BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE

**UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,  Complainant,  v.  PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,  Respondent.  . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . | ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) )  ) | DOCKET UG-090705  ORDER 01  COMPLAINT AND ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS |

**BACKGROUND**

1. On May 8, 2009, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. The stated effective date is June 8, 2009. The purpose of the filing is to increase rates and charges for natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington.
2. In this filing, PSE would increase charges and rates for service by approximately $27.2 million or 2.2 percent. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and PSE has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, the Commission 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**

1. (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, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.*
2. (2) PSE is a gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
3. (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 28, 2009.
4. (4) The tariff revisions PSE filed on May 8, 2009, would increase charges and rates for service provided by PSE, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
5. (5) PSE has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
6. (6) 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.
7. (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130 (4), PSE bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
8. (8) PSE may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

**O R D E R**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

1. (1) The tariff revisions Puget Sound Energy, Inc., filed on May 8, 2009, are suspended.
2. (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
3. (3) Puget Sound Energy, Inc., must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
4. (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Puget Sound Energy, Inc.’s books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
5. (5) Puget Sound Energy, Inc., shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission’s investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 28, 2009.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

**Appendix**

**WN U-2:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 5th Revision | Sheet No. 3-C | Index (Continued) |
| 7th Revision | Sheet No. 116-A | General Gas Lighting and Street Lighting Service (Optional) (Continued) |
| 52nd Revision | Sheet No. 123 | Residential General Service |
| 48th Revision | Sheet No. 131 | Commercial and Industrial General Service |
| 1st Revision | Sheet No. 131T | Distribution System Transportation Service (Firm-Commercial and Industrial) |
| 54th Revision | Sheet No. 141 | Large Volume High Load Factor Gas Service (Optional) |
| 1st Revision | Sheet No. 141T | Distribution System Transportation Service (Firm-Large Volume High Load Factor) |
| 1st Revision | Sheet No. 141T-A | Distribution System Transportation Service (Firm-Large Volume High Load Factor) (Continued) |
| 8th Revision | Sheet No. 153-B | Propane Service (Continued) |
| 2nd Revision | Sheet No. 161-A | Special Standby and Auxiliary Heating Service (Continued) |
| 21st Revision | Sheet No. 171 | Residential Water Heater Rental Service |
| 22nd Revision | Sheet No. 172 | Large Volume Water Heater Rental Service |
| 16th Revision | Sheet No. 174 | Gas Conversion Burner Rental Service |
| 15th Revision | Sheet No. 185-C | Interruptible Gas Service with Firm Option (Continued) |
| 16th Revision | Sheet No. 185-D | Interruptible Gas Service with Firm Option (Continued) |
| 1st Revision | Sheet No. 185T | Distribution System Transportation Service (Interruptible with Firm Option) |
| 15th Revision | Sheet No. 186-C | Limited Interruptible Gas Service with Firm Option (Optional) (Cont.) |
| 14th Revision | Sheet No. 186-D | Limited Interruptible Gas Service with Firm Option (Optional) (Cont.) |
| 1st Revision | Sheet No. 186T | Distribution System Transportation Service (Interruptible with Firm Option) |
| 16th Revision | Sheet No. 187-D | Non-Exclusive Interruptible Gas Service w/ Firm Option (Cont.) |
| 1st Revision | Sheet No. 187T | Distribution System Transportation Service (Non-Exclusive Interruptible with Firm Option) |