

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	DOCKET NO. UG-011571
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	NOTICE OF PREHEARING
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,)	CONFERENCE
)	(December 20, 2001)
Respondent.)	
.....)	

- 1 On November 26, 2001, Puget Sound Energy, Inc. filed with the Commission certain tariff revisions designed to effect a general rate increase in its rates for gas service in this state. It is indicated that the total effect of such tariff revisions is an increase of approximately \$85,900,000 (14.5%) annually. By order of the Commission, the operation of the tariff revisions have been suspended pending hearing or hearings concerning such changes and the justness and reasonableness thereof.
- 2 Hearing in this matter is being held pursuant to Part IV of chapter 34.05 RCW pertaining to adjudicative proceedings, including but not limited to RCW 34.05.413, RCW 34.05.422, RCW 34.05.431, RCW 34.05.440, RCW 34.05.449, and RCW 34.05.452. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Title 80 RCW, having legal authority to regulate the rates, services, and practices of gas companies. The statutes and rules involved, in addition to those previously cited, include those within chapters 80.04 and 80.28 RCW and chapters 480-09 and 480-00 WAC. The ultimate issues include whether the proposed tariff revisions are just, fair, reasonable, and sufficient and in the public interest. The ultimate issues also include whether Puget Sound Energy, Inc.'s current rates on file and effect with the Commission are just, fair, reasonable, and sufficient. These issues include consideration of alternative rate design or structure. In accordance with the provisions of RCW 80.04.130 the burden of proof to show that the proposed tariff revisions are just and reasonable shall be upon the respondent.
- 3 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That in accordance with WAC 480-09-700(1)(a), the Commission has determined that good cause exists for this matter to be heard on shortened notice.
- 4 NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN That a prehearing conference in this matter will be held at 1:30 p.m., on December 20, 2001, in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.

- 5 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider formulating the issues in the proceeding, and to determine other matters to aid in its disposition, as specified in WAC 480-09-460. Petitions to intervene should be made in writing prior to the hearing date or made orally at the hearing. The time and place for the evidentiary hearing will be set at the prehearing conference or by later written notice. Appearances will be taken.
- 6 If any party or witness needs an interpreter or other assistance, please fill out the form attached to this notice and return it to the Commission.
- 7 NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT ANY PARTY WHO FAILS TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING SET BY THIS NOTICE, OR ANY OTHER STAGE OF THIS PROCEEDING, MAY BE HELD IN DEFAULT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RCW 34.05.440. THE PARTIES ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE SANCTION PROVISIONS OF WAC 480-09-700(4) ARE SPECIFICALLY INVOKED.
- 8 The names and mailing addresses of all parties and their known representatives are as follows:

Complainant: Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
Chandler Plaza Building
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160

Representatives: Robert D. Cedarbaum
Senior Counsel
1400 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P. O. Box 40128
Olympia, WA 98504-0128
(360) 664-1188

Shannon E. Smith
Assistant Attorney General
1400 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P. O. Box 40128
Olympia, WA 98504-0128
(360) 664-1192

Respondent: Puget Sound Energy, Inc.
P. O. Box 97034
Bellevue, WA 98009-9734

Representative: Markham A. Quehrn
Kirstin S. Dodge
William R. Mauer
Attorneys at Law
Perkins Coie LLP
One Bellevue Center
411 108th Avenue N.E., Suite 1800
Bellevue, WA 98004-5584
(425) 453-6980

Public Counsel: Simon ffitch
Office of Attorney General
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98164-1012
(206) 646-7744

9 An Administrative Law Judge from the Utilities and Transportation Commission's Administrative Law Division, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington 98504-7250 will be designated to preside at the prehearing conference.

10 Notice of any other procedural phase will be given in writing or on the record as the Commission may deem appropriate during the course of this proceeding.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary

November 12, 2001

Inquires may be addressed to:

Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
Chandler Plaza Building
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P. O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160

or Public Counsel Section
Office of Attorney General
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98164-1012
(206) 464-7744