantage of the fact they have the monopoly on power provided to the region by proposing a 15% cost increase over the next two years. People will have no choice but to pay the prices as they need the power to stay on. With the cost of rent, food, and other various expenses drastically going up (my rent just went up 8%) this will drastically harm middle and lower classes. But with rent you can choose to move to a cheaper home, and with food you can choose to make more cost effective meals; you cant just change energy providers as there is no one else.</p>

	Shawn Chidester	Web	The rate changes are 15% change of rates in two years for electricity is absurd cost of living is already so expensive currently in Bellingham. Feels like too much too fast during an already hard times with inflation.
	Bruce Bishop	Web	I'm greatly concerned about the proposed rate increase which will only underwrite more fossil fuel destruction and pollution of our environment. I'm opposed to the increases and urge energy agencies to replace fossil fuel with clean energy at every opportunity.
	Seddik BELYAMANI	Web	PSE Climate Commitment Act Natural Gas Risk Sharing Mechanism You are attacking the wrong problem. Natural gas is one of the cleanest fossil fuel. It is an excellent transitional fuel to totally green energy. We need it until we can have reliable renewable energy. Climate change should be addressed in a measured well reasoned strategy, not by extreme measures which hit the pocket books of the lower and middle classes..
	Cavan Schmid	Web	these proposed rate hikes are ridiculous! Price of everything is going up while our wages stay stagnant! This is theft.
	Jennifer Britting	Web	Large increases in consumer's rates are unreasonable when Puget Sound Energy is a complete monopoly and consumers have nowhere else to turn to. Higher rates means taking advantage of working class citizens to turn profits for the rich. Lower class citizens in Whatcom county already have to deal with egregious electric costs.
	Ellen Fossett	Web	I read PSE's plans to increase the cost of energy by 15% and the cost of gas by 20% over 2 years and that seems STEEP! The last two years I worked as a substitute teacher and my partner has worked a full time blue collar job, and we've just barely gotten by on all of our living expenses. We are cautious people, we don't use lights or fans or AC when not absolutely needed. And I'm worried about these price increases at such steep rates. It's hard to survive and PSE is not making it any easier. It seems almost illegal to jump by that percentage in that amount of time.
	Cadence Corvus	Web	Referencing Dockets UE-24004 and UE-24005: the proposed rate increases are inexcusably high, even for the Whatcom area. While a lot of rates in many companies claim to be adjusting due to inflation, these particular increases do not reflect increased rates comparable to the rate of inflation. Rate increases this high are unaffordable for middle and lower class residents in our area. I implore PSE to reconsider a more affordable rate, so as to not leave an even larger percentage of local occupants without necessary resources. We do not need more unnecessary expenses compounding and making it harder to live in this area.
	Albert Eydam	Web	Reference: Dockets UE-240004 (electrical service)  Dear UTC staff, I'm contacting you with regards to the above docket number related to notice of requested changes to PSE electrical rates. The UTC will be hosting a hearing on 10/9/24 @ 6 p.m.. As a PSE electrical customer (natural gas is Cascade Gas in my area) I am opposed to the huge increase in charges they are proposing for calendar years 2025 & 2026! Based on 800kWh per month usage, the proposed January 2025 will increase by \$7.84 (6.92%) over the current cost, and by \$19.04 (9.64%) starting January 2026! Ouch!!!

			<p>And, as usual the residential customers have to absorb the highest average rate per kWh! I'm hoping the Commission takes a careful look at PSE proposed rate increases, and is able to find a less costly alternative to residential rate customers. Thanking you in advance for the work you do for the Washington State! Respectfully, Albert Eydam</p>
	Lexi Morrow	Web	<p>As things continue to get more expensive the power bill going up will be the straw that breaks several family backs including mine. Both me and my partner work hard for the little life we have making sacrifices, watching every penny, and we still scrape by the skin of our teeth to pay the bills. Any kind of increase of money going out will make it impossible to stay a float.</p>
	Jill Payne	Web	<p>I am on a fixed income, I am 79 and I barely pay my electric bill now. With inflation, my income is only worth 13 cents. They keep having raises constantly and you can't tell me they aren't making profits. You have to leave on what you have. and so do they. I just feel they are gouging people. Everyone is gouging us, the grocery store is constantly higher, PSE is constantly asking for raises. I know there are people in are worse shape than me. I am totally against this.</p>
	Charles W. Crider Executive Officer Skagit/Island	Web	<p>October 9, 2024 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Via email comments@utc.wa.gov and utility@atg.wa.gov Commissioners, On behalf of the Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association (SICBA) we are writing to express our concerns regarding Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) proposed electric and natural gas rate increases for the next two years. (Dockets UE-240004, UG-240005 and UE-230810). In Skagit County, we are primarily concerned about the electric rate increase because natural gas is offered by a different purveyor. Over the past years, Skagit County has seen an increase in residents requiring and receiving assistance in meeting their utility cost obligations. This assistance has been made possible through different community agencies such as Community Action, etc. and even programs through PSE itself. This increase is directly related to the increased cost of rent, groceries and various other required services such as medical. We will not burden you with the statistics that have already been provided by other input on this matter, but Skagit County does reflect the same percentages of financial hardships that are identified by other agencies who provide services and who provide housing for our citizenry. Increased operating costs are the primary justification for rate increases but we think this is not only applicable to PSE. Every business and household have faced inflationary increases in all markets including competitive markets that do not permit unchecked price increases. We totally agree with the statement made by the Building Industry Association of Washington in that "PSE's status as a regulated monopoly should come with a heightened sense of responsibility, not the ability to pass poorly planned financial burdens onto consumers</p>

		<p>without accountability."</p> <p>While natural gas is offered in our area through another provider, we see the same issues as we have identified for the electrical increase affecting those using natural gas in other regions where PSE is the purveyor of that utility.</p> <p>Given the aforementioned information and data provided by other agencies, we strongly urge the Commission to put the real-life impact on struggling citizens within their area of coverage first and foremost; and reject PSE's proposed rate increases for both 2025 and 2026. We encourage PSE and the Commission to explore other paths that will ensure PSE is successful and can maintain its operations without further burdening Washingtonians in their area of service.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration and we feel comfortable that the Commission will seriously consider all the facts provided to them and make the best decision possible for Washingtonians.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Charles W. Crider Executive Director Skagit/Island Counties Builders Association</p>
	Jack	<p>Web</p> <p>PSE’s proposed rate hikes place a disgustingly unfair burden on the lower middle class. These rate hikes aim to generate revenue for the company while pricing individuals and families out of homes. With the current housing crisis, I’m not sure where people would go, so the solution would be to use less electricity. What does that mean for lower middle class families and individuals during the winter months? Will elderly folks and young children freeze?</p>
	Nicola Robinson.	<p>Web</p> <p>For the attention of: The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. (UTC) REF: Dockets UE 240004. Docket UG 240005.</p> <p>To members of the UTC, I thank you for all of your work and over-site of utility companies, in order to protect us as consumers, thank you.</p> <p>I ask for and appreciate your indulgence to read my letter.</p> <p>Factual evidence and information I have included in this letter support my objection to requested increases to electric and natural gas rates by PSE. My objection is based on actions by PSE both in the past and present that show they have not lived up to the code of conduct they outline in their ‘Corporate Governance Statement,’ which includes ‘to do what is right...,’ ‘...by working in an honest and ethical manner,’ and ‘...to serve customers with integrity.’</p> <p>The issues raised in the former paragraph, as well as information that follows, including calculating ‘Recoverable Costs,’ create questions about how reliable and accurate costs passed onto consumers are. Calculations by PSE take place on a foundation of what appears to be shifting sands, costs to be recouped in the form of rate increases on the backs of struggling consumers, held captive by a monopoly with no options but to comply.</p> <p>PUGET SOUND CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STATEMENT.</p>



