

**Hartman, Brice C (ATG)**

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**From:** C <1926dahlia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 21, 2023 12:01 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** Puget Sound Energy Petition

[EXTERNAL]

Hi,

I just wanted to send my comments regarding the Puget Sound Energy issue.

Energy costs already increased a lot recently. Families cannot afford another increase.

Thank you,  
Crystal

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Rick Egan <rick.egan5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 15, 2023 12:30 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** Unfair to raise rates on loyal customers.

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[EXTERNAL]

In response to Puget Sound Energy "Petition to amend Final Order". I do not believe it would be fair to raise rates to customers that paid their bills on time. Those customers that did not pay their bills during the COVID 19 error, should be forced to pay back with interest! If they do not comply in a timely manner, then they should lose their service until their bill is paid in full. A benevolent fund could be set up with customers and public donors for donating funds to assist those customers in need of paying their unpaid account. I believe this is a better approach than forcing loyal customers to pay for other customers delinquent accounts

Sincerely,  
Richard Egan  
A loyal customer since 2011



ReplyForward

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** garrett garris <garrett.garris@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 6, 2023 11:21 AM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** Docket s UE-220066, UG-220067, and UG-210918

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[EXTERNAL]

I wish to have you reconsider the possibility of rate increases to the customers that have consistently kept up on payments to Puget Sound Energy.

As a responsible customer I am appalled at the prospect of requiring myself and others like me to be penalized with higher bills due to uncollected payments. This should not fall onto our shoulders.

I respectfully request that you find another way to collect past due bills from the ones that caused this situation.

Thank you

Garrett Garris  
9230 1st AVE. SE  
Everett, WA.

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Arlynn Gunderson <deegunderson@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 29, 2023 11:14 AM  
**To:** customercare@pse.com  
**Cc:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel; comments@utc.wa.gov  
**Subject:** re: Puget Sound Energy Dockets UE-220066, UG-220067, UG-210918

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[EXTERNAL]

PSE states that under certain circumstances "consumers will experience higher energy costs and rates due to covering the cost of uncollected revenue in bad debt write offs". Energy costs are currently too high. It is completely unacceptable to force high quality customers who pay their bills in a timely fashion to also pay the bills of bad debtors and associated additional PSE instituted overhead costs. It is due to bad corporate management and possibly poor over-site that has caused these costs in the first place not good customers. The irresponsible corporate and over-site individuals originating the problem should be the ones to pay for their bad behavior. For those of us who have worked so hard for so many years to build an exceedingly strong nation, it is wrong to continue to financially mistreat, abuse and pressure us. As a retiree, it is increasingly difficult to meet obligations because of extravagant wealth-redistribution inflationary federal government spending which results in a direct onslaught of retirement accounts including 401k, IRA, investment and savings accounts. Your continued money grubbing actions are destroying all that we have built. This PSE proposed action and all similar actions should not and must not continue.

Respectfully,  
Darrel Gunderson, retiree

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Jaliene Hollabaugh <jaliene@hbarep.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 10, 2023 9:33 PM  
**To:** comments@utc.wa.gov; ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Cc:** customercare@pse.com  
**Subject:** UE-220066, UG-220067, UG-210918

[EXTERNAL]

UE-220066, UG-220067, UG-210918

To UTC & PSE,

Over the last 18 months, my household averages \$600/month for our combined natural gas & electric bill.

We pay our bill, and compared to a year ago, we're using less energy.

It's not okay for bad debt & uncollected revenue to be continually written off. Someone ends up having to pay that money back - will it fall on the tax-paying homeowners who pay their bills?

Washington *currently* exports a significant amount of our energy right now to other states, especially electric. Why is Washington not charging more for it, if PSE is in such dire need of money?

The electrification goals of Washington state are not on a realistic timeline. Households clearly can't (or are choosing not to prioritize) paying their energy bills already. Where is the money coming from to build the infrastructure to support Washington's unrealistic electrification goals? Will it just be the tax-paying homeowners who pay their bills?

I foresee electric energy rates continuing to rise - while citizens are forced to use electric energy - on a grid that can be shut off by the state when convenient (or when there's simply not enough power to accommodate). I wish I had confidence in PSE's business practices and long-range planning.



**Jaliene Hollabaugh**

Director of Marketing

c. 206-482-4373

o. 253-867-5040

[jaliene@hbarep.com](mailto:jaliene@hbarep.com)

**Hollabaugh Bros. & Assoc.**



## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** lbtapps@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, December 22, 2023 6:01 AM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PSE Petition

[EXTERNAL]

There is a lot of confusing terminology in this petition's information. What I get out of it, is I am going to be paying more for power because I am paying someone else's bill. I am old and on a fixed income. I worked hard to get where I am and am still having a hard time paying for all my utilities as it is and now I am going to be paying more because of all these people that cannot or will not pay their bills. I pay mine and I do not want to be paying for other people's bills. You need to collect the money owed in another way – not from customers that pay their bills even though they are old and on a fixed income. I definitely vote against another rate increase – having trouble keeping up with it as it is.

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** majeffreys248@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 23, 2023 8:37 AM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** Approve PSE's Petition to Amend Final Order pursuant to WAC 480-07-875(1)

[EXTERNAL]

As a long term retired Washington resident and PSE customer, I don't believe PSE's collections processes of past due accounts should be unduly restricted to cause a greater cost burden on residents that do pay their PSE bills on time and in full. Either allow PSE to do so or take it out of the state government's budget surplus or better yet reduce spending on illegal immigrants and use that money to pay the PSE past due balances.

Sincerely,

Mark Jeffreys

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** DominiqueNick <DominiqueNick@protonmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 7, 2023 5:05 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** Re: Dockets UE-220066, UG-220067, UG-210918

[EXTERNAL]

Hello,

As a PSE customer, I view the utility as service that I require, and as such am uncertain that such a company should operate at any profit. Evidently the law provides for a “fair profit” and I expect defines exactly what that profit may be. The letter sent to me from PSE seems to indicate a lot of people have not been paying their bills, and so they are proposing changes to their collection and credit rules or a rate hike. I admit to near total ignorance on how all these things work, however I do trust my government to be acting in the best interests of the citizenry and perhaps the “fair profit” of the company should reflect the rather dire situation many folks have found themselves in with the pandemic, inflation, lack of affordable housing, etc. It’s not lost on me that many corporations are generating record profits and bonus payments to CEOs even in this economic situation, showing complete disregard for the people they purport to serve. I fully support my government to step up and regulate services and utilities for the good of the public, seeing as profit and compassion appear incompatible.

Thanks for your hard work and effort,  
Dominique Johns, voter.



## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Leslie Mcguire <lrnmcguire@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 8:11 AM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PSE docket

[EXTERNAL]

docket: UR-220066, 220067,210918

This is a citizen request to not allow PSE to increase rates to cover the arrears of other customers. In their newsletter that is the threat they've issued if their docket amendments aren't approved. I cannot afford increased financial burden for this on my limited retirement income. Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Joe Wall <joerwall@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 23, 2023 3:03 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PSE Puget Sound Energy Petition to Ammend FInal Order

[EXTERNAL]

Dear UTC,

Regarding PSE's petition I can't tell what they are asking for in the info sent out with latest utility bill. PSE mentions unpaid balances are way up and their petition is to deal with that problem.

What I do not want to see, and hope the UTC would reject is any attempt to shift the unpaid balance(s) to other customers, or landlords.

I would hope that the UTC would support efforts by PSE to collect unpaid debt after reasonable attempts to get paid fail. Allow PSE to:

- Seek Wage Garnishment of deadbeats
- Cutoff utility service of deadbeats
- Refuse new service to deadbeats
- Sell debt to collection agencies
- W2- the bad debt to the deadbeats so they have to pay income tax on it.

WA state has been on a path toward the "Free Stuff Sure I'll take it (some demand it)" side of Socialism... while totally ignoring the "Earn and contribute beyond your own needs" side of Socialism. Let it not seep into the utilities business. Utilities are fairly priced and of great value. PSE has to buy what it sells to customers. People who skip on paying their utility bills are as much thieves as stealing from children.

