

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Respondent.

DOCKET UE-200980

ORDER 01

COMPLAINT AND ORDER
SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 9, 2020, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective WN U-60, Tariff G, as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. PSE characterizes its filing as a Power Cost Only Rate Case (PCORC), as authorized by the Settlement Stipulation approved by the Commission in Dockets UE-011570 and UG-011571.
- 2 Specifically, PSE proposes in this filing to increase electric rates by \$78.5 million, or an average increase of approximately 3.69 percent across all customer classes, with a stated effective date of January 8, 2021.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- 3 PSE's requested increase might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public, and PSE has not demonstrated that the increase would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Pursuant to RCW 80.04.130(1), the Commission, therefore, suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, and practices of public service companies, including electric companies.
- 5 (2) PSE is an electric company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 6 (3) The tariff revisions PSE filed on December 9, 2020, would increase charges and rates for service provided by PSE and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (4) PSE has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 8 (5) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate PSE's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of PSE's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of PSE's operations.
- 9 (6) The Commission finds that this docket meets the criteria of WAC 480-07-400(2)(b)(i) and that the parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 10 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), PSE bears the burden to prove that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 11 (8) PSE may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The tariff revisions Puget Sound Energy filed on December 9, 2020, are suspended.

- 13 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 14 (3) Puget Sound Energy must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period unless authorized by the Commission.
- 15 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Puget Sound Energy's books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations as described above.
- 16 (5) The parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 17 (6) Puget Sound Energy shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent required in Chapter 80.20 RCW.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective December 16, 2020.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chair

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner

Appendix
WN U-60, Tariff G

40 th Revision Sheet No. 95	Canceling	39 th Revision Sheet No. 95
15 th Revision Sheet No. 95-A	Canceling	14 th Revision Sheet No. 95-A
17 th Revision Sheet No. 95-B	Canceling	16 th Revision Sheet No. 95-B
16 th Revision Sheet No. 95-C	Canceling	15 th Revision Sheet No. 95-C
9 th Revision Sheet No. 95-C.1	Canceling	8 th Revision Sheet No. 95-C.1
9 th Revision Sheet No. 95-C.2	Canceling	8 th Revision Sheet No. 95-C.2
16 th Revision Sheet No. 95-D	Canceling	15 th Revision Sheet No. 95-D
16 th Revision Sheet No. 95-E	Canceling	15 th Revision Sheet No. 95-E
7 th Revision Sheet No. 95-E.1	Canceling	6 th Revision Sheet No. 95-E.1
1 st Revision Sheet No. 95-E.2	Canceling	Original Sheet No. 95-E.2
12 th Revision Sheet No. 142-D	Canceling	11 th Revision Sheet No. 142-D
8 th Revision Sheet No. 142-E	Canceling	7 th Revision Sheet No. 142-E
8 th Revision Sheet No. 142-F	Canceling	7 th Revision Sheet No. 142-F

8 th Revision Sheet No. 142-G	Canceling	7 th Revision Sheet No. 142-G
6 th Revision Sheet No. 139-E	Canceling	5 th Revision Sheet No. 139-E