

**EXH. AJP-3  
DOCKET UE-210795  
PSE'S CEIP  
WITNESS: AUSTIN J. PHILLIPS**

**BEFORE THE  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**In the Matter of**

**PUGET SOUND ENERGY**

**Clean Energy Implementation Plan  
Pursuant to WAC 480-100-640**

**Docket UE-210795**

**SECOND EXHIBIT (NONCONFIDENTIAL) TO THE  
PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF**

**AUSTIN J. PHILLIPS**

**ON BEHALF OF PUGET SOUND ENERGY**

**DECEMBER 12, 2022**

# Puget Sound Energy

## Equity Advisory Group Meeting #3

### Meeting Summary

Monday, May 17th, 2021 | 4 – 7 p.m.

## Meeting Purpose & Topics

The meeting purpose was to:

- Inform about Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) demographics and participation research;
- Shared understanding on the Clean Energy Transformation Act (CETA) and highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations (referred to as "named communities");
- Consult on refining the definition of vulnerable populations;
- EAG determination of recorded meetings, and next steps regarding charter.

The Equity Advisory Group (EAG) meeting was held as an online only meeting and took place from 4 – 7 p.m. It was divided into sections as follows:

1. **Opening:** 4 – 4:30 p.m.
  - a. Welcome and opening remarks
  - b. Update on public participation
  - c. Icebreaker: Affordability, accessibility, and accountability
2. **Presentations:** 4:30 – 5:30 p.m.
  - a. Customer participation, demographics, and research
  - b. CETA and named communities
3. **Break:** 5:30 – 5:45 p.m.
4. **Large Group Discussion:** 5:45 – 6:15 p.m.
  - a. Equity lens: Vulnerable populations
5. **Business Planning:** 6:15 – 6:35 p.m.
6. **Observer Comment:** 6:35 – 6:45 p.m.
7. **Wrap Up, Next Meeting Date, Adjourn:** 6:45 – 7 p.m.

[The full meeting packet can be found online \(link\).](#)

## Meeting Action Items

Below is a summary of the action items from the May 17, 2021 Equity Advisory Group meeting.

What	Who	When
Provide PSE age demographic information	PSE	By 7/1
Share Icebreaker Mural board with EAG Members	Advocacy BL/ACK & Triangle	By 6/4

## Meeting Summary

### Opening

#### Opening Remarks

Rose McKinney-James, Advocacy BL/ACK, introduced herself as the facilitator and welcomed the EAG members, presenters, and those observing via YouTube. See Attachment A at the bottom of this document for a list of participants in attendance.

Rose introduced Booga Gilbertson, Senior Vice President and Chief Operations Officer, PSE, to provide opening remarks. Booga expressed her commitment to PSE customers and introduced grid modernization strategies that PSE is currently focusing on.

Jenny Harding, EAG Member, provided a safety moment around skin protection and sun safety.

#### Meeting Logistics and Agenda

Rose and Lucila Gambino, Triangle Associates (Triangle) reviewed the following:

- **Zoom Logistics:** Logistics of using the Zoom platform.
- **Observer and Public Comments:** Observers/public are watching via a YouTube live stream and will have an opportunity to provide public comment at the end of the meeting.
- **Agenda:** Agenda for the meeting.

#### Update on Public Participation

Rose introduced Diann Strom, Strategic Engagement Lead, PSE, to provide an update on current public participation efforts. Diann reminded EAG members about the [online survey](#) customers can complete to share values around clean energy and benefits they see with the clean energy transformation.

She shared that PSE has created a partner toolkit for EAG members to share information with their communities. The [partner toolkit](#) contains newsletter messaging, sample social media messaging and photos, and a clean energy implementation fact sheet.

***Icebreaker: Affordability, Accessibility, and Accountability***

Rose presented the icebreaker activity to EAG members. Based off the EAG's comments during the [Mural activity at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting](#) regarding barriers, burdens, and opportunities, this new Mural board combined their comments into larger themes, such as trust, culture, education, economic, etc. The goal of the icebreaker activity was to have EAG members integrate their comments thus far with the 3 A's in mind – affordability, accessibility, and accountability. The group discussed the stickies around the themes of education and cost.

As an optional assignment, PSE will send EAG members a personal link to this icebreaker Mural so they can complete the activity and practice using the Mural tool. [The group Mural is available to view online.](#)

***Presentations******Customer participation, demographics, and research***

Rose introduced Michael Wehling, Senior Market Analyst, PSE, to provide information around customer research and customer insights. Michael shared that one of PSE's data resources is the American Community Survey (ACS), which is part of the Census data that is publicly available. He reviewed PSE's data on demographics in response to the demographic questions that EAG members vocalized at the May 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Michael went over data regarding ethnic background, income level, primary language spoken (data from marketing firm Experian), highest education level, and housing ownership and renting. An EAG member expressed interest in an age breakdown in terms of demographics and the possibility of connecting that to income data.

Michael then transitioned to discuss PSE's 2019 low-income needs assessment (LINA) study. LINA was conducted to provide a better understanding of the needs related to energy affordability of low-income households in PSE's service territory, including data related to energy efficiency, specifically weatherization needs and opportunities. EAG members provided comments and questions as follows:

- Importance of accounting for the needs of those that are not as easy to track, including those that do not complete the census, take surveys, or do not have their name tied to the account.
  - Quantitative point of view is limited to data available or purchased from a research firm. PSE balances this with qualitative data such as one-one-one interviews with low-income customers on barriers to participation and energy assistance.

### ***CETA and named communities***

Rose introduced Brian Tyson, Manager Clean Energy Planning and Implementation, PSE, to introduce the discussion on named communities as it related to CETA. Brian reminded EAG members about the role of equity in the CEIP process and how the input EAG members provide today regarding refining named communities, including highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations, and how that will help shape PSE's targets, programs, and actions for the CEIP.

Brian introduced Tyler Tobin, Resource Planning Analyst, PSE, to introduce PSE's Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), a 20+ year look at resource planning for the utility. Tyler outlined an assessment PSE completed within the IRP called the Economic, Health and Environmental Benefits Assessment, which is a new component of the IRP and will happen on a cycle every four years. The assessment looks at identifying named communities (highly impacted communities and vulnerable populations) and measuring disparities across customer benefit indicators across PSE's service territory. Tyler introduced the definition of highly impacted communities as defined by the Department of Health (DOH), and vulnerable populations. Tyler then introduced an example for measuring disparities by using energy burden as a measure.

The EAG was prompted to think through an equity lens on the definition of vulnerable populations.

## ***Large Group Discussion***

### ***Equity Lens: Vulnerable Populations***

EAG members were asked to answer the following questions:

- 1) What are the characteristics that make people vulnerable in their community?
- 2) How would you inform a vulnerable populations definition? What factors do you suggest we consider?
- 3) How would PSE measure these factors? Would any of these be a priority?

EAG Members had a fruitful discussion and brought up the following themes:

- Mental health and mental illness
- Seniors
  - In isolation
  - Generational: how PSE accesses folks now will influence their future
- Economic stress as a connector
- Disabilities
- Language

- Home care
- Historically redlined communities

The notetaker captured members' thoughts using an online tool called Mural. The Mural board is now available [online here](#). Please see Attachment B in this document to see the image.

### ***Business Planning***

Rose reminded the EAG members that as the inaugural EAG for PSE, they have a responsibility to lay the foundation for EAG governance. Rose posed some questions for EAG members to reflect on for a later discussion regarding the EAG's charter, structure, process, functions, and decision-making.

EAG members voted anonymously using a Zoom poll to determine if EAG meetings are to be recorded and posted. The EAG Members decided that meetings are not to be recorded and posted for the time being.

### ***Observer Comment***

Rose provided step-by-step instructions for how observers could join the meeting to provide verbal public comments. Observers could also leave written public comments by completing an online comment form at <https://cleanenergyplan.pse.com/equity-advisory-group> or emailing [ceip@pse.com](mailto:ceip@pse.com).

One observer joined the online meeting and provided verbal public comments. Below is a summary, but not a transcript of those comments:

- Please post and share meeting summaries for those who are not able to observe the meeting live.

The Facilitator concluded the meeting by thanking EAG members, presenters, and observers. Rose reminded EAG members of the date for the **next EAG meeting on Monday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021**, from 4 – 7 p.m.

EAG meeting materials and details will be available at [cleanenergyplan.pse.com](https://cleanenergyplan.pse.com).

*The meeting officially adjourned at 7 p.m.*

## **Attachment A: Meeting Attendees**

### ***Equity Advisory Group (EAG) Members***

1. Susana Bailén Acevedo, Community advocate (*not present*)
2. Jenny Harding, GSBA and New Chapter Weddings and Events
3. Emily Larson Kubiak, Sustainable Connections
4. Michele Ogden, Tacoma Urban League (*not present*)
5. Estela Ortega, El Centro de la Raza (*not present*)
6. TJ Protho, Vadis
7. Kate Sander, HopeSource
8. John Sternlicht, Economic Development of Alliance of Skagit County
9. Dennis Suarez, Washington Soldiers Home
10. Teresa Taylor, Lummi Indian Business Council's Office of Economic Policy
11. Mariel Thuraingham, Front and Centered
12. Cheryn Weiser, Island Senior Resources
13. Karia Wong, CISC

### ***Puget Sound Energy (PSE)***

1. Ben Farrow, Director, Clean Energy Strategy
2. Wendy Gerlitz, State and Regional Policy Consultant
3. Booga Gilbertson, Senior Vice President and Chief Operations Officer
4. Diann Strom, Strategic Engagement Lead
5. Brian Tyson, Manager, Clean Energy Planning and Implementation
6. Michael Wehling, Senior Market Analyst
7. Tyler Tobin, Resource Planning Analyst

### ***Advocacy BL/ACK***

1. Rose McKinney-James, Managing Principal
2. Lauren Brooks, Partner and Project Coordinator

### ***Maul Foster & Alongi***

1. Seth Baker, Communications Specialist

### ***Triangle Associates***

1. Lucila Gambino, Project Associate
2. Jacob Hibblen, Project Coordinator

