

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Complainant,

v.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY

Respondent.

DOCKET UE-240729

ORDER 06

APPROVING PAYMENT

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On September 30, 2024, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a proposed revision to rates under the established Colstrip Adjustment Rider Schedule 141COL. PSE requested a revenue increase of \$4.1 million, or 0.14 percent, which for the typical residential customer using 800 kWh per month would be a rate increase of \$0.18 or 0.16 percent. Under the initial filing, the rate increase became effective January 1, 2025.
- 2 On March 6, 2025, NW Energy Coalition (NVEC) filed a Request for Case Certification and Notice of Intent to Request a Fund Grant. On March 10, 2025, Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC) filed its Petition for Case Certification and Notice for Intent to Request Fund Grant of The Alliance Western Energy Consumers, notifying the parties and the Commission of its intent to seek a Fund Grant from the PSE Customer Representation Sub-Fund. On March 12, 2025, the Commission granted case certification status to NVEC and AWEC.
- 3 On April 10, 2025, NVEC filed its Proposed Budget, requesting \$60,000 from PSE's Customer Representation Sub-Fund. On April 11, 2025, AWEC filed its Proposed Budget for Fund Grant, requesting \$30,000 from PSE's Customer Representation Sub-Fund. The details of NVEC and AWEC's requests are discussed in detail below.
- 4 On May 9, 2025, the Commission issued Order 04 Approving in Part and Denying in Part Proposed Budgets and Fund Grants, approving AWEC's proposed budget of \$30,000 and

approving in part and denying in part NWECE's proposed budget, authorizing a proposed budget of \$30,000.<sup>1</sup>

5 On December 19, 2025, the Commission entered Order 05 Final Order in this proceeding.

6 On January 12, 2026, AWEC filed a Request for Payment of Sub-Fund Grant, requesting \$30,000 from the Puget Sound Energy Customer Representation Sub-Fund Grant. On February 17, 2026, NWECE filed a Request for Payment of Fund Grant, requesting \$30,000 from the Puget Sound Energy Customer Representation Sub-Fund Grant.

### DISCUSSION

7 Pursuant to RCW 80.28.430, a gas or electrical company must, upon request, enter into funding agreements with organizations that represent broad customer interests. The Commission is directed to determine the amount of financial assistance, if any, that may be provided to any organization; the way the financial assistance is distributed; the way the financial assistance is recovered in a gas or electrical company's rates; and other matters necessary to administer the agreement.<sup>2</sup>

8 On November 19, 2021, the Commission issued a Policy Statement on Participatory Funding for Regulatory Proceedings (Policy Statement).<sup>3</sup> The Commission provided "high-level guidance regarding the amount of financial assistance that may be provided to organizations, the manner in which it is distributed to participants and recovered in the rates of gas or electrical companies, and other matters necessary to administer agreements."<sup>4</sup> The Commission indicated that the Policy Statement was an evolving document, stating "as we implement the first round of funding arrangements, we look forward to what we expect will be many lessons learned. These lessons will inform future iterations of Washington's participatory funding program, including the possibility of a rulemaking to codify best practices into Commission rules."<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *WUTC v. PSE*, Docket UE-240729, Order 04 at 7 ¶¶ 26-27 (May 9, 2025).

<sup>2</sup> RCW 80.28.430(2).

<sup>3</sup> *In the Matter of the Commission's Examination of Participatory Funding Provisions for Regulatory Proceedings*, Docket U-210595, Policy Statement on Participatory Funding for Regulatory Proceedings (Nov. 19, 2021).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 1 ¶ 3.

<sup>5</sup> *Id.* at 5 ¶ 17.

- 9 On February 24, 2022, the Commission issued Order 01, Approving Agreement with Modifications (Order 01).<sup>6</sup> The Commission approved the First Interim Agreement filed by the parties on February 14, 2022, subject to certain modifications, and adopted the First Interim Agreement as Attachment A to Order 01. Among other points, the Commission clarified that it is not bound by the timeframes set forth in the Interim Agreement.<sup>7</sup> On February 9, 2023, the Commission issued Order 02, Approving Agreement Subject to Condition; Requiring Refiling of Modified Agreement (Order 02).<sup>8</sup> Order 02 approved of the Second Interim Agreement, subject to condition, and required the parties to refile the agreement as modified by the Commission.
- 10 On April 11, 2025, the Commission issued Order 03, Approving Agreement; Subject to Conditions (Order 03), updating the agreement among the utilities subject to conditions (Third Interim Agreement).<sup>9</sup> The Commission ordered the utilities subject to Order 03, among other things, to submit a biannual filing in Docket U-210595, once every six months, showing the fund balances and requests pending approval, with the first filings to be submitted no later than July 1, 2025.<sup>10</sup>
- 11 In relevant part, the Third Interim Agreement requires that a party seeking a funding must submit a Request for Payment to the Commission. The Request for Payment must:
- (a) Itemize the expenses, payees and hourly rates for amounts to be reimbursed, including billing details, and including separately identified amounts for consultant or expert witness fees and travel expenses per calendar year;
  - (b) Demonstrate that the expenses are reasonable and are directly attributable to issues and positions pursued on behalf of customers and consistent with the Participating Organization's proposed budget;
  - (c) Provide information sufficient to show that the Participating Organization has complied with any condition or requirement of the Fund Grant; and

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<sup>6</sup> *In the Matter of the Petition of Puget Sound Energy, et al.*, Docket U-210595, Order 01 (Feb. 24, 2022).

<sup>7</sup> *Id.* at 4 ¶ 11.

<sup>8</sup> *In the Matter of the Petition of Puget Sound Energy, et al.*, Docket U-210595, Order 02 (Feb. 9, 2023).

<sup>9</sup> *In the Matter of the Commission's Examination of Participatory Funding Provisions for Regulatory Proceedings*, Docket U-210595, Order 03 at 6-9 ¶ 22, 33-36 (April 11, 2025).

<sup>10</sup> *Id.* at 6-7 ¶ 22 (April 11, 2025).

(d) Specify whether the request for payment is for interim funding, in the case of Prioritized Organizations only, or final payment in full and indicate whether any approved budget amount may be released back to the applicable Consumer Access Sub-Fund because the Participating Organization does not intend to request payment for the full approved budget amount.<sup>11</sup>

- 12 The Commission may disallow, in whole or in part, a Request for Payment if it determines that the request seeks reimbursement for (a) expenses that are not Eligible Expenses,<sup>12</sup> or (b) expenses that are inconsistent with the Participating Organization's Consumer Access Fund Grant or any conditions placed on the Consumer Access Fund Grant.<sup>13</sup> Upon authorization of payment, the Commission will make a determination on how to recover the Fund Grants from the various customer classes of the affected Participating Public Utility.<sup>14</sup> Additionally, the Commission may determine whether Fund Grants that were used to advocate positions on behalf of a broad cross-section of customers should be assessed against all customers or multiple customer classes, to fairly align the costs of the advocacy with the intended potential beneficiaries of the advocacy.
- 13 After considering the requirements set forth in Sections 7.1, 7.3, and 7.6 of the Third Interim Agreement, the Commission determines that AWEC's request for payment of \$30,000 and NWECC's request for payment of \$30,000 should be approved. Funding will come out of the allocations for the year that the proposed budget is approved.
- 14 PSE must pay the above requests for payment as directed within 30 days of the entry of this Order.<sup>15</sup>

## ORDER

### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 15 (1) Alliance of Western Energy Consumers' Request for Payment of Sub-Fund Grant from the 2025 PSE Customer Representation Sub-Fund is APPROVED in the amount of \$30,000.

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<sup>11</sup> Third Interim Agreement at 12-14 § 7.1.

<sup>12</sup> Third Interim Agreement at 14-15 § 7.3.

<sup>13</sup> Third Interim Agreement at 16-17 § 7.6.

<sup>14</sup> Third Interim Agreement at 17 § 7.7.

<sup>15</sup> Third Interim Agreement at 17 § 7.8.

- 16 (2) NW Energy Coalition's Request for Payment of Fund Grant from the 2025 PSE Customer Representation Sub-Fund is APPROVED in the amount of \$30,000.

Dated at Lacey, Washington, and effective March 11, 2026.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ Harry Fukano

HARRY FUKANO

Administrative Law Judge

/s/ Jessica Kruszewski

JESSICA KRUSZEWSKI

Administrative Law Judge

**NOTICE TO PARTIES: This is an Interlocutory Order of the Commission. Administrative review may be available through a petition for review, filed within 10 days of the service of this Order pursuant to WAC 480-07-810.**