

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UG-120291
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
)	SUSPENDING TARIFF;
PUGET SOUND ENERGY,)	ALLOWING RATES ON A
)	TEMPORARY BASIS, SUBJECT TO
Respondent.)	REVISION
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 1, 2012, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a revision to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, designated as Original Sheet No. 1120 – Supplemental Schedule 120, Gas Conservation Service Tracker.
- 2 The purpose of the filing is to decrease the Gas Conservation Service Tracker charges to reflect actual costs and collections over the past year for conservation programs. The stated effective date is April 1, 2012.
- 3 In this filing, PSE proposes to decrease charges and rates for service by approximately \$6,492,272 or 28.6 percent. In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, Commission Staff requests more time to investigate PSE’s books, accounts, practices and activities. Commission Staff also recommends that the Commission suspend the tariff filing and hold public hearings, if necessary in order to determine rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient. Because PSE proposes a decrease in rates, Commission Staff recommends that the rates become effective on April 1, 2012, on a temporary basis, subject to revision.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies.

RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.

- 5 (2) PSE is an electric and gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 6 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 29, 2012.
- 7 (4) The tariff revisions PSE filed on March 1, 2012, would decrease charges and rates for service provided by PSE, and such decreases pending Commission Staff review are in the public interest.
- 8 (5) Although PSE has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revision would ultimately result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, the Commission finds it reasonable to allow the rates to become effective, on a temporary basis, subject to revision.
- 9 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130 and RCW 80.04.220, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate this tariff filing, which will involve an investigation of PSE's books, accounts, practices and activities, and to investigate and appraise various phases of PSE's operations.
- 10 (7) In addition, the Commission invokes the rights, remedies and procedures contained in the reparations statute; RCW 80.04.220, to the extent the Commission finds that any rate subject to this investigation is excessive or exorbitant.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The tariff Puget Sound Energy filed on March 1, 2012, is suspended.
- 12 (2) The rate decrease sought by Puget Sound Energy should be allowed to become effective on April 1, 2012, on a temporary basis, subject to revision.

- 13 (3) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 14 (4) Puget Sound Energy must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 15 (5) The Commission will institute an investigation of Puget Sound Energy's books, accounts, practices, activities and operations as described in this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 29, 2012.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner