

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of
PUGET SOUND ENERGY,

Petitioner,

For an Order Approving Proposed
Request For Proposals

DOCKETS UE-200413 and UE-200414

Puget Sound Energy’s Petition
for Waiver of Certain Requirements
Related to Requests for Proposals
Contained in WAC 480-107 and Order 01

1 1. In accordance with WAC 480-107-002(3) and WAC 480-07-370(b), Puget
2 Sound Energy (“PSE”) submits this petition to the Washington Utilities and Transportation
3 Commission (the “Commission”) for a waiver of the requirement related to requests for
4 proposals (“RFP”) contained in WAC 480-107-015(3)(b) and in Order 01 in these dockets,
5 in which the Commission stated that it would “consider PSE’s draft RFPs at its August 13,
6 2020, open meeting, at which time the Commission will take action to approve or suspend
7 them.” *In the Matter of the Petition of Puget Sound Energy For an Order Approving*
8 *Proposed Request For Proposals*, Dockets UE-200413 & UE-200414, Order 01 (Granting
9 Petition for Exemption) at ¶ 6 (July 30, 2020).

A. BACKGROUND

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11 2. On May 4, 2020, PSE filed the Draft All-Source RFP and the Draft Demand
12 Response RFP with the Commission in Docket UE-200414 and Docket UE-200413,
13 respectively.

1 3. On May 11, 2020, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity to Provide
2 Written Comments and Notice of Open Meeting (the “Notice”). The Notice required
3 interested persons to file written comments by July 6, 2020, and afforded stakeholders an
4 opportunity to provide oral comments at the July 17, 2020, recessed open meeting.

5 4. On June 30, 2020, the Commission issued a Notice of Change to Scheduled
6 Open Meeting, indicating that the recessed open meeting set for July 17, 2020, was
7 rescheduled for July 30, 2020. The deadline for filing written comments remained
8 unchanged.

9 5. The Commission received a total of 14 written comments in Dockets UE-
10 200413 and UE-200414. Based on those comments and discussions with Commission staff
11 (“Staff”), PSE submitted revised draft RFPs on July 22, 2020.

12 6. On July 23, 2020, PSE filed a Petition for Waiver from Certain Request for
13 Proposals Requirements (the “Petition”), seeking additional time for the Commission to
14 approve the Draft All-Source RFP and the Draft Demand Response RFP in Docket UE-
15 200414 and Docket UE-200413, respectively.

16 7. On July 31, 2020, the Commission issued Order 01 in Dockets UE-200413
17 and UE-200414, in which the Commission granted PSE’s petition for exemption. The
18 Commission stated in Order 01 that it would consider the Draft All-Source RFP and the
19 Draft Demand Response RFP the open meeting scheduled for August 13, 2020, at which
20 time the Commission will take action to approve or suspend the draft RFPs.

1 8. As part of PSE’s 2021 Integrated Resource Planning (“IRP”) process, PSE
2 has recently developed an updated load forecast (the “Updated Load Forecast”) that reflects
3 the projected effects on PSE loads of the ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease
4 2019 (COVID-19), caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2
5 (SARS-CoV-2).

6 9. Based on preliminary results from the Updated Load Forecast, PSE’s peak
7 capacity need will likely be significantly lower than the load forecast reflected in the Draft
8 All-Source RFP and the Draft Demand Response RFP in Docket UE-200414 and Docket
9 UE-200413, respectively. Indeed, PSE needs additional time to determine whether a peak
10 capacity need continues to exist and, if so, the extent to which the peak capacity need is
11 lower than that projected at the time that PSE filed the RFPs in these dockets.

12 10. PSE will present the results of the Updated Load Forecast in a stakeholder
13 webinar currently scheduled for September 1, 2020.

14 **B. PETITION FOR WAIVER**

15 11. WAC 480-107-002(3) permits the Commission to grant exceptions to the
16 rules governing request for proposals where such exceptions are consistent with the public
17 interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes. In accordance with
18 WAC 480-107-015(3)(b), PSE seeks a waiver from the deadline in Order 01 in which the
19 Commission stated that it would “consider PSE’s draft RFPs at its August 13, 2020, open
20 meeting, at which time the Commission will take action to approve or suspend them.”
21 Order 01 at ¶ 6. As previously discussed, the Updated Load Forecast suggests PSE’s peak

1 capacity need will likely be significantly lower than the load forecast reflected in the Draft
2 All-Source RFP and the Draft Demand Response RFP in Docket UE-200414 and Docket
3 UE-200413, respectively. PSE will use the additional time to determine whether a peak
4 capacity need continues to exist and, if so, the extent to which the peak capacity need is
5 lower than that projected at the time that PSE filed the RFPs in these dockets.

6 12. For this reason, PSE requests a limited waiver of WAC 480-107-015(3)(b)
7 and Order 01 and further requests that the All-Source RFP and Demand Response RFP
8 instead be taken up at the open meeting on September 10, 2020.

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