		<p>Puget Sound Energy states in its ‘Corporate Governance Statement and Code of Conduct Quote: ‘Our compliance program and ethics code seek to bolster our continued success as a valued company. This program is more than simply fulfilling a legal requirement. It is an important tool for preserving our corporate culture and core values. While our code covers a number of topics, it really can be summarized in one simple sentence: Do what is right. PSE employees help ensure that we uphold the code, company policies and the law by working in an honest and ethical manner. We look forward to continue serving our customers with hard work, dedication, and integrity at the forefront of all our efforts.’ End of quote. I understand that the UTC take into account, when evaluating requested rate increases, any costs incurred by PSE that are recoverable, and costs that have already been recovered, not allowing ‘Double Recovery.’ Quote: ‘The Company believes a significant portion of its past and future environmental remediation costs are recoverable from insurance companies, from third parties or from customers under a Washington Commission order.’ End of quote <a href="https://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/wa-court-of-appeals/1017865.html">https://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/wa-court-of-appeals/1017865.html</a> Ref: PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC v. ALBA GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY (2000) Representatives of PSE argue that they gave low estimates of remediation costs, and what they projected was not enough. The trial court agreed with the insurers that these representations established that PSE had already recovered sufficient funds to satisfy its known environmental costs at the six sites. The portion of recovery costs PSE requires of its customers in the form of increased rates, is an area of potentially shifting sands? PSE can say even though they asked for a certain amount, they can later say they miscalculated and need more money? LNG FACILITY IN THE PORT OF TACOMA. Detailed in a quote from the Washington Conservation Action group below, outlines an example of how PSE showed total disregard for ‘doing what is right,’ was not ‘working in an honest and ethical manner,’ and not ‘with integrity,’ codes of conduct they say they adhere to. They showed total disregard for complying with permitting processes and their aggressive posture lacked integrity. They pushed ahead with the construction of the LNG (Liquid Natural Gas Terminal) in the Port of Tacoma Tied Flats, an environmentally fragile area. ** <a href="https://waconservationaction.org/the-fight-against-tacomans-new-lng-facility-continues/">https://waconservationaction.org/the-fight-against-tacomans-new-lng-facility-continues/</a> Quote from the link. ** ‘The 8 million gallon LNG facility has faced years of opposition from the Puyallup Tribe and</p>
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the local community citing climate, health, and safety concerns. While PSE has continuously sought to mislead the public that their facility represents “clean energy” progress, the review process itself has been met with community outrage over the use of outdated science, failure to consult with the Puyallup Tribe, and PSE’s two years of defiant and illegal construction of the facility prior to receiving required permits. ‘  
End of quote.  
PSE still expects us to pay with increased rates, even though we were disregarded in this process, and there is an ongoing risk of pollution to this area?  
The Port of Tacoma incorrectly claimed they owned the land, and leased it to PSE. The property was proven to be owned by the Puyallup Tribe, PSE should have known – known too late.  
NOW PSE STATES IT IS FAZING OUT LNG, AND DEMANDS THAT RESIDENCES CONVERT TO ELECTRIC? Why do we allow them so much power and influence?  
Why are customers being made to pay for this facility, which is the result of so many failures on so many levels by the corrupt culture inherent in how PSE does business, ‘misleading the public, the use of outdated science, failure to consult with the Puyallup Tribe, and PSE’s two years of defiant and illegal construction of the facility prior to receiving required permits. ‘?  
<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/companies/natural-gas-customers-set-to-see-refund-inportion-of-costs-tied-to-tacoma-s-lng-plant/ar-AA1nJNpv>  
PSE over-charged regulated customers of natural gas during their ‘Cost Recovery Process’. Apparently they are now dragging their heels deciding what amount needs to be refunded. PSE is also guilty of air pollution violations – why am I not surprised?  
Quote:  
Apr. 26—State regulators have given approval to Puget Sound Energy's push to recover some of the costs tied to its liquefied natural gas plant in Tacoma's Tideflats, but some customers will carry a bit less of that financial load.  
Regulated natural gas customers and unregulated LNG clients help foot the bill in PSE's costrecovery effort. But a still-to-be determined amount is set to be refunded to regulated customers as a result of a new order issued Wednesday by the state Utilities and Transportation Commission.  
UTC also put PSE on notice over the site's operations in Wednesday's order, which stated, "The company must take reasonable and appropriate steps to prevent air permit violations."  
The decision comes after revisions to its current natural gas tariff filed in May 2023 by PSE to recover costs of the plant's construction and operations.  
End of quote.  
PRIVATE EQUITY FIRMS OWN PSE  
Locally based companies such as PSE, should not be owned by private equity firms far removed from where customers live. The main underlying incentive is to maximize profits by how they

		<p>organize their multiple subsidiaries and holding companies. The out of state location of said associated companies breeds a lack of knowledge and concern for the realities on the ground for their customers.</p> <p>Customers through ever increasing rates carry the burden of wealth being siphoned off by the payment outrageous bonuses, dividends and incentive pay to officers, as well as placing the cost of poorly assessed infrastructure needs on us?</p> <p>The interconnected nature this complex of companies, its subsidiaries, holding companies, governing bodies and investors is not easy to keep track of. They are summarized in the paragraph that follows. Wealth is extracted on the backs of struggling Washington residents, the consumer, wealth that enriches a few – many of whom don't live here and never have.</p> <p>Puget Sound Energy Inc, is a subsidiary of Puget Energy Inc. All of the voting stock of the latter is held by Puget Equico LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of Puget Holdings LLC. All of the outstanding shares of voting stock of PSE Inc, are held by Puget Energy Inc. PSE pays cash dividends and distributions to PE. PE pays dividends and repays depts. or other expenses. Puget Holdings is owned by a consortium of long term infrastructure investors in Canada.</p> <p>Other investors named are based overseas in the Netherlands, and here in the US. Puget Sound Energy Inc and Puget Energy Inc are registered in the State of WA, a legal requirement. We are purely a cash cow to provide ever increasing wealth for this company and its associates.</p> <p>Quote: 'The company's strategy emphasizes meeting the energy needs of the growing PSE customer base through incremental, cost-effective energy conservation, low-cost procurement of traditional energy resources (including by producing and generating electricity and natural gas), and far-sighted investment in energy-delivery infrastructure.' End of quote.</p> <p>Customers experience frequent failures in the delivery of energy, despite the installation of high capacity infrastructure from Renton through Bellevue to Redmond, mainly intended for Bellevue, and not needed in Renton.</p> <p>Earlier this year we lost power in Renton for 4 hours, on a calm day, no freezing temperatures, no wind, no rain, no inclement weather. PSE declined to explain why this outage occurred, representatives stated they didn't know? What can we expect as the weather worsens this winter?</p> <p>We should not be asked to pay more for a system that fails us, especially during the times when we need it most.</p> <p><b>PSE's AGGRESSIVE PUSH TO PURCHASE CHEAP AGRICULTURAL LAND IN WA.</b> They are a predatory utility company, and extremely aggressive in their current push to purchase cheap agricultural land, without regard for risks to the environmental, to communities whose livelihood will be impacted, and to health .</p> <p>Based on historical fact and past behavior, PSE can't be trusted to have our wellbeing and best</p>
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			<p>interests at heart, or to charge us fair rates, for what is often unreliable service. Rates are calculated on a foundation of shifting sands, only after extracting funds to pay dividends, bonuses, exorbitant pay scales, pension funds and investors in other countries etc. BESS and LNG BESS (Battery Energy Storage Systems) are not clean energy alternatives, nor are they safe, despite alleged safety measures</p>
	<p>Andrea Smiley BIAW</p>	<p>Web</p>	<p>Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Via email <a href="mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov">comments@utc.wa.gov</a> and <a href="mailto:utility@atg.wa.gov">utility@atg.wa.gov</a> Dear Commissioners, On behalf of the Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) and more than 8,300 members in the homebuilding industry, I am writing to express significant concerns regarding Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) proposed electric and natural gas rate increases for years 2025 and 2026 (Dockets UE-240004, UG-240005, and UE-230810). The proposed increases would result in an average cost of \$19.04 per month (\$228.48 annually) for residential electric customers and \$15.47 per month (\$185.64 annually) for natural gas customers. While seemingly minor, these figures represent a significant financial strain for many households grappling with rising living costs. Our community's financial hardships are evident. For example, 23% of middle-income earners are cost-burdened by rent, and 73% of Washington families cannot afford to buy any home. Further, many families are already forced to choose between basic necessities, such as heating their homes or buying groceries. Imposing further financial strain on a rate base where 64% of customers are already struggling to pay their utility bills is unacceptable. While PSE cites increased operating costs as justification for the rate adjustments, this explanation falls short. Every business faces inflationary pressures, yet competitive markets do not permit unchecked price hikes. PSE's status as a regulated monopoly should come with a heightened sense of responsibility, not the ability to pass poorly planned financial burdens onto consumers without accountability. I strongly urge the Commission to consider the requested increases' real-life impact on struggling Washingtonians and reject PSE's proposed rate adjustments for 2025 and 2026. Instead, I encourage the Commission to explore alternative paths that ensure PSE can maintain its operations without harming Washington families and businesses. Thank you for your consideration; BIAW trusts the Commission will prioritize the financial well-being of Washingtonians over the financial interests of PSE's shareholders. Sincerely,  Andrea Smiley Legislative Director Building Industry Association of Washington</p>
	<p>Kurt Wilson Soundbuilt Homes</p>	<p>Web</p>	<p>October 9, 2024 Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Via email <a href="mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov">comments@utc.wa.gov</a> and <a href="mailto:utility@atg.wa.gov">utility@atg.wa.gov</a></p>

			<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>On behalf of the builders and consumers in Washington, I am writing to express significant concerns regarding Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) proposed electric and natural gas rate increases for years 2025 and 2026 (Dockets UE-240004, UG-240005, and UE-230810).</p> <p>The proposed increases would result in an average cost of \$19.04 per month (\$228.48 annually) for residential electric customers and \$15.47 per month (\$185.64 annually) for natural gas customers. While seemingly minor, these figures represent a significant financial strain for many households grappling with rising living costs. While PSE cites increased operating costs as justification for the rate adjustments, this explanation falls short. Every business faces inflationary pressures, yet competitive markets do not permit unchecked price hikes. PSE's status as a regulated monopoly should come with a heightened sense of responsibility, not the ability to pass poorly planned financial burdens onto consumers without accountability. PSE has been maneuvering under the agencies regulatory oversight for years which has gotten us to this point. You should see what we deal with in our industry. We too suffer from PSE hiring sole source contractors creating a monopolistic scenario that artificially drives up costs. PSE should have the same requirements of any government agency when it comes to procurement when the government is responsible for its regulatory oversight. As long as they spend the money, they can justify to you that they need it. THAT IS WRONG!</p> <p>I strongly urge the Commission to consider the requested increases' real-life impact on struggling Washingtonians and reject PSE's proposed rate adjustments for 2025 and 2026. Instead, I encourage the Commission to explore alternative paths that ensure PSE can maintain its operations without harming Washington families and businesses.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. I trust the Commission will do right by the people of Washington State and prioritize the financial well-being of Washingtonians over the financial interests of PSE's shareholders.</p> <p>Sincerely, Kurt Wilson</p>
	Ulrike Rodelo	Web	<p>I just looked over the proposed rate increases for electricity and natural gas for 2025/26. While I agree that the infrastructure has to be kept up and improved, I disagree with the amount of the increases. First of all, I would like the increases connected to usage so that using less kWh and BTU's is an incentive. Using less benefits everyone, customers, PSE and most of all the environment and with that our climate issues. Increasing the base rates does not have that effect - on the contrary, the consumer loses incentive because conservation efforts have no financial reward, but rather punish the diligent saver. I strongly urge the commission to influence PSE accordingly.</p> <p>Thank you. Respectfully, Ulrike Rodelo</p>
	Manuel Coltorti	Web	<p>I'm OK with the changes on a per KWh or per Term proposed but not for the Base charge. The Base charge should be reduced to incentivate people to produce energy via solar and reduce the grid dependency/overload.</p>
	Guila Muir	Web	<p>This comment relates to Dockets UE-240004 (electric service) and UG-240005 (natural gas service).</p> <p>To slow climate chaos, it is imperative to quickly reduce fossil fuel use ASAP. Instead of sinking hundreds of</p>

			<p>millions of dollars into a fossil fuel delivery system (fossil gas) that will serve fewer and fewer customers while continuing to leak methane and create safety hazards such as the devastating Greenwood explosion in 2016, PLEASE move as quickly as possible towards electrification and clean energy sources.</p>
	Sergey Shlykovich	Web	<p>Dockets UG-24000</p> <p>PSE keeps increasing rates and I can not catch up by reducing consumption. They claim average bill of \$80 will go up by X amount, but I've never seen such low bill. It is always pushing \$300</p>
	Matt Hubble	Web	<p>Proposed rates are far above inflation. It's unreasonable to propose raising rates by more than 15% over two years.</p>
	Nick Abbott	Web	<p>Has Mary E Kelly gone mad? Has the Board of Directors of PSE lost the plot? While the most common phrase in the media is “cost of living crisis,” PSE is proposing to increase charges for electricity and gas by ~15% and an eye watering ~20% respectively.</p> <p>I strongly suggest that the UTC reject these ridiculous proposals. PSE should be reducing the cost of energy and not increasing it. According to salary.com Mary E Kelly was paid \$4.7M in 2022. Perhaps Mary and her fellow executives should forgo bonuses as a sign that they actually understand the plight of their customers!</p> <p>The reasons stated for these outrageous rate hikes do not appear to include anything extraordinary, rather the types of activities one expects from the day to day requirements of an organization. An organization that is apparently so well run that its Board of Directors sees fit to pay handsome bonuses to its executives.</p> <p>As a scientist I know that details are crucial and they are conspicuously lacking in the Notice. Due to the total absence of data there is no way to apportion what percentage of the proposed rate increases goes to fund each item. How can we assess the validity of the proposed increases without such data? It must exist in order to generate the proposed increase.</p> <p>Why should the rate payers be responsible for “introducing” Beaver Creek, what is it a debutant for goodness sake! This only makes sense if rates decrease after it comes online to compensate for our investment. Like other for-profit organizations, PSE should be raising debt to pay for investments. Of course with current interest rates, raising debt is not favored so pass the cost along to customers and pay the executives huge bonuses!</p> <p>I cannot believe PSE is so disconnected from reality. I sincerely hope that the UTC is connected to reality and provides a robust analysis of the proposed increases October 9th.</p>

	Cara Wietstock	Web	<p>The energy provider PSE proposed a rate hike that goes far beyond current inflation rates and is unprecedented.</p> <p>Ref: Dockets UE-240004(electric service) and UG-240005 (natural gas service)</p>
	Andy Vaughan	Web	<p>PSE's proposed increases are wildly unreasonable for a 1-2 year timeframe, and with no indications they will ever go back down. Inflation this year has hovered around ~3.5%, nowhere near the amount of increase PSE is asking for..</p> <p>As a citizen of Whatcom county/Bellingham, I find these proposed increases to be wildly unreasonable, further increasing the cost of living for all Whatcom county residents.</p> <p>Given the absence of competition for PSE's business, this can only be viewed as a predatory, monopolistic business practice that intentionally harms consumers.</p>
	Karen Buchanan	Web	<p>PSE is proposing extreme increases in their rates for 2025 and beyond. This includes a nearly 19% increase in the overall rates for natural gas.</p> <p>Inflation is out of control. The people of Washington State are having difficulty keeping up with current bills, having food on the table, and keeping a roof over their heads. Rate increases of this magnitude are untenable for the people of Washington.</p> <p>Rate increases will disproportionately hurt those with low incomes who can least afford large changes in their monthly bills, however the middle class is suffering just as significantly due to lack of assistance for those with incomes above the poverty level. Please do the right thing and protect the people of Washington by declining this requested rate increase. PSE may need to raise rates, but the amount they are requesting is unreasonable. Thank you.</p>
	ABR	Web	<p>We are already struggling to pay all of our bills and y'all really want to raise your prices! Reevaluate your choices because we can all tell that this isn't something that you guys actually care about.</p> <p>Do better!!!</p>
	Scott Woll	Web	<p>I am shocked to see that PSE is proposing over a 2 year period to increase rates by over 20% when the actual wholesale cost of natural gas has been on a continual decline due to the oversupply of gas. Their rates are already at premium levels and having no competition in the market seems to make them think they can continue to drain the pockets of its consumers. Guess we all need to "electrify".....and for me that will hurt them as my power provider is NOT PSE.....thankfully ! Please deny this rate increase.</p>
	Pete Rainey	Web	<p>PSE is proposing a 2 year increase in the basic charge for electric service from 7.49 a month to 12.66 a month, a 69% increase over 2 years. For gas service, the proposed increase is from 12.50 t0 17.67, a 41% increase over 2 years. The basic charge should be covering the costs of maintaining and improving the infrastructure. It is hard to believe that these increases are needed for the infrastructure costs. PSE needs to demonstrate to the UTC that these large increases are justifiable for the infrastructure, and will not be used to provide additional income to support salary increases for PSE executives, nor to provide increased income for shareholders.</p>

	Dirk Pettitt	Web	<p>Dockets UE-240004 (electric service) and UG-240005 (natural gas service)</p> <p>Please believe me when I say that as a consumer I understand everything costs more. While my income doesn't increase at the same rate that PSE is seeking approval for, I understand that the cost of doing business is also impacted by the state of our economy.</p> <p>PSE is requesting close to an additional \$700 million in rate increases over a two-year period. These are costs that are passed on to their consumers, who have no other choice for their energy provider. Please hold PSE accountable, reject their rate increase request, and send them back to come up with a plan that is more affordable for their customers. Please make sure that PSE is being fiscally responsible to the users of their energy sources.</p>
	Christine Helman	Web	<p>Unless PSE plans to purchase ALL Washingtonians brand new electric stoves, you need to mind your own business! In a time when the entire nation is straining under the burden of greed-driven inflation, and we're finding it difficult to feed our families, we CANNOT afford to incur the cost of purchasing BRAND NEW appliances!!! Put it to a vote on the ballot, but you don't get to arbitrarily make rules for tax paying citizens!!!!</p>
	Mike Register	Web	<p>A more than 50% increase in the rate seems excessive. A change is warranted based on current inflationary pressures, but a 50 increase is unjustifiable.</p>
	Alison Coppock	Web	<p>How can a company in its right mind increase the cost of something that is a necessity and not an option? Many of us have not received that high of an increase in our income, if any at all. PSE, like other corporations are gouging its consumers when consumers have nowhere else to turn for the product. It is no wonder homelessness is a major issue in Washington state. PSE is forcing people to choose one necessity over another - like heating vs food! Where else would middle and lower income families cut expenses?</p>
	John Suver	Web	<p>Consumers are facing the highest inflation in history. And are struggling to make ends meet. Do not allow PSE to raise their rates They already raised their rates 10.89% !!</p> <p>Are owned by an investment company. Who are only in it for the profits. Profits of \$243 million dollars last year. With \$ 3.2 billion in revenue. Their CEO makes over \$ 4.7 million per year. How much do you make ? Corporate greed. Gone amuck</p> <p>Too much is too much. Let them eat cake</p>
	Richard Demaree	Web	<p>Once again, the people speaking truth and the Democrat's cap &amp; trade policy were right. It's a shell game to say the CCA won't increase costs, while at the same time propose a 20% increase in prices for natural gas over the next 2 years, plus a 16% increase in electric prices - all on top of the increases over the last 4 years which saw the federal and state government push consumers toward electric cars &amp; trucks. Quit giving electricity and natural gas out for free to a certain segment of society and have everyone pay.</p>
	Troy Monohon	Web	<p>The proposed rate increase of 18.96% seems excessive. Please do not grant a rate increase anywhere near this amount.</p>



	Hannah Moore	Web	The proposed rate hikes are absolutely unacceptable, and unaffordable.
	John Albers	Web	<p>I don't typically respond or file complaints, but after reading the PSE story and gas rates I felt compelled to share some concern regarding the expected rate hikes and the Utilities Commission's stance on information sharing.</p> <p>New laws/rules are subsequently forcing change across Washington with the elimination of gas as a viable heat source. I get it.....green house gas emission reduction. However, the Utilities Commission is supposed to be for the people and the lack of transparency is extremely concerning. You know you work for the people, right?</p>
	Charles Pfeil	Web	I am opposed to PSEs proposed rate increases. My wife and I are retired and will be greatly affected by such an increase. With recent inflation in so many areas our budget is severely stretch. PSEs 2025 & 2026 is excessive and will harm thousands of families
	Andy Lager	Web	<p>PSE proposing to increase rates by 6 and 9 percent in 2025 and 2026.</p> <p>I find these proposed increases to be wildly unreasonable, and a worryingly large burden on the middle and lower class.</p>
	Andra Martin	Web	The rate increases proposed are extreme and well beyond inflation. As cost for everything else rises the average resident does not have 15% extra to pay for electricity and gas, nor is it reasonable. We have no one else to source elect from and need the UTC to gatekeeper this increase.
	Erin Kommer	Web	<p>Dear Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC),</p> <p>I am writing to express my extreme concern and opposition to the proposed rate hikes by Puget Sound Energy (PSE). The proposed increases of 6.74% and 9.30% for electricity, and 18.96% and 2.07% for natural gas over the next two years are absolutely unreasonable and will place a devastating burden on residents of Whatcom County and Bellingham.</p> <p>These rate hikes far exceed the current inflation rate of approximately 3.5%, demonstrating a blatant disregard for the financial well-being of consumers. The proposed increases are particularly alarming given the lack of transparency regarding potential rate reductions in the future.</p> <p>I urge the UTC to carefully scrutinize PSE's justification for these exorbitant rate hikes. The proposed increases will disproportionately impact low- and middle-income households, forcing many to make impossible choices between essential needs.</p> <p>I implore the UTC to reject PSE's request in its entirety and to consider implementing measures to protect consumers from such excessive rate increases in the future.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.</p>

	Nathaniel Bean	Web	I find PSE’s proposal to increase rates to be wildly unreasonable. It will put even more burden on the middle class citizens of Bellingham and Whatcom County, who are already feeling the effects of inflation. The proposed rate increases far surpass inflation, and are a blatant cash grab.
	Patricia Knowles	Web	Rate Hikes of almost 18.96% and then additional 2.07% for Gas and almost 6.74% and 9.30% for the next two years for Electricity? We live in a cooler wet climate, and we have already reduced usage to accommodate the already high prices. These type of jumps in rates on the already high prices is hard to swallow. Please don't assume that all of us that live here (I've lived here for 32 years) make over six figures and don't think about how much money is being spent. I understand that prices go up, however these type of hikes (especially for those on fixed income as well) will burden those of us already tightening the belt to make ends meet with living expenses.
	Michael Struthers	Web	I'm against raising the rates because PSE is trying to convert to wind and solar and it is costing a fortune, and the rates keep going up and customers can't afford it. People are running the country and causing massive inflation. Global warming isn't real. The sun controls the temperature on earth and there is nothing that people can do about it. We are not on board with China controlling our country and giving money to these green people. They are brainwashed. It is only their way or the highway. The green movement is stupid and costly. The democratic (socialist) party wants to destroy our country and make everyone poor. Stop with the rate increases and the green energy. We don't want green energy; we don't want electric cars. The rest of the world is laughing at us. They want to restore the USA because we shine over all the countries in the world. Socialism destroys your country and that's what we don't want here in the USA.
	David S	Web	2025 - overall 6.74% increase in electric service 2026- overall 9.30% increase in electric service These percentages are higher than the average cost of inflation. The perception of these major increases is that the utility is interested in profits for shareholders. While PSe is a private company and may have this interest, we ratepayers have no option for this service and therefore cannot opt for a cheaper provider. It is incumbent upon the public Counsel Unit of the Washington Office of the Attorney General to advocate for residential ratepayers who are subject to these major increases. Though the utility may justify their needs for business purposes, such large percentage increases reflect that the utility has not budgeted its projects adequately, and therefore asking the ratepayers to "bail them out." Indeed, we know the price of everything has gone up, but these percentages reflect poor business practices or overly ambitious goals and mismanagement of their own projects or funds. In this case it is appropriate for shareholders to earn less on their investments and for the ratepayers to have reasonable increases to keep up with the cost of living, closer to 3%-4% than 6.74% and 9.3%. I urge the OAG to advocate for lower percentages that are more in line with the average increases in cost of living (3%-4%).
	Sanford Allen	Web	The combined 16% increase that is ridiculous, I am not worried about advanced vegetation mitigation. They are a power company I need power at the lowest possible cost available. I think PSE should be going back to their core purpose, providing power. These windmills are not working, this is ridiculous. We should be building nuclear power plants.

	Carol Taylor	Web	<p>*We are retired.</p> <p>*We were encouraged to build all electric when we constructed our retirement home in 2007, and we did.</p> <p>-We feel that the proposed rate increase for 2025 of 6.74% is unfair because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) We are often at home, living, working, recreating, but not earning money to pay for the increased cost of doing these things.</li> <li>2) Working people are using someone else's electricity.</li> <li>3) We are being forced to subsidize new electrical initiatives and capital improvements for those who choose to own electrical vehicles, which we cannot afford.</li> <li>4) Electrical vehicle use is also being subsidized by non-electrical vehicles. Electrical vehicles do not pay fuel taxes, thus, they do not contribute to highway maintenance and improvements. Not directly PSE's fault, but they are encouraging it.</li> <li>5) The capital infrastructure will decrease every time a hydro-dam is removed, increasing the need for additional infrastructure. Again, not directly PSE's fault, but we suffer for it.</li> </ol> <p>-Because we are retired, spend much of our time at home and our home is 100% electric, we are not typical users of the service. Our bill ranges between \$125 &amp; \$275 per month. A 7.19% increase would add between \$8.99 and \$19.77, although it is not clear how our rate would be calculated, using PSE's example. That would take a team of CPAs. The 2026 example would increase the rates by 9.58%, or for us, another between \$12.54 and \$28.24. This is senior/retiree discrimination. Thank you for the opportunity.</p>
	Dean Bergquist	Web	<p>I am against any proposed increases. A 27% mark up on a service that is deemed as a necessity through a monopoly company is unconscionable. 129kWh difference from the same time period the previous year should not equate to a \$70 difference.</p>
	VP Lester	Web	<p>Regarding proposed rate increases, this has got to stop! Inflation and rate increases together are completely out of hand. An increase of 18.96% for natural gas rates in particular is outrageous. The government is taking away our right to choose how to heat our home, and now is trying to force us to spend thousands more in hidden charges via the Climate Commitment Act. In addition to this the government has created a social payment program using the hidden taxes from CCA to subsidize low income energy consumers. How about you just stop hiding these taxes and fees and roll back the cost of electricity and natural gas! I and the majority of informed consumers are fed up with this nonsense. No more CCA slush fund to bypass taxpayers. No to all the proposed rate increases, and instead cut the rates and get rid of all the hidden taxes and fees on energy companies and consumers.</p>
	Daniil	Web	<p>Hi, allow me first like to thank you for providing electrical service to my area. Now, moving forward, I would like to disclose that I do not agree with PSE's proposed change of higher rates in the future. I would like to keep using PSE, but with rates that do not increase. This is in relation to the 2025 overall increase. Thank you for your time.</p>
	David Downing	Web	<p>I do not support Puget Sound Energy's request for a rate increase. Due to this time of near record inflation and eroding buying power most family's are struggling just to get by. PSE's provided rate impacts are also not</p>

			accurate, the average Washington home uses far greater than their 800kwh example which is deceiving. A 16.04% increase in the next 2 years us unwarranted and I do not support this request for a rate increase.
	Dwayne Tebow	Web	I am 6.7 % and 18.96% is to high, there is a lot of folks on fixed incomes and these rate increases are going to push us right out of our home. It is just making life more and more difficult.
	Erik Titterness	Web	I find PSE’s recently filed general rate case in Whatcom County (and I assume other areas of operation) to be ungrounded. 20% over two years is unjustified and will only serve to continue to exacerbate the cost of living crisis whatcom county is currently experiencing. I see no justification for it other than profit incentive, and any argument of inflationary economic environments or environmental initiative’s are in bad faith. The approval of these rate changes would be incredibly harmful to Washington consumers.
	Mike O'Grady	Web	You are proposing a natural gas overall rate increase of 18.96% in 2025. In a time where there is not enough affordable housing, Puget Sound Energy seems oblivious to the problem. Government generated inflation is finally coming under control. At its worst, it was at 9%. Although inflation is coming down, we don't have "deflation," i.e., the prices are up and won't be coming down, they will just rise at a reasonable rate going forward. I'm all for reasonable upgrades on the order of inflation annually but 18.96% is, as a number of politicians have said, price gouging. Is it unfair to the consumer who has no other choice of supplier. I respectfully ask that you review your plans and bring the cost in line with inflation or near that percentage.
	Wyatt Jarvis	Web	The rate hikes for Whatcom and Skagit county are wildly unreasonable and disproportionately impact the middle and lower class who are already suffering from rent hikes and inflation. Do not raise the rates. If you must raise rates in 2025, do not do so again in 2026!
	Ken	Web	A 16% increase over 2 years for electric is outlandish. Many of us on fixed income are having a difficult time making ends meet as it is. We are in a situation where heat, cooling and appliance power is mandated for us to use electric power, and PSE is the only option for this resource. PSE's reasons do not legitimately support the average consumer. As a quasi monopoly it's UTC's responsibility to support the consumer, not PSE
	Sally Jackson	Web	The below comments relate to Dockets UE-240004 (electric service) and UG-240005 (natural gas service). I disagree with the rate-hikes and their reasons suggested by PSE on their website. We must quickly reduce fossil fuel use to slow global heating. They suggest to sink much of the rate hikes into a fossil fuel delivery system (fossil gas) that will serve fewer and fewer customers while continuing to leak methane and create safety hazards such as the devastating Greenwood explosion in 2016. We ask PSE to move as quickly as possible towards electrification and clean energy sources.  Wherever possible, aging and unsafe pipelines should be replaced with these cleaner alternatives rather than new pipes. If the UTC approves PSE’s full rate increase, it will enable and reward additional investment that will ultimately become a waste of dollars funding the climate crisis rather than shrinking it."
	Clifford S Kellogg	Web	Ref: Docket UE-240004: We are adamantly opposed to this proposal for rate increases. We are on a fixed income, and can't afford the continuing price increases in every aspect of life. Furthermore, we oppose the

			reasons for the proposed increases in that we do not believe that it is appropriate to make rate payers pay for subsidizing e-cars, wind farms and solar farms. Thank you, Clifford & Janna Kellogg.
	James Adams	Web	Don't raise the prices please
	Megan	Web	The amount of revenue they are trying to increase to is ridiculous and greedy. Customers already are having a difficult time paying bills with everything increasing, PSE adding to that is just going to force more people to have their power shut off. Families, children, and pets will spend winters freezing because they can't afford to keep the heat at a reasonable level. The notice stated part of the reason for this increases is electric vehicles. Why should everyone be punished and suffer higher rates because the few that can afford electric vehicles need more power. Some of us will never own an electric vehicle yet we are being forced to fund the infrastructure for others. Another point they noted was "to recover increased operating costs". Citizens do not get a raise to cover the rising costs of living, why should companies be allowed to hike up rates to cover costs. Citizens are suffering and companies like PSE continue to only care about keeping their level of profit up. It may not seem like a huge increase "per house" but that extra \$30 - \$40 can be the deciding factor on whether a family has food for the week, or keeps their power turned on. Nobody should be forced to choose that. PSE needs to learn to work within their budget to fund all of their new ideas, it should not be the consumers responsibility to just continue to fork out money. When does it end?
	John Albers	Web	I don't typically respond or file complaints, but after reading the PSE story and gas rates I felt compelled to share some concern regarding the expected rate hikes and the Utilities Commission's stance on information sharing. New laws/rules are subsequently forcing change across Washington with the elimination of gas as a viable heat source. I get it.....green house gas emission reduction. However, the Utilities Commission is supposed to be for the people and the lack of transparency is extremely concerning. You know you work for the people, right?
	Shirley Huang	Web	Re: Dockets UE-240004 and UG-240005  We must quickly reduce fossil fuel use to slow global heating. Instead of sinking hundreds of millions of dollars into a methane gas delivery system, I ask PSE to move as quickly as possible towards electrification and clean energy sources. Such infrastructure risks stranding as it serves fewer and fewer customers in the future. In addition, methane leaks at all stages from extraction to end use, creating safety hazards along piping such as the devastating Greenwood explosion in 2016.  Wherever possible, aging and unsafe pipelines should be replaced with these cleaner alternatives rather than new pipes. If the UTC approves PSE's full rate increase, it will enable and reward additional investment that will ultimately become a waste of dollars funding the climate crisis rather than shrinking it.
	Amy Nay	Web	The proposal to increase energy by 6.74% in 2025 and by 9.3% in 2026 is outrageous. The proposal to increase natural gas by 18.96% in 2025 and by 2.07% in 2026 is actually insane. The rate hikes do not correlate to the cost of living increases most taxpayers have received. Senior citizens and others living on fixed incomes cannot

			afford these increases and will require additional support from the government in order to heat their homes. Make PSE justify the increases line by line - the numbers do not add up.
	Sebastian K Jones	Web	Rate hikes like this add to the cost of living increases in Washington. These hikes in particular go far past inflation, and are blatant corporate greed. This is a time of unprecedented wealth inequality and record high corporate profits, and inflationary measures like this are the exact cause. PSE already enjoys the benefits of a statutory monopoly as well as government subsidies; the company is guaranteed to make money. This price increase is
	Deana Belous	Web	Proposed rate increase is unreasonable and poses a huge financial burden not only to me and my family but the community as well. Increased rate does not align with % of inflation.
	Margaret LovellFord	Web	PSE cannot keep raising rates that particularly impacts lower income families and mid income families. I know our state asking an industry to shift how they provide their service is going to cost, but we need some transparency. What are they putting out? What profits are they not taking, what dividends are they not giving to make this happen for the greater good. Climate change will impact everyone and we all have to pay, but I believe there needs to be some equity and how it's done and when a company provides a necessary service as a for profit there needs to be some strong morality as we make these changes and this morality needs to be focused on what's good for the community How the business can still function and not go under and in the long run be a viable business rather than bleeding its customers.
	E Burnham	Web	This untimely rate hike proposal comes at a time where many are struggling to get back in their financial feet after Covid, as well as I the face of a potential recession. All other utilities have raised their prices and as we know, on e raised prices ne we go down. It sets a precedent for other utilities to follow suit. PSE just raised their river not long ago (January 23?). Please stop this from happening.
	arlen notch	Web	I've commented on rate increases many times before. I say now: why bother, you go ahead and raise them anyway.
	Sharon Schultz	Web	Why do we little people have to foot the full bill for expansion, repairs, and upgrades everytime something might cost investment money? Why can't the shareholders get 1% less on their returns? They are the ones able to afford the electric vehicals after all. Those of us with 300.00 winter power bills are being priced right out of our homes. Say "NO" to this increase. We just got one last year.
	MIKE HERRON	Web	NO RATE INCREASES!
	Matt Gregory	Web	As a retiree on a fixed income (pension and SS), I do not get cost of living adjustments that are anywhere near the 20% increase for electricity and gas PSE is asking. It is difficult to afford to live in my home comfortably. PSE is asking to fund services I do not use such as electric car distribution and to recover operating cost that could have been handled by proper management.
	Emily Giese	Web	These rate hikes are ridiculous!!

	George Callis	Web	I require an itemized breakdown of the billing increase and Exactly where that money is going. No illegitimate carbon tax currently being hidden or attempted to be included without bill payer approval will be accepted.
	Glenn Storbeck	Web	PSE seeks another increase. Feel as though they continually keep raising rates. Please view any requested increases with a big dose of skepticism, and if approved make sure they are investing it in infrastructure, not more profits.
	Marnie Jackson	Web	No rate increases should be approved unless Puget Sound Energy immediately and rapidly divests from carbon-based infrastructure, and the proposed rate increases that include funding to upgrade fossil fuel infrastructure. Where gas lines are aging and unsafe, they should be replaced with green technology infrastructure—not new infrastructure for outdated technology that's being phased out to protect the future of our planet and society. Focus on economic relief for the poorest customers, on investments in green energy, and on rapid divestment from fossil fuels. No new gas pipelines!
	Jenny Myers	Web	The rate increase that PSE has requested for electric and natural gas services over the next two years is way too high! Please do not approve this increase. Thank you for your consideration.
	Beck Werny	Web	Proposal to increase rates significantly more than inflation is unreasonable. I dont understand why I need to pay this much for them to seemingly just continue maintaing their systems. This seems like monopoly behavior, why cant they just use their current revenue to maintain the system? Dont they guage us enough?
	Eric Hull	Web	Your rate increases far outpace inflation. That is unacceptable and will disproportionately affect middle and lower class people. You are increasing rates with no change in service. That is unacceptable.
	Me	Web	You better stop this rate increase. Average Americans are struggling as it is. Quit fucking the Average person. Bunch of crooks in the government.
	Daniel Cencak	Web	<p>PSE's proposed rate increases and their "reasons" are vague, lacking justification, misleading and regularly supportive of cause to grown their own business. I point to each itemized reason as given by PSE to it's customers, followed by "ME" as my input:</p> <p>1) PSE: to continue to provide safe and reliable energy service through upgrades or modernization projects to existing facilities (ME: this is betterment of your own expenses - this should be treated similar to Cost of Living increase and not cause for an inflated rate increase.)</p> <p>2) PSE: To Deploy an advanced distribution management system to support customers' growing use of electric vehicles and distributed energy sources, such as rooftop solar, to reduce the need for large infastructure projects (ME: I do not have, nor ever plan to use or purchase an electric vehicle - pass this on to those owners only. PSE's desire to build this is their doing to better their business and should not be passed on to the general customer)</p> <p>3) PSE: To invest in pipeline reliability investments to enhance the safe operation of the natural gas delivery system and allow it to meet customer demands at time of peak need (ME: they cannot pass on their proposed voluntary investments. Further, this is not explained how it benefits the customer at all - Further this business</p>

			<p>practice should already be PSE's standard course of business and cannot be factored into a "new reason" to justify increasing rates)</p> <p>4) PSE: To introduce it's Beaver Creek wind farm and provide 248 megawatts of clean energy to about 83K homes (ME: this is the cost of doing business and more so building their business - a business does not pass on their cost to buy something such as a new building)</p> <p>5) PSE: To fund wildlife and mitigation response that includes enhanced vegetation management and infrastructure upgrades, weather stations, AI cameras, advanced safety settings on power lines and communications and community engagement (ME: again, this is the cost of expense for a business operation - an energy company does not need to fund wildlife, vegetation or the like)</p> <p>6) PSE: to recover increased operating cost (ME: further explanation and justification is required by PSE - this really sounds like nearly all line items just described above, but much broader as a "catch-all")</p> <p>7) PSE: to set rates for multiyear rate plan that reflect upcoming capital investments and operating costs over the two year period (ME: are they serious??? are they really asking for an increase to pay for someone to set rate increases such as this silly proposal?????)</p>
	David Goreczny	Web	<p>Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is Washington State's largest, privately-owned electrical and gas utility provider, with a monopoly franchise for much of Western Washington. PSE has one million residential customers who pay for PSE's products (gas or electricity), the production and delivery of those products, and earnings for PSE's shareholders. PSE has been providing those critical utilities for almost 150 years.</p> <p>Why, oh why, would a presumably well managed company need to increase electrical rates by 16.4% and natural gas rates by a staggering 21.03% over a two-year period---generating an 'additional' 698.7 million dollars!? Why has PSE not been keeping up with needed operating expenses, or have they just been diverting funds to their shareholders instead?</p> <p>Every day on local media I see commercials advertising "PSE rebates" to customers for services received from third party businesses. Perhaps, PSE should stop charging customers for the expressed purpose of transferring those additional funds to other customers and just charge customers fairly for services provided, and infrastructure maintained to ensure those services are safely delivered. Customers installing more efficient appliances and insulation will already benefit from cost savings from those doing so, additional monies should not be a needed incentive.</p> <p>PSE customers cannot afford a combined 37.43% rate increase, over a two-year period, to power and heat their homes. That is a ridiculously high increase of rates and should not be approved. And if WA state governmental mandates are driving the requested increases, state government officials at every level need to take immediate action to ensure these exuberant increases are not needed.</p>
	Thomas Kosloske	Web	<p>We have lived in North Whidbey for nearly 20 years. When we moved here there were very few power outages and they were usually due to large storms. In recent years the power has been going off much more than in the past. One day about a month ago, in the summer, while we were away camping the power went off on our street. It was out all day on a perfect weather day. If my daughter wasn't available to run the generator we would have lost a lot of our cold foods.</p>



			<p>All this time of diminishing infrastructure the only thing that has remained constant is PSE rate increases! They clearly are not putting that money back into infrastructure where I live.</p> <p>I am against this and any further rate increase until their service becomes more reliable.</p>
	Jonathan Kay	Web	<p>Their proposed rate hikes fit the next two years are extraordinarily high, with no reason given, and no indication that they will ever go back down</p>
	Cooper Campbell	Web	<p>PSE's proposed rate hikes of 15-20% for residential utility customers should not be approved. PSE continues to operate with extremely generous executive compensation and more than adequate profit margin. The rate increases fall on customers who will receive no direct benefit/improved service. I am not in favor of this proposal and suggest PSE be sent back to the drawing board.</p>
	Brian ODonnell	Web	<p>Over the last few years our combined electric and gas bill has gone up nearly 30%. That is ridiculous. Nothing else in our lives has gone up that much in such a short time. There is no indication of the repayment of 34.6 million dollars in our current bills. If it was indicated in a previous bill, it must have been a tiny amount as the bills seem to go up and up, not down. At some point we will no longer be able to afford our power bills. I expected the Utilities Commission to represent us, the consumer, but it seems that every time PSE wants an increase the UC just rubber stamps it. We now have some of the most expensive energy bills in the country. That was not always the case. When are you going to do something about this?</p>
	Rebecca Williams	Web	<p>This is a WILDLY high price hike considering the prior years, and with inflation hovering around 3.5%- a back to back increase of this nature over two years is insane price gouging. There is no indication that this will be rolled back or decreased in the future. This price increase is to increase profits and is going to put undue hardship on the citizens of Whatcom county that are middle class.</p>
	Greg Riley	Web	<p>The proposed increase of rates is too large for a 1 to 2 year time frame. Rate increases should be limited to near the rate of inflation. These increases are much larger and the time frame is much too short.</p>
	Ruth Holbrook	Web	<p>Docket UE-240004</p> <p>I am adamantly opposed to PSE's proposal to increase electrical service rates by 6.74% in 2025 and an overall 9.30% increase in 2026. the expected \$11.20 per month added to my residential bill is \$22.40 per billing cycle. This request appears to be purely about revenue rather than the very recently approved increase related to the cost of power-related initiatives. I live in a well-insulated 500 square foot house with LP heat (fireplace) and range. My only electrical use is from the 100 gallon water heater, a front-loading washer/dryer unit and lcd bulbs in every light fixture. My lowest bill for the year is now \$150.00. It USED to be below \$75 and then it jumped to \$100. This is not a huge power bill compared to others- I can't imagine the increased burden on people not people in apartments with no choice but who use baseboard heat or who live in a large home-with families and other needs in their overall budget. This rate increase request should be summarily rejected. Thank you for your time.</p>

	John Vicencio	Web	This is ridiculous. Every year we use less and less energy and rates get higher and higher. How much longer until we're paying for more for near nothing? People are financially exhausted and there is no more money to give!
	Jack Burnam	Web	<p>The proposed rate increases are outlandish! Where is the proof that these increases are necessary? They just send out a notice that "we want more money" and do not offer any explanation as to how existing funds are being spent. They assume we accept the pretense that they are operating in the red.</p> <p>Specifically, PSE has indicated that they can accommodate the new electric demands placed on their system by the advent of electric cars yet in their statements they have never said that it would result in a 16% increase in electrical rates over the next two years. PSE has been collecting funds for "safe and reliable energy service" for at least the 20 years that I have been resident of the state. I have yet to see how the funds collected have been used to benefit the public. Per the governor's office, the use of natural gas is being reduced. Yet this increase is to (paraphrased) invest in pipeline reliability and to meet peak demands. Given the trend to reduce the use of natural gas demands should be reduced. How much money is required to "introduce" the Beaver Creek wind farm? These funds should have already been gathered in the past to build the wind farm including introducing it to the public. PSE already collects funds for wildfire and mitigation response, yet they now need an increase to fund more? How have the collected funds been spent to date? I notice they state that the increase is required to "recover" operating costs. Have they been operating in the red? Finally, they want to set rates to "reflect upcoming capital investments and operating costs"? What are they? How have they been determined? What is the benefit to cost ratio?</p> <p>In conclusion, without providing any proof the proposed rate increase is a blatant money grab!</p>
	Sarah	Web	Continuing to raise rates is already untenable. Rates are already too high, and raising them even more places an undue burden on the customers. "To recover increased operating costs" and other reasons for the rate adjustments need to be found in other places. As a for-profit company, perhaps cuts need to be made in other areas, like executive salaries or other places that are unnecessarily excessive. People who are reliant on energy, and are forced to use a for-profit monopoly, should not be continually over-burdened. With more green energy available, our rates should be going down, not continually going up. It is unreasonable and not sustainable, especially for the (MANY) people who rent and have no control over creating a more efficient energy resource for themselves. Please do not let more rate hikes happen.
	Matt Gregory	Web	PSE has informed me that they propose a Jan 2025 rate increase of 18.96% and a Jan 2026 rate increase of 2.07%. I am in my late 70's living on a fixed income (pensions and SS) that nowhere increase at level. Electricity and Gas are a basic service to my home so I can live comfortably and this type of rate increase is
	Bridget Foust	Web	PSE had a revenue of 3.35 billion in 2023. The proposed rate increase, which affects working families who are trying to make ends meet, seems excessive! Please stop increasing rates, I know it's the easy way to increase profits, but perhaps you should start thinking outside the box and get creative with the profits that you do have.
	Greg Smoot	Web	Rate increase requested is significantly higher than cost of living adjustments. PSE should do a better job of controlling costs. The push to change to all electric is necessary but it needs to be slowed down and spread out over a longer period of time

	Tosh	Web	Please DO NOT raise utilities even more. We are struggling as is. We do NOT get these types of raises at work like you plan on raising rates. Everything is so expensive.
	Julie Ann Comer	Web	I would like to object to the rate increase proposed by PSE again for year 2025 and 2026. The rate increase will add more financial burden to PSE's customers especially seniors relying on fix income because of the inflation and rising cost of everything from food, electricity, property taxes, insurance and medical care. It would mean choosing between heating or food and medical care for most residents of Puget Sound.  And why is PSE asking for rate increase year after year? Is the rate increase this year not enough?
	Nancy Lopez	Web	I want to vote against raising the rates, because they are too high. How often are rates increased? My computer broke so I prefer to be contacted by phone: 425-200-7925. Thank you.
	M.B.	Web	If you force everyone to heat their homes with only electric, what happens when the electricity goes out, like it did in Texas when Ted Cruz flew off to Cancun, Mexico? This isn't Texas -- it can get quite cold here in Winter and, in a real emergency situation, such as war, or even just windstorms that can take out power for days or even weeks, how are people supposed to heat their homes? Also, electric heat is not nearly as good as gas heat for older people or people who suffer with diseases, such as arthritis. Expecting the consumers to pay tens of thousands of dollars (or even more) for upgraded appliances and equipment is unfair.  I oppose the company's proposal and also the Bill that is forcing PSE to have to make these changes for those reasons mentioned above, PLUS the fact that this will greatly affect people living on a fixed income. No one I know receives those kinds of salary increases to offset these proposed astronomical rate hikes, and many people are not even compensated to meet the normal cost-of-living increases.  These increased expenses are a burden to the low- and middle-class customers of PSE, with only some relief being offered to lower class individuals. Once again, this falls onto the middle-class, some of which are barely scraping by. You are forcing the middle and lower income people to choose between "heating" or "eating" in many cases.  I vehemently oppose these proposed astronomical rate increases by PSE.
	Karen Epifano	Web	They keep raising our rates every year and they're using the argument about renewable energy and creating better systems in renewable energy. Thats some of what they described. We did not want PSE to take over or to continue a number of years ago. We didn't win, so now we just have these continued raises of rates. I don't have a heat pump. That's basically it, I just don't agree with these rate hikes. I don't know how much their CEOs are getting paid, but why are they taking it out on us? It has been more reliable than before, but it takes it out of the hands of the public and into this corporation
	Mary Coleman	Web	I have been made aware that Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has submitted a two-year rate increase request for your approval. I would like to state that I strongly object to this rate increase request.

			<p>PSE’s rate increase request is very extreme. I am retired and am on a fixed income. PSE’s rate increase request far exceeds any cost-of-living increase I have received or will receive in the next two years or future years. There is no way I can absorb these rate increases.</p> <p>Such high-rate increases will force more people, seniors on a fixed income in particular, into homelessness. Unfortunately, many seniors currently are being forced into having to decide if they should cut back on their needed meds in order to feed themselves and/or keep a roof over their heads.</p> <p>The same goes for low-income people. There is no way they can absorb these increases.</p> <p>Renters may think this increase will not impact them. But landlords will not absorb these increases on their own. Rent rates will be increased and many renters will not be able to afford the rent increase; therefore, leading to more homelessness - including more children being homeless.</p> <p>PSE has listed a variety of reasons for their rate increase. Are all of their reasons justified? How much of this increase will be going to salary increases for those making six+ salary figures? How much more profit will PSE be seeing? What does PSE’s increased operating cost include? Since electric vehicle owners do not pay gas taxes, can an electrical tax be added to their vehicle license fee and also charge more to use a charging station?</p> <p>Please seriously consider the financial impact of PSE’s extreme rate increase request.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
	Tina North	Web	<p>I understand PSE is requesting a hike in our rates. We’re already suffering from the high price of everything and PSE’s proposal is price gouging. Please look into this and protect consumers.</p> <p>Thank you, Tina North</p>
	Sarah Becker	Web	<p>How can PSE justify raising electric rates 6.74% - 2025 / 9.3% - 2026 and natural gas rates 19.96% - 2025 / 2.07% - 2026 when the average person only sees a 1-3% cost of living increase in their wages? These increases are on top of all the other rising costs we are seeing - property taxes, food, childcare and eldercare. PSE should be able to manage their costs without burdening the consumer who relies on the services to maintain a healthy life.</p>
	Nancy Weaver	Web	<p>They recently had a raise hike. I'm using less electric and paying more already. I can't use any less electric than I already am. I am on a limited fixed income and raising its another 20% over the next two years is going to adversely affect me. I am a retired senior citizen. I don't drive an electric vehicle. I don't support AI companies</p>

