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From: Susan SeykotaSmith <88keyssusan@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2024 1:31 PM
To: comments@utc.wa.gov; ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel; customercare@pse.com
Subject: Docket UE-240004

[EXTERNAL]

Chris and Susan Seykota-Smith

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September 23, 2024

UTC (comments@utc.wa.gov)

Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Office of the Attorney General (utility@atg.wa.gov)

Puget Sound Energy (customercare@pse.com)

RE: Docket UE-240004 — Proposed rate increases

We have reviewed the “Notice of requested changes to PSE rates and public hearings” and a letter written to us on behalf of PSE CEO Mary Kipp, which contains the words “At this time there has not been a decision made regarding any rate changes as a result of unpaid utility bills.”

It is to that point that we write this letter. Previously, PSE had indicated that portions of rate changes would be used to pay off bad debts incurred by customers who have not been paying their utility bills.

We previously wrote to support a petition that would allow PSE to begin billing all customers and collecting delinquent balances. As people who pay our bills, we do not support allowing customers not to pay their bills. In particular, we do not support any decision to increase our rate and use money from rate increases to compensate for lost revenues or repay bad debts.

As you know, we are all weathering an inflation economy. Many, perhaps most, businesses are raising their rates, including home, car, and health insurances; grocery stores; phone companies; other utilities such as sewer and water; pharmaceutical companies; and more.

Meanwhile, incomes are not increasing to keep pace, and we are tapped out. PSE has had its share of rate increases during the past decade. How do you expect people to withstand another rate increase?

We are still paying our PSE bill, but if these rate increases are approved, we may have to join the customers who have not been paying. We cannot accommodate another rate increase for our own bill, and we certainly cannot pay more while some people do not pay at all.

Sincerely,

Chris and Susan Seykota-Smith