

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

<p>WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,</p> <p>Complainant,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>PUGET SOUND ENERGY,</p> <p>Respondent.</p>	<p>DOCKETS UE-190529 and UG-190530 (<i>consolidated</i>)</p> <p>ORDER 07</p>
<p>In the Matter of the Petition of</p> <p>PUGET SOUND ENERGY</p> <p>For an Order Authorizing Deferral Accounting and Ratemaking Treatment for Short-life UT/Technology Investment</p>	<p>DOCKETS UE-190274 and UG-190275 (<i>consolidated</i>)</p> <p>ORDER 04</p>
<p>In the Matter of the Petition of</p> <p>PUGET SOUND ENERGY</p> <p>For an Order Authorizing Deferred Accounting associated with Federal Tax Act on Puget Sound Energy's Cost of Service</p>	<p>DOCKETS UE-171225 and UG-171226 (<i>consolidated</i>)</p> <p>ORDER 02</p>
<p>In the Matter of the Petition of</p> <p>PUGET SOUND ENERGY</p> <p>For an Order Authorizing the Accounting treatment of Costs of Liquidated Damages</p>	<p>DOCKETS UE-190991 and UG- 190992 (<i>consolidated</i>)</p> <p>ORDER 02</p> <p>GRANTING MOTION TO EXTEND SUSPENSION DATE; MODIFYING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE</p>

BACKGROUND

- 1 On April 9, 2019, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition for an order authorizing deferral of certain expenses related to the Company's investments in short-lived technology assets as part of its Get to Zero (GTZ) program in Dockets UE-190274 and UG-190275.
- 2 On June 20, 2019, PSE filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-60, Tariff G, Electric Service, and Tariff WN U-2, Natural Gas, which was assigned Dockets UE-190529 and UG-190530. On July 3, 2019, the Commission suspended the tariff revisions and consolidated Dockets UE-190529 and UG-190530, initiating PSE's general rate case (GRC).
- 3 On October 28, 2019, the Commission entered Order 04/01, Granting Motion for Consolidation (Order 04/01), which consolidated Dockets UE-190529, UG-190530, UE-190274, and UG-190275 (collectively, the GRC/GTZ Dockets).
- 4 On December 29, 2017, PSE filed with the Commission a petition for an order authorizing deferred accounting associated with the impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) on PSE's cost of service, which was assigned Docket UE-171225 and UG-171226 (TCJA Petition).
- 5 On November 27, 2019, PSE filed with the Commission a petition for an order authorizing deferral accounting for liquidated damages under Schedule 139, Voluntary Long Term Renewable Energy Purchase Rider, which was assigned to Dockets UE-190991 and UG-190992 (Green Direct Petition).
- 6 On February 5, 2020, the Commission entered Order 06/03/02, Consolidation Order, consolidating the TCJA and Green Direct Petitions with the GRC/GTZ Dockets.
- 7 On February 6, 2020, the Commission convened an evidentiary hearing in these dockets at its headquarters in Lacey, Washington.
- 8 On March 17, 2020, the parties filed post-hearing briefs.
- 9 Also on March 17, 2020, PSE filed with the Commission a Motion to Extend Suspension Date. In its Motion, PSE requests and agrees to waive the statutory deadline associated with the GRC Dockets for up to 60 days, from May 20, 2020, to July 20, 2020. PSE explains in its Motion that, in recent weeks, COVID-19 has caused an unprecedented

global health crisis impacting nearly all aspects of society, and that residents and businesses in the Company's service territory have been severely impacted. PSE believes extending the suspension date in this proceeding would help mitigate the effects of any rate increases on customers, and would benefit the Commission to the extent there are any disruptions or delays to Commission operations as a result of the virus or its operational response thereto.

- 10 On March 18, 2020, the presiding administrative law judge contacted the parties to this proceeding to determine 1) whether any party objected to PSE's Motion and 2) whether, in light of the circumstances, the parties would prefer to extend the deadline for filing reply briefs, currently set for March 27, 2020. That same day, Staff's counsel responded that no party objects to the Motion, and that all parties either support or do not oppose extending the deadline to file reply briefs until April 10, 2020.

DISCUSSION

- 11 We grant PSE's Motion and modify the procedural schedule to afford the parties additional time to file reply briefs. Order 01 in the GRC Dockets included a requirement that PSE must not change or alter the tariffs filed in the GRC Dockets during the suspension period unless authorized by the Commission. The Company's Motion appropriately seeks Commission authorization to modify the original suspension date from May 20, 2020, to July 20, 2020.
- 12 We find that extending the suspension date is in the public interest for each of the reasons PSE cites in its Motion. Delaying implementation of any rate increase affords important consumer protections in the face of a public health crisis, the extent and residual impacts of which remain, as yet, unknown. Moreover, all parties will benefit from additional time to prepare reply briefs. In turn, the Commission will benefit from additional time to prepare the final order in light of disruptions and delays to its operations that have already occurred, and may continue to occur. Accordingly, we grant PSE's Motion. On the Commission's own motion, we extend the deadline for filing reply briefs until April 10, 2020.

ORDER

13 **THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:**

- 14 (1) PSE's Motion to Extend Suspension Date in Consolidated Dockets UE-171225,
UG-171226, UE-190991, UG-190992, UE-190529, UG-190530, UE-190274, and
UG-190275 is GRANTED.
- 15 (2) The suspension date for the tariffs filed in Dockets UE-190529 and UG-190530 is
extended until July 20, 2020.
- 16 (3) The deadline for filing reply briefs in the above-referenced dockets is modified to
April 10, 2020.

Dated at Lacey, Washington, and effective March 19, 2020.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner