

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**Dockets UE-220066 & UG-220067  
Puget Sound Energy  
2022 General Rate Case**

**BENCH REQUEST NO. 012:**

In Dec. 2022, the Legislature appropriated \$100 million for public and private water, sewer, garbage, electric and natural gas utilities arrearages. This funding was used by utilities to reduce residential customer arrearages accrued between March 1, 2020, and Dec. 31, 2021<sup>1</sup>. Approximately \$26 million of these funds were allocated to PSE. PSE applied these amounts to customer accounts to alleviate rising arrearages, but significant arrearages remain.

Please provide the following information concerning the appropriation of these funds in Dec. 2022, as well as any currently outstanding residential customer arrearages accrued during the period of March 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2021?

If PSE cannot determine this information, please explain why, and provide estimated data to the best of your knowledge.

- a. Total number of residential customers that received any portion of the appropriated funds,
- b. Total dollar amounts of appropriated funds provided to residential customers,
- c. Total number of active residential customers with arrearage amounts greater than \$1 that accrued during the period March 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2021,
- d. Total dollar amount of active residential customer arrearages from the period March 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2021,
- e. Total cumulative arrearage amounts from the period March 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2021 that the Company has deemed “uncollectable” or that have been written off.

Please respond to this Bench Request no later than Monday, March 11, 2024, by 5 p.m., by electronic filing with the Commission’s Records Center. Please provide courtesy email copies to all parties and the presiding administrative law judge. If you have any questions concerning these requests, please contact Administrative Law Judge Michael Howard at 360- 664-1139 or via email at [michael.howard@utc.wa.gov](mailto:michael.howard@utc.wa.gov).

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<sup>1</sup> [Utility-Moratorium - Washington State Department of Commerce](#)

**Response:**

Please find below the requested information:

- a. **56,705** residential customers received a portion of the funds allocated to Puget Sound Energy (“PSE”).
- b. PSE provided **\$25,118,650** to residential customers through the allocated funds.
- c. There are **502,160** currently active residential customers who accrued arrearages greater than \$1 during the period March 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2021.
- d. The 502,160 currently active residential customers referenced in part c. accrued a total of **\$135,296,124** during the period March 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2021.
- e. The total cumulative residential customer arrearage amount that PSE has deemed “uncollectible” or written off, accrued during the period March 1, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2021, is **\$59,938,936**. Please note that these write-off amounts only include arrearages accrued in the March 1, 2020 through Dec. 31, 2021 time period, but the set of accounts that were written off include any written off from the period March 1, 2020 through February 29, 2024.