			getting cheap electric. I don't support everything going up 30 to 100% while my income stays the same. Perhaps you can do something for senior citizens on fixed incomes to give them a better rate. I think it's idiotic to tear the dams down until you have the resources to build something back up.
	Katherine Hattori	Web	<p>I come from PG&amp;E country and I was relieved to move to beautiful Washington State and see that so much of the electrical service comes from renewable resources and that it was a bit of a challenge to obtain natural gas services. Our household made the decision to go 100% renewable (or as much as possible) electrical and forgo natural gas. We are happy we did! The effects of climate change and use of fossil fuels is topmost in my mind, and allowing expansion of fossil fuels is not the right direction for our State. I am so proud how concerned and willing to change to fight climate change my fellow Washingtonians are, and I oppose providing additional funding to PSE to keep building the same old carbon and methane-belching delivery systems. Furthermore, I oppose the rate hikes as an elder citizen with limited income, and know that this puts economic pressure on poorer communities and families. I think that PSE should be proposing non-petroleum, renewable and safe energy solutions and we should NOT continue funding for petroleum energy sources that we KNOW are threatening our lives and livelihoods. I live near the Greenwood neighborhood where our falafel friends' storefront exploded from a natural gas leak, and years later, that space has not been rebuilt. They are a small business and this was a huge economic blow to them.</p> <p>I am also a small business owner (Botanical Colors, LLC) and the bulk of our energy use for our facility is electrical, LED and uses as many renewable resources as possible. I want to see the focus and direction on renewable, non-fossil fuel supply for both my home and my business. More importantly, this direction is for the future of our planet. We need to fight climate change with everything we have, and adding more gas pipelines does not accomplish this goal. Please do not approve this petition to raise rates and continue on a known path to climate destruction. Thank you very much!</p>
	Devinder Singh	Web	For a household this amounts to a whopping 36.6% increase in their combined gas and electricity bill over the next 2 years. It is difficult to imagine how poor household will be able to afford it on top of recent run of wider inflation.
	ROBERT D CARLSON	Web	Please do not approve Puget Sound Energy's request for rate increases. Requested rate increases are excessive and do not benefit customers. Current customers should not be required to pay for PSE's expansion of service to future businesses and households. They should pay for new capacity and services to support their new construction. Rate increases contribute to inflation for all network users in a time of stressed budgets. Please do not approve. Thank you
	Cliff Hanks	Web	Puget Sound Energy charged .48012 for natural gas delivery on August 2016 and .72927 on July 2024. Based on my calculations, that is a 51.9% increase vs the CPI in the Seattle area of 35.84% for the same time period ( <a href="https://www.seattle.gov/economic-and-revenue-forecasts/inflation">https://www.seattle.gov/economic-and-revenue-forecasts/inflation</a> ). Puget Sound Energy's natural gas rates have significantly exceeded the rate of inflation. Furthermore, the requested combined rate increase of 21.03%

			<p>over two years will also significantly exceed the rate of inflation, which at the current rate would be 8.7 %.</p> <p>Given that PSE already collects 16.06% higher than the rate of inflation, and the future inflation rate is projected to be 8.7%, the rate increase should be denied.</p> <p>Also, the request for the climate commitment act natural gas risk sharing mechanism should be postponed pending the outcome of Initiative 2117 which will be voted on in November 2024. If this initiative passes, this request will not be needed.</p>
	Emily Parker	Web	<p>The projected rate increase for election and natural gas in 2025 and 2026 are unreasonable. The rate increase will put too much stress on middle and lower class citizens such as myself. The rate increase is asking too much of regular citizens, please reconsider.</p>
	Justin Maurer	Web	<p>It's wildly irresponsible to increase price this drastically with little to no evidence of where the costs are going. Its unsustainable and will cause major issues for living in this city</p>
	Laurie Keddie	Web	<p>Everybody and their dog is raising prices WAY above Cost of Living. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that this is a recipe for disaster for people that are already struggling to eat or get proper housing or just live. Particularly the so called middle-class or lower income people. Now, sometimes increases are justified due to shortages, weather events, or whatever unpredictable disaster causes a shortage of something. However, it is my understanding that PSE makes a good buck and does not need this increase. So, what, people are now going to freeze because they can't afford heat. Or, can't cook because they can't afford the fire up the over? When does it end, honestly?</p>
	Evan	Web	<p>PSE reported a net profit for Q1 2024 of \$146,125,000 and yet is proposing obscene rate increases of nearly 7% YoY for electric and almost 19%(!!) for natural gas service. These rate increases should be unilaterally rejected. Brief Internet research shows that commodity natural gas prices actually decreased more than 6% over the last year and that, by some metrics wholesale electricity prices also have decreased! Overall inflation is significantly down as well. How, then, can PSE possibly justify these massive rate increases? The company is massively profitable and appears to be working directly against the public's best interest with its proposal, instead aiming only for infinitely-increasing corporate profits while its customers are left with their hands tied, bruised and battered by massive price increases year after year, wallets sucked dry. All while being, in most cases, legally mandated to purchase from the company. Reject PSE's proposal.</p>
	Christian Kinley	Web	<p>Hello, I am writing regarding Puget Sound Energy's proposed rate increases for 2025 and 2026 (Dockets UE-240004 and UG-240005). While I understand the need to keep up with inflation, the percent increase PSE is proposing is way higher than the inflation rate. It is unreasonable and harmful to our state's citizens at a time when many households are experiencing more financial pressure than they ever have in recent history. With the recent push toward electrification, and especially the Inflation Reduction Act incentives being made available in 2025, PSE should be getting more revenue from electricity use. If their revenue is increasing as a result of this, why do they need to take even more money from our citizens? If we really want to be a green state and have more households electrify, then make electricity more affordable, not less affordable! We already have way too</p>

			many people being pushed out of their homes due to rapidly increasing rent costs. Are we now going to add rapidly increasing utility costs to this problem? Please consider our already cost-burdened citizens. Thank you.
	Michelle Patko	Web	The proposed electric rate increases of 6% and 9% are extremely unreasonable. These rates are grossly disproportionate to the both the anticipated inflation rate in 2025 of 1.9%, as well as anticipated wage increases. The proposed overall gas rate increase of over 20% by 2026 is unethical and is an undue financial burden for PSE's customers. The Washington State Energy Efficiency grant provides funding for the utility projects that PSE blames for proposing such severe increases.
	Grace Walthew	Web	Please don't let them raise the prices. The costs have already increased substantially along with groceries, rent, the cost of living in general...If there was another electric company to switch to, or to shop around and compare prices...but this is the only choice. It's either pay whatever they ask or no electricity, so you have no choice. Everything is so expensive now, I have no idea how people are surviving. It's hard being at the mercy of these billion dollar companies (PSE being worth over \$3.35 bil) while they choose to take every possible advantage of their captive customers whose only recourse is pleading with you.
	Joel Stamm	Web	Re: UE-2400004. We, the citizens of Washington State, simply cannot absorb another rate increase. Our electric bills have just gone up exponentially over the last decade. Price inflation is at an all time high due to the Fed's endless money printing. Washington State has become one of the most expensive states to live in thanks to both parties, but especially thanks to the Democrats. Housing, groceries, gasoline, water, and other staples are just unaffordable anymore. I cannot stress this enough - please DO NOT approve a rate increase from PSE.
	Bryn Kildow	Web	Once again, PSE collects record monies. With inflation at the rate it is, with people like my elderly neighbors on severely restricted incomes, as I myself approach retirement, I resent a company under foreign ownership wanting to collect even more income than they already do, just to watch that money be shipped out of state, let alone the country.  Their staffing is at such a low level, that any emergency requires them to fly people from out-of-state to assist in repairs, resulting in even more money leaving our economy. Maybe if their board reduced their salaries or turned down their yearly bonuses, they'd have enough for normal operating costs.
	Chad Vigen	Web	I am opposed to the significant rate increase in PSE gas rates. PSE takes the stance that they need these rates to increase for investments in Green electricity. Unfortunately, being in Snohomish county, I will not benefit. My Electric supplier is Snohomish PUD. None of this money is going to their infrastructure and green electricity. If I am paying this much for gas, the money for investment should go to the power entity that services me.
	Kris Freeman	Web	We must quickly reduce fossil fuel use to slow global heating. Instead of sinking hundreds of millions of dollars into a fossil fuel delivery system that will serve fewer and fewer customers while continuing to leak methane and create safety hazards such as the devastating Greenwood explosion in 2016, we ask PSE to move as quickly as possible towards electrification and clean energy sources. Wherever possible, aging and unsafe pipelines should be replaced with these cleaner alternatives rather than new pipes. If the UTC approves PSE's full rate

			<p>increase, it will enable and reward additional investment that will ultimately become a waste of dollars funding the climate crisis rather than shrinking it. My comments related to Dockets UE-240004 (electric service) and UG-240005 (natural gas service).</p>
	Tami Edwards	Web	<p>They want to increase rates again, including the basic charge which we can't avoid even if we get solar. And they charge the commercial basic rate for my shop even though it's not a commercial building and we're not zoned commercial.</p>
	Tom Trunk	Web	<p>I am not in favor unless the company can assure me they would "give back" when they do equally as well over their budget.</p>
	Yasminah Andrienas	Web	<p>I would like to know the amount of solar electricity this utility is gaining free of cost from clients who are producing solar/wind energy in excess of their use of electricity. Thus how much energy is PSE getting free of cost? As there are increasing number of homes with solar panels, I suspect this is a substantial amount of energy PSE is getting for free.</p>
	Lei	Web	<p>For Dockets UE-240004 (electric service) and UG-240005 (natural gas service)</p> <p>To the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC),</p> <p>I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposed rate increases for electric and natural gas services by Puget Sound Energy (PSE) for the years 2025 and 2026. The proposed increases are substantial and would significantly impact the financial well-being of many residents.</p> <p>For electric service, the proposed rate increases are as follows: 2025: An overall 6.74% increase, resulting in an additional \$192.2 million in revenue. A typical residential customer using 800 kilowatt-hours would see an average increase of 7.19%, or \$7.84 per month. 2026: An overall 9.30% increase, generating an additional \$285.2 million in revenue. A typical residential customer using 800 kilowatt-hours would see an average increase of 9.58%, or \$11.20 per month.</p> <p>For natural gas service, the proposed rate increases are as follows: 2025: An overall 18.96% increase, resulting in an additional \$196 million in revenue. A typical residential customer using 64 therms would see an average increase of 17.29%, or \$13.96 per month. 2026: An overall 2.07% increase, generating an additional \$25.3 million in revenue. A typical residential customer using 64 therms would see an average increase of 1.59%, or \$1.51 per month.</p> <p>These proposed increases are exceptionally high and come at a time when many residents are already struggling to make ends meet. Household incomes are not expected to rise at a rate comparable to these proposed increases, making it increasingly difficult for residents to afford essential utilities.</p>



			<p>It is important to consider the financial burden that these rate increases will place on the community, especially on those with fixed or lower incomes. A more gradual and reasonable approach to rate increases would be more appropriate, ensuring that residents can continue to afford necessary services without facing undue financial hardship.</p> <p>I urge the UTC to carefully examine these proposed rate increases and to consider the significant impact they will have on residential customers. Alternative solutions that do not disproportionately impact the financial stability of residents should be explored. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Lei</p>
	David Behar	Web	<p>PSE's proposed rate hikes are outrageous! Those of us living on fixed incomes are having a very difficult time, and an increase of over 7% next year followed by a second increase of over 9% the next year is outlandish! It feels as though we are being gouged, and will make our increasing tight budgets decimated!</p>
	Barbara Carey	Web	<p>We are in the midst of a climate emergency! Business as usual is no longer an option. We must quickly reduce fossil fuel use to slow climate chaos and prevent the Earth from heating more than 1.5 degrees C above pre-industrial conditions. It makes no sense to sink hundreds of millions of dollars into a fossil fuel delivery system (fossil gas) that will serve fewer and fewer customers while continuing to leak methane and create safety hazards such as the devastating Greenwood explosion in 2016. PSE must move as quickly as possible towards electrification and clean energy sources.</p> <p>Wherever possible, aging and unsafe pipelines should be replaced with cleaner alternatives-- not new pipes. If the UTC approves PSE's full rate increase, customers will be forced to pay for a boondoggle like the Tacoma LNG facility that funds the climate crisis rather than shrinking it. Please do not approve these large rate hikes!</p>
	Richard L Heffele	Web	<p>I understand PSE wants to raise utility rates 17% in the next year or two, to pay for work on their two dams on the Baker River here in Skagit County. Ever since Puget Power was acquired by an international conglomerate they have wanted rate increases every six months. There is no cost of the water itself flowing through the dams. This increase is going to have a significant impact on low and modest incomes, and seniors like me on fixed incomes. If this increase is approved, once the dam costs are paid for, the rate should be lowered or else the utility will receive additional profits. This request should be carefully scrutinized.</p>
	Michael Revow	Web	<p>I am writing about the requested Puget Sound Energy 2024 / 2025 rate increases for residential customers. The proposal calls for increase of 17.5% electrical and 19% over 2 years, or 8-9% per year which is more than 400% times the target inflation rate. While I see that some upgrades are required this does seem excessive for those of us on fixed incomes that are being battered by out-of-control inflation over the past 2 years. Beside the size of the increase it seems the way the increase is allocated is flawed in that it is heavily weighted towards excessive increases in fixed costs compared to consumption rates. This has 2 negative public policy implications:</p>

			<p>1. It does not encourage much needed energy conservation 2. Penalizes lower income customers by precluding the opportunity to control monthly spend</p> <p>The reasons for this assertion is as follows:</p> <p>Both the proposed electric and gas increases are heavily overweighted to increase in fixed charges.</p> <p>Electricity The proposals call for 30% increases in both 2024 and 2025 for an overall increase of almost 70% over in basic charges over 2 years. The kilowatt-hour increase are more modest of under 10% in each year with an overall increase of 12-14% over 2 years. The smallest increase is in fact reserved for the heaviest electric power users (over 600 kWh).</p> <p>Gas The basic charge will increase about 19% in both years for an overall increase of 41% over 2 years, while usage are much smaller of 15-19% over 2 years</p> <p>I believe these biases sends the wrong message to customers that conservation is not rewarded and in fact you will be financially penalized if you conserve. They also provide almost no opportunity for financially strapped customers to manage monthly payments even if they try, since cutting back on usage does little to manage their monthly bill</p>
	Daniel Kevin Renshaw	Web	<p>It seems these rate increases keep coming year after year in extremely high percentages. For electric for 2025, a 6.4% increase. And for 2026 a 9.3% increase. And then for gas for 2025 a 18.96% increase. An in 2026 another 2.07% increase. I'm 70 and my wife is 65. I'd like to retire in a few years but with these rate increases that keep coming along with the yearly rate increase for our city water, sewer, and trash pick-up I don't think I'll be able to retire and keep my house. Add to that my property taxes have doubled since I bought my house 18 years ago. Not to mention the terrible increases in many other categories. Gasoline, groceries, car repairs, home, auto, and health insurance. I am not yet on a fixed income, but I will be if I can ever retire. But many, many people my age are on fixed incomes and can't afford these continual increases when their monthly income doesn't go up in the same way. I understand that inflation affects everyone, including the utilities, but please don't make the seniors on fixed incomes pay these exorbitant increases that are way above the rate of inflation. If people on fixed incomes have to share in some of the increase, then please make it no higher than the rate of inflation posted by the CPI. At least Social Security payments keep pace with the CPI, as far as I know.</p>
Undecided			

	Tambi Cook	E-mail	<p>External Email Hello Commissioners,</p> <p>Please find attached a written comment letter for Dockets UE-240004 (electric service) and UG-240005 (natural gas service) from the cities of Bothell, Issaquah, Kenmore, Kirkland, Lake Forest Park, Sammamish, Shoreline, and Woodinville.</p> <p>I would be happy to answer any questions you may have about this comment letter, and I can be reached at 425.984.6188 or <a href="mailto:tcork@kenmorewa.gov">tcork@kenmorewa.gov</a>.</p> <p>Tambi</p> <p>Tambi Cork (she/her) Housing and Human Services Manager   City of Kenmore 18120 68th Ave NE   Kenmore, WA 98028 Tel: (425) 984-6188 <a href="mailto:tcork@kenmorewa.gov">tcork@kenmorewa.gov</a>   <a href="http://www.kenmorewa.gov">www.kenmorewa.gov</a> Book A Meeting with Me</p>
	Mary Lou Dickerson	E-mail	<p>Related to Dockets UE 240004 (electric service) UG 240005 (Natural Gas service)</p> <p>It is critical that we reduce fossil fuel use to slow global heating, instead of sinking millions of dollars into a fossil fuel delivery system that serves few and fewer customers while continuing to leak methane and create safety hazards.</p> <p>We ask PSE move us quickly towards electrification and clean energy sources. I live close to the Greenwood explosion and know the devastation natural gas can cause.</p> <p>Mary Lou Dickerson Retired State Representative Washington State</p>
	Midge (Rebecca Margaret) Komenda	E-mail	<p>Hi,</p> <p>I've been a PSE customer for 32 years.</p> <p>I understand the need to buy tools and materials to maintain power lines, and all the power system/ grid. I understand the need to upgrade and modernize. In fact, I believe we all need to pay to have power lines moved</p>

		<p>underground!</p> <p>But I really, truly wish that there was some way that the UTC could research, and inform all of us customers; how much rate increases help increase the yearly income for PSE shareholders and financial officers/ executives.</p> <p>If the rate increase goes into effect, I'll be paying about \$120 more per year for my electricity. I'm retired, and my income is fixed. My income is in excess of 40% above the poverty line, so I don't qualify for financial subsidies for nearly anything, and especially not for my power bill. It would be helpful for me to be able to know that I'm paying for a reliable power grid only, and not subsidizing people who are already wealthier than I am.</p> <p>Thank you for your hard work, and attention to my concern!</p> <p>Midge (Rebecca Margaret) Komenda</p>
Ann-Marie L Doerhoff	Web	<p>The King County Wastewater Treatment division produces biogas during the treatment of wastewater. Currently the MMBtu's of the biogas produced by our treatment process does not match the higher energy gas PSE can purchase from Canada. Would it be possible to collaborate with PSE or somehow require them to accept the biogas from KC instead of the status quo of KC WTD flaring and underutilizing this renewable resource?</p>
LAWRENCE CHU	Web	<p>Wow, yet another request from this utility to increase rates well beyond the rate of inflation. It is my sincere hope that the commission is carefully monitoring to see if the PSE is really using additional funds to improve the reliability and efficiency of their power grid rather than increasing internal profits and salary to executives. It is not as if they don't constantly solicit consumers to kick in extra to fund "green renewable projects". For my part I have reduced the amount of energy usage on a year to year basis for more than 20 years consecutively, yet have never seen an actual decrease in my yearly \$\$ expenses. Makes it seem as if using less doesn't help as they raise rates in part to make up for lost revenue!</p>
Deb Heintz	Web	<p>My only suggestion is to break up the increases over four years. Considering wages have not kept up with inflation, it would cause less strain on your customers.</p>
Karen Gibeau	Web	<p>This is ABSOLUTE BULLSHIT. I have struggled for years as a single person with a single (and as a few months ago, senior citizen/retired) income in a single-home residence, to pay my bills. And I do pay them. By myself. On my own. NEVER ONCE have I asked for assistance, a loan, or a debt to be erased or paid by someone else. I have NEVER BEEN on any program that assisted me in pay my bills. I DO NOT WANT TO pay anyone else's bills. Maybe you should just turn the power off when someone doesn't pay, rather than expecting total strangers to pay more to erase someone else's debt!!!! If you pass this, I will soon be asking for assistance to pay my EVER INCREASING BILLS. Your methods SUCK!</p>

	Holly Catania	Web	Hello,  What is being done to prevent this from happening in the Klahanie and surrounding Sammamish plateau neighborhoods?  <a href="https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/in-search-for-hawaii-fires-cause-lawyers-probe-power-lines/">https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/in-search-for-hawaii-fires-cause-lawyers-probe-power-lines/</a>  Sincerely, Holly Catania
Yes			
	Janeah Burdick	Web	These increases are wildly unreasonable for a 1-2 year timeframe, and with no indications they will ever go back down. Inflation this year has hovered around ~3.5%, nowhere near these amounts, so it seems preposterous. I find these proposed increases to be wildly unreasonable, and a worryingly large burden on the middle and lower class.