

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	
	)	DOCKET No. UE-011163
Complainant,	)	
	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
v.	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF
	)	REVISIONS AND GRANTING
Puget Sound Energy, Inc.	)	WAIVER OF 480-100-193
	)	
Respondent.	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1        On August 21, 2001, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., (PSE) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-60, designated as Original Sheet No. 395. The stated effective date is November 1, 2001. The tariff revision would result in a surcharge of 1.073 cents per kWh on all electrical energy purchased by retail customers excluding Schedules 48, 448, 449, and for customers taking service under special contracts that require the customer to secure power purchases from third parties. PSE also requests that the Commission grant a waiver of notification requirements under WAC 480-80-120 (1) and (2). WAC 480-80-120 has been repealed by Order R-481, and replaced, for electric companies, by WAC 480-100-193 Notice to the public of tariff changes. This WAC requires the Company to post notices at its business offices or payment agencies 30 days prior to the end of the statutory-notice period.
  
- 2        The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by PSE. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and PSE has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings if necessary to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, and reasonable.
  
- 3        PSE requests a waiver of the Notice to the public of tariff changes requirements, which are set forth in WAC 480-100-193, because PSE also requests that the proposed tariff filing be suspended and set for hearing in conjunction with its accounting petition in Docket No. UE-011170. PSE proposes that it provide notices to its customers under WAC 480-80-125, Notice by Utility to Customers Concerning Hearing. Waiver of WAC 480-100-193 is reasonable in the context of both PSE's suspension request and notice in accordance with WAC 480-80-125.

**FINDINGS**

- 4 (1) PSE is an electric company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 5 (2) The tariff revisions filed by PSE on August 21, 2001, would increase charges and rates for service provided by PSE, and might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public.
- 6 (3) PSE has not demonstrated that the increased rates and charges in its tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 7 (4) As required by RCW 80.04.130, PSE bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, and reasonable.
- 8 (5) Waiver of WAC 480-100-193 (1) and (2) is reasonable.
- 9 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.20.20, the Commission believes it necessary to investigate PSE's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of PSE's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of PSE's operations. PSE may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are consistent or authorized by chapter 80.20 RCW.

**ORDER**

## 10 THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The tariff revisions filed on August 21, 2001, are suspended.
- 12 (2) Waiver of WAC 480-100-193 (1) and (2) is granted for the tariff filed in Docket No. UE-011163.
- 13 (3) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 14 (4) PSE must not change or alter the tariff revisions filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 15 (5) The Commission will institute an investigation of PSE's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations, as described above.

- 16 (6) PSE shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of chapter 80.20 RCW.
- 17 (7) As required by WAC 480-80-125, PSE must supply a notice to all affected customers in the form and manner specified in WAC 480-80-125.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 29th day of August, 2001.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner