



approximately \$50.6 million (8%). The impact of the Deferral Amortization filing is an increase in annual revenues of approximately \$28.2 million (5%).

- 2 RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121 require a thirty-day notice prior to the effective date of the tariff. The tariff sheets bear an inserted effective date of October 17, 2003. This date recognizes statutory notice as required. The Company requests, however, less than statutory notice as permitted in WAC 480-80-122, and that the revisions become effective October 1, 2003. Considering the circumstances of the withdrawal of its initial filings explained above, PSE requested approval with less than statutory notice so that the refilings will go into effect commensurate with the 30-day notice period associated with the initial filings to avoid confusion.
- 3 WAC 480-90-194 requires notification to customers or publication of the increase sought in this filing. Granting the Company's less than statutory notice request also requires an exemption from WAC 480-90-194. For the same reason(s) listed for seeking less than statutory notice, the Company seeks such an exemption from notice requirements. The Company proposes to notify customers by bill print message and newsletter inserted into bill packages.
- 4 Since the proposed tariff revisions appear to be fair, just, and reasonable, and less than statutory notice is consistent with the public interest, it is appropriate that the Commission grant PSE's request with an effective date of October 1, 2003.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public

service companies, including gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*

- 6 (2) PSE is a gas company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 7 (3) PSE is subject to the provisions of RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121 requiring gas companies to file changes in any rate or charge with thirty days' notice. For good cause shown, however, the Commission may allow changes without requiring thirty days' notice by order specifying the changes to be made and the time when it shall take effect. *WAC 480-80-122.*
- 8 (4) WAC 480-90-008 provides that the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in Chapter 480-90 WAC, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes.
- 9 (5) Staff has reviewed the request in Docket Nos. UG-031485 and UG-031486 and recommended the less than statutory notice request of PSE be granted.
- 10 (6) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 24, 2003.
- 11 (7) After examination of the proposed tariff revisions filed by PSE on September 16, 2003, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds the proposed tariff revisions should become effective October 1, 2003.

- 12 (8) The Commission also finds the Company should be granted an exemption to the customer notice requirements.

### ORDER

#### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The request sought by Puget Sound Energy, Inc., for less than statutory notice is granted.
- 14 (2) After the effective date of this Order, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., is granted an exemption from WAC 480-90-194, Publication of proposed changes to increase charges or restrict access in service. Puget Sound Energy, Inc., shall notice customers by bill print message and newsletter inserted into bill packages.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner