

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET NO. UG-031520
)	
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
For Less Than Statutory Notice in)	ORDER GRANTING LESS THAN
Connection with Tariff Revisions.)	STATUTORY NOTICE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

1 On September 22, 2003, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., (“PSE” or “Company”) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, designated as: Forty-Seventh Revised Sheet No. 123, Forty-Second Revised Sheet No. 131, Twenty-Eighth Revised Sheet No. 136-B, Forty-Ninth Revised Sheet No. 141, Fifth Revised Sheet No. 150, Fourth Revised Sheet No. 151-A, Fourth Revised Sheet No. 153-B, Eighth Revised Sheet No. 157-C, Tenth Revised Sheet No. 185-C, Tenth Revised Sheet No. 186-C, Eleventh Revised Sheet No. 187-D. These revisions are refilings of previously submitted changes in the low-income component of the natural gas rates under Docket No. UG-031398, which the Company withdrew by letter dated September 22, 2003. The purpose of the tariff filing is to adjust the rates that recover funds for the low-income program, in compliance with the Settlement Terms for Low Income in Exhibit G to the Settlement Stipulation in Docket Nos. UE-011570 and UG-011571. The Company withdrew the previous filing (UG-031398) to incorporate tariff revisions that altered the level of decrease to each customer class: Schedules 23, 31, 36, 50, 51, 53, 57, the first 2 blocks of Schedule 85 and last 4 blocks of Schedule 87 will see a further decrease from the previous filing and Schedules 41, 86 and the tail block of 85 and the first block of 87 will see less of a decrease. The effect of the changes is less than \$0.0001 for each class. The rates proposed in the tariff filing will decrease annual revenues by approximately \$1.8 million (0.29%).

- 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 23, 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 that the filing results in an overall rate decrease, PSE requests approval with less than statutory notice so that the refiling will go into effect commensurate with the 30-day notice period associated with the initial filing to avoid confusion.
- 3 Since the proposed tariff revisions result in a decrease in rates to customers and is in compliance with the Commission order in Docket Nos. UE-011570 and UG-011571, the Company proposes to notify customers in accordance with WAC 480-90-195(3) by posting the proposed filing on the PSE website and by providing copies through the mail to customers upon request.
- 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 No. UG-031520 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 22, 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.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The request sought by Puget Sound Energy, Inc., for less than statutory notice is granted.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 24th day of September, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary