

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Respondent.

DOCKET UG-200112

ORDER 01

COMPLAINT AND ORDER
SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISION

BACKGROUND

- 1 On February 19, 2020, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2 for natural gas service. The revised tariff would discontinue PSE's Water Heater Rental Service. Also on February 19, 2020, PSE filed an application (Application) seeking Commission determination that its Water Heater Rental Service and associated assets are no longer necessary or useful, per Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-143-180(2), or, in the alternative, Commission authorization for the sale of the Water Heater Rental Service to Grand HVAC Leasing USA LLC.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

- 2 Because discontinuing the Water Heater Rental Service might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and PSE has not demonstrated that discontinuing the service would not be detrimental to its customers, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to resolve the issues in this Docket.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3 (1) The 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 natural gas companies.

- 4 (2) PSE is a natural gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 5 (3) PSE's February 19, 2020, filing related to the discontinuation of the Water Heater Rental Service might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public.
- 6 (4) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.070, the Commission finds it is necessary to investigate PSE's books, accounts, practices and activities, and appraise various phases of PSE's operations.
- 7 (5) The Commission finds that this docket meets the criteria of WAC 480-07-400(2)(b) and that the parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 8 (6) PSE may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with Chapter 80.20 RCW.
- 9 (7) The Commission should convene a prehearing conference in this matter, Docket UG-200112.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10 (1) The tariff revision filed by Puget Sound Energy on February 19, 2020, is suspended.
- 11 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required. Such hearings may also examine any of Puget Sound Energy's service, rates, and charges related to its February 19, 2020, filing.
- 12 (3) Puget Sound Energy must not change or alter the filing made in these dockets during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 13 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Puget Sound Energy's books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations related to its February 19, 2020, filing.

- 14 (5) Discovery will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 15 (6) Puget Sound Energy shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with Chapter 80.20 RCW.
- 16 (7) The Commission will convene a prehearing conference in this matter, Docket UG-200112.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 4, 2020.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner