

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

Respondent.

In the Matter of the Petition of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

Petitioner,

For an Accounting Order Authorizing  
deferred accounting treatment of  
purchased power agreement expenses  
pursuant to RCW 80.28.410.

DOCKETS UE-240004 and  
UG-240005 (*Consolidated*)

ORDER 12

DOCKET UE-230810

ORDER 10

APPROVING PAYMENT

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On September 29, 2023, in Docket UE-230810, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition seeking an accounting order authorizing the Company to defer the costs associated with three demand response power purchase agreements pursuant to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 80.28.410 to track and preserve them for later ratemaking treatment. On March 8, 2024, PSE filed a revised petition adding the benefits of the power purchase agreements to its request for deferred accounting and modifying the requested start date of the deferral period from July 2023 to September 2023.
- 2 On February 15, 2024, PSE filed with the Commission revisions to its then effective Tariff WN U-60, Tariff G, Electric Service and its then effective Tariff WN U-2, Natural Gas. The Company characterizes this filing as a general rate case (GRC). The

Commission commenced an adjudication in this proceeding in consolidated Dockets UE-240004 and UG-240005.

- 3 On March 27, 2024, Front and Centered (FC) and NW Energy Coalition (NVEC) filed their Request for Case Certification and Notice of Intent to Request a Fund Grant. On April 18, 2024, the Commission approved FC and NVEC's request. On May 2, 2024, FC and NVEC filed a Proposed Budget and requested a Fund Grant in this docket in the amounts of: \$109,722 (FC Budget: \$47,516 and NVEC Budget: \$62,206).
- 4 On May 2, 2024, The Energy Project (TEP) filed its Proposed budget and requested \$77,230.
- 5 On May 3, 2024, TEP filed The Energy Project's Revised Proposed Budget requesting an amended budget of \$68,897 after coordinating with AWEC and NVEC regarding their budget requests.<sup>1</sup>
- 6 On May 15, 2024, the Commission issued Order 06/04 Approving Proposed Budgets and Fund Grants in consolidated Dockets UE-240004/UG-240005 and Docket UE-230810, granting case certified status and approving FC and NVEC's proposed budget of \$109,722 and granting case certified status and approving TEP's revised proposed budget of \$68,897.
- 7 On January 15, 2025, the Commission entered Final Order 09/07 (Order 09/07) in consolidated Dockets UE-240004/UG-240005, and UE-230810, denying PSE's proposed tariff revision and multi-year rate plan. On January 27, 2025, FC and NVEC filed a Joint Petition for Reconsideration and Clarification. The Commission considered several petitions for reconsideration and clarification, all of which the Commission resolved in Order 11/09 on March 17, 2025.
- 8 On March 7, 2025, TEP filed its Request for Payment of Fund Grant of The Energy Project. TEP requested \$68,897 from PSE's Customer Representation Sub-Fund as a partial reimbursement of expenses not including hours for in-house or professional staff.
- 9 On May 12, 2025, FC and NVEC filed a Request for Payment of Fund Grant (Request). FC and NVEC requested a total grant payment of \$73,715. Of this total, the FC expenses subtotal is \$38,416 from the Prioritized Organizations Sub-fund, while NVEC Expenses

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<sup>1</sup> *WUTC v. Puget Sound Energy*, Dockets UE-240004 and UG-240005 (Consolidated), The Energy Project's Revised Proposed Budget at ¶ 4 (May 3, 2024).

subtotal is \$35,299 from the Puget Sound Energy Customer Representation Sub-Fund grant.

## DISCUSSION

- 10 Pursuant to RCW 80.28.430, utilities must enter into funding agreements with organizations that represent “broad customer interests.” The Commission is directed to determine the amount of financial assistance, if any, that may be provided to any organization; the way the financial assistance is distributed; the way the financial assistance is recovered in a utility’s rates; and other matters necessary to administer the agreement.<sup>2</sup>
- 11 On November 19, 2021, the Commission issued a Policy Statement on Participatory Funding for Regulatory Proceedings (Policy Statement) in Docket U-210595.<sup>3</sup> The Commission provided “high-level guidance regarding the amount of financial assistance that may be provided to organizations, the manner in which it is distributed to participants and recovered in the rates of gas or electrical companies, and other matters necessary to administer agreements.”<sup>4</sup>
- 12 On February 24, 2022, the Commission issued Order 01 Approving Agreement with Modifications (Order 01).<sup>5</sup> The Commission approved the Interim Agreement filed by the parties on February 23, 2022, subject to certain modifications, and adopted the Interim Agreement as Appendix A to the Order. Among other points, the Commission clarified that it is not bound by the timeframes set forth in the Interim Agreement.<sup>6</sup> The Commission also determined that of the amount authorized for funding, fully one third would be dedicated to organizations representing highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations.<sup>7</sup>
- 13 Pursuant to the Interim Agreement, participating organizations must submit to the Commission a Request for Payment. The Request for Payment must:

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<sup>2</sup> RCW 80.28.430(2).

<sup>3</sup> *In the Matter of the Commission’s Examination of Participatory Funding Provisions for Regulatory Proceedings*, Docket U-210595 (November 19, 2021).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* ¶ 3.

<sup>5</sup> *In the Matter of the Petition of Puget Sound Energy, et al.*, Docket U-210595 Order 01 (February 24, 2022).

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* ¶ 17.

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* ¶ 4.

- (a) Itemize the expenses, payees, and hourly rates for amounts to be reimbursed, including billing details, and including separately identified amounts for consultant or expert witness fees and travel expenses;
- (b) Demonstrate that the expenses are reasonable and are directly attributable to issues and positions pursued on behalf of customers and consistent with the intervenor's proposed budget;
- (c) Provide information sufficient to show that the Participating Organization has complied with any condition or requirement of the Fund Grant; and
- (d) Specify whether the request for payment is for interim funding, in the case of Prioritized Organizations only, or final payment in full, and indicate whether any approved budget amount may be released back to the applicable Sub-Fund because the Participating Organization does not intend to request payment for the full approved budget amount.<sup>8</sup>

- 14 The Commission may disallow, in whole or in part, a Request for Payment if it determines that the request seeks reimbursement for (a) expenses that are not Eligible Expenses,<sup>9</sup> or (b) expenses that are inconsistent with the Participating Organization's Consumer Access Fund Grant or any conditions placed on the Consumer Access Fund Grant.<sup>10</sup> Upon authorization of payment, the Commission will make a determination on how to recover the Fund Grants from the various customer classes of the affected Participating Public Utility.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, the Commission may determine whether Fund Grants that were used to advocate positions on behalf of a broad cross-section of customers should be assessed against all customers or multiple classes of customers, to fairly align the costs of the advocacy with the intended potential beneficiaries of the advocacy.
- 15 On February 9, 2023, the Commission entered Order 02 Approving Agreement Subject to Condition, Requiring Refiling of Modified Agreement (Order 02).<sup>12</sup> The Commission approved the Revised Agreement submitted by the parties, subject to the removal of

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<sup>8</sup> Interim Agreement § 7.1.

<sup>9</sup> Interim Agreement § 7.3.

<sup>10</sup> Interim Agreement § 7.6.

<sup>11</sup> Interim Agreement § 7.7.

<sup>12</sup> *In the Matter of the Petition of Puget Sound Energy, et al.*, Docket U-210595 Order 02 (February 9, 2023).

paragraph 7.9, which authorized deferred accounting treatment.<sup>13</sup> The Commission also clarified that it was not bound by the timelines set forth in the Revised Agreement.<sup>14</sup>

- 16 As relevant here, the Revised Agreement carried forward the same requirements for requests for payments of fund grants.<sup>15</sup> It also makes clear that “[e]ligible expenses” may include costs for eligible proceedings incurred prior to the approval of the Revised Agreement.<sup>16</sup>
- 17 In this case, on March 7, 2025, TEP filed its request for a payment of \$68,897 allocated to Puget Sound Energy’s Customer Representation Sub-Fund; on May 12, 2025, FC and NWECA filed a Request for Payment of Fund Grant, requesting a payment of \$73,715 allocated in part to Puget Sound Energy’s Customer Representation Sub-Fund and in part to its Prioritized Organizations Sub-fund. The Commission approved TEP’s revised proposed budget of \$68,897 and FC and NWECA’s proposed budget of \$109,722.00 in 2024. Funding will come out of the allocation for the year that the proposed budget is approved.
- 18 Pursuant to Section 7.6, “[t]he Commission may not award a Request for Payment in excess of the amount of the applicable Customer Access Fund Grant, including any budget amendments approved by the Commission.” In this matter, if the remaining funds in the Prioritized Organizations Sub-fund is insufficient to cover the incurred costs; the Customer Representation Sub-fund has sufficient surplus funds to cover the incurred costs, and should be used, if needed. Pursuant to Section 4.2.4, “in the event that a Sub-Fund has been fully exhausted,” the Commission may increase the available amount in the Sub-Fund.
- 19 After considering the requirements set forth in Sections 4.2.4, 7.1, 7.3, and 7.7 of the Revised Agreement, we determine that TEP’s request for payment of \$68,897 should be approved and FC and NWECA’s request for payment of \$73,715.00 should be approved.

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<sup>13</sup> *Id.* ¶ 20.

<sup>14</sup> *Id.* ¶ 21.

<sup>15</sup> Revised Agreement § 7.1.

<sup>16</sup> Revised Agreement § 7.3. *See also* Interim Agreement § 9.3 (providing that the Commission will require a participating utility to pay eligible expenses incurred under an approved fund grant that was awarded before the date of the termination of the Interim Agreement).

- 20 Puget Sound Energy must pay the above Requests for Payment as directed within 30 days of the entry of this Order.<sup>17</sup>

**ORDER**

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 21 (1) The Energy Project's Request for Payment of Fund Grant of The Energy Project from the 2024 Puget Sound Energy Customer Representation Sub-Fund is APPROVED in the amount of \$68,897.
- 22 (2) Front and Centered's Request for Payment from the 2024 Puget Sound Energy Prioritized Organizations Sub-Fund is APPROVED in the amount of \$38,416.
- 23 (3) NW Energy Coalition's Request for Payment from the 2024 Puget Sound Energy Customer Representation Sub-Fund is APPROVED in the amount of \$35,299.

Dated at Lacey, Washington, and effective June 20, 2025.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ Connor A. Thompson  
CONNOR THOMPSON  
Administrative Law Judge

**NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is an Interim Order of the Commission.  
Administrative review may be available through a petition for review, filed within  
10 days of the service of this Order pursuant to WAC 480-07-810.**

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<sup>17</sup> Revised Agreement § 7.8.