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Sent: Monday, July 29, 2024 8:40 AM
To: comments@utc.wa.gov
Cc: ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel; customercare@pse.com
Subject: Puget Sound Energy proposed rate increases

[EXTERNAL]

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?

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?

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 considered for approval.

Regards,
Leslie Norton