

Public Comments by Case

Total Comments: 171

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 164

Undecided: 2

Filing Support	Commenter	Source	Comments
No			
	Gary Robertson	E-mail	I wish to state VERY clearly that I am vehemently opposed to the PSE proposed rate increase. They tend to forget that we are still dealing with a pandemic where a lot of people are struggling, financially and otherwise. Now is the WORST TIME TO PROPOSE A RATE INCREASE!!!
	Hugh Tobin	E-mail	<p>Dear WTC,</p> <p>Please scrutinize skeptically the electric rate increase that PSE seeks according to its latest billing insert, both as to amount and structure. A reason given (without quantification for it and others) is decreasing customer usage. That should be part of the investors' risk, if having this privately owned monopoly makes sense at all. Also, the percentage increase appears greater for the basic usage of up to 600 kWh per month for a residence than for usage above that amount. Instead, the structure should encourage conservation by increasing the marginal cost relative to the average cost per KWh. Putting more of the burden of any increase on the higher usage would also be more progressive, protecting less affluent households with smaller homes to heat and/or fewer energy-intensive devices.</p> <p>The mailer also implies that current ratepayers are still paying "expenses from the shutdown" of coal-fired plants. As indicated in a prior message, 10/7/20, those are costs of providing energy to past customers, and should not be charged to current ones.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Hugh Tobin</p>
	Ben Sharpe	E-mail	<p>Good Afternoon,</p> <p>I'm very opposed to this rate increase that's proposed by PSE.</p> <p>The reasons for their proposed rate increase are absurd:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Higher natural gas costs - why is this causing an increase in electricity costs? Do they burn gas to produce electricity? If so, that's stupid they should stop. 2. New power purchase agreements - is there transparency? Purchase from who? 3. New and renewed transmission contracts - Transparency? Where?

			<p>4. Creasing customer electricity usage - this is laughable, they want to charge us more because we're using less electricity. Isn't that what the State and utilities have spent years and years promoting and now that it's working our rates go up as a result? Insanity.</p> <p>Ben Sharpe</p>
	Eddie Bretz	E-mail	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I got your letter about wanted to raise the price of electricity. In this tough time I am already struggling to pay my bills. Please do not raise the rates. It might make it to where I cant keep my house warm in the winter anymore. Myself and many others would suffer dearly if there was a rise in rates. Please do not raise prices. Thank you.</p>
	Richard Sanders	E-mail	<p>Sir:</p> <p>I object to any increase in my power rates. Ever since PSE has bragged about switching to "clean" or "renewable " energy my rates have gone through the ceiling. When I was forced to buy new "energy saving" light bulbs my rates continued to climb. Please force PSE to publish what the rates would be if it purchased the lowest cost energy available rather than the most expensive alternative, i.e. what would be the rate if the energy purchased was hydroelectric, coal and gas rather than windmills and solar? If the rates would be reduced you have no business raising my rates to indulge the ideological fantasies of some overpaid monopoly executive.</p> <p>By the way, what is the CEO of PSE paid? If PSE wants to improve its profits cut this guy's salary, don't raise my rates.</p> <p>The bottom line is if PSE can operate more cheaply and efficiently and chooses not to do so, its rate application should be denied.</p> <p>Richard Sanders</p>
	Gregory Robinson	Phone	<p>PSE characterizes this rate increase as 3.49%, or 3.56% for the average residential user. Based on our bill for last month, a fairly normal month, perhaps a bit high because of the pandemic with increased time at home, my wife and I used 706 kilowatt hours. Perhaps if we used 900 kilowatt hours, as PGE used in their example, the rate increase would be around 3.5 %, but for us the rate increase would be over 4%, based on our usage. Please remember that our Social Security payments increased only 1.3% in 2021, to help cover higher costs of living. IF PGE deserves a rate increase, couldn't it be closer to 1.3%? Thank you for your consideration.</p>
	Jess Cobb	E-mail	<p>I completely reject any rate increase for PSE customers in WA state. Washingtonians have been in a lockdown for over a year. Unemployment has skyrocketed and homelessness has increased by 30%. WA state already has one of the highest tax rates in the country when it comes to fuel and electricity with the exception of CA and NY city. How can PSE expect people who are on the verge of financial ruin to pay even more, especially restaurants and retail businesses who have been without income for a year? These poor folks are trying to rebuild their businesses and PSE wants to make that potential progress fail due to rate hikes? How about confronting the governor about lowering taxes? Try to actually help folks that have had their lives ripped away by needles lockdowns and political corruption and use your power to hold these politicians accountable by cutting off their electricity until they're broke and near homeless? I have four questions. 1. Since my natural gas us from Cascade Natural Gas and not PSE, why do i have to pay more? 2. Maybe you should re-</p>

			think power purchase agreements if they don't help customers costs? 3. Same question applies to New and renewed transmission contracts. 4. If decreased customer electricity usage increases rates, then how can PSE justify rate hikes if less power is needed? I only use 325kwh to 375kwh usage a month. Why do i NOT see a rate decrease for energy conservation? The whole thing reeks of cowering to special interest groups and political pressure. What is sad is that PSE holds all the cards, yet the company fold's. With our countries economy in the gutter, i cannot fathom why rate and tax increases are such a popular choice for all those demanding them. Regular folks are NOT begging to pay more money for energy costs. Please. Do what is right for a change. Help your customer's instead of putting them out on the streets. Thank you for your time.
	Jaime Barrera	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>As a homeowner in Washington state and being a happy customer of PSE it has come to my attention that PSE wants to raise the rates for electricity usage by 3.67% This isn't on top of the tax that the state of Washington charges for using fossil fuels to produce electricity or natural gas. Also the city of lacey also charges a tax for their budget and by the time i get my bill im almost paying 1/3 of my bill in electricity cost is taxes...not including "other electric charges & credits" This isn't the charges and fees associated for having natural gas also. So for me 3.67% is a significant cost as a retired military veteran on a monthly budget. I get the cost of doing business but it isnt like im able to shop around for a more competitive price with another company in the area...im stuck with what I got. That being said, while 3% may not seem much to you all sitting at the table making big decisions but for us "little folk" the "poors" as many of you refer to us this is a big deal. Im pretty much begging y'all to figure this out without hitting us regular folk with the bill, how about urging political figures and executives to reopen the coal plant and get this energy thing going again so we all can have reliable energy at an affordable price. Here's a question that ill leave you all with, why the heck aren't prices ever going down and why do the big wigs need millions of dollars for salary?? So somebody hit me up, let's talk and fix this, besides hiking our prices up and taxing us to death...literally</p> <p>Very Respectfully Jaime Barrera Cell 360-990-5729 Email: jaimebarreramp2002@gmail.com "War is not fought for glory, War is fought for victory."</p>
	Jeff and Susan Seiden	E-mail	<p>it is ridiculous that PSE is asking for rate increases when the country is still facing low employment and most citizens are BARELY squeaking by due to covid.</p> <p>I can't believe with citizens out of work, schools not in session (so MANY people are home) that residential usage is decreasing, as PSE suggests.</p> <p>They further state "These cost increases are offset by a decrease in expenses from the shutdown of two coal-fired steam plants in Montana, Colstrip Units 1 and 2." So if the case, why should they get a rate increase anyway? They need to control expenses better, just like any citizen must. PSE should be ashamed of themselves.</p> <p>BE BOLD and force them to CUT rates.</p> <p>Jeff and Susan Seiden Blaine, WA 98230</p>
	Paul	E-mail	PSE has increased our gas delivery charge by 12%. 12% in less than a year! It has increased from .418780 per therm last spring to .469380 today. How is

	Peterman		<p>that allowed in general, and how was that possibly allowed during a pandemic? My neighbors in our community are actively discussing and many have called PSE with no results. To make matters worse, they just sent this email that they are trying to raise our electrical rates. We need help from WUTC.</p> <p>"On December 9, 2020, we filed a power cost only rate case with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) requesting an adjustment to electric rates. A power cost only rate case adjusts the costs from the purchase and generation of electricity that are included in electric rates.</p> <p>If approved by the UTC, this filing requests an increase of \$78.5 million in revenue and 3.67 percent in rates. You can comment on this filing during the virtual public hearing which will be held on Tuesday, April 20 at 6:00 p.m. To attend the virtual hearing, please visit pse.com/publichearing."</p>
	Brennen Smith	E-mail	<p>All,</p> <p>I will not be able to attend the public hearing in April but would like to voice my concerns for this proposal. I am opposed to this measure. Electricity costs in the Seattle region are already extremely high. Numerous individuals have already suffered during the pandemic and increasing costs on a vital need will not help. PSE does not seem to be hurting or in crucial need of this extra revenue. With how much power is already produced in this state, the ever increasing rates of electricity in this area does not make sense. The cost of living in this area is already forcing numerous people to leave this region for good.</p> <p>Please deny this proposition,</p> <p>Brennen</p>
	Jeff Cummings	E-mail	<p>I received the notice of the proposed price increase, the stated reasons seem out of line with a price increase, especially the decreasing customer power usage, that alone sounds like they need to tighten their belts, and higher natural gas prices, why should I have that affect my prices on electricity? The power purchase agreements, would like to know more about that? Same with the transmission contracts? Please show support to our populous and reject this increase!!</p> <p>Thank you Jeff Cummings</p>
	Angela Stahli	E-mail	<p>During one of the toughest years of most of our lives, I think right now is NOT the time to increase rates of electricity. In the midst of this pandemic people are struggling to put food on the table. Let alone being behind on bills, mortgages and medical expenses. If I remember correctly we just had an increase not very long before covid lockdowns went into effect. Which is telling me, we should not be having to pay more again. Meanwhile the power companies are profiting beyond our control. Doesn't seem fair to pass this on to the little guy, like myself. I hope this is heard and taken into consideration.</p> <p>Thank you Angela Stahli</p>
	Paul Routt	E-mail	<p>Dear Sir or Madam,</p>

			<p>I oppose this request. Any additional costs should be taken out of the fees paid to the Board of Directors. We all know that they are way overpaid for only ceremonial work. Plus, with the number of outages this year, PSE should not be awarded with a rate hike.</p> <p>Paul Routt</p>
	Marianne Edain	E-mail	<p>UTC people,</p> <p>We have received notice of PSE's requested rate increases. These follow on near annual rate increases from the time Puget Power sold itself to McQuarrie Holdings in Australia. At that time PSE announced publicly that they intended to raise rates by 10%/year. And we've been watching our rates increase year after year - with no commensurate increase either in reliability or in divestment from fossil fuels.</p> <p>Just last month we suffered no fewer than 3 power outages in 2 weeks. Two of those were due to PSE's failure to maintain the power lines along our stretch of road and were clearly preventable. PSE was well aware of the condition of that particular stretch of line as they were here last summer laying out the route where the line was to be undergrounded along our road frontage. That work did not happen, the line continues to hang overhead, and three times now they've had to replace 1/2 mile of line.</p> <p>Ours is a single instance which I know well because it has been happening to us and our neighbors. I have no reason to believe that this 1/2 mile of line is all that different from the thousands of miles of line PSE is evidently failing to maintain properly.</p> <p>And then there is the claim that a rate increase is needed because of the costs of migrating from fossil fuels to renewables. If there was any genuine evidence of this migration we'd be only too happy to pay increased rates. But PSE is doing all it can to continue to use power generated at Colstrip, attempting to avoid the legislatively mandated 2025 cutoff. It goes to great lengths to make it as difficult as possible for homeowners to receive payment for their home generated solar electricity. It talks a great line - generated by PR firms and lobbyists - and paying for that PR out of the our ever-increasing rates - but fails to deliver.</p> <p>Bottom line: this is a monopoly which is failing to perform a vital service, but demanding ever more compensation for that failure. Please deny these requested rate increases.</p> <p>Marianne Edain dissatisfied PSE customer</p> <p>^,v.^ ^,v.^ ^,v.^ ^,v.^ ^,v.^ Marianne Edain Frosty Hollow Ecological Restoration Helping Nature Heal 360-579-2332 fh@whidbey.com</p>

Amy Jacqmin	E-mail	<p>3-13-2021</p> <p>Dear UTC,</p> <p>In the event my comments Online were not received, I am opposed to the proposed rate increases by PSE.</p> <p>Residential proposal is at 3.49% (while the actual effect shown is 3.56%), but the City and County usage (street lights, etc) is only at 1.33%. If any increase at all, residents shouldn't pay more than City. Cities right now can apply for subsidies due to Covid. Residents not so easily. Although many are very thankful for their lights and heat still being on, and their kids receiving free internet during this pandemic.</p> <p>Not everyone has the means right now for basic expenses, much less receive annual salary increases to offset these constant increase request by utilities. As a single person my actual usage may only be 448 kwh, but I still get hammered with a minimum charge. I don't even use a full 1 therm of gas, but again, hammered with a minimum. I pay well over \$100.00 for an actual \$30-\$40 worth of water. These minimum increases especially when added to constant taxes and other fees, are adding up to a ridiculous cost, and actually only encourage wasteful practices to those less energy conscious than myself.</p> <p>In addition, new meters and equipment have been involuntarily added to our homes, to facilitate remote meter reading. No onsite reading, no fuel cost needed. WHERE is the "offset" to the consumer for that "cost saving energy efficiency"? Meanwhile PSE cite closing 2 antiquated steam plants in Montana (hardly attached to our homes) as "offsetting" the current proposed increases in Kent, WA.(?).</p> <p>IF you approve any increases during Covid, I request that savings from the new equipment (the expenses of which came from previous technology fees I presume?) also be used to "offset" their budget and proposal. I also request balance between City and occupants. Ergo no more than 1.33% increases for either. Preferably no increases at all during the pandemic.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. Respectfully, Amy Jacqmin Jacqmin@aol.com</p>
Sherie Suter	E-mail	<p>I am not ok with a rate increase right now people are barly getting by! And the proposed change is deceptive they use the example of 900 kWh per month but we primarily use a wood stove to heat our house and still used 1600 kWh last month! So what are homes without that option using? Certainly they are using way more. Power is a Necessity to survive. This increase is going to cause undo hardship in an already very difficult time please say no!</p> <p>Sherie Suter Washington State</p>
Marie Dinsmore	E-mail	<p>I oppose your proposed rates increase of 3.49% for residential customers.</p> <p>I hope your aware of the many hardships placed on the residents of Washington State this past year due to Covid shutting down our State.</p> <p>We are still not 100% functional yet and your raising your rates?</p> <p>It's hard to digest the hardships that this shutdown has cost individual residents on every level for a big company such as yourself, but it seems you really</p>

