



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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May 17, 2020

Mark L. Johnson, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

RE: *In the Matter of the Revisions to Tariff WN- U-60 and WN U-2 by Puget Sound Energy, Schedule 171, Dockets UE-180860 and UG-180861*

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Commission Staff has reviewed the compliance filing of Puget Sound Energy (PSE) dated January 29, 2021, titled *Puget Sound Energy-Meter Upgrade Project and Schedules 171 Implementation Status Report*. This report – the third of the series - provides updates to the Commission about the program’s progress through the second quarter of 2020. Subsequent reports are due every six months. Staff believes that the filing complies fully with the Commission’s Order 01, entered January 11, 2019.

This table shows the progress of the installation project on December 31, 2020:

Metered Customers by County at 12/31/20				AMI Installations at 12/31/20			Percent Complete	
County	Electric	Gas	Total	Electric	Gas	Total	Electric	Gas
Island	37,897	0	37,897	0	0	-	0.00%	NA
King	579,464	479,775	1,059,239	499,342	277,766	777,108	86.17%	57.90%
Kitsap	124,817	0	124,817	12583	0	12,583	10.08%	NA
Kittitas	14,918	2,024	16,942	1,208	0	1,208	8.10%	0.00%
Lewis	2	4,278	4,280	0	0	-	0.00%	0.00%
Pierce	127,067	166,156	293,223	74,043	65,621	139,664	58.27%	39.49%
Skagit	62,652	0	62,652	0	0	-	0.00%	NA
Snohomish	49	149,207	149,256	0	13518	13,518	0.00%	9.06%
Thurston	136,321	54,906	191,227	0	0	-	0.00%	0.00%
Whatcom	108,610	0	108,610	0	0	-	0.00%	NA
Total	1,191,797	856,346	2,048,143	587,176	356,905	944,081	49.27%	41.68%

As of December 31, 2020, PSE had received 7,565 requests for non-communicating meter service. 2,685 have been cancelled by the customer involved, and 2,497 were rejected as ineligible for the opt-out program. There are 1,571 completed requests, and 812 in progress, approximately one-quarter of one percent of the customers who live in areas where the AMI project has installed new meters. Initial estimates anticipated one percent of customers would opt-out.

The project was originally planned through 2022 to replace gas meters and through 2023 for electric meters. PSE and its contractors paused the installation schedule from late March until May 5, 2020, as a result of the governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order. Installers wear protective equipment in the field, and the company has also updated its messaging to include social distancing for both customers and installers.

PSE has moved forward with contracting out manual meter reading services with an independent contractor, Landis+Gyr (L+G). Landis+Gyr has been a key partner in PSE's metering operations during the company's AMR era as well.

Staff has previously reviewed the contract between PSE and L+G and notes that the per-hour rates that will be charged by L+G are similar to those that PSE would have paid its own staff to read meters. However, L+G staff will be empowered to read both electric and gas meters during a single visit to opt-out customers. In its original filing, PSE planned for separate visits by its electric and natural gas staff, because of union contracts dividing these two spheres of work, which made manual meter reading more expensive. However, since L+G has not yet invoiced PSE for its manual meter reads, actual cost data is not yet available. Staff looks forward to reviewing that information during the next reporting cycle.

Sincerely,

AMY I. WHITE
Regulatory Analyst, Energy Regulation