

Puget Sound Energy P.O. Box 97034 Bellevue, WA 98009-9734 pse.com

October 6, 2025

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Jeff Killip, Executive Director and Secretary Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 621 Woodland Square Loop SE Lacey, WA 98503

RE: Advice No. 2025-46

Puget Sound Energy's Natural Gas Tariff Filing

Dear Executive Director Killip:

Pursuant to RCW 80.28.060, and WAC 480-80-101 and -105, please find enclosed for filing the following proposed tariff filing establishing a new low-income benefit under the WN U-2 tariff for natural gas service of Puget Sound Energy ("PSE" or "the Company"):

WN U-2 - (Natural Gas Tariff):

THE CONTRACTOR OF THE PROPERTY.		
Original Sheet	Sheet No. 1129-A.9	Low Income Program (Continued)

The primary purpose of this tariff filing is to introduce the Head Start Benefit (HSB) as a new component of PSE's Low-Income Program under Natural Gas Tariff Schedule 129. The Head Start Benefit provides bill credit assistance to eligible customers with existing arrearages, utilizing unspent funds from previous program years to help customers reduce past due balances that accumulated during the pandemic and extended disconnect moratorium period.

The HSB was reviewed with the Low-Income Advisory Committee (LIAC) on August 26, 2025. The LIAC meeting included representatives from Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) Staff, The Energy Project (TEP), Public Counsel Unit of the Attorney General's Office (ATG), and various Community Action Partnership (CAP) agencies including: Hopelink, Opportunity Council, Community Action of Skagit County, Community Action Council for Lewis, Mason & Thurston Counties, and Multi-Service Center. Based on LIAC feedback, PSE made changes to the benefit including incorporating information on weatherization and CAP agency contact details in customer outreach communications.

The HSB will be available to known or estimated low-income customers taking natural gas service under Schedule 23 who have existing past due balances. This benefit provides bill credits ranging from a minimum arrearage of \$5 to a maximum benefit of \$15,000 per customer enrollment. Customers will be automatically enrolled unless they opt out, with known Low-

Jeff Killip, Executive Director and Secretary October 6, 2025 Page 2 of 2

Income customers served first based on lowest income and highest energy burden, followed by estimated Low-Income customers using the same prioritization criteria.

This filing will impact PSE's low-income customer assistance by providing targeted arrearage reduction for customers who have been unable to catch up on past due amounts. The program is designed to prevent eligible customers from incurring increased arrearages and risking disconnection while encouraging enrollment in ongoing bill assistance programs and rates. Natural Gas funding for the HSB is capped at \$9,274,582 and Electric funding is capped at \$25,284,317 using previously collected but unspent Schedule 129 funds.

The tariff sheets described herein reflect an issue date of October 6, 2025, and effective date of November 7, 2025. Posting of proposed tariff changes, as required by law and the Commission's rules and regulations, is being completed through web, telephone and mail access in accordance with WAC 480-100-193. Notice to the public under the provisions of WAC 480-100-194 will be provided within 30 days of the November 7, 2025, effective date.

Please contact Julie Waltari at <u>julie.waltari@pse.com</u> for additional information about this filing. If you have any other questions, please contact me at <u>birud.jhaveri@pse.com</u>.

Sincerely,

/s/ Birud D. Jhaveri

Birud D. Jhaveri Director, Regulatory Affairs Puget Sound Energy PO Box 97034, BEL10W Bellevue, WA 98009-9734 Birud.Jhaveri@pse.com

cc: Tad O'Neill, Public Counsel Sheree Carson, Perkins Coie

Attachments: Electric Tariff Sheets (listed above)

Attachment A – 8/26/25 LIAC Head Start Program Presentation