			don't care as long as your not the one digesting the hardship. You'll just pass it on and add to the list. Maybe you could look at cutting costs or reducing the salaries of those making the most or find some other solution than passing the cost onto your customers. We should not be paying for a decrease in expenses for the shutdown of the two coal-fired-steam plants in Montana.
	Rose Oram	E-mail	PSE filed for increases at the worst time in recent history for a huge company like this to raise rates and balance their own issues on the backs of people who in the last year have lost jobs, gone hungry, can't afford to go to the doctor etc. they say it's partly because folks are using less electricity. Most folks have been home, around the clock, kids using 5 times the internet to do school from home plus their parents unemployed or also working from home, so our bills have had increased usage by far, not less! How dare they try to put a further burden on us during this mist terrible of times. I'm a senior, living on a very small income reduced drastically by increasingly higher bills and I can't afford an increase when I meet low income standards for property taxes, food bank, and changed my garbage to once a month, don't run my furnace all winter at night to save money. How dare they! Their profits are just fine! So no, no increase to PSE! And I'm speaking for my entire family, both daughters and my grandkids! Don't you dare allow this increase in ANY fashion after the terrible year we've had! Shame on them and shame shame shame on you, if you allow it! Rose Oram
	Barry Halverson	E-mail	<p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>Haven't we had enough increases? The reasons given for this one is higher natural gas costs - then stop shutting down pipelines and fracking. New power purchase agreements - because PSE is going to greener (supposedly) energy - uh - why not start building a Nuclear Power Plan - one of the best greener types of energy you can get, yet we are dismantling them left and right with no proposed new plants in the future - wrong direction, even through new technology makes them much safer than ever before. Wind has some benefit in the Pacific North West, but not really when compared with the cost of building and maintaining wind turbines, not to mention the blight they make on our landscape and the damage they do to our birds. Our government officials need to get real about greener energy - I'm all for it, but lets not scrap the most green energy sources we have. There is nothing more green that Nuclear and Hydro electric dams, yet we are dismantling both instead of investing in building more.</p> <p>So, two coal-fired steam plants in Montana are being shut down and PSE is moving to greener energy sources and even though we are consuming less energy the cost is going up. Doesn't make sense.</p> <p>I am against it. Here is an idea, instead of raising prices, lets lower them 3%.</p> <p>Barry Halverson</p>
	Catherine Bensyek	E-mail	You want to increase rates because of “decreasing customer electricity usage”??? Increasing my rates for being a RESPONSIBLE consumer??? UTTERLY DESPICABLE!!!
	Al & Sandy Olsen	E-mail	<p>Dar Sir or Madam,</p> <p>As a homeowner dependent on Puget Sound Energy for our electricity I again am very disappointed over their attempt to raise their overall rates by 3.67%. According to the US government our rate of inflation is less than 2%.</p> <p>The large percentage of their request for new rates is not substantiated by the overall lower inflation rate. Also during this terrible season of the continuing pandemic of Covid 19 when so many people have been affected financially a rate increase this high is totally uncalled for. It might even be appropriate to not allow PSE any increase at all.</p>

			Respectfully,, Al Olsen
	Gary Brooks	E-mail	<p>I am a Puget Sound Energy residential customer. This past weekend I received a "Notice of requested changes to PSE rates" from Puget Sound Energy that stated effective June 2021 the public utility has applied for a rate increase from the WUTC that will increase average residential customer rates by 4.15% for customers who use less than 600 kWh of electricity per month, with the charge for electricity used in excess of that amount to increase by 3.40% per month.</p> <p>This rate increase is substantially in excess of both reported increases in the CPI and the 2021 COLA adjustment to Social Security.</p> <p>Utility management cited four reasons for their requested rate increase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher natural gas costs • New Power purchase agreements • New and renewed transmission contracts • Decreasing customer electricity usage <p>It is puzzling why decreasing customer electricity usage that is presumably attributable to customers' conservation efforts would make a rate increase necessary. Further, it would be useful to know why natural gas purchase costs have increased despite a sharp drop in natural gas prices over the past month, why PSE's electric power purchase agreements and transmission contracts have all increased significantly, who the counterparties are on those contracts, if the counterparties themselves are regulated, and the amounts of the rate increases they in turn have imposed on PSE.</p> <p>It may be that PSE's proposed rate increases are justified, but it is very hard to tell from the limited information provided. As we have seen from the recent bankruptcy of a major California utility, it is important that maintenance of electric utility facilities and transmission lines not be deferred, and that interruptions of electrical power be minimized to prevent economic disruption and risks to public health and safety.</p> <p>However, with interest rates being held at extremely low levels, I question the need for a rate increase of this magnitude for financial reasons to support debt coverage ratios and a return on equity to investors that satisfactorily compensates them for their risk.</p> <p>Thank you for your public service, and for your attention to this matter and my comments as a ratepayer.</p> <p>Gary Brooks Indianola, WA March 16, 2021</p>
	Tina Bixby	E-mail	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am opposed to the rate increase and restructuring the KWH breakdown requested by Puget Sound Energy. They are proposing to increase the rate at a lower threshold for the upper tier of usage as well, which is a sneaky way of gaining more revenue and hurts the homeowners. The proposed increase for residential residents is 4.15%! As a retired person on a fixed income, my yearly income doesn't go up that much. In fact, every inflation eats more from the value of the little money that I have. At this time of serious economic problems for many families, with a huge number of people out of work, it doesn't seem right to</p>

		<p>increase a basic need such as electricity.</p> <p>Furthermore, the reasons that the company gives to justify the increase is absurd - they are punishing us for energy conservation! Does that make sense?</p> <p>In 2020 the revenue for the company was 3.33 billion dollar - with a profit of 210.7 million! How much more should they get? How much more does the little folks have to pay for corporate greed? Yes the profit was down from the previous year, but that doesn't justify this greed. The previous year 2019, the profit was up by 34%!!!!</p> <p>Additionally the President and Chief Executive Officer at PUGET SOUND ENERGY INC, Kimberly J. Harris made \$8,400,774 in total compensation. Of this total \$989,799 was received as a salary, \$7,382,111 was received as a bonus, \$0 was received in stock options, \$0 was awarded as stock and \$28,864 came from other types of compensation. This information is according to proxy statements filed for the 2019 fiscal year. How does that compare with my salary and those of many working folks. The executive team also have high rates of compensation.</p> <p>The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) is a three-member commission appointed by the governor and confirmed by the state senate. Our Mission is to protect the people of Washington by ensuring that investor-owned utility and transportation services are safe, available, reliable and fairly priced. It is important the the Commision does it job, and not succumb to energy lobbyists. You need to refuse this rate increase for the people whose interests you are representing.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted,</p> <p>Tina Bixby</p>
	James Miller	<p>E-mail Dear Washington UTC Commissioners,</p> <p>I am commenting on the PSE request to increase rates that I was notified of in my most recent billing from PSE. I am a residential customer. The notice mentioned a hearing that I believe is scheduled for April 20, 2021 at 6:00 PM. There is mention of Docket UE-200980.</p> <p>In the information provided to me there are four reasons stated for the requested rate increase of somewhere between 4.15% and 3.40% with the average for residential customers shown to be 3.56%.</p> <p>Of the four reasons stated to justify the requested increase the number four reason stated is, "Decreasing customer electricity usage." Say what? We are constantly told to do our part to conserve energy. We are told to buy energy efficient products such as furnaces and hot water tanks. Yet PSE seems to take the position that if we do these things it is good cause for PSE to request a rate increase because LESS electricity is being consumed. In my opinion, this defies common sense. In other words if customers are using less of the supply than they have in the past then PSE is apparently saying, the customers need to have their rates increased to pay PSE more for LESS!</p> <p>Taking into consideration that the current inflation rate is 1.68% and the Fed has stated there will likely be no interest rate hikes through 2023 why is it that PSE needs to raise rates by more than twice the inflation rate? Further, current mortgage rates to buy homes are less than the rate increase PSE is requesting.</p>

			<p>To allow the entire rate increase requested by PSE will certainly have an impact on increasing the rate of inflation.</p> <p>PSE states two of the four reasons for the increase are new agreements and contracts. It would seem to me that possibly PSE needs to be a better negotiator in making agreements and contracts and not count on raising rates to make up for poor negotiating practices.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted James Miller Puyallup, WA</p> <p>Sent from Mail for Windows 10</p>
	Sandy Klug	E-mail	<p>I am opposed to the electrical rate increase proposed by Puget sound energy. Rates continue to increase yet reliability has not. Of all times to propose an increase in the current economy I believe it is unreasonable. I live in Thurston county WA.</p> <p>Sandy Klug</p> <p>NOTICE TO RECIPIENT: If you are not the intended recipient of this e-mail, you are prohibited from sharing, copying, or otherwise using or disclosing its contents. If you have received this e-mail in error, please notify the sender immediately by reply e-mail and permanently delete this e-mail and any attachments without reading, forwarding or saving them. v.173.295 Thank you.</p>
	Ben Pecora	E-mail	<p>This has got to be some sort of joke.</p> <p>I received a letter from PSE stating that they are asking for yet another rate increase. I vehemently oppose this for several reasons and so should the Commission.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are NEVER offered incentives to conserve - we do every single thing we can in this household to conserve energy and water and the like - and at great up-front expense. 2. There is no accountability to the utility. They are never forced to answer for their spending. 3. We are in the worst economic downturn since the 1930's - people are not made of money and the timing of this is both terrible optics and in bad faith. PSE should be CUTTING costs to working families. <p>I implore you to finally, once, do the right thing and deny this specious request.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Ben Pecora</p>

	Ray Thorne	E-mail	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I oppose rate increases at this time. The Covid 19 Pandemic has adversely affected everyone financially. There are a lot of people out of work, small businesses struggling or failing, senior citizens on fixed incomes, and low income people struggling to make ends meet.</p> <p>Raising rates by 3.67% to 4.15% in the current economic environment would further harm and burden all of us at this time, and is essentially kicking people when they are down.</p> <p>The current rate of inflation is less than the proposed rate hikes, and we should not be punished for conservation of energy. I think Puget Sound Energy does an excellent job and provides good service when outages occur, but rate increases at this time will only further harm the economy, adversely affect people's budgets, and take more money out of the economy for energy costs that could be spent on other needs.</p> <p>Rate increases should be phased in more slowly and at lower percentages over time. We are being hammered by increasing food costs, telecom and internet, gasoline, and big hikes in property taxes. People are suffering right now. These proposed rate increases could not come at a worse time.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Ray Thorne</p>
	Rhonnie	E-mail	<p>would like to go on record for the hearing on April 20, for yet ANOTHER proposed rate increase, I REFUSE THIS REQUEST BY PSE. OUR rates JUST INCREASED IN January. People are jobless, barely making ends meet during this lockdown, and PSE WANTS TO INCREASE RATES????? How in the world does that even make sense? I know, disregard for people, from a company that has been already raising rates every year!!!!!! Your customers ARE IN LOCKDOWN, barely affording bills as it is. For PSE to request rates increase AGAIN, only 2 MONTHS after implementing the last one, this is ridiculous!!!! I 100% refuse the request for PSE to raise rates again, as your customers are really struggling. What a disgraceful request, especially when you just increased rates in January, people are hurting and locked from working to even pay the power bills they already have, ARE YOU TRYING TO IMPOVERISH ALL YOUR CUSTOMERS????!!!!!! RP, a PSE customer</p>
	Jason & Greta Ireland	E-mail	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>We do not agree with the proposed rate changes for residential electric services due to decreasing customer electricity usage. Users have been encouraged to decrease their usage, which has been accomplished. PSE is a privately held company and their customers should not have to incur a rate increase to ensure that PSE makes the same amount of money as previously made. Don't penalize or disincentivize conservation.</p>

			Jason & Greta Ireland
	Karen Klees	E-mail	<p>I want to comment on the proposed increase for PSE. What absolutely FLOORS me is the excuse that because of fewer customers, I should pay more!!! That, is beyond my comprehension.</p> <p>Over the years, and I have been with PSE since 1976...they have done a completely lousy job for their customers. Always whining about costs and wanting to pass them on to the customers.</p> <p>I lived in Kenmore Washington for over 40 years suffering through 9 days, 5 days, zero degrees and no power. It took them years and a letter by me to get them moving to fix the problem in our neighborhood only because of the embarrassment that was created for them because of increased pressure from my letter and news articles. If not for that after years and years of complaints and nothing being done, they would have never fixed the problem.</p> <p>It is my opinion that NO, there should Not be an increase of any kind for this company but the state should seriously look at taking over for PSE. In fact, I'm going to lobby for this if you increase the amounts that PSE is charging. IT's beyond ridiculous that they are making a yearly request for more funds. Why don't they decrease the pays for their top CFO's, CEO's and shareholders????? Enough!! We had an issue in this area last year and there were 6 PSE trucks parked on our road. Is that cost effective???? I think you should do some serious digging into PSE and they're practices before you stick us with more increases in power.</p> <p>Karen Klees</p>
	Shellie Massey	E-mail	<p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>This tax rate increase is not something the people can afford at this time. We have lost our jobs, COVID restrictions, government shutdowns and tax increases have only hurt the people and our economy. This increase will have a huge impact on our livelihoods. I am against any increase at this time.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Shellie Massey</p>
	Rick Thomas	E-mail	<p>Dear Sirs:</p> <p>PSE is requesting that you increase prices of electricity effective June 1, 2021 as follows:</p> <p>Kw/hour for 0-600 kWh = +4.15%</p> <p>Kw/hour for >600 kWh = +3.40%</p> <p>Base charge = 0%</p>

		<p>Comment: Everyone wants customers to be more energy efficient and use less energy. I get monthly letters from PSE saying “I’m Great!” because I used less energy this month than my more efficient neighbors. It’s a rule: use the LEAST amount of energy as you can! You’re a good person when you do.</p> <p>Yet...the pricing schedule above REWARDS customers who use MORE energy and PENALIZES those who use LESS. I think the % increase for the 0-600kWh should be less and the % increase for >600 kWh should be more. The more energy you use, the more you should pay. Your proposal, as written, has it exactly backwards. Thank you.</p> <p>Rick Thomas Kirkland, WA</p>
Valerie L. Gow	E-mail	<p>I oppose the proposed rate increase. Despite, having a new heat pump installed in our home, our electric bill increased by over \$100 in one month. This year, we did not put up Christmas lights and only used our furnace and household appliances for electricity. The proposed reason for raising rates as justified by PSE is because of higher natural gas costs, new power purchase agreements, new and renewed transmission contracts, and decreasing customer electricity usage. These excuses are the cost of doing business for any company in the state. Customers who are reducing their usage and reliance on electricity are being further penalized. PSE should reduce its profit margin and maintain reasonable costs for providing energy services to residents in the state. Our household should have to absorb PSE’s normal costs of doing business in the state. Additionally, my bill increased despite having lost power for nearly two days!</p> <p>Valerie L. Gow</p>
Gerald Boothe	E-mail	<p>To whom it may concern,</p> <p>One reason of your requested rate increase was "Decreasing customer electricity usage".</p> <p>If I'm reading that correctly, the customers are decreasing electricity to save money!!!! PSE wants to take it away. To me, that's not a good sign to increase rates.</p> <p>I believe it has come to the time for PSE to start charging senior rates for retired seniors with no pay cap. PSE does not follow the yearly "cost of living increase" in Puget Sound areas.</p> <p>It's not the time to have a increase, especially when a pandemic is among us.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Gerald Boothe Lakewood WA</p>
James Williamson	E-mail	<p>Please help me understand the “logic” of the rate increase.</p>

		<p>I actually read the insert for the rate increase that was in my recent electric bill.</p> <p>I was surprised to read that one of the justifications for the increase was:</p> <p>“Decreasing customer electricity usage”</p> <p>What?</p> <p>And here I thought that by being a ‘good Puget Sound Energy customer’, by using energy efficient appliances (just purchased new washer and dryer and getting a rebate from Puget Sound Energy), have double pane windows, increased home insulation,,,ect.... I mean every bill that I get has an insert offering rebates for energy efficient appliances and home improvements.</p> <p>All of that saves energy.</p> <p>And now I’m getting ‘smacked’ because I’m using less electricity!</p> <p>Wait a minute... I’m feeling like I am living in TEXAS!</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>James Williamson</p>
Gary Brooks	E-mail	<p>I am a Puget Sound Energy residential customer. This past weekend I received a "Notice of requested changes to PSE rates" from Puget Sound Energy that stated effective June 2021 the public utility has applied for a rate increase from the WUTC that will increase average residential customer rates by 4.15% for customers who use less than 600 kWh of electricity per month, with the charge for electricity used in excess of that amount to increase by 3.40% per month.</p> <p>This rate increase is substantially in excess of both reported increases in the CPI and the 2021 COLA adjustment to Social Security.</p> <p>Utility management cited four reasons for their requested rate increase:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Higher natural gas costs • New Power purchase agreements • New and renewed transmission contracts • Decreasing customer electricity usage <p>It is puzzling why decreasing customer electricity usage that is presumably attributable to customers' conservation efforts would make a rate increase necessary. Further, it would be useful to know why natural gas purchase costs have increased despite a sharp drop in natural gas prices over the past month, why PSE's electric power purchase agreements and transmission contracts have all increased significantly, who the counterparties are on those contracts, if the counterparties themselves are regulated, and the amounts of the rate increases they in turn have imposed on PSE.</p>

		<p>It may be that PSE's proposed rate increases are justified, but it is very hard to tell from the limited information provided. As we have seen from the recent bankruptcy of a major California utility, it is important that maintenance of electric utility facilities and transmission lines not be deferred, and that interruptions of electrical power be minimized to prevent economic disruption and risks to public health and safety.</p> <p>However, with interest rates being held at extremely low levels, I question the need for a rate increase of this magnitude for financial reasons to support debt coverage ratios and a return on equity to investors that satisfactorily compensates them for their risk.</p> <p>Thank you for your public service, and for your attention to this matter and my comments as a ratepayer.</p> <p>Gary Brooks</p>
Al Olsen	E-mail	<p>Dar Sir or Madam,</p> <p>As a homeowner dependent on Puget Sound Energy for our electricity I again am very disappointed over their attempt to raise their overall rates by 3.67%. According to the US government our rate of inflation is less than 2%.</p> <p>The large percentage of their request for new rates is not substantiated by the overall lower inflation rate. Also during this terrible season of the continuing pandemic of Covid 19 when so many people have been affected financially a rate increase this high is totally uncalled for. It might even be appropriate to not allow PSE any increase at all.</p> <p>Respectfully,, Al Olsen</p>
Maureen Kwolek	E-mail	<p>***See attachment for additional data***</p> <p>I strongly OPPOSE the rate increase currently proposed by PSE (public hearing 4/20/2021). The “Notice of requested changes to PSE rates and public hearing” has no explanation of why this increase is necessary or justified.</p> <p>There is also no information provided on the frequency of the rate increases. When was the last rate increase? A 3.5% increase is significant, and it is absurd if this is happening on an annual, or even more frequent basis.</p> <p>Lastly, compensation of PSE executives follows the typical pattern of overcompensation and bloating for US CEOs. How can they possibly justify a \$8,400,000 salary? The following data from 2019. No doubt current salaries are even higher.</p> <p>Maureen Kwolek</p>
Thom Lawless	E-mail	<p>I can't believe I am seeing this....PSE and the government is always asking 'us' to use less energy to save the planet. So as soon as 'we' do, PSE wants to charge more for us using less? What's behind that?</p> <p>I see their reasoning, higher energy costs, new power purchase agreements (the government has some say on this - why did they go up?) Why new transmission contracts? I thought our electricity usage was going down...</p>

			<p>No, no rate increase. Time for PSE to make a little less and help hold the line on costs for all us going up.</p> <p>Thom Lawless</p>
	Shannon McGowan	E-mail	<p>Good Morning,</p> <p>I am submitting my opinion about the proposed PSE rate change. I am a single parent who has been out of work for a year now due to Covid. It is hard enough to withstand all the impacts of the economy without raising rates. As I understand energy costs are rising, I do not think it is a time to increase residential rates as many of us are struggling as it is. Please keep this in mind when voting on this issue.</p> <p>Thank You for your time on this, Shannon McGowan</p>
	Patricia Lang	E-mail	<p>This is the wrong time to be increasing the electricity rate, people are struggling to meet their financial obligations due to Covid-19 causing job loss & income, many have exhausted their savings trying to make ends meet.</p> <p>Patricia Lang</p>
	Eric Willacker	E-mail	<p>Hello, I just recently read about the proposed settlement with Puget Sound Energy which would increase customers' bills by 2.9%. I'm strongly against this, as PSE continually requests rate increases that are not necessary. PSE is a foreign owned, for profit company that should not be in charge of our power to begin with, and just because their billionaire CEO and others aren't getting enough in their million dollar bonuses is not a good enough reason to make Washington citizens pay more money to a foreign owned company. Too many of our citizens already have a hard enough time affording PSE's over priced energy costs, it's time we care more about our citizens than about the bonuses for CEOs of foreign owned companies. Also, the cost of natural gas going up is not a reason to increase the cost of electric, especially when the vast majority of our electricity does not come from natural gas sources. This is simply another attempt from PSE to line the pockets of their billionaire CEO and others, PSE does not care about our communities and never has. Please do not allow this rate increase, especially at a time when so many of our citizens are out of work due to the ongoing pandemic. The simple fact that PSE would try to raise rates during this time shows they only care about their profits. Thank you for your time, and I really hope you decide to help our citizens rather than billionaire CEOs.</p> <p>Eric Willacker</p>
	Harold and Donna Macomber	E-mail	<p>We are against any power rate increase. Senior citizens that try very hard to use less power are actually being penalized by doing so. Living on Social Security in this day and age is very hard. Increases in everything seem to be happening, insurance, home owners, car insurance (even more so with older vehicles). Something has to give. WE are giving as much as we can and increasing our power bills will not help.</p> <p>Thank you, Harold and Donna Macomber</p>

	Portia	E-mail	NO to any increase for electric company!!! We pay too much now!!!! They cheat us with their billing structure making us pay more for electricity that is cheap!!! Crooks!!!! They damage our trees with cutting them off way too much even when totally unnecessary!!!! ENOUGH for the crooks!!!!
	Valerie Sleiertin	E-mail	We have NO \$\$\$ as it is knock it off u guys are a privately held Co u have enough millions Valerie Sleiertin Sent from my iPhone
	Samatha Clark	E-mail	The rate increase is unacceptable. My bill in November 2020 was \$19.71. My bill April 1, 2021 is \$132.68. My family has not increased our usage, if anything we have decreased with the warmer temperatures. How can a company claim “For an average residential customer using 56 therms per month, the increase is about \$2.86 per month, or about \$34 annually.” This issue needs to be addressed before more families are left without warmth, cooking abilities and more.
	Alan Kawashima	E-mail	I am opposed to the proposed 3.56% rate increase requested by Puget Sound Energy. In light of the economic hardships many of us have suffered during the Covid pandemic, I find it very unfair to charge users more for their gas and electric use at this time. Additionally, many of us are retired and on a fixed income. A Social Security COL increase this past year amounted to a little over 2%. A lower rate increase by PSE should be considered if any rate increase is granted at all. PSE uses as part of their rationale for the rate increase "Decreasing customer electricity use." We are constantly being reminded to use less energy and conserve by PSE, environmental and government entities. So, in effect, PSE wants to charge us more for using less energy? This is punishment for conservation an exceptionally unfair to consumers. Please deny PSE's request for their proposed rate increase. Thank you. -- Alan Kawashima
	Lisa Hopkins	E-mail	I am adamantly opposed to the proposed electricity rate increases for PSE. As justification for the rate increase, PSE cites higher gas prices. What? Gas costs shouldn't affect electricity prices to customers. Even more outrageous, PSE cites “decreasing customer electricity usage” as a reason for rate increases. Like many citizens, I have paid extra to purchase Energy Star and other more efficient appliances and devices. Salespeople are quick to point out that you'll save money on lower utility bills with more efficient appliances. No you won't! When people use less, all the utility companies want to do is jack up the rates we pay for energy. Don't let them! I strongly urge the Utility Commission to require PSE to lower their own operating costs, especially overhead costs. Require them to report and manage to metrics on office and administrative FTEs and salaries and other indirect costs. How have these costs changed over the last twenty years? Reduce over-inflated executive compensation if needed.

			<p>Our region is growing in population and electricity users. This should be an opportunity for PSE to spread their well-controlled overhead costs over an increasing base of customers. Rates should not have to increase! If anything, electricity rates should decrease.</p> <p>I am in the process of evaluating how to replace the 27 year-old 80% single-stage gas furnace in my home. I had been interested in possibly converting to an electric furnace with a heat pump. I've received five estimates. The numbers are shocking. It's twice to three times as much as I remember paying for a new furnace. The rebates for a heat pump are disappointingly low, and non-existent if you stick with a gas furnace backup. I'd like to have a more energy efficient heat source for my home to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, but I can't justify the much higher price tag and pressure this puts on my family budget. And, I likely wouldn't lower my monthly utility costs much in the long run since the utility companies argue for higher rates even when we all use less. So I'll probably stick with an 80% efficient gas furnace. There's no winning for the little guy.</p> <p>Finally, I also strongly urge the Utility Commission to require PSE to offer good electricity offsets to customers who produce their own solar electricity to incentivize property owners to invest in solar technology. I know people who want to put solar panels on their homes, but the incentives are not strong enough. People should be able to share in the financial benefits of free power from the sun instead of having it all go to a monopoly utility company.</p> <p>Lisa Hopkins</p>
	James & Cynthia Badham	E-mail	<p>Dear PSE,</p> <p>I'm writing concerning the rate proposal below and the overall effect it's going to have on fixed income Seniors!</p> <p>First of all, I'd like to address "Reasons for requested rate increase", bullet point #4-"decreasing customer electricity usage". Talk about a 'dog chasing it's tail'! All we hear about is: cut back on your energy usage; get more efficient appliances; use timers; go solar; etc, etc.! Then when we do, PSE says they need make up "the customer electricity usage LOSS"!!! WHY BOTHER to conserve??? It really saves us nothing if every year you're going to pursue rate increases!!</p> <p>Second: Seniors got a "huge COLA" increase of 1.6% for 2021! 😞 😞 😞 For my wife and myself, it resulted in a whopping \$31 per month, combined Social Security increase. Did I mention our property taxes alone increased, (over 2020's), \$60 monthly!! Of course, this is the only thing that's increasing for 2021?? 😞 😞 Talk about a rollercoaster flying backwards, for the "unemployed!!</p> <p>Here's a new thought: what about "exempting" or "freezing" the rates for Seniors falling below the current \$45,704 SS level?? Maybe if WA took care of it's own residents "first" before selling surplus electricity to other states, we wouldn't have to take the funds out of "everyone's" pockets?? Just some food for thought that I'm sure is not going to change anything for the better.....</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>James & Cynthia Badham</p>

			<p>https://www.pse.com/-/media/PDFs/Rates-UTC/3993_PCORC_Public_Hearing_Comment_Notice.pdf?sc_lang=en&hash=10CF332EA2D8E931CE8A2D1A261298EC</p>
	Mike McCambridge	E-mail	<p>Hello, I hope your day is going well.</p> <p>Thanks to you, UTC, for reducing the PSE rate increase requested so far. I have lived on Seattle's East Side since 1958, and have seen the merger of Puget Power and Washington Natural Gas into PSE. They stated then that this would not create a monopoly, but it was more balanced before the merger. PSE is a monopoly. The same unbalanced thing happened when The Seattle Post Intelligencer merged into The Seattle Times - they said it would remain balanced and unbiased, but we know now that The Seattle Times is nothing like it was before. I cannot do anything about the PSE monopoly, but perhaps burn wood and use kerosene and candles if I do not wish to pay these bandits.</p> <p>My main complaint about PSE is this - PSE listed "increased energy conservation" as one of the reasons for an electric rate increase request, but then why conserve energy at all? Why would PSE advertise increased costs as the resultant effect for those customers striving for increased energy conservation? Do people call a dog and then hit it for obeying? Is it right to reward people who conserve energy with a rate increase? This makes no sense!</p> <p>It may have been brutally honest for PSE to include "energy conservation" as a reason for a rate increase but it may have been better for PSE to just keep quiet and not tell anyone about "energy conservation" as a reason for the rate increase. PSE should just keep fooling the obedient sheep who are trying to conserve energy and who keep paying these increases - the same customers who are also forced to pay for the encouraging energy conservation benefit literature sent to them. In this way, PSE can get more customers on the grid.</p> <p>PSE may need to increase revenue, but not by riling the energy efficient customers with a rate increase as a reward for conservation!</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mike McCambridge</p> <p>Sent from Mail for Windows 10</p>
	Richard L. Fague, Jr.	E-mail	<p>I'm against the increase. I'm a disabled senior citizen living in Olympia on a fixed income and I live check to check since everything in Washington costs so much that I'm unable to save any money. Gas is going up along with electricity and Social Securities increases can't keep pace with the cost of living in Thurston County. At the rate we're going, soon there will be only wealthy people and poor people living in this state, everyone else will be forced out whether we want to or not.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Richard L. Fague, Jr.</p>

	Steph Kuhn	E-mail	<p>To Whom it concerns, I cannot believe you would increase electricity rates after a year of closures due to the pandemic. Is it really necessary to add another bill increase to struggling people? Businesses? Have mercy on your people!</p> <p>From a Bellingham resident</p> <p>Sent from my iPad</p>
	Melinda J, Mandell	E-mail	<p>This is an objection to the proposed PSE rate increase. The proposed rate change is in a sequence of rate increases that PSE has obtained in recent years. Every bill that contains another rate increase hurts. It isn't only the rate increase charged but taxes that also increase consumer bills on a commodity that is an absolute necessity. Many homes in Thurston County are powered by electricity and also heated that way.</p> <p>If PSE is determined to raise funds, why not increase charges for electric powered vehicles? Those vehicles enjoy huge tax and fuel savings so there is an option for raising funds. It appears that PSE is raising funds on the backs of consumers who have struggled through severe economic hardship and doing so without discrimination. PSE should consider increasing vehicle charge fees instead.</p> <p>April 7, 2021</p>
	Ann Waller	E-mail	<p>I am opposed to the rate increase.</p> <p>I am a senior citizen on a fixed income and budgeted accordingly when I retired. All the increases coming out of the Biden Administration is causing me financial hardship.</p> <p>The Biden Administration has created the increases that PSE is incurring when Biden shot down our energy independence. The federal government can pay for PSE's increases, not the consumers.</p> <p>If the increase goes through, I will use less electricity and PSE will still be losing (from me anyway).</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>a Whatcom County resident</p>
	Teresa Furrer	E-mail	<p>No on the rate increase, enough already. People are just flat tired of all the increases. I realize your going to do it anyway, but just needed to register my opinion.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sent from my iPad</p>

	Tim Heenan	E-mail	<p>I would like to voice my opposition to any rate increases. After the year we have all experienced people just dont have the money to pay more for electricity. It seems the more we save, the more our bills go up. Between our governor taxing the crap out of citizens for his own ideology. Any more increases in anything is really going to hurt the citizens. We used to have the cheapest electricity in the country, what happened? Same dams, same water, more cost. Please put me down for a big NO. Thanks</p>
	Ted Jansen	E-mail	<p>We continue to have power outages, more this past winter than ever in the 8 years we have lived in Sudden Valley. PSE also wants us to pay as they cut off a coal plant from their grid. At the same time they want us to pay more since we don't use enough electricity. That sounds like a bit of a wash and that we are paying twice. PSE needs to rethink their entire business and system, but they won't. We just get to pay more. I want to point out that as a retiree Social Security increased by 1.6% this year and anything over that for PSE just cuts into other things we need to spend money on, like the completely unauthorized increase by Xfinity cable.</p>
	Pete Stoppani	E-mail	<p>My understanding is that part of the rate increase requested by PSE includes maintenance for the Colstrip coal power plants. Given that WA will not utilize this resource in a couple of years, it seems an unwise use of my rate fees to perpetuate this power source. My understanding is that Colstrip is not cost competitive anyway and really should be retired ASAP anyway. So, I oppose paying a penny toward Colstrip.</p> <p>Also, I find it galling that a major reason for the rate increase is due to lower power consumption. A lot of us have spent a lot of money to improve the efficiency of our homes and now PSE wants us to charge MORE for being good citizens? I understand that some of their costs are fixed. But surely some of those costs could have been eliminated with proper management and forecasting. PSE has historically been terrible at forecasting. They always say the demand will be increasing while in fact it has been decreasing.</p> <p>Pete</p>
	James williamson	E-mail	<p>Please help me understand the “logic” of the rate increase.</p> <p>I actually read the insert for the rate increase that was in my recent electric bill.</p> <p>I was surprised to read that one of the justifications for the increase was:</p> <p>“Decreasing customer electricity usage”</p> <p>What?</p> <p>And here I thought that by being a ‘good Puget Sound Energy customer’, by using energy efficient appliances (just purchased new washer and dryer and getting a rebate from Puget Sound Energy), have double pane windows, increased home insulation,,ect.... I mean every bill that I get has an insert offering rebates for energy efficient appliances and home improvements.</p> <p>All of that saves energy.</p> <p>And now I’m getting ‘smacked’ because I’m using less electricity!</p>

			<p>Wait a minute... I'm feeling like I am living in TEXAS!</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>James Williamson</p>
	<p>Kyle Taylor Lucas</p>	<p>E-mail</p>	<p>Dear UTC Commissioners:</p> <p>I write to submit my official comment in opposition to Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) Rate Increase Request. First, why should I and other rate-payers absorb gambling losses by a majority Canadian shareholder-owned corporation that despite CLIMATE EMERGENCY continues to invest in and depend upon dirty fossil fuels dangerously driving planet warming for 60% of its energy sources.</p> <p>Unlike cheaper cleaner sourced energy of publicly-owned energy utilities that also provide more reliable service, PSE looks to dirty fossil fuels for the majority of its energy—that despite its obligation to transition to clean energy. The day is far overdue for our state Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to support we the people, the ratepayers, rather than monopoly utilities forcing earth-warming dirty fossil fuels.</p> <p>PSE already raised its fracked gas rates by 14.1% in November despite a 50% reduction in market gas prices. Now, they want more and the poor struggling ratepayers are expected to pay! No! Absolutely not!</p> <p>We all know, based upon consistent and countless scientific studies that in order to meet climate change goals, we must fast-track phaseout fracked gas! To that end, the peoples' UTC must discontinue approval of PSE requested rate increases to maintain its fossil fuels infrastructure. That would include PSE's recent requests that are no doubt tied to the huge pipeline explosion in British Columbia that led to rationing and almost cause power outages. It's outrageous for the UTC to support majority foreign-owned PSE's passing their losses and failure to transition away from dirty fossil fuels losses on to we ratepayers.</p> <p>The PSE had two major gas leaks in Seattle in 2019 and it's inevitable that this won't be the last major rate hike request as our gas infrastructure continues to age. This raises concern about the UTC's plan to handle the Liquefied Natural Gas facility in Tacoma — which will only be used for ratepayers around 2% of the time, and yet ratepayers will be on the hook to pay for more than 40% of the project. All the while the LNG facility has been built without a major permit, demonstrating a lack of prudence and responsibility on PSE's part.</p> <p>In the 2017 IRP acknowledgement letter, the UTC stated that "PSE's next IRP must address what the Company will do in the event the LNG plant or pipeline upgrades are significantly delayed or cancelled," demonstrating UTC understanding that PSE has been building at its own risk. Ratepayers shouldn't be the ones to pay when utilities like PSE continue to force gas into our energy mixes when it's economically irresponsible and when their ratepayers are demanding other options.</p> <p>When our rates finance expanded fracking methane gas, we are complicit in the harms caused: contaminated water tables and decrease of freshwater supplies, severe health consequences for communities near fracking sites and refineries, habitat loss and deforestation, the crisis of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women near pipeline construction and extraction, violation of indigenous rights/Treaties, and ignoring global scientific consensus that says we have to keep remaining fossil fuels in the ground or face dire consequences.</p>

From 2016 to 2018, PSE spent over \$1,742,000 on lobbyists in Olympia. We ratepayers don't have any such lobbyists. According to Sightline, over the past ten years PSE's total political spending in Washington was about \$7 million. That money is donated to candidates, spent on lobbying, and used to fund special interests.

Right here in Thurston County, In 2012, we had a ballot initiative that would transition Thurston County to a public utility and it turned into the most expensive election in Thurston County history. PSE spent more than \$400,000 against the citizen's initiative for which the citizen's could not compete. The initiative lost.

With PSE changing hands once again in 2018—it was taken over by British Columbia Investment Management Corporation and Alberta Investment Management Corporation--Canadian pension funds control 90 percent of the company. Sadly, those pension funds are invested in greenhouse gasses--oil and fracked gas. "More than \$3 billion of the \$135.5 billion managed by the British Columbia Investment Management Corporation (BCI) is invested in the top 200 publicly traded oil and gas companies," reports CBC.

Again, it is unfair for our ratepayers to be forced to subsidize a foreign-owned climate-warming oil and gas company invested utility, especially as our planet, region, state, and communities are faced with the consequences of global warming—climate change and extreme weather disturbances, forest fires, disappearing forestry and agricultural lands, and unbreathable air.

It's time for our UTC to demand that PSE uphold its commitment to transition away from fossil fuels as opposed to its continuing investments counter to state climate change target to cut carbon emissions by 45% by 2030.

No more handouts for PSE. Please honor our state and regional commitments to cut greenhouse gasses and to protect this planet for future generations and all life forms. Those first and most impacted by the reckless corporate emissions practices of bad actors such as PSE are the marginalized and disenfranchised—the poor, people of color, and Urban Indians such as those whom I and my organization advocate. We live in the urban areas and suffer disproportionately from asthma and COPD as well as other afflictions and maladies related to industrial practices and pollution. One such project looming large over a significant Indigenous population is the PSE Tacoma LNG project. It's time for the UTC to finally put the brakes on the reckless corporate activities of this foreign majority-owned fossil fuels invested corporation.

Thank you (T'igwicid in Coast Salish Lushootseed) for your serious attention.

Sincerely,

Kyle Taylor Lucas
1841 Trospen Road SW #4
Tumwater, WA 98512
(360) 464-0085

Kyle Taylor Lucas, Chair
Urban Indians Northwest

			<p>(360) 464-0085 https://www.linkedin.com/in/kyletaylorlucas</p> <p>"I'm just a human being trying to make it in a world that is very rapidly losing its understanding of being human." -- John Trudell</p> <p>Kyle Taylor Lucas - Olympia, Washington, The Evergreen State College about.me</p> <p>Sent from Mail for Windows 10</p>
	Umesh Mokate	E-mail	<p>Hello,</p> <p>As a PSE customer, I oppose the proposal for PSE rate increase. I think utility company like PSE must be non-profit organization – they are using the natural resources we all own to generate energy. There has to be limit on their profit margin.</p> <p>Thanks</p> <p>Umesh Mokate</p>
	Court Olson	E-mail	<p>***See attachment for comments***</p> <p>Hello WUTC.</p> <p>Please accept my attache written comments on the subject of a Puget Sound Energy rate increase application</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Court</p> <p>Court Olson MSCE, CCM, DBIA, LEED AP Optimum Building Consultants, LLC 206-245-7176 www.optimumbldg.com</p>
	Ronald Snell	E-mail	<p>***See attachment for comment***</p> <p>Attached are my comments for PSE Rate Case, Docket UE-200980.</p>

			Ronald Snell Kirkland, WA 98034
	Don Marsh	E-mail	<p>***See attachment for comments***</p> <p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>Please consider our attached comments describing concerns regarding PSE's requested electric rate increase, Docket UE-200980.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Don Marsh President, CENSE.org</p>
	Jim Bouchard	E-mail	<p>The proposed rate increase is unnecessary and unconscionable. PSE received a rate increase on Nov.1, 2020, of 8.5%. Almost immediately after on Dec. 9, 2020 they filed ANOTHER "power cost only rate case" with WA UTC. Now they are asking for an additional 3.67% rate increase.</p> <p>I am an elderly person on Social Security and got a 1.3% COLA increase. A mere pittance of an amount maybe \$20.</p> <p>I understand supply and demand and given the pandemic certain factors may have increased the cost of gas but they want rate payers to make up the difference in their bottom line. PSE needs to suck it up a little and let the owners and shareholders, also rate payers, make less as we work through this. They may also be double dipping from the US Government paying them for lost revenue.</p> <p>There should be a minimum waiting period from one rate increase to another.</p> <p>Please consider the thousands of seniors out there just ecking oit a living when you vote on this request. Take a stand. Do the right thing. Vote NO!!!</p> <p>Jim Bouchard</p>
	Richard L. Fague	E-mail	<p>As I stated in my earlier comments, I'm against raising the price of electricity in Washington. Gas prices are going up, food prices are going up, taxes are going up, and all these increases are coming at the worst possible time in modern history, in the middle of a global pandemic that's battered the economy, drastically increased unemployment, resulting in record numbers of people being evicted and a homeless crisis that's clearly completely out of control in this state.</p> <p>I'm a disabled senior citizen trying to survive in Thurston County on a Social Security Disability income of about \$23,000 a year, which essentially forces me to live in one of the worst slums I've ever seen anywhere in the US. As things now stand, I'm unable to save any money, so any price increases in the cost of living basically means I'm forced to do more with less money or do without things I need, such as maintaining my health while dealing with an increasing</p>

		<p>number of serious health issues.</p> <p>Thanks for allowing the public a chance to comment on the PSE rate case, I can only hope that more people living on the brink of bankruptcy and homelessness as I am have an opportunity to be heard as well.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Richard L. Fague</p>
Deborah O'Sell	E-mail	<p>Why is it that we have not heard or seen ways that the actual power company reduces their internal overhead costs. Alot of us are without a job, faced layoffs, did not receive a raise this year. However, this public power company, has not shown us that they are taking steps to reduce their overhead.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did the top 1% forgo their raises? 2. Was there any planned attrition? 3. Did they implement any lean activities in their processes? 4. Did they surplus any equipment or property? 5. Are they going to allow the public to benefit from moving to Solar power? Or whine about lost revenue? 6. Can they back Solar Power and promote it for the public good? 7. Can we have a true "public company" to promotes the common good? 8. Why is the public penalized that the coal companies are being shut down. It is that industries choice that they are promoting a product that causes green house gases and pollutes the environment. So shut them down but not penalize the rest of us with the excuse that you are losing a power source when you actually have a surplus in power that you aren't talking about from water generation. <p>Please include these comments and ask for answers to be made publicly available for all to see</p>
Robin	E-mail	<p>Hell NO, the rates have been going up all year long for 2 years. I'm on a fixed income. I work full time at the hospital. I can't keep paying these rate increases. I have my heat breaker turned off as I can't afford to have it on. I bought a little space heater for when I need it. I live I live in an apt. So no increase or.....increase higher income people. Did you ever think of that!</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Robin</p>
Laura Rogers	E-mail	<p>I already pay \$545 dollars every two months for utilities in Tacoma. There are a lot of service and administrative fees already. I work hard and pay a ton of money out to just satisfy basic living needs here in Washington. But yet again more of my hard earned money goes to helping those that cant afford it. I am so tired of this mentality. Work hard and pay for everyone don't work at all and get it free.</p> <p>LJR</p>

	Cindy Kisska	E-mail	<p>My name is Cindy Kisska. I live in Birch Bay, WA. I have been a Puget Sound Energy electric customer for more than 16 years. PSE raises its rates every year. With so-o many people falling through the cracks financially, I am hard pressed to see why PSE wants to raise its rates again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Especially when PSE paid out over a 3-year period (2016 to 2018) almost \$40 Million Dollars (\$38,874,406.00) to its top FIVE employees – in salaries, incentives, compensations, and bonuses. PSE is a Utility Company, not a “Fortune 500 Company.” - PSE belongs to a group of 5 utility companies called “Investor-Owned Utilities” (“IOU’s”) that service electric and gas customers across the state of WA. “They are all monopoly franchises” and “THEY EXIST TO MAKE A PROFIT FOR THEIR SHAREHOLDERS.” - These Investor-Owned Utilities, including PSE, paid out a total of \$395.3 Million Dollars in DIVIDENDS in 2019. - That’s how wealthy they are. <p>The Utility and Transportation Commission (UTC) states, “It is the Commissions responsibility to ensure service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing the company (PSE in this case) an opportunity to earn a FAIR return.” WHAT IS A FAIR RETURN when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PSE pays its CEOs MILLIONS of dollars EVERY YEAR - Takes in over \$100 MILLION dollars EVERY MONTH – just from their residential electric customers alone - Took in \$3.4 BILLION dollars in Energy Revenue two years ago (2019) - And PAID OUT \$64.2 MILLION dollars in DIVIDENDS (2019) to FIVE FOREIGN countries’ pension funds. - I would call this MORE than A “FAIR” RETURN. - <p>In contrast, most people I know, have to wear their winter coats in their houses during the winter to stay warm, because they can’t afford to pay higher electric bills. Tell that to the CEOs who get paid MILLIONS of dollars every year in bonuses. WHAT SENSE DOES IT MAKE? NONE! Puget Sound Energy has turned into a profit churning machine....it has joined the ranks of what I call Corporate America – “Profits at all costs.”</p> <p>The Utilities Commission treats PSE like it is two separate companies – the one that services its customers and the one that services its shareholders...the latter are very wealthy, while the incomes of the major majority of PSE customers are most likely lower middle class and poverty level. We shouldn’t have to pay for an overly “top-heavy” utility company with way too much money floating around at the top. It becomes very clear THERE IS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST HERE. So when you, the UTC talks about balancing the NEEDS of both the customers and the company....Who do think has the greatest need? The already wealthy, becoming wealthier or the little person at the bottom just trying to stay warm in the winter and struggling to feed their families.</p> <p>How is it that PSE’s millions and billions of dollars in wealth at the top has never “trickled down” to the bottom TO TRANSLATE INTO SAVINGS FOR CUSTOMER RATES?? Yet the Utilities and Transportation Commission ALLOWS Puget Sound Energy to generate billions of dollars in profits and GIVE AWAY millions in dividends.</p> <p>When you consider raising PSE rates, you need to take in the WHOLE PICTURE of how much money is being generated and where it is actually going. If UTC’s hands are tied because of certain laws, then the laws need to be changed. PSE needs to be held accountable and return to being a UTILITY Company whose first and highest priority and responsibility is to provide affordable utility service to people in the state of WA, NOT to make their already wealthy shareholders, wealthier.</p> <p>And NOW PSE is asking UTC to okay PSE raising our rates AGAIN? On WHAT grounds? PSE doesn’t need more money from us to cover their operating costs. And on WHAT grounds will you, the Utilities Commission, yet again let PSE raise our rates, as you have done every single year, KNOWING FULL WELL the EXTENT of PSE’S WEALTH. Puget Sound Energy has more than enough money right now, not only to NOT raise our rates, but to decide to reduce them instead.</p> <p>AND VERY IMPORTANTLY, the funding for the Home Energy Lifeline Program (“HELP”) should NOT be included in this Docket, because it needs to</p>
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Brian Lee	E-mail	<p>UTC Docket # 2020-200980 I'm a PSE customer and I would like to have my comments recorded in public hearing.</p> <p>The latest electric rates increase is no longer reasonable for the customers, especially during the pandemic. The reasons for the rate hike provided by PSE do not align with the responsibility of the biggest and only WA state private/investor-owned companies servicing public utilities, keeping WA state residents warm and powered at all times and keep costs fair and reasonable to all customers. The continuous and latest rate hike are just greed from private companies while their customers are all affected negatively financially in this pandemic economic downturn, PSE must also have to take a cut if necessary for them to get by, and not place that burden on to the customers. The supply and demand can change, but customers never see rate drop, only rate hike instead.</p> <p>Washington UTC must stand up for the residents in WA against the rate hike proposed by PSE. This affects especially hard on the more financially vulnerable living in the state where power and gas are crucial to all our livelihood. I demand a rejection of yet another rate hike to the customers by PSE. Thank you.</p> <p>-- Best, Bryan</p> <p>#GoDawgs #GoHawks</p>
Amanda Keverkamp - City of Mercer Island	E-mail	<p>***See attachment for comment***</p> <p>Washington Utilities and Transportation Commissioners,</p> <p>Please find attached, a letter from Mercer Island City Manager Jessi Bon regarding the joint settlement for Docket UE – 200980 that impacts PSE’s Green Direct program.</p> <p>Kindest regards,</p>

			<p>Amanda</p> <p>Amanda Keverkamp Executive Assistant to the City Manager City of Mercer Island 206.275.7795 mercerisland.gov Notice: Emails and attachments may be subject to disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act (chapter 42.56 RCW).</p> <p>Due to the regional COVID-19 outbreak, many City of Mercer Island staff are now working remotely. Responses to emails and phone calls may take additional time as we have modified our operations. Thank you for your patience.</p>
	Unknown Commenter	Mail	***See attached letter for comment***
	Elaine Srnsky	Mail	***See attachment for comment***
	John and Lanell Borrelli	Web	<p>Our electric bills (PSE) range from \$100 (summer) to over \$400 in the winter. All Americans and many other countries have suffered through a pandemic for over a year now that has shut down businesses, laid people off from their jobs, and destroyed the livelihood and the economy for millions of people. How can utilities (Puget Sound Energy) justify a rate increase at a time when millions of people are struggling just to survive financially until this virus pandemic is over and the world gets back to some sense of normality??</p> <p>Please do NOT allow a rate increase for Puget Sound Energy at this time. Give people and the economy time to get back on their feet before raising the utility rates.</p> <p>Thank you, Lanell Borrelli</p>
	Earl Weaver	Web	<p>I believe PSE is being run as a cash cow. Minimum investment in infrastructure. Profit driven. A example is the last windstorm we endured late 2020. Not that severe of a storm, yet PSE was hard pressed restoring power and damage was more severe due to lack of preparation and planning. Natural gas prices always fluctuate, thus should have been planned for. The same goes for contracts.</p> <p>One of the listed reason for an increase was decreasing customer usage. To lower my utility bill I have lowered the thermostat in my home. I have taken other measures to lower my usage. It angers me to be told that all my efforts at reduction of usage so I could lower my bill will be rewarded by a rate increase that will negate all my efforts. This is a slap in the face. If you need a rate increase, levy it on the highest users, not on struggling seniors and families with children.</p> <p>Thank You Earl Weaver</p>
	Lynne Olson	Web	<p>After claiming increased energy demand required the expansion of service on the eastside, PSE now says they need a rate increase due to decreased demand. This is a contradiction. PSE needs to be held accountable and they need to be more transparent about the source of their data they use to support their claims.</p>

douglas Graham	Web	<p>Not Happy. Because I did not want a smart meter for health reasons, I'm being penalized 10.00 a month(plus a .68 cents more to the city for tax) to read my meter which they are not doing except every three months. Are they not obligated as a power service co. to read meters? And now they want more money in 2020 and 2021 while the state is shut down?. I haven't worked in 5 months. My property taxes have gone up. People in apts said yes to a school levy that they dont have to pay but I do.Wa. Supreme court said K-12 had to be fully funded but its not.Our form of a democratic republic govt is suppose to serve We The People. This is not how to do it by constantly increase the price of living when a person cant even get a raise because the cost of doing business goes up and up as well.I live in 66 degrees and have all LED lights but still cant get a break. SMH</p> <p>Thank you Doug Graham</p>
Mary Lou Long	Web	<p>I propose that the PSE council write nasty letters about the shutdown coal-fired plants to the President of the United States and all of our Senators because with the recent Covid shutdowns and the hardships imposed on our citizens from not having regular income it's just not morally correct and I think the company should restrain from the higher costs at this time and make every effort to get the coal fired plants back online.</p>
Larry Johnson	Web	<p>PSE does not need a rate increase when it has so far wasted at least \$55 million promoting an unnecessary Eastside boondoggle project, Energize Eastside, based on its false 2014 assumptions that we would be experiencing blackouts as soon as 2017 if the project weren't built. PSE in 2014 claimed there'd be extraordinary Eastside demand growth coming (dramatically higher than Seattle's), hence the supposed need. Seven years later now, however, we know the truth is otherwise. Even PSE now concedes electricity demand has dropped and will continue to drop as new energy technologies evolve and conservation improves. We taxpayers should not pay \$300,000,000+ for the ridiculous Energize Eastside project. PSE's deceit and greed should not be rewarded with a rate increase.</p>
Molly Pere	Web	<p>Using less electricity is a GOOD thing. A 3.5% rate hike to customers because PSE didn't make enough money due to decrease demand is ridiculous! Stop gouging by PSE who wants to expand , despite decreasing demand.</p>
Duane Tibeau	Web	<p>Please do NOT allow this proposed Electrical Rate increase to take effect as PSE has requested. Living on Social Security and small retirement income as we do is getting more and more difficult as time goes on.</p> <p>I would like to propose that PSE's power rates be lowered to \$0.100000 for Electric Schedules 7, 24, 8 25, 11 and 7A.</p> <p>I feel this would be a good, fair power rate for everyone using PSE services.</p>
Micheal L Smith	Web	<p>With the state still shut down, It seem a bad time for Puget Sound Energy to want a rate increase with so must unemployment in the area they service.</p> <p>Also I can't raise my rent on my property until the state open up. They should be able to hold off on any rate increase.</p>
Jim Cooper	Web	<p>When I was reading the reasons for the requested rate increase I noticed at the bottom of the list decreasing customer electricity use. Why should we pay more because people are trying to use less power? I would request a no vote on this increase. Thank you.</p>
Debbie Moreno	Web	<p>Once again I am totally against any type of increase. Not only is it the wrong time to ask for an increase when we are all going through a pandemic, but I suggest if they need mmore money for operating I suggest they look for more money internally.</p>
Dale L. Weir	Web	<p>Docket UE-200980</p> <p>Opposition to rate increase:</p> <p>#1- Lack of preventive maintenance on power lines. A drive around my neighborhood and it soon becomes obvious that many lines are overgrown with tree limbs just waiting for another ice storm.</p> <p>#2- From reasons for requested rate increase, "Decreasing customer electricity usage". PSE is constantly urging their customers to conserve energy and a rate increase is our reward!</p>
Loan Tong	Web	<p>While PSE's Energize Eastside claim that the transmission project is needed to serve GROWING electricity demand, a recent bill insert, says otherwise. PSE</p>

			says decreasing customer electricity usage is one reason why the company needs to raise rates and it will ask the UTC to approve an increase in residential electric rates by 3.5%. Furthermore, PSE refuses to disclose data showing Eastside demand trends during the past decade. Before either action is taken, approve Energize Eastside or increase residential rates, PSE needs to publicly disclose data on Eastside electricity consumption. PSE needs to be held accountable to making a data-driven decision.
	suresh	Web	Please do not enact any rate increase, rather work on rate decrease. Pandemic is enough stress, please do not pile on. Overall the utility rates are already so high, a plan to cut the rate progressively would help people in the region.
	Carol Strummer	Web	Every time I turn around PSE wants to increase its rates. It is about time PSE absorbs the costs instead of passing them on to their customers because it is in business. I am on oxygen and when the power outage happened I contacted PSE and it has no back-up plan for customers on oxygen, I am not just speaking for myself.
	Patricia R. Millard-Grove	Web	Taken by CTC I'm a customer of Puget Sound Energy and I am on a very low budget and I'm retired; I'm 81 years old. The \$3.56 increase is disturbing because it takes away from my grocery money and I'm not happy with any increase, obviously no-one is with anything. At this time in my life, I'd like to rest comfortably. And \$3.50 sounds like a lot to me. And when you multiply it by all of their customers, it sounds like a lot of money for the CEO. Which he doesn't need it. He makes enough money. There doesn't need to be an increase; it doesn't need to be done. Especially during the time of a pandemic.
	D.M	Web	Thanks Biden another tax hike because you shut down a coal fire steam plant. Also PSE says they are "Green" so wouldn't that make them happy that people are using less power. So now because we use less they need to charge more. RIDICULOUS
	Sue Stronk	Web	PSE seeks a rate increase due "to lack of power usage"--per our recent bill from them. Yet the Energize Eastside project--they have spent \$80 million the past 7 years and still have no poles in place. Once a winter peak issue has now morphed to a summer peak supposedly. PSE STILL refuses to share their data to verify it is needed. They threatened rolling blackouts in 2018--where are they? Building 2-230kV lines in a 100' right of way beside the 2 Olympic Pipelines that take up the central 50' is so unsafe through a residential area (Olympus neighborhood in Newcastle). First, most power utilities require 120'-150' right of way for any 230kV projects WITHOUT 2 petroleum pipelines in the space! Why does PSE get away with anything they want? Where is the UTC pipeline safety group in all this? Please forward this to them! PSE hired DNV-GL--they say power and pipelines running parallel for over 5000 feet is high for corrosion of the pipelines--yet just in Newcastle alone they will run that way for 2 miles! Second, DNV-GL says do not dig within 13' of the pipelines--yet PSE is seeking a variance to come within Newcastle codes of no dig/construction zone set at 60' central for our safety in that 100' corridor. Third, this is not just a 100' corridor with space on the outskirts--it is 100' between roof to roof of homes--thus there is 20' left on each side to have a 230kV line on each side running way too close to our roofs and bedrooms! Yet PSE says safety is number 1! PSE can not continue to run the WUTC--You need to hold them accountable for their actions. This EE project is so unsafe and in talking to other power utilities in the US none would never do this! Shame on PSE!! No price increase when they are so irresponsible. Where is a PUD when we need them?
	Rebecca Kinnestrand	Web	In a recent bill insert, PSE says it will ask the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to approve an increase in residential electric rates by 3.5%. PSE says decreasing customer electricity usage is one reason why the company needs to raise rates. However, PSE claims its "Energize Eastside" transmission project is needed to serve growing demand for electricity during cold winter weather. This forecast was rejected last year by an independent analyst engaged by the City of Newcastle. The consultant found no need for the project to serve a winter scenario. Today PSE wants to increase our rates because customers are using less electricity. In the near future, PSE will ask to raise rates again to recover over \$80 million the company has spent to promote Energize Eastside, based on the assumption that the Eastside is consuming more electricity.

			<p>PSE refuses to disclose data showing Eastside demand trends during the past decade.</p> <p>Energize Eastside appears to be an expensive and unnecessary boondoggle that should have been abandoned years ago. I ask UTC to reject higher electric rates until PSE becomes more transparent about Eastside demand. I want PSE to abandon Energize Eastside and invest in modern technologies that would increase reliability while keeping energy bills reasonable.</p>
	Janis Medley	Web	<p>RE: Docket UE-200980</p> <p>Allowing PSE to raise its electrical rates by 3.5% would reward the company for its poor business decisions. For the past decade, PSE has advertised its commitment to a greener electrical future, but unlike other utilities has not maximized its investments in distributed energy resources, demand-response opportunities, and its renewable energy portfolio. While PSE's 2020 IRP claims this will change, the request for a 3.5% increase are for actions taken in the past.</p> <p>One of the company's poor business decisions is its lack of transparency. For example, when PSE proposes additional infrastructure within its service area, the company refuses to answer requests for historical electrical-use data so customers can understand the need for the project. Instead the company dismisses the request by claiming historical data is not relevant to its forecasts. A review of PSE's previous forecasts document a consistent pattern of overstating future need, so how can the forecasts be trusted for making accurate planning decisions.</p> <p>Another poor business decision is the cost of PSE's public relations efforts. The company's advertisements are filled with half-truths about the benefits of proposed projects, exaggerations of the companies commitment to conservation when it only offers customers programs that are mandated by state or federal regulations, and glowing promises of moving the company towards non-fossil generated electricity. These practices are disturbing because ratepayers foot the bill for this expensive propaganda.</p> <p>I urge the WUTC to exercise its only regulatory power with PSE and reduce or deny the requested 3.5% electrical rate increase.</p>
	Deborah Guy	Web	<p>I do not think we should be shutting down the coal plants, purchasing more expensive electricity. We should nor attempt to rely on wind and solar energy without a reliable backup system. We do not want to end up in a situation like the one that occurred in Texas.</p>
	Sandra Sandbom	Web	<p>All Washingtonians are suffering from all of the increases that the pandemic has brought, especially senior citizens. While some workers are getting paid more during the pandemic, others are not. To approve a 3.49% rate increase on residential consumers, while senior citizens only received a 1.3% increase in their Social Security, is unconscionable. Groceries have increased, auto fuel prices have increased, clothing prices have increased. Everyone is trying to make up their losses during the pandemic at the expense of the consumers, who were restricted from daily life.</p> <p>just vote NO on any rate increase at this time.</p>
	Judith Wrenick	Web	<p>If there's going to be a rate increase. Then there needs to be a new level for low-income qualifications. As the rate increases the level of income for individuals to qualify for assistance should rise as well.</p>
	Phil Harty	Web	<p>I'm opposed to the Liquified Natural Gas plant under construction in Tacoma, Wa because of how leaks from the plant will be toxic and damage the</p>

			atmosphere and put the people of Tacoma at risk. A leak could also cause a dangerous fire or explosion. Also the LNG plant was built on Puyallup Tribal land without the tribe's permission. The LNG won't provide many jobs and will contribute to climate change according to scientists data about natural gas emissions
	Victoria L Kapetan	Web	<p>In a recent bill insert, PSE says it will ask the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to approve an increase in residential electric rates by 3.5%. PSE says decreasing customer electricity usage is one reason why the company needs to raise rates.</p> <p>PSE will ask to raise rates again to recover over \$80 million the company has spent to promote Energize Eastside, based on the assumption that the Eastside is consuming more electricity. PSE refuses to disclose data showing Eastside demand trends during the past decade.</p> <p>I ask the UTC to reject this higher electric rate until PSE becomes more transparent about Eastside demand. I also want PSE to abandon Energize Eastside and invest in modern technologies that would increase reliability while keeping energy bills reasonable.</p> <p>This project was a scam to begin with and PSE needs to be held responsible for the costs, not the customer.</p>
	Mike McCambridge	Web	Why is it that PSE encourages energy conservation through mailings and other forms to inform how well we are doing compared to last year and also to other “efficient” neighbors, and then, when our personal goals are exceeded, PSE begs for a future rate increase because one of their honest, but egregious causes are that people are using less energy? Is this how PSE rewards good behavior?
	Brian Summers	Web	PSE spends a lot of money encouraging us consumers of their product to use LESS of their product. Why? In their filing for a rate increase they list as one of the reasons for requested rate increase: "Decreasing customer electricity usage". They are WASTING money trying to convince us to use less of their product and then saying they need to charge us more because we are using less. Seems like a SCAM to me. I believe they engaging in unethical business practices.
	Patricia Clayton	Web	<p>Taken by CTC</p> <p>I am very much against this rate increase. I'm retired, I'm on a fixed income; which I'm grateful to have. I think, with the pandemic, all the people having trouble paying their rent. They got a 27% rate increase last year and already when I look at the bill compared to last year, this year; I've used less but I'm paying more. I think it's very very bad optics to try to increase it again this year. They do every year and there doesn't seem to be a big necessity for it except it makes money for the investors. I want you to know I'm totally against this and they need to rethink it. Especially with everything going on with the economy and the pandemic.</p>
	William D Dicksion	Web	Do not approve PSE's Dec 9,2020 rate increase request. So long as PSE makes enough money to pay their executives multi million dollar bonuses on top of their unjustified salaries, they have no justification for a rate increase. I strongly object to self-awarded bonuses to executives of public utilities.
	Tom Alswager	Web	Quite frankly our bills are high enough as it is.
	Eddie Underwood	Web	<p>Taken by CTC</p> <p>I'm permanently disabled and I'm on a fixed income and it would be a hardship for me for you to raise the cost. I already called you all about why my rates seem to go up so much when I use the same amount of electricity. With COVID, cause I get different responses when I ask why the rates vary so much and I get different responses. With COVID, the COVID-19, one of the responses I get is when you're gone and come home, it takes more energy to reheat your</p>

			house. But with COVID, you're in the house and they said it would be less but it comes out to be more. They tell me I can look on the computer when it comes up but I don't believe in that so that's my idiosyncrasy. But I don't trust it. I trust what I do in my home. I think it's outrageous, especially during this COVID-19 Pandemic, cost of everything is so high when you're on a fixed income it's really devastating. Being disabled, I also have COPD so I can't wear a mask. When you have to have food delivered, it's twice as much stimulus checks. Although they did give out, appreciated, the money is gone the same day you get it because of all the extra costs for groceries, take-out, so forth. Again, it would cause me a great hardship to have the rates increase
	Customer	Web	I think a 3.67 rate increase is excessive with COVID.
	Harold Gross	Web	We've had several utility hikes over recent months. But if we are going to invest in energy, we should be doing so into renewables rather than primarily natural gas powered plants. Renewables provide a longer-term return on investment for the utility customers. The current proposal focuses massively on existing technologies and costly fuels. In addition, the Utility has been encouraging customers to get off natural gas and onto electricity...and now is making that fuel even more expensive...even as work at home is becoming a more common factor. Further, the proposal is relying on old data to claim lower residential use, which has not been the case for the last year and will likely continue to increase into the future as hybrid work arrangements proliferate.
	kathleen sherman	Web	Pse wastes money and is untruthful in their public relations adventures
	Larry Johnson	Web	PSE does not need a rate increase when it has so far wasted at least \$55 million promoting an unnecessary Eastside boondoggle project, Energize Eastside, based on its false 2014 assumptions that we would be experiencing blackouts as soon as 2017 if the project weren't built. PSE in 2014 claimed there'd be extraordinary Eastside demand growth coming (dramatically higher than Seattle's), hence the supposed need. Seven years later now, however, we know the truth is otherwise. Even PSE now concedes electricity demand has dropped and will continue to drop as new energy technologies evolve and conservation improves. We taxpayers should not pay \$300,000,000+ for the ridiculous Energize Eastside project. PSE's deceit and greed should not be rewarded with a rate increase.
	Donald Allen Aye	Web	Regarding the bullet points in PSE's letter asking for rate increase; 1) higher gas prices, higher than when? 10 years ago? Prices were high then also, will the rate charges go down if natural gas prices go down? 2) If usage goes down, why would you negotiate higher purchase agreements, maybe need a new negotiator? 3) Sounds like a business expense? 4) Less usage? Sounds like you would save money by not using as much natural gas and other generation sources. Rate increase??? Why would customers who use small amounts of electricity pay a higher rate per kwh than energy hogs? The largest users should pay higher rates on a graduated scale, if a customer uses 5000kWh they should pay twice as much as a customer who only uses 600kWh. Why would we penalize customers who have a hard time making ends meet, as it is, while the rich customers are keeping toasty warm in their 5000 square foot mansion. Maybe the folks at PSE and the UTC should try moving into a 500 square foot manufactured home for a few weeks just to feel the pain! Why would the UTC approve a rate increase that charges the smallest customers almost as much as the large high voltage industrial user?
	Marian Thrasher	Web	I fail to understand how PSE can attribute the need to increase rates overall to approximately 7% per household of the energy bill. The rationale escapes me when an identified reason is the shutdown of two coal fired steam plants in Montana. I find it difficult to understand, taking into consideration the many unemployed in this country an increase associated with a shutdown at this time has merit. It appears we all suffer because of the lack of organizational leadership of the few. This is NOT the time for a hand out - UTC consider all businesses are suffering far more than PSE. Review their requests in a year or so from now when one would hope our country will become more stable.
	Kara Ravenscraft	Web	Taken by CTC They need to get their house in order because if the overall goal, which I'm assuming would be for anything: water, power, gas-whatever it is; I assume the

			goal would be for people to consume less of those items, or consumables. Therefore, I would also make the assumption that my rates would go down if citizens and myself were consuming less electricity.
	S. Gilfillan	Web	<p>Taken by CTC</p> <p>Rate increase. I am just flummoxed. I'm paying for all these alternate energy sources. People that have these solar panels, they're getting discounts galore. They're not paying for anything. Here I'm paying the whole loud because I have electricity in my house. I really resent that. Paying for people with their solar panels, or for their solar panels. And paying people who have, I guess, the windmills, whatever property they're on, they're being paid. Everytime they apply for an increase, they get it. The problem is I'm paying for all these alternate things these other people are getting credit for.</p>
	Anne Newcomb	Web	<p>4-20-2021</p> <p>Chair David Danner, Commissioner Ann Rendahl, Commissioner Jay Balasbas Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 621 Woodland Square Loop SE Lacey, WA 98503</p> <p>RE: PSE Rate Case Docket UE-200980</p> <p>Dear Commissioners,</p> <p>Please don't permit PSE to raise rates to continue to pay for fossil fuels and fossil fuel infrastructure. While I live in Issaquah, WA which is in PSE territory, my husband and I switched to Arcadia Power's Wind program years ago to avoid funding a fossil fuel focused utility company. That being said realistically we still get power from PSE and hard working PSE employees still maintain the infrastructure. My point being...many of us are happy to pay more for electricity as long as it is clean renewable energy and the utility wants to embrace clean energy. But with drastically falling wind, solar and battery prices, clean energy has now been proven in practice, with modeling and analysis to be the least cost option.</p> <p>Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis (LCOE 13.0) shows that as the cost of renewable energy continues to decline, certain technologies (e.g., onshore wind and utility-scale solar), which became cost-competitive with conventional generation several years ago on a new-build basis, continue to maintain competitiveness with the marginal cost of existing conventional generation technologies. Over the last decade, wind energy prices have fallen 70% and solar photovoltaics have fallen 89% on average, according to Lazard's 2019 report. Utility-scale renewable energy prices are now significantly below those for coal and gas generation, and they're less than half the cost of nuclear.</p> <p>One of the reasons PSE is asking to raise rates is due to the increasing cost of fossil gas or methane. While we did recently experience low gas prices, future fossil gasses will most likely continue to increase in price for many reasons including future carbon fees. While not the only reason this is one excellent reason for PSE not to add any new fossil gas infrastructure to the mix.</p> <p>PSE has been betting on fossil fuels for many years. They have been very slow to embrace clean energy and without CETA they most likely would not be</p>

			<p>transforming now. They are a for profit company and subject to losses. PSE shareholders should be the ones to absorb any costs related to fossil fuels not ratepayers. Shareholders have the choice of where they are focusing their investments rate payers are for the most part stuck with the utility according to location.</p> <p>PSE should have ramped up renewables faster in the past and should be ramping up faster now to save both money and lives!</p> <p>Thank you for your attention,</p> <p>Anne Newcomb 16650 246th PL SE Issaquah, WA 98027</p>
	Janeen Provazek	Web	<p>I am one of many Tacoma residents very opposed to allowing The LNG facility from operating! They began building without proper permits and without the input from the Puyallup Tribe. That in itself is reprehensible. The city should have immediately stopped its construction. Having illegally built their tank they now want to start operating May 1st! The trial regarding their legality begins today. This facility is a highly polluting one, involving fracking in Canada and piping the LNG to our port. Fracking is very polluting! Leaks of these pipes are notorious in our country. It's not if they leaks will happen, but when and how much. The facility itself will release pollution into our air continuously. Any explosion would demolish our port and tide flats. PLEASE do right by our city and oppose its operation!</p>
	Ray Sanders	Web	<p>Our electric bills are very high at present, and we do not feel that now is the time to raise rates, especially since many are struggling with bills.</p>
	Kathleen Gallagher	Web	<p>I don't think it's appropriate especially right now with all the people out of work and the problems as it is Not only are they increasing, but so is Comcast, all utilities all at the same time. Gonna affect a lot of people that are already struggling.</p>
	Todd Worms	Web	<p>The cost for electricity where I live in Cle Elum is already more than twice the rate in Grant Co, barely 50 miles away. It's difficult to understand this disparity since electricity can be pulled from the same sources, and further increasing it makes no sense. It's time to start pushing down the cost for the consumer.</p>
	Bertil Vanboer	Web	<p>Although filed over 4 months ago, we have only now received the Notice of Requested Change from Puget Sound Energy for an increase of \$78.5 million in revenue and 3.67 percent rate increase. While the increase in the monthly bill would be small, I object strenuously to the reasons given for the increase, none of which seem reasonable or defensible, save the cost of natural gas rise (due to demand, one presumes, but that is no where specified). Moreover, the proposal has significant flaws, even though there is a minimal rate decrease due to the Montana coalfired plants, from which we obtain minimal electricity, are decommissioned. Specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) New purchase agreements: while we are not privy to the details, why are these new agreements (and with whom?) at a higher rate; did not PSE actually negotiate the current rate or perhaps even a decrease due to Green Energy coming on line? 2) What are the new and renewed transmission contracts? 3) finally should we now pay for being energy conscious? This makes no sense. <p>Therefore, I urge the Commission to reject these proposed changes.</p>

	Marie Phipps	Web	Every 6 months PSE requests a rate increase. Some of us people are seniors and we are living on a fixed income and all of these rate increases (water, garbage, electricity, cable tv, car insurance, house insurance) take a big bite out of our fixed incomes. I feel we are being rate increased and taxed out of our homes. So I am against a rate increase from PSE.
	Tracy Bury	Web	Reject PSE "Energize Eastside" 1. the area is not using more electricity, nor is there proof of growing demand 2. Please reject because it does not invest in modern technologies that would increase reliability while keeping energy bills reasonable. Thank you
	Drs. Albert and Ruth Paige	Web	Increasing the electricity supply on the eastside is unnecessary as the need is decreasing. This PSE plan would increase electricity rates and would also require removal of many full grown trees and would also negatively impact the neighborhoods and adjoining properties. We urge you to reject this unwise PSE proposal.
	Susan and Chris Seykota-Smith	Web	We object to yet another PSE rate increase. These are COVID times; people have lost their jobs and incomes, so this is especially not the time to raise rates. One of the reasons given for the rate increase is decreasing customer electricity usage. Well, if rates go up, usage is likely to decrease further...people are not going to use more at a higher rate! One of us is on a fixed income, so income stays the same while expenses rise. It would be great if PSE would extend compassion and courtesy to customers rather than asking for another rate increase.
	Neal Carlson	Web	I can't believe natural gas can cost so much more that they need to raise rates. Between taxes paid to cities and delivery cost PSE charges is 107%. For Example Gas Cost 37.98 vs. PSE Delivery cost 41.50. Their profits margins are quite lucrative. Also, since customers use less electrical energy lets raise natural gas cost.
	Barbara Braun	Web	PSE asks the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC) to approve an increase in residential electric rates by 3.5%. PSE says decreasing customer electricity usage is one reason why the company needs to raise rates. However, PSE claims its "Energize Eastside" transmission project is needed to serve growing demand for electricity during cold winter weather. This forecast was rejected last year by an independent analyst engaged by the City of Newcastle. The consultant found no need for the project to serve a winter scenario. Do you see the contradiction? Today PSE wants to increase our rates because customers are using less electricity. In the near future, PSE will ask to raise rates again to recover over \$80 million the company has spent to promote Energize Eastside, based on the assumption that the Eastside is consuming more electricity. PSE refuses to disclose data showing Eastside demand trends during the past decade. Energize Eastside appears to be an expensive and unnecessary boondoggle that should have been abandoned years ago. Now is the time to ask the UTC to reject higher electric rates until PSE becomes more transparent about Eastside demand. We want PSE to abandon Energize Eastside and invest in modern technologies that would increase reliability while keeping energy bills reasonable.
	Sandra Lang	Web	With these lockdowns and everyone struggling to buy food and keeping a roof over their heads I think it is without conscience to even propose this at this time. Not saying that it's necessary otherwise, but definitely not now.
	Galen Holden	Web	Once again you are letting the power companies go after the residential customers, WE are the ones that are saving energy and going green, yet you punish us for saving energy, and therefore because we use less, that justifies a rate increase??? why, so the "public" utility can guarantee a profit margin?? sounds like an energy scam/grab to me. Are we to become the next Texas????
	Jim Yu	Web	Regarding Docket UE-200980 PSE does not need a rate increase when it has so far wasted at least \$55 million promoting an unnecessary Eastside boondoggle project, Energize Eastside,

			based on its false 2014 assumptions that we would be experiencing blackouts as soon as 2017 if the project weren't built. PSE in 2014 claimed there'd be extraordinary Eastside demand growth coming (dramatically higher than Seattle's), hence the supposed need. Seven years later now, however, we know the truth is otherwise. Even PSE now concedes electricity demand has dropped and will continue to drop as new energy technologies evolve and conservation improves. We taxpayers should not pay \$300,000,000+ for the ridiculous Energize Eastside project. PSE's deceit and greed should not be rewarded with a rate increase.
	Maria Bently	Web	I think that this \$2 and something a kWh an hour is way too much. Are electricity is high enough already!
	PSE Customer	Web	I am opposed to the rate increase. What is to say PSE won't continue to request increases every year.
	A.Holmes	Web	No way we're struggling through a pandemic and your going to hike our rates and probably keep selling California power at a cut rate? Please consider not raising the rates while so many are having hard times making ends meet.
	Curtis Allred	Web	<p>Regarding Docket UE-200980, a rate hike request from Puget Sound Energy:</p> <p>I believe that PSE's rate hike should NOT be approved. PSE is requesting this rate hike in part because of lower electricity usage. At the same time, they are using claims of higher electricity usage to justify expensive infrastructure projects. For years they have told us that Energize Eastside, an expensive, massive transmission line through our neighborhoods, is needed because of increasing energy demand. They show us graphs of projected energy demand going higher, and threatening rolling blackouts. Now they are saying they need to raise rates because of lower demand? I'm guessing that the rate increase request also includes, ironically, covering of marketing costs for Energize Eastside. They have spent 10's of millions trying to sell Energize Eastside to the public because we all know its not really needed. But they are greedy for that 10% guaranteed rate of return. And in the future they will come to you with additional rate hike requests to cover the 100's of millions that it will cost to build the transmission line.</p> <p>Another justification for the rate hike is higher natural gas cost. PSE has one of, if not THE highest percentage of natural gas in their power generation mix. Other power generators in the state use hydro and other non-carbon-emitting sources for most of their power. PSE seems to be worsening their risk of natural gas fluctuations by investing more in natural gas generation. As a result, more rate hikes are likely due to natural gas price fluctuations.</p> <p>Please reject this and future rate hike requests to cover investment in infrastructure and operations that are obsolete and dangerous to our climate security. Let PSE know that they need to be investing more in solar, wind, batteries, and other climate-safe and reliable energy sources.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
	Allan Robbins	Web	<p>The charges has been extremely high and the rate hikes are not at par with the economic environment that we all face. PSE is a profitable company -- even if they have no increases in rates for the services they provide to us as consumers.</p> <p>I ask that you put this increases to a vote for WA and or give us the consumers options for our power. or At least - delay any hikes in rates until 2023 when we are all more aware of how to deal with the pandemic and start making more money as a whole. pleas help WA and those os us in the middle class and below - at the end of the day -we sustain the upper class and if they take all our funds at every turn, when we collapase - so will those above us. Please protect the economy by protecting us. a 3.67% hike can certainly be delayed for a billion/year company with at least 14% percent margins</p>

	larry schrenk	Web	IT WAS JUST LAST FALL THAT PSE ASKED FOR A LARGE INCREASE IN ELECTRICAL AND GAS RATES. WAS GIVEN A SMALLER INCREASE OF BOTH. NOW THEY ARE BACK FOR MORE UNDER GUISE OF COST. SO DID WE USE LAST FALL FOR PROFIT SO THEY COULD COME BACK FOR MORE OF IT. THERE SHOULD BE A TIME LIMIT FROM ONE REQUEST TO THE NEXT. NOT JUST WELL WE DID NOT GET IT ALL SO LETS GO BACK . I FEEL THEY ASK AND PRESENTED THEIR CASE LAST FALL. GOT WHAT THE COMMISSION DEEMED FAIR. AND SHOULD NOT BE REWARDED FOR TRYING TO BEAT THE COMMISSION IN A CHESS GAME. THE REQUEST IS DOUBLE INFLATION AND WE RATE PAYERS DONT HAVE THE SAME ABILITY FOR REVENUE. DOCKET UE-200980 THANK YOU
	Deborah OSell	Web	With all the Covid restrictions, businesses shut down, people staying home, schools closed, students home, unemployment up, Lack of raises for the working class, lack of schools open, basically PSE is asking for a increase, when they have been granted, Every year an increase is asked for, and an increase is granted. This year should be an exception, as the economy needs to be stimulated at the consumer level and not inflated by PSE by charging those who are already hurting. It is stated in their reasons for increase " decreasing customer electricity usage". That should be an incentive for PSE to reduce rates, to the consumer, not increase rates.
	Deborah Dolman	Web	I want to share my views regarding the request for increased PSE rates. I am opposed to any increases in rates. We just invested in a heat pump in order to lower our usage and rates which has been beneficial. Now because we are using less energy we are suppose to pay more. This rational does not make sense. If the PSE wants to increase their funds they should freeze the employees salaries or even have them take a cut. All of our goals should be to decrease the energy usage so it is better for the environment and the public. Decreasing customer electricity usage should not be an excuse for increasing rates. Its a no brainer! Thank you, Deborah Dolman
	Diana Miner	Web	I am calling to the rate increase that PSE once again is requesting. It seems like we just had a rate increase within the past year. I have been a PSE customer for decades now. Now I am a senior on a fixed income and their rate increases are really cutting into my budget and makes it much more difficult for seniors and other people on lower fixed income. I see one reason is because of decreasing customer usage but then I guess when you do so you want to be penalized now. My concern is we have already had an increase within the past year and like I said many people are going thru tough financial times during this pandemic. It is not just energy companies. So I think we should be considered too. I am hoping this can not happen this time and sure would appreciate that not having another rate increase. Thank you for your time. "Comment entered by Benito Garza" Customer did not want to provide phone number or email address.
	Eddie Underwood	Web	Taken by CTC I'm permanently disabled and I'm on a fixed income and it would be a hardship for me for you to raise the cost. I already called you all about why my rates seem to go up so much when I use the same amount of electricity. With COVID, cause I get different responses when I ask why the rates vary so much and I get different responses. With COVID, the COVID-19, one of the responses I get is when you're gone and come home, it takes more energy to reheat your house. But with COVID, you're in the house and they said it would be less but it comes out to be more. They tell me I can look on the computer when it comes up but I don't believe in that so that's my idiosyncrasy. But I don't trust it. I trust what I do in my home. I think it's outrageous, especially during this COVID-19 Pandemic, cost of everything is so high when you're on a fixed income it's really devastating. Being disabled, I also have COPD so I can't wear a mask. When you have to have food delivered, it's twice as much stimulus checks. Although they did give out, appreciated, the money is gone the same day you get it because of all the extra costs for groceries, take-out, so forth. Again, it would cause me a great hardship to have the rates increase
	Cristina Dugoni	Web	PSE's Energize Eastside (New Lines thru Bellevue/Kirkland, WA) boondoggle is primarily to provide power to Canada; not us. Since PSE – previously Australian, is now a Canadian owned company, no wonder they don't care about bootlegging all the power they can get from our resources. They haven't listened to us and have out-right lied. I have had PSE on my property numerous times and they claim 'they don't know whether there would be more power added to our lines' and 'can't really tell me the EMFs'. Come on- that is insulting everyone's intelligence. They want to make them 2x taller and push

			<p>more electricity through them which was NOT part of the original easement! They are disingenuous and won't give me a straight answer ever.</p> <p>Do you see the contradiction? Today PSE wants to increase our rates because customers are using less electricity. In the near future, PSE will ask to raise rates again to recover over \$80 million the company has spent to promote Energize Eastside, based on the assumption that the Eastside is consuming more electricity. PSE refuses to disclose data showing Eastside demand trends during the past decade. With more efficient power options and covid's reduction on office space, energy demand is lessening.</p> <p>Energize Eastside appears to be an expensive and unnecessary boondoggle that should have been abandoned years ago. We ask the UTC to reject higher electric rates until PSE becomes more transparent about Eastside demand. We want PSE to abandon Energize Eastside and invest in modern technologies that would increase reliability while keeping energy bills reasonable.</p> <p>They can underground them like other 3rd world countries do or else abandon Energize Eastside.</p>
	Natalie Duryea	Web	<p>PSE is driving a huge eyesore in "Energize Eastside" as they claim it will be needed to meet future energy demand. Then I receive a notice of a rate increase due to "decreasing customer electricity usage".</p> <p>This rate hike needs to be rejected OR PSE needs to be clear about why they're under going a massive infrastructure rebuild that is un-needed. Both can't be true.</p> <p>Appreciate this commission servicing the people that live in Washington and not the multi-national utility company.</p>
	Denise Driscoll	Web	<p>Since we are still in the midst of a crisis I see no need to simply rubber stamp the annual rate increase request of PSE. This game they play where we are just captives and they build something or add a new system so they can ask for more money must stop. Their recent new online payment system is not customer friendly yet I am guessing part of an increase request was for that terrible system. Just because they want to do something or say they are doing something does not mean we have to go along with it. Just say no to them this time, when so many of us are still reeling from this pandemic and the economic crisis it has caused.</p>
	Ardie Paul	Web	<p>I don't think it's quite fair that PSE keeps raising its rates. I'm 86 and can't afford to keep paying it. One of the reasons given was people are using less energy and we should have to pay more because of this.</p>
	David Downing	Web	<p>I'm writing to oppose Puget Sound Energy's request for a rate increase. In light of the global pandemic and rising prices on all consumer goods now is not the time for a rate increase. Washington families are hurting with many out of work or forced to pay for more for child care or lose pay by staying home or leaving the workforce. Many landlords are unable to collect rents and still much pay to maintain their properties. PSE continues to make a profit on commodities that should belong to the people and be operated on a not for profit basis. V/r, Dave</p> <p>David M Downing P.O. Box 393 Seabeck, WA 98380</p>
	Joshua	Web	<p>In the middle of a pandemic and resulting economic outfall, and without substantial new investments in clean energy (see the contrasting energy mixes from</p>

	Loomis		various PUDs in the state), this rate increase should be denied.
	Lori Elworth	Web	<p>Subject: reference Docket UE-200980 Puget Sound Energy's request for residential electrical power rates increase</p> <p>PSE is an electrical energy service monopoly in the Puget Sound region which has become a burden for the rate payers. PSE is steeped in obsolete and dirty electrical energy generation, transmission, and distribution. In return for their poor service and extreme lack of accountability to the public they ask for a rate increase. PSE should not be granted the requested increase. Where is the oversight? I have attended most of the IRP meetings held by PSE over the last few years. It is disappointing their Energize Eastside project was never addressed as required and stakeholders questions are dismissed.</p> <p>In fairness to rate payers and planet earth, PSE should instead be taxed for their bad and opaque management and business decisions. Energize Eastside is a case in point regarding PSE's lack of competence and interest in employing superior state of the practice solutions. Such tax on PSE could provide revenue to displace PSE with forward thinking, environmentally sound, sustainable, and reliable alternative solutions.</p>
	Dave Pierce	Web	At some point the rate structure needs to include something that includes retirees on a fixed income. Nowhere in the system is there an accommodation for people on a fixed income.
	Danielle Ramos	Web	PSE does not need a rate increase when it has so far wasted at least \$55 million promoting an unnecessary Eastside boondoggle project, Energize Eastside, based on its false 2014 assumptions that we would be experiencing blackouts as soon as 2017 if the project weren't built. PSE in 2014 claimed there'd be extraordinary Eastside demand growth coming (dramatically higher than Seattle's), hence the supposed need. Seven years later now, however, we know the truth is otherwise. Even PSE now concedes electricity demand has dropped and will continue to drop as new energy technologies evolve and conservation improves. We taxpayers should not pay \$300,000,000+ for the ridiculous Energize Eastside project. PSE's deceit and greed should not be rewarded with a rate increase.
	DANA KAPELA	Web	<p>PSE's Energize Eastside boondoggle is primarily to provide power to Canada; not us. Since PSE – previously Australian, is now a Canadian owned company, no wonder they don't care about bootlegging all the power they can get from our resources. They haven't listened to us and have out-right lied. I have had PSE on my property numerous times and they claim 'they don't know whether there would be more power added to our lines' and 'can't really tell me the EMFs'. Come on- that is insulting everyone's intelligence. They want to make them 2x taller and push more electricity through them which was NOT part of the original easement! They are disingenuous and won't give me a straight answer ever.</p> <p>Do you see the contradiction? Today PSE wants to increase our rates because customers are using less electricity. In the near future, PSE will ask to raise rates again to recover over \$80 million the company has spent to promote Energize Eastside, based on the assumption that the Eastside is consuming more electricity. PSE refuses to disclose data showing Eastside demand trends during the past decade. With more efficient power options and covid's reduction on office space, energy demand is lessening.</p> <p>Energize Eastside appears to be an expensive and unnecessary boondoggle that should have been abandoned years ago. We ask the UTC to reject higher electric rates until PSE becomes more transparent about Eastside demand. We want PSE to abandon Energize Eastside and invest in modern technologies that would increase reliability while keeping energy bills reasonable.</p> <p>They can underground them like other 3rd world countries do or else abandon Energize Eastside.</p>

			-Dana Kapela Overlake Farm 5652 132nd Ave NE Bellevue, Wa. 98005.
	John Otto	Web	I am a senior citizen on a fixed income and any increase in my expenses are very difficult for me to manage. Everything seems to be going up. Thank you for your consideration.
	Rosemary Moore	Web	I strongly object to PSE's request for an electric rate increase. The request should be refused because PSE's stated reasons do not justify an increase. On the contrary, their reasons demonstrate their lack of interest or intent to switch to renewable energy. A drop in electric usage demonstrates how PSE is failing to encourage customers to switch away from natural gas. In fact, PSE promotes natural gas even though it is a highly dangerous greenhouse gas. PSE is also building a new gas power plant according to its current IRP in addition to a new storage facility. PSE is doing nothing to build wind farms or solar production. It is unashamedly using for its solar projects the money that people who sign up for its green power and solar programs pay for clean renewable energy. PSE's reliance on fossil fuels to provide electric power as increased from less than 50% when PSE was bought by its current owners to 66% in 2019, the latest year for which data is available. PSE is a foreign for profit company. It will not meet CETA's goals based on its current performance and its IRP. Refuse any increase until it significantly increases its reliance on renewable clean energy (not renewable gas) and ends its reliance on all fossil fuels.
	Joan Nolan	Web	I oppose the rate increase for PSE. PSE should only get a rate increase by using its ratepayers funding wisely. This has not been the case. PSE has spent roughly seven years and \$80 million to study and pursue Energize Eastside; this project will build unneeded infrastructure that will impact residential neighborhoods financially, visually, and be potentially unsafe by its colocation with a fuel pipeline. The Energize Eastside is based on antiquated technology and does not solve the problem of reliance on natural gas and its impact on climate. During this same period of seven years, PSE could have been working on demand response and lowering its carbon footprint; it has not done that. As a monopoly PSE has a responsibility to act in the best interest of its customers. To date PSE has not acted as caretakers of the public trust, but appears to be working in its own interest to make money at the ratepayers and the environment's expense. Please deny Docket UE-200980. Tell PSE to come back with a plan to reduce carbon emissions, use the best / latest technology, and not scar our landscape. At that time, I will support a rate increase.
	Don S Hansen	Web	the increase should be denied. they charge to much now and most of the services in the country have made some compensations for covide and for seniors, but not pse they just keep wanting more money and could care less about seniors, they just care about money. they use their name to promote help for our heating bill and then you find out they are just trying to shaft seniors out of 10s of thousands of dollars for windows. i am very unhappy with pse. wish they would make it a PUD so the rates would be fair and not keep going up to fill some shareholders greedy pockets. Don
	Keith Laepple	Web	Puget Sound Energy needs to be more transparent about energy usage trends and futures before any rate increases are approved. Their story on the need for the Energize Eastside program is confused and contradictory, especially in light of modern technologies available for energy storage and peak production.
	Lynn Shumway	Web	Now, after a year of economic strife for many people, is a horrid time to turn around and ask for a rate increase. So many people are already in danger of losing their homes after losing their livelihoods, why increase that stress with a rate increase, too? Your timing is awful. At the least, push this off until there is real recovery in sight.
	Rich Remsen	Web	I am opposed to the rate increase.
	Melissa	Web	PSE has filed again this year to the UTC for a rate increase. This year the excuse is that coal fired power plants have been shut down increasing the utilities

	Hollenbeck		<p>cost. Of course, as in the last year power cost rate request, they blamed something else. The point is when does it stop being passed on to the consumers. Every year without fail they file and get approved for a rate increase. At some point the cost of power is going to price the consumers out of being able to afford to pay. I see no where, a cost reduction business plan, to save themselves money so they can give consumers (during a pandemic) a break on their power bill. Or are we all just going to be paying every time the government makes bad decisions (closing coal fired plants) which cost PSE money. My city Edgewood, already imposes a 6.013% tax on top of the utility bill. Approaching retirement they are making this home unaffordable. A state utility tax of 3.83% is included in my billing too. Combined that is almost 10% tax on the consumer for something they must have to work, cook, live. So I am asking that you reject this increase this year (during a pandemic and economically hard times) and have them cut their own budget and find savings in their own practices. It's time the UTC stood up for consumers and middle class taxpayers, who have been paying and being taxed through the nose. 3.56% more now? This adds to a already almost 10% tax on consumer is enough. Do the math. PSE may need to slow down their new projects and live within their means. If they can't pay their own bills then they need to cut their own costs. A overburdened taxpayer is frankly sick of being taxed to death. Tell PSE NO! (This is to be read at the Tuesday April 20th 2021 6pm meeting.)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Melissa Hollenbeck</p>
	Paul England	Web	<p>Taken by CTC</p> <p>One of the reasons for the increase is because of decreased electric usage. Everytime, specifically us, generally everybody, is asked to conserve, whether its electricity, water, or gasoline. The result is always the company loses revenue and has to raise rates as a result of the decrease. I certainly understand the natural gas cost going up, transmission contracts, purchase agreements, etc. I don't think people should be penalized because they are more efficient. Everybody all over, especially here in Whatcom country, we're going to be asked to go 100% electric. If we keep using less and less and less, might prove to be a problem. The commissioners should at least consider that portion of the rate increase before they make a determination. It may ultimately reduce the amount PSE is granted as an increase.</p>
	Ruslan Sorochuk	Web	<p>One of the reasons PSE wants to raise our energy rates is because "Decreasing customer electricity usage". This is what they listed as one of their 4 reasons. This seems very wrong reason to raise gas price. My gas usage is way less during warmer months, and significantly more during winter, mostly because I lost my job due to COVID, and whole family stays home whole day. I try very hard to keep my energy usage low, and have smart thermostat, and basically PSE is saying that I somehow need to convert my central heating to electric? This is ridiculous. My bill average went down from \$240 during winter to around \$175, because I added insulation and smart thermostat, also sealed all the cracks, and now I need to add thousands of dollars (which I don't have to spare) to add more insulation to somehow make my 1966 home become warmer, or use build-in fireplace ? Which uses wood, and not efficient at all.</p> <p>The real reason they want to raise prices is because they replaced electric meters, (and I believe gas meters as well), which were in good shape and did not need replacement, with units that provide more frequent data signaling, which is not good for environment in general, and not necessary to have reading of the meter every couple seconds. They claim this will detect leaks, which is non-sense, since most of people have heating running 24/7, or some gas appliance (same with electric). They spent millions on that alone, and now unnecessary maintenance that came with those meters (I have PSE keep coming to check on my meter every couple weeks, without any notice, which is very disturbing. They just go walk around my lawn without any of my knowledge, and I only find out about it because of my motion sensor device that captures video. After calling them about this issue, and asking if they at least could post some note at the door, they still do same thing). Especially during COVID, they know someone most likely is home, and simply could be notified, or called/email ahead of time. Raising Energy during pandemic in general will get people to try to "save" and avoid using heating, or use it less... which could lead to unhealthy conditions.</p>
	James K. Carson	Web	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I can not for the life of me comprehend this new proposal of a possible 3.67 percent Increase in my electricity bill. Why are we or have we had these past Increases as I have or what seems to of and be happening. I do not have to tell you all we are in the middle of the worst pandemic since the Spanish flu.</p>

			Unemployment rates are the highest they have ever been. I have never in my life seen U.S. Citizens, In this wonderful country of ours that has been completely turned upside down, having to wait in food lines for hours just hopefully receive enough food to feed their family for a very short period of time. Now I am getting yet another notice that you all want to Increase the cost of electricity I use even more???? I further more do not understand your thinking in this dire situation where as you know in spite of a vaccine we still have hundreds if not thousands of God loving people of this country dying everyday. Please help us to decrease our bills.
	John Hansen	Web	I'm against it. One reason is I put up a lot of Christmas lights in December.
	William J McCarthy	Web	We have been encouraged to reduce energy consumption. We do so primarily because of rising electrical costs from PSE. Now one of the four reasons given for the requested 3.6% rate increase was decreasing s\customer electricity usage. This becomes an ever increasing costly circle for consumers especially those of us who are retired and on fixed incomes .To have a privately owned utility with stockholders that is guaranteed a profit by the State is inappropriate. We are against the rate increase and favor "nationalizing" PSE and have the company converted to a PUC.
	Gene Coulter	Web	Taken by CTC I'm a senior. Social Security. 3.56 doesn't sound like a lot to you, but if i got that much on my Social Security every year, I'd be happy. Plus in a ten-year period, that adds up to a 30% increase-- you're hurting seniors; in other words. There's gotta be a way to give a different rate because power bills are getting up there to the point where they're taking a big part of our social security. That's basically my feeling on it.
	John P Gross	Web	PSE cites "Decreasing customer electricity usage" as part of the basis for requesting a rate increase. The message is that reducing usage leads to higher rates to negate the savings? I have trouble with both the logic of that and incentive for power customers to invest in energy saving devices and processes. Not good energy policy!
Undecided			
	Christopher Beck	E-mail	External Email Hi - PSE is asking for tiered rate increases of 4.15% and 3.40% in proceedings currently before the Commission. I am not so much concerned about the rate increases as I am about the Commission using their power to push PSE to move away from fossil fuels as fast as possible. My hope is that the Commission use this opportunity, via its considerable regulatory leverage, to extract further PSE commitments to abandon carbon-based fuels. In particular, I want to see a concerted move to utility-scale implementation of wind, solar, and storage (especially long-duration storage). Christopher Beck
	Elizabeth Hauser	E-mail	Dear people, I have one short comment. If the rate hike makes any sense to you at all, make sure that PSE in turn does something to combat climate change. Make it something that actually reduces the carbon emissions entering the atmosphere, not a “green” program that just shifts the emissions from one region to another.

			Thank you for your important work. Elizabeth Hauser
Yes			
	Lisa Anderson	E-mail	Thank you for the reply. I was able to understand and see it better. For those who are on a fixed income it doesn't look like there will be a much of an increase
	Erica Pickett	E-mail	The proposed increase for PSE rates look reasonable to me, especially considering PSE's good record of using the money to maintain power lines and help users to conserve resources. Thank you, Erica Pickett Anacortes residential customer
	Erica Pickett	E-mail	The proposed increase for PSE rates look reasonable to me, especially considering PSE's good record of using the money to maintain power lines and help users to conserve resources. Thank you, Erica Pickett Anacortes residential customer
	Joe Spadoni	E-mail	You should have given PSE the full request amount. PSE responds quickly and efficiently to outages, works on providing value and clean resources. PSE has stepped up in a big way to the Covid pandemic despite your turning down their rate case last year. You shorted the utility last year at the worst time and they have overcome both the rate shortfall and the pandemic. Joe Spadoni
	David Habura	E-mail	I favor the PSE rate increase, support the help for low income customers, and rely on the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission's judgment. I would be a fool to believe I have the information or expertise to judge PSE's need for a rate increase. I would like to pay less for electricity, of course. BUT their service is reliable and responsive, scandal and corruption free, and not entangled with predatory politicians. And our rates are excellent compared to national averages. Thanks for Washington's clean energy efforts and for clean decision making in the public utility arena! David Habura