

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of

PUGET SOUND ENERGY’S,

Proposed Revisions to Tariff WN U-60,
Schedules 551, 552, 557, and 583

DOCKET UE-230287

ORDER 01

GRANTING LESS THAN
STATUTORY NOTICE; ALLOWING
REVISED TARIFF TO TAKE EFFECT

BACKGROUND

- 1 On April 20, 2023, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-60, tariff for electric service, schedules 551, 552, 557, and 583. The stated purpose of the proposed tariffs is to propose enhanced electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) and transportation electrification (TE) products and services to meet expanding customer expectations. The Company filed replacement pages on May 12, 2023.
- 2 This filing updates existing Schedules 583, 551, and 552, and introduces a new Schedule 557 for Electric Vehicle (EV) Technology Demonstration, including:
 - Updates to Schedule 583 – which sets terms for the rest of the EV program tariffs – include adding a definition of “Open Network,” and new language about use of customer information.¹
 - Updates to Schedule 551 – EV Non-residential Charging Products and Services – include extending the minimum term from 5 years to 10 years, and creating new sections that outline programs for host-owned and Company-owned EVSE at workplaces, and a new program for host-owned public EVSE.
 - Updates to Schedule 552 – EV Residential Charging Products and Services – include closing a pilot for Company-owned EVSE at single-family residences; creating a new program and incentive for customer-owned EVSE at single-

¹ These changes also apply to Schedules 551, 552, and 557.

family residences; and clarifying language and minor updates to both host- and Company-owned EVSE at multi-family residences.

- Incentive levels for Schedules 551 and 552 are more generous for equity-focused customers, as defined in Schedule 583.²
- New Schedule 557 – EV Technology Demonstration – is a proposed, new schedule that outlines how PSE may “conduct limited-scale electric vehicle technology demonstration projects in order to evaluate innovative transportation electrification technologies or processes” to assess new technologies and their suitability for territory-wide new product and service offerings.

3 Commission staff (Staff) recommends that the Commission take no action and allow the tariff revisions to take effect on June 16, 2023, by operation of law.

4 This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting on June 15, 2023.

5 At the open meeting, the Commission heard comments from NW Energy Coalition (NWECC) expressing concerns about price discrepancies between private owners of EVSE and public rates that raise serious equity concerns. The Commission also heard comments in response from PSE.

DISCUSSION

6 For the most part, we agree with Staff and will allow PSE’s tariffs to go into effect, subject to one condition. Aspects of Schedule 557’s envisioned EV technology demonstrations involve costs that may be considered experimental research and development. These represent high risk expenses that we generally do not pass through to customers in rates. We therefore find that the EV technology demonstration projects considered under schedule 557 should be in consultation with Staff, and we determine that the tariff revisions may go into effect subject to the condition that PSE file replacement pages for Schedule 557, that modify paragraph 2 to replace the phrase, “[a]t

² Schedule 583: “Equity-Focused Customer is a Customer that is part of Named Communities or a Customer that shares demographic characteristics with Customers in Named Communities; and the Community Based Organizations (CBOs), government agencies and tribal entities that serve them.”

its sole discretion” with “in consultation with Commission staff” prior to the revised tariffs taking effect.

7 The late addition to the tariff revisions we require would mean that the tariffs take effect with less than statutory notice, and so we grant, on our own motion, less than statutory notice. WAC 480-80-122 allows the Commission to grant less than statutory notice when a company provides good cause. In this instance, it is the Commission’s insistence on our substitution language that requires the last-minute revision, and we thus find that the good cause standard is met, and that the tariff change is reasonable, in the public interest, and should become effective on less than statutory notice.

8 We are sympathetic to NWECC’s concerns of rate discrepancies between regulated and unregulated providers of EVSE, but the most reasonable interpretation of RCW 80.28.320 is that the Commission does not have jurisdiction over the rates that can be charged by host-owned public EVSE providers.³

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including electric companies.
- 10 (2) PSE is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 11 (3) PSE’s revised tariff pages as filed on April 20, 2023, and supplemented on May 12, 2023, should go into effect on June 16, 2023, subject to the condition that before they take effect, PSE file replacement pages that modify paragraph 2 of schedule 557 to replace the phrase, “at its sole discretion” with “in consultation with Commission staff.”
- 12 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its recessed open meeting on June 15, 2023.

³ RCW 80.28.320 states that the Commission may not regulate the rates of an entity offering battery charging facilities if that entity “is not otherwise subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction as an electrical company.”

- 13 (5) After reviewing PSE’s revised tariff pages filed on April 20, 2023, and supplemented on May 12, 2023, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission allows the revised tariff pages to go into effect with less than statutory notice, subject to the condition described above.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) Puget Sound Energy’s revisions to Tariff WN U-60, filed on April 20, 2023, and supplemented on May 12, 2023, may go into effect with less than statutory notice on June 16, 2023, subject to the condition that before such revisions take effect the Company files replacement pages for schedule 557 that revise paragraph 2 by substituting the phrase “at its sole discretion” with “in consultation with Commission staff.”
- 15 (2) This Order shall not affect the Commission’s authority over rates, services, accounts, valuations, estimates, or determination of costs, on any matters that may come before it.
- 16 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Puget Sound Energy, to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective June 15, 2023.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVE W. DANNER, Chair

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner