

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

Clean Energy Implementation Plan
Pursuant to WAC 480-100-640

DOCKET UE-210795

THE ENERGY PROJECT REQUEST
FOR CASE CERTIFICATION AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST
A FUND GRANT

1 Pursuant to RCW 80.28.430, and the Washington Interim Participatory Funding Agreement (Funding Agreement) approved by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission),¹ The Energy Project (TEP) hereby submits this Request for Case Certification and Notice of Intent to Request a Fund Grant (Notice and Request).

2 Notice of Intent To Request Fund Grant. Pursuant to Section 6.2 of the Funding Agreement, TEP provides this Notice of Intent to Request a Fund Grant from the Customer Representation Sub-Fund of the Consumer Access Fund for Puget Sound Energy (PSE).²

3 This Notice and Request is filed within the time designated by the Commission in Order 04 in this docket and has been served on PSE and the parties of record.

4 Eligible Proceeding. Puget Sound Energy is designated as a “Participating Public Utility” in Article 1(g) of the Funding Agreement. Puget Sound Energy’s Clean Energy Implementation Plan (CEIP) docket constitutes an “Eligible Proceeding” under Article 1(c). This case will be carried out under the auspices of Washington’s public service laws and

¹ Docket U-210595, Order 01 (February 24, 2022).

² See Funding Agreement § 4.2.

Commission regulations.³ PSE’s CEIP will materially affect the public interest. The Commission has observed that “the CEIP will involve a new and significant process and document, one that the utilities have never prepared, and that stakeholders, and this Commission have never reviewed.”⁴

5 Request for Case Certification. The Energy Project requests case-certification in this matter as a customer representative organization pursuant to section 5.2.1 and 6.2 of the Funding Agreement. The Energy Project meets the criteria for case-certification found in section 5.2.1.⁵

6 Non-Profit. The Energy Project is fiscally sponsored by the Opportunity Council, which is a non-profit organization.

7 Broad Customer Interests. The Energy Project represents the interests of thousands of low-income customers in the State of Washington, including customers of PSE. RCW 80.28.430(1) recognizes “organizations representing low-income . . . customers” as a type of organization that represents “broad customer interests in regulatory proceedings.”

8 Effective Representation. The Energy Project focuses its regulatory engagement on issues that have a material impact on low-income customers and vulnerable populations. The Energy Project works generally with utilities and other stakeholders to develop and expand rate assistance, energy efficiency programs, renewable energy projects, electric vehicle transportation infrastructure, and other matters impacting low-income customers in Washington. The Energy

³ Notice of Virtual Prehearing Conference (April 19, 2022), ¶ 3(Statutory Authority).

⁴ Order 04, ¶ 22.

⁵ The Commission recently determined that TEP met the case certification requirements in the PSE General Rate Case. *Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission v Puget Sound Energy (PSE 2022 GRC)*, Dockets UE-220066/UG-220067, Order 08, ¶¶ 20-22.

Project serves on PSE’s low-income and energy efficiency advisory committees. The Energy Project also works with entities delivering low-income services that are funded by the Washington State Department of Commerce, including Community Action Partnership Agencies that provide rate assistance and energy efficiency programs for Puget Sound Energy’s low-income customers. Through intervention and participation in Commission proceedings concerning rates, mergers, property transfers, policy statements, and rulemakings over the past two decades, including many involving PSE, TEP’s has effectively represented and directly and materially benefited low-income customers, including PSE customers.⁶ The Energy Project can effectively represent the interests of low-income customers and vulnerable populations in this proceeding.

9 Adequacy of Representation. The Energy Project is the only party focusing solely on the interests of low-income customers in this proceeding. TEP has been granted intervention in this case as a low-income representative that has established a substantial interest in the case and whose participation will be in the public interest.⁷ The Commission has also noted TEP’s “unique expertise in low-income issues.”⁸ The activities described above demonstrate that TEP can effectively advance the specific interests of PSE’s low-income customers and vulnerable populations, as well as the general public interest in fair, just, reasonable, and equitable utility rates and practices.

⁶ See, e.g., *Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission v. Puget Sound Energy*, Dockets UE190529/UG-190530, Order 08, ¶¶ 529-548; *In the Matter of the Joint Application of Puget Sound Energy, et al., For An Order Authorizing Proposed Sales of Indirect Interests in Puget Sound Energy*, Docket U-180680, Order 06 (Corrected), ¶¶ 64-68.

⁷ Order 04, ¶ 8.

⁸ *PSE 2022 GRC*, Order 16/02, ¶ 18.

10 No Delay. The Energy Project is aware of the schedule adopted for the proceeding in
Order 04 and believes the schedule is acceptable.⁹ As demonstrated by the track record
described above of participating in general rate cases and other significant proceedings before
the Commission, TEP's participation will not unduly delay this proceeding.

11 For the foregoing reasons, TEP respectfully requests that the Commission grant this
Request for Case Certification and accept its Notice of Intent to Request a Fund Grant.

12 Dated this 3rd day of June, 2022.

Simon J. ffitch
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/s/ Simon J. ffitch, WSBA No. 25977
For The Energy Project

⁹ Order 04, ¶ 20.