Joe Wall  
206 N 60 st  
Seattle WA 98103

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Janis K. Wheeler <jwnwac@live.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 10, 2023 1:22 PM  
**To:** comments@utc.wa.gov; ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** Puget Sound Energy Dockets UE-220066, UG-220067, UG-210918, U-210800

[EXTERNAL]

Dear Sirs/Ms:

Puget Sound Energy is asking to be able to change their credit and collection processes as agreed prior to the proceeding currently being conducted on Docket U-210800. Though I can sympathize with the shareholders of this for-profit company, at the same time, I sympathize with the customers who are unable to pay for the basic need of heating and cooling their homes. In a perfect world, our public utilities would be a public owned company and not a for profit who wants to satisfy shareholders above providing a public service. Puget Sound Energy will just raise prices (as already mentioned in their notice) to the rest of us to cover their losses. Is there a happy medium that the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission can uphold that is fair to both energy consumers and to the shareholders of Puget Sound Energy? Shareholder profit should not trump public service in a public service energy company. You know more than I do about what is best for the consumer in regard to ruling that Puget Sound Energy not change their rules until Docket U-210800 is satisfied. However, please consider making them wait. *I ask for your good wishes and active protection of the public energy customers.* Our economy is crazy right now and the cost of living huge. Please side with the consumer who is just trying to get their basic needs for life met.

Thank you,

Janis K Wheeler  
jwnwac@live.com



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Dulcie Hamblin <dulcie372@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 13, 2023 4:22 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** Puget Sound Energy's Petition

[EXTERNAL]

Attn: Bob Ferguson Attorney General of Washington State

Dear Mr. Ferguson,

\We are Rodger and Dulcie Carson.

We do not want to pay for the bad debts accumulated by PSE.

PSE is an IOU utility. The investors should take responsibility by paying off their bad debts, not pass them on to households who are seeing all things around them rising such as water bills, food, gas and the cost of sending children to school.

We feel this will lead to homes going into short sale and foreclosures. It could have the possibility of a domino effect going forward.

Investors investing in utilities should have been more careful. Did they ever think that COVID or something like it could cause a huge rut in the future? That people would stay home as they were ill and not being able to afford to pay their bills as part of the effect COVID had on the world's economy.

We are totally against paying for their losses.

Sincerely,

Rodger and Dulcie Carson

2313 21st street se

Puyallup. Washington 98374

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** MARCIA DUE <theduezs@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 4:18 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PSE rate raises

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[EXTERNAL]

To Whom It May Concern: I

Please, note that as a longtime customer of Puget Sound Energy, who has consistently paid fully and on time our bills to PSE, I strongly object to being charged extra to cover the cost of customers who do not pay their bills to PSE. It is unethical to even have this expectation. Thank you for representing us and fighting the injustice PSE is proposing. Most sincerely, Marcia Due

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Brigitta Jones <brigittajones@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 19, 2024 4:27 PM  
**To:** comments@utc.wa.gov  
**Cc:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** UE-220066, UG-220067, UG-210918

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[EXTERNAL]

To Whom it may Concern:

I am unable to attend the public hearing on Feb 8, 2024 and would like my comments included. I am in favor of this petition being approved so PSE energy can collect on unpaid balances. There are many programs out there to assist people with their energy bills if they are having a hardship and cannot pay. At this point the majority of people who are not paying their bills are doing so due to laziness or irresponsibility. It has been my experience, when helping others, if you call PSE and let them know you are having a problem paying your bill, they do everything possible to direct you to resources and assist you while you are in the process of getting assistance. People who don't communicate they are having a hard time are not being helped by keeping their power on no matter what. In my opinion allowing people to freeload when there is assistance available is a co-dependent behavior that only fuels irresponsibility and does not help them in the long run. PSE energy needs to have healthy recourse options if people are refusing to pay their bill because they know PSE can do nothing about it if they don't pay.

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** tandij@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, January 26, 2024 1:42 PM  
**To:** comments@utc.wa.gov  
**Cc:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel; tandij@comcast.net  
**Subject:** UE-220066, UG-220067, UG-210918

[EXTERNAL]

To Whom It May Concern:

I am unable to attend the public hearing on Feb 8, 2024 and would like my comments included. I am in favor of this petition being approved so PSE energy can collect on unpaid balances.

A few points to consider:

- There are many programs available to assist people with their energy bills if they are having a hardship and cannot pay.
- At this point the majority of people who are not paying their bills are doing so due to laziness or irresponsibility --- The money has to come from somewhere – It seems that people who are being responsible will be carrying the load
- PSE is known to do all they can to help people who are struggling, by directing them to resources and assistance to help.
- It's not truly helping people when they are being allowed to freeload while there is assistance available -- This only fuels irresponsibility
- PSE needs to have healthy recourse options if people are refusing to pay their bills just because they know PSE can do nothing about it if they don't pay.

Thank you for your consideration,  
Tandi McAlister  
Renton, WA

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Linda Fluke <lmon4fluke@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 5, 2024 5:21 PM  
**To:** comments@utc.wa.gov; ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** Dockets UE-220066, UG-220067, UG-210918 (Consolidated)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[EXTERNAL]

I am a senior citizen, living on social security income. I pay my PSE bill on time every month. I keep my gas thermostat at 63 degrees during the daytime, 60 degrees in the evening and 55 degrees at night. I wear sweaters and sometimes hats to keep warm. I use daylight through my double-pane windows for most of the day and only one LED light at a time in the evening.

I cannot afford higher PSE rates. I don't think I should have to pay for uncollected or uncollectable bills for others who are not paying, even with the "significant energy assistance provided by PSE" to those customers.

Please do not let PSE increase billing rates to those of us who pay our share.

Thank you,  
Linda Fluke



## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Evan Davies <evan.w.davies1@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2024 8:35 PM  
**To:** comments@utc.wa.gov; ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Cc:** customercare@pse.com  
**Subject:** Public Comment: U-210800 Current Credit/Collections vs. Amending to change (Public Hearing of 2/8/2024)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[EXTERNAL]

Ref: Flyer for Public Comment hearing for PSE petition to amend Final Order U-210800 rcvd 11/21/2023

Good Evening,

Per the reference, the flyer provided a general overview but was lacking any real detail for a customer to offer an informed and quality comment.

To follow up on the subject matter and the comments made, and hopefully gain a better understanding what is being asked for and potential impact to the customer, the following is provided:

- For UTC, these questions are being asked because the detailed information was not included in the flyer.
  - 1) What "part" of PSE's Petition have you indicated your intent to grant?
  - 2) What "part" of PSE's Petition have you indicated your intent to deny?
  - 3) How will the results/final decision be made available to the public?
  
- For PSE, these questions are being asked because the information was not included in the flyer.
  - 1) What are the current credit/collections rules as approved by U-210800 that you are working under from Final Order 24?
  - 2) Why, specifically, does PSE believe it is unable to expand its customer and outreach practices aimed at addressing arrearages?
  - 3) Why can't PSE provide any type of prediction on how rates will be impacted? You know how much you have in arrearages. No doubt, PSE has sketched out some type of rough plan based on the assumption you get your wish and an amendment(s) made to the credit and collection process. So what would this rough estimate be for "regular, annual, and duration" impacts?

### Overall Comments:

- + This petition/request reads to me, a PSE customer who pays my monthly bill in full without fail is that:
  - The total past due allowances PSE has incurred since at least May 2020, is going to chopped up / divided / spread loaded / passed along to all the other PSE customers, like myself, who pay the power/gas bill on time and in full.
  - Unless PSE shuts off / caps / freezes power and gas usage by those customers in arrears, this overall past due bill amount will continue to climb and PSE, along with us paying customers, will continue to chase a goal that can never be reached. I would anticipate as customers that have past dues get caught up and out of arrears, they start to chip in to the overall effort to pay off PSE's past debt.

+ I think the consensus I heard from the public comment ZOOM/phone in, and I concur, would be PSE leave the paying customers alone and focus their energy working with "past due" customers to get them out of arrears. I believe most want to pay off their debt and would agree to work with PSE to come up with some type of payment plan. There will always be a small % that will refuse to pay back their debt, for whatever reason, and continue to incur charges. Those folks will make themselves known quickly and should be dealt with as quickly - power shut off.

+ I've been a PSE customer since 2017 and have seen an increase in my electric (E) and gas (B) occur every year except 2018, 2020, 2021 gas only, & 2022 via a variety of announcements I have received in the mail. Specifically,

=> 2017: E - +2.6% & G - +4.25%. **RATIONAL:** Cover increased expenses for a proposed electric reliability program to replace aging underground cable and upgrade 50 least-reliable circuits in our service territory. Increased decommissioning and environmental remediation expenses related to the partial shutdown of the Montanan Colstrip Generating Station by July 2022 (began collecting now). Increased expenses due to depreciation and cost recovery of your capital assets such as electric poles, conduits, and transformers. Compliance with the State of WA Clean Air Rule and increased costs for emission reduction requirements are expected to result in higher power costs. Decreased expenses for the depreciation of gas-related capital assets, in addition to **lower natural gas price forecasts**.

=> 2019: E - +7.7% & G - +7.5%. **RATIONAL:** Investments in technology systems such as self-service tools that allow customers to interact with PSE at their convenience. **Accommodate increasing levels of residential solar, battery storage and electric vehicles with electric infrastructure investments, cost recovery of electric depreciation expense.** Improved reliability with natural gas infrastructure investments, **cost recovery of natural gas depreciation expenses.** Customers pay for rate of returns **in order to service debt expenses** and provide the opportunity for shareholders to earn a fair return on their investment.

=> 2021: E - +3.49%. **RATIONAL:** **Higher natural gas costs.** New power purchase agreements. New and renewed transmission contracts. **Decreasing customer electricity usage.**

=> 2023: E - +15.8% & G - 12.12%. **RATIONAL:** This was a multi year increase notification from 2023 - 2025. Continue to provide safe and reliable energy service. Decarbonize its energy systems to comply with state mandates and meet the expectations of customers and stakeholders. **Recover more than four years of capital and operating investments made on behalf of customers and not currently included in PSE's rates.** **Recover increased operating costs.** To set rates for a multiyear rate plan that reflect upcoming capital investments and operating cost over the three-year period. Increase PSE's authorized return on equity from 9.4% - 9.9%.

=> 2024: E - +2.62% & G - +2.19%. Same rationale as listed from 2023. I then received a notification on 10/21/2023 informing me that starting October 1, PSE's natural gas customers will see higher rates reflected on their monthly bills. Higher rates result from costs incurred by PSE to purchase allowances (a compliance instrument) to cover greenhouse gas emissions and comply with the cap-and-invest program.

=> 2025: E - +1.2% & G - +1.74%. Same rationale as listed from 2023.

As a common customer, I have very little visibility if these rate increases "paid off" for the company, and me as a customer. **It appears I have already paid for customers that have switched over to solar, thus reducing electric needs from PSE so PSE jacks up my electric rate to make up the difference.** I know both my gas and electric meters have been replaced with upgrades and I have seen power poles replaced in and around where I live. Outside of those two examples, I have no visibility of the other rational reasons PSE asked for increases....no feedback to the customer on success or failure. But what I can tell you is how my yearly, average electric/gas bill has changed (**INCREASED OVERALL**) from 2017 - 2023 as follows: 2017: \$263.86, 2018: \$245.55, 2019: \$213.66, 2020: \$241.60, 2021: \$262.68, 2022: \$260.49, 2023: \$308.88.

**BOTTOM LINE:** I request the UTC's final decision ensures that PSE's past debt/arrears costs are **NOT** passed on to the paying customers in good standing with the company. As you can see from above, all customers have been on the hook for a lot of adjustments, changes, upgrades, operating costs, etc over the last 7-years. I would

recommend the UTC and PSE work together to figure out other alternatives to recoup past due debts with customers in arrears.

R/  
Evan Davies

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Cindy Frankenberg <jabberwockynw@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 8, 2024 10:34 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** Dockets UE-220066, UG-220067, UG-210918 (Consolidated)

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[EXTERNAL]

To the Public Counsel Unit, Attorney General's Office:

This is for public comment on the above dockets.

PSE listed three reasons why it has filed the petition. One of the reasons states:

"If PSE is unable to adjust its credit and collections processes before the conclusion of Docket U-210800, **consumers will experience higher energy costs and rates due to covering the cost of uncollected revenue in bad debt write offs.** Although PSE cannot predict how rates will be impacted, PSE anticipates increases in customer rates and that these estimated rate impacts would be regular, annual, and would last until PSE is able to adjust its existing credit and collections processes."

My husband and I did not work for most of our lives, a lot of those years sacrificing so we could retire comfortably, to pay for someone else's electric bills, or any bills. In recent years due to unforeseen medical issues, we are now living on one income, my husband's retirement pay.

But thanks to the current administration's destruction of the economy, we really have to watch where our dollars are spent. One of those places DOES NOT include paying someone else's bills.

PSE please reconsider and give those of us who faithfully pay our monthly bills off in the timely manner as listed on our statements a break. DO NOT punish us for being loyal customers by taking our money to pay on someone else's bill. This is not the right thing to do. Please find the money you're seeking from somewhere else.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments,

Cindy Frankenberg

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Peggy Shekem <pshekem@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2024 12:28 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PSE Policy Changes

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[EXTERNAL]

To Whom it May Concern:

None of the regulations and proposed policy changes for energy production and use are designed to serve us, the people.

Electricity rates are sky-high already and, at the same time, electricity production is being decreased. All while the government is pushing mandates forcing conversion from traditional sources of energy to electricity (EVs, for example, and outlawing gas-powered appliances, tools, etc.). Not only is this kind of thinking backward and destructive, it is plain stupid. No one eliminates what is available and necessary to sustain life in hopes that a future untried and so far unproductive “something” will takes it place.

We need to use everything we have now to produce electricity—more nuclear energy is the most tried and true, efficient, safe, and productive source. Other sources may be developed in the future that can be added to our arsenal but they do NOT EXIST now.

We cannot afford the policies being proposed by PSE and driven by a short-sighted government.

Please do not approve any of these policies and roll back to giving us, the people, access to the energy we need and possess as a nation.

Peggy Shekem  
Coupeville, WA 98239

**From:** [Tina Champeaux](#)  
**To:** [ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel](#); [comments@utc.wa.gov](mailto:comments@utc.wa.gov)  
**Subject:** PSE Changes to policy  
**Date:** Friday, February 9, 2024 11:17:20 AM

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[EXTERNAL]

To Whom This May Concern:

I was on the Zoom meeting for public comment at 6 pm last night that addressed PSE and changes to policy.

I was disappointed at the attendance of roughly around 30 people. Skagit County has a population of around 132,000 in 2023. I was aware of this meeting because I still receive a paper bill though the print is so small one needs a magnifying glass to read the content about the public hearing.

The common thread from the comments given by attendees echoed my own comments.

Responsible people such as myself are paying their bills while others are not. This has caused a current problem that basically, affects the responsible among the population. We cannot sustain ourselves with the irresponsibility of others receiving free housing, free utilities and heating, and a multitude of other freebies.

Right now we are being asked to cut utilities which has resulted in some customers wearing heavy clothing and coats to keep warm in their homes, lowering temperature settings, and non-heating parts of their homes. Moreover, we were asked to cut our heating during flex times in some of the coldest below freezing weather.

One cannot even imagine how these increased rates and utility shortages will affect farming in general, our food supply, and farming businesses.

Solar panels do not work well in Western Washington, and one cannot begin to imagine what charging up mass electric vehicles from the grid will do. In addition, let's not forget the genius of tearing down the Snake River dams.

My PSE "budget" bill increased from \$250 to \$500 every two months.  
Fixed incomes cannot sustain themselves over complete irresponsibility.

Everyone must be accountable including companies, corporations, government, and our elected. This problem is not fixed by further overburdening the overburdened.

Tina Champeaux  
1641 State Route 9  
Sedro Woolley WA 98284

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Murat Shekem <muratshekem@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2024 2:32 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PSE Changes to Policy

[EXTERNAL]

I am extremely disappointed in your callous approach to your customers. You have not shown any concrete evidence that any of your green alternatives to energy, whether wind or solar, will be able to replace current (and necessary) energy supplies, yet you continue to advocate for it by trying to get your customers to continuously reduce consumption while raising costs for it. How about looking at hydroelectric improvements or nuclear power as more reliable and economical sources of energy?  
Thank you for your consideration.

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Jeff Phillips <jdnagp@clintonwa.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2024 2:22 PM  
**To:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PSE changes

[EXTERNAL]

How are we supposed to live when we retired we had plenty of funds to enjoy a comfortable retirement and not rely on the state government. But with this proposal by PSE now we are being priced out of home with utilities on top of the tax this state keeps adding to our budget. What don't they get they are far better ways to produce.



## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** juli.dickason@comcast.net  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2024 3:01 PM  
**To:** comments@utc.wa.gov  
**Cc:** ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** PSE Docket U-210800

[EXTERNAL]

I'd like to comment on last night's meeting regarding PSE's Petition to raise rates.

I too am a senior citizen on a fixed income struggling to pay my bills.

I should not have to make up the revenue deficit for those who defaulted on their debts with years of increasing rates.

Why can't PSE legally pursue those individuals that incurred the cost of heating their homes? The information of individuals to set up an account and billing is available to PSE.

I was in favor of providing relief to individuals who were unemployed and in need during covid, I'm not happy about paying for services I personally did not use.

The national government is who mandated the pause in collecting monies due. I would assume public utilities will be awarded compensations from the government for THEIR DECISION to pause collections. Has PSE requested relief from any governmental entities for this short fall?

One last point I'd like to make.

I have no other alternative to explore another provider to service my heating needs. At this point I would change my carrier if I could. Does PSE have a monopoly in this area?

Thank you for your time.

Julie Dickason from Shoreline

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## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** architect.aliqais@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Friday, February 9, 2024 4:37 PM  
**To:** Comments@utc.wa.gov; ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Subject:** Objection to Proposed PSE Utility Bill Increase - Ali Al Hashemi, 2305 54th St SE, Auburn, WA

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

[EXTERNAL]

Dear PSE,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed increase in utility bills currently under consideration. My name is Ali Al Hashemi, and I am a resident of Auburn, WA residing at 2305 54th St SE.

As a homeowner and ratepayer, I am deeply concerned about the financial burden this increase will place on myself and many other families in our community. Many residents are already struggling with rising costs of living, and this additional expense will only exacerbate our difficulties.

I urge you to reconsider this proposal and find alternative solutions that do not place such a significant burden on your customers.

I am not alone in my opposition to this increase. Many residents in Lakeland hills Auburn and across the state share my concerns. I urge you to listen to the voices of your customers and reconsider this proposal.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ali Al Hashemi 2305 54th St SE Auburn, WA 98092

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

## Hartman, Brice C (ATG)

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**From:** Larry Jensen <lrayjensen@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 11, 2024 1:02 PM  
**To:** comments@utc.wa.gov; ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel  
**Cc:** alan heyntsen; Alonzo Cortez; Rep. Dave Paul; Rep. Carolyn Eslick; Keith Wagoner; Rick Larsen; Rep. Alex Ramel; Rep. Debra Lekanoff; Shavers, Rep. Clyde; Sen. Ron Muzzall; Ron Wesen; Sam Low  
**Subject:** Electric rate increases at PSE

[EXTERNAL]

PSE and the Utility Commission,

I understand that there as a online meeting Thursday night 2-8-2024 about rates.

Here is what a friend reported to me.

The common thread from the comments given by attendees echoed my own comments.

Responsible people such as myself are paying their bills while others are not. This has caused a current problem that basically, affects the responsible among the population. We cannot sustain ourselves with the irresponsibility of others receiving free housing, free utilities and heating, and a multitude of other freebies.

Right now we are being asked to cut utilities which has resulted in some customers wearing heavy clothing and coats to keep warm in their homes, lowering temperature settings, and non-heating parts of their homes. Moreover, we were asked to cut our heating during flex times in some of the coldest below freezing weather.

One cannot even imagine how these increased rates and utility shortages will affect farming in general, our food supply, and farming businesses.

Solar panels do not work well in Western Washington, and one cannot begin to imagine what charging up mass electric vehicles from the grid will do. In addition, let's not forget the genius of tearing down the Snake River dams.

### **Here are my comments:**

**It disturbs me that we are moving to eliminate the use of natural gas and other fossile fuels and at the same time experiencing price increases for electric.**

**You, we, all of us need to push back and say no to forcing electric on us as the only energy source.**

**We need a diversified energy source and policy that goes along with it.**

**Does it make sense to bring a pipeline down from Canada to burn natural gas to make electricity and at the same time stop homes from burning natural gas for heating and cooking?**

**It also infuriates me that programs pushed upon us to pay for other users who refuse to work or refuse to budget their own usage are asking those that are responsible to pay for them.**

**Please make sure that users are rate payers. I have several rentals, and some include electric. When the rates go up so must the rent. Many of my tenants can't afford higher rents and if I cannot not afford to**

**cover the increase I have no choice but to close the rental unit and put them on the street. This would not be good for them, me, or the community.**

**Stop the insanity and let nonpayers find other solutions then piling the cost of nonpayers on those that do pay.**

Larry R. Jensen  
15356 Produce Lane  
Mount Vernon, WA 98273  
360-770-5133

Name	Comment Type	Comments	Date Collected
Anonymous	Phone	<p><b>Paraphrased Comments*</b> Puget Sound Energy's recent letter notifying residents of an amendment to future bills. The caller had mentioned that the number on the letter is not affiliated with Puget Sound Energy. When they called that number, they were sent over to a data company from Alabama. They believe there must be a typo and mentioned that our office was the last place they were going to try to call. <u>Overall, it was very confusing for them as they were just trying to help and get the message over that they don't want their rates to increase.</u></p> <p>This caller decided to remain anonymous and just requested that this message be passed along to somebody.</p>	12/7/2023
Sharon Schultz	Phone	<p><b>Paraphrased Comments*</b> I am on a fixed income and I am unable to pay for all of these increases. I pay about \$400 per month for power. Puget Sound Energy is pricing folks out of their homes by consistently raising their rates. There is something wrong somewhere. There are a lot of elderly people who just don't have funds to cover the increases in costs. Quit taking out the dams, and start to use hydro power. This is a renewable resource; we should use it.</p>	2/9/2024
Anonymous	Phone	<p><b>Paraphrased Comments*</b> PSE rates will obviously increase because of the situation in this case. I'm not aware of any other utility companies raising their rates due to these collection practices. PSE has placed itself in this predicament and should find a solution. Poor management shouldn't result in higher bills for me. Customers, who can, and are willing to pay, should be considered. It's concerning that PSE is the only company raising rates while others facing similar challenges haven't. PSE needs to be more diligent. I hope to see PSE improve its diligence in the future. This is an internal operational issue that PSE needs to address. This caller decided to remain anonymous and just requested that this message be passed along to somebody.</p>	2/9/2024
Dietrih Strassburg	Phone	<p><b>Paraphrased Comments*</b> I am 100% disabled and served 31 years in the Army. I don't have much money to contribute to others who are not paying their bill. In the last few months, my bill has consistently been going up. I don't have the money to cover for others. Why should I pay for those who don't pay their bills? Folks who pay shouldn't be burdened with those who don't.</p>	2/9/2023
Janice	Phone	<p><b>Paraphrased comments*</b> I have been a good-paying customer for over 35 years. I don't want to pay for another person's utilities. I am getting fed up with having to cover other people's bills when they fail to pay.</p>	11/17/2023

Name	Comment Type	Comments	Date Collected
Eva Boding	Phone	<p><b>Paraphrased Comments*</b> No, I do not support this. It sounds like the investors are not getting a cut of the action because of the lack of payment, and raising the rates is not the answer. No! I am not paying for it. This is unfair and ridiculous. The paying customers should not be required to pay for those that don't. PSE should let them use the service without paying; it's their fault, not mine. I don't want to pay for those who don't. I (we) fulfilled our obligation paying; I don't want to pay for someone else's bills. Why am I having my rates go up to supplement others? The consumers are getting bent. Our voices are not being heard. We make these comments and they fall on deaf ears. Wake up and smell the coffee. Things are not getting better!</p>	11/17/2023