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December 9, 1999

VIA FAX & OVERNIGHT MAIL

Ms. Carole J. Washburn, Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

RECEIVED
99 DEC -9 PM 2:25
STATE OF WASH
UTILITY DIVISION
COMMUNICATIONS

RE: **Docket No. UG-920840 - Residential Water Heater Rental Service**
Advice No. 99045 - Natural Gas Tariff Filing

Dear Ms. Washburn;

Enclosed please find an original and three copies of the following proposed tariff sheets:

WN U-2 (Natural Gas Tariff):

Sixteenth Revision Sheet No. 171 - Schedule No. 71 Residential Water Heater Rental Service
Fourth Revision Sheet No. 171-A - Schedule No. 71 (Continued) Residential Water Heater Rental Service

The proposed sheets reflect the implementation of the rate increase in residential water heater lease rates scheduled for April 1, 1998.

The rate increase, which was the last of five originally approved in Docket No. UG-920840 and scheduled to become effective October 1, 1997, was postponed until April 1, 1998, in Docket No. UG-971327. On March 19, 1998, in Docket No. UG-980442, PSE filed a petition requesting permission to suspend the rate increase. On March 24, 1998, PSE filed a petition for rehearing of the Fourth Supplemental Order in Docket No. UG-920840 for the sole purpose of eliminating that Order's requirement that residential natural gas water heater rental rates be increased. In its March 25, 1998, open meeting, the Commission approved the March 19, 1998, petition saying that the "tariff provision shall be suspended until the Commission considers and issues an order regarding the Company's request to reopen and rehear Docket UG-920840." PSE now asks to implement that rate increase. Concurrent with this filing, PSE is requesting permission to withdraw its March 24, 1998, petition. Also concurrent with this filing, PSE is requesting that the Commission lift its order in UG-980442.

The tariff sheets described herein reflect issue dates of December 9, 1999, and effective dates of January 1, 2000. Notice of proposed tariff changes is being given immediately prior to or

Advice No. 99045
December 9, 1999
Page 2

coincident with the date of this transmittal letter. We are enclosing a copy of the Notice to the Public which is being posted in locations where customers pay their bills.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at (425) 456-2797.

Very truly yours,


Karl R. Karzmar
Manager, Revenue Requirements

Enclosure

cc: Merton Lott, WUTC
Michael Parvinen, WUTC
Kimberly Harris, PSE

WN U-2

Sixteenth Revision Sheet No. 171
Cancelling
Fifteenth Revision Sheet No. 171

PUGET SOUND ENERGY
SCHEDULE NO. 71
Residential Water Heater Rental Service

Section 1: Availability; Closed to Some New Accounts

1. Throughout territory served, at the option of the company, for residential use in single- or multiple-dwelling units where the customer qualifies for and has entered into an agreement with the company for the rental of water heater(s) owned and maintained by the company.
2. Rental service is restricted for all models of water heaters with energy factors less than .60 as indicated in Section 3 below.

Section 2: General Rules and Regulations

Service under this schedule is subject to the rules and regulations contained in company's tariff.

Section 3: Rates

1. Monthly rental charge for water heaters of not over fifty-five gallon storage capacity or 60,000 Btu input:

| | | |
|---|-----------|-----------------|
| a. Standard Models | \$5.00* | (1) (1) |
| b. Conservation Models | \$8.00** | |
| c. Direct Vent Models | \$11.40** | |
| d. High Recovery Models | \$10.20** | |
| e. High Efficiency Standard (Energy Factor $\geq .60$) ¹ | \$4.00 | |
| f. High Efficiency Direct Vent (Energy Factor $\geq .60$) ¹ | \$6.95 | |

- ¹ As listed in the current Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association publication, "Consumers' Directory of Certified Energy Ratings."
- * Limited to those existing installations where tank is owned and maintained by the company and was being served under this schedule as of May 21, 1986.
- ** Limited to those existing installations where tank is owned and maintained by the company and was being served under this schedule as of October 9, 1993.

(Continued on Sheet No. 171-A)

ADVICE NO: 99045

Issued: December 9, 1999

Effective: January 1, 2000

Issued By: Puget Sound Energy

By: C.A. Omohundro

Christy A. Omohundro

Title: Director, Rates & Regulation

WN U-2

Fourth Revision Sheet No. 171-A
Cancelling
Third Revision Sheet No. 171-A

**PUGET SOUND ENERGY
SCHEDULE NO. 71 (Continued)
Residential Water Heater Rental Service**

2. The rates named herein are subject to subsequent tariff revisions and to additions as set forth in Schedule No. 1.

(D)
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(D)
(T)

Section 4: Payment

The rental charge will be billed as such and is payable monthly in accordance with the company's regular billing schedule for gas service.

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By: *C.A. Omohundro* Christy A. Omohundro

Title: Director, Rates & Regulation

ADVICE (POSTING) NO. 99045**DATE OF POSTING: DECEMBER 9, 1999****PUGET SOUND ENERGY**

Notice Is Hereby Given That The Above-Named Company Is Submitting To The Washington Utilities And Transportation Commission At Olympia, Tariffs To Become Effective On: **January 1, 1999**, The Effect Of Which Will Be To Revise Present Natural Gas Rates Applicable To This Territory. A Complete Public File Of Said Tariffs Is Maintained In The Company's Business Office At Bellevue, Washington, Where It May Be Inspected By Any Person Upon Application And Without The Assignment Of Any Reason For Such Desire. A Representative Of The Company Will Assist In Securing Information From The Tariffs. Telephone Calls May Be Made Without Charge To The Inquiring Party To 1-888-225-5773 In Connection Herewith.

Residential Water Heater Rental Service

This tariff revision reflects the implementation of the rate increase in residential water heater lease rates scheduled for April 1, 1998.



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