

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

Petition for Waiver of WAC 480-109-200(3)  
and to Modify Order 1 of Docket UE-140800

DOCKET UE-140800

PETITION FOR WAIVER OF  
COMMISSION RULE AND TO  
AMEND ORDER

**I. INTRODUCTION**

1. In accordance with WAC 480-07-110(2), WAC 480-07-370(b), and WAC 480-07-875, Puget Sound Energy (“PSE or the “Company”) respectfully petitions the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) for an order waiving the requirements of WAC 480-109-200(3) and amending Order 01, Paragraph 29 of Docket UE-140800 authorizing the Company to use eligible hydropower generation resources that are not yet registered in the Western Renewable Energy Generation Information System (“WREGIS”) towards compliance with the Company’s 2014 renewable resource target.
2. PSE is engaged in the business of providing electric and gas service within the state of Washington as a public service company, and is subject to the regulatory authority of the Commission as to its retail rates, service, facilities and practices. Its full name and mailing address are:

Puget Sound Energy  
Attn: Katherine Barnard  
Director, Revenue Requirements & Regulatory Compliance  
P.O. Box 97034  
Bellevue, Washington 98009-9734

3. Rules and statutes that may be brought at issue in this Petition include RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.28.020 and WAC 480-07-370(b).

## II. SUMMARY OF PETITION

4. PSE is seeking a waiver from the provision requiring that all eligible hydropower generation and all renewable energy credits used for utility compliance with the renewable resource target must be registered in WREGIS.<sup>1</sup>
5. PSE is unable to comply with the WREGIS registration requirement for its 2014 incremental hydro due to the arduous process involved in registering the incremental hydro in WREGIS. This marks the first time any incremental hydro has been registered in Washington for the sole purpose of Washington's Energy Independent Act (EIA) compliance, and PSE has been working with the Washington Department of Commerce ("Commerce") and WREGIS to establish and document a process in order to accomplish this.
6. In the Company's 2014 Final Compliance Report, filed concurrently with this petition, the Company reports the use of the incremental hydro from its Lower Baker and Snoqualmie Falls

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<sup>1</sup> WAC 480-09-100(3)

projects towards compliance of its 2014 renewable resource target, despite the WREGIS registration process being complete.

### III. BACKGROUND

7. Although the Washington EIA recognizes incremental hydropower as an eligible renewable resource<sup>2</sup>, the statute does not allow for incremental hydropower to generate a REC<sup>3</sup>. Therefore, the EIA did not explicitly require eligible hydropower resources to be registered in WREGIS to be used for RPS compliance. While the EIA did not explicitly require eligible hydropower resources to be registered in WREGIS, the broader goals of tracking RPS compliance and ensuring that resources were not being double counted, led the Commission to include language in Order 1 in Docket UE-140800 and to adopt new rule language regarding registration in WREGIS of all facilities used to comply with Washington's EIA (General Order R-578, Docket UE-131723). Specifically, WAC 480-109-200(3) requires that "[a]ll eligible hydropower generation and all renewable energy credits used for utility compliance with the renewable resource target must be registered in WREGIS, regardless of facility ownership."
8. PSE has been working with Washington Department of Commerce along with WREGIS to develop a process to register incremental hydro when it is solely for the purpose of meeting Washington RPS compliance. PSE continues to work to finalize the registration of these incremental hydro resources.

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<sup>2</sup> RCW 19,285.030 (11)

<sup>3</sup> RCW19.285.030(20).

9. Because incremental hydro is a “use-it-or-lose-it” resource, and must be the first resource applied to a utility’s target year, PSE requests that it be allowed to use its incremental hydro for meeting its 2014 renewable energy target. PSE did not sell or trade its incremental hydro and therefore PSE believes it has met the intent of the rule and the Commission’s order.
10. If the Commission does not grant PSE a waiver from the requirements of WAC 480-109-200(3), and paragraph 29 in Order 1, then the Company will use existing renewable energy credits to meet its 2014 target. This, however, will result in higher costs to PSE customers.
11. PSE has discussed this petition with Commission Staff and Staff supports this petition.

#### **IV. REQUEST FOR RELIEF**

12. Based on the foregoing PSE respectfully requests that the Commission grant the Company a waiver from the requirements of WAC 480-109-200(3) and authorize the Company to use its 2014 incremental hydro towards compliance with the Company’s renewable resource target for 2014.

Respectfully submitted this 27<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2016.

**Puget Sound Energy**

By 

Katherine J. Barnard

Director, Revenue Requirements and Regulatory  
Compliance

