BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET UG-120388
)	
)	ORDER 01
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING LESS THAN
For Less Than Statutory Notice in)	STATUTORY NOTICE; ALLOWING
Connection with Tariff Revision)	TARIFF REVISION
)	

BACKGROUND

- On March 22, 2012, Puget Sound Energy, Inc., (PSE or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a revision to the WN U-2 Tariff, to submit Schedule 50, Emergency Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Service for vehicle fuel on short-term, emergency situations. On February 28, 2011, one of Pierce Transit's compressed natural gas fueling stations in Lakewood, Washington exploded. This explosion has forced Pierce Transit's buses to be fueled at remote locations. As an alternative, PSE has been working with Pierce Transit to offer firm sales service on an emergency basis under Schedule 50, Emergency Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Service so that Pierce Transit buses can be fueled at nearby PSE facilities at a comparable market price. On March 21, 2012, Pierce Transit informed PSE that repairs are expected to be complete by mid-April 2012, longer than original planned. Pierce Transit has requested the ability to fuel buses at PSE's Tacoma Location be extended until June 1, 2012.
- RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121 require thirty days' notice to customers prior to the effective date of the tariff. The tariff sheet bears an effective date of April 22, 2012. This date recognizes the required 30-day statutory notice. However, the Company requests less than statutory notice as permitted by WAC 480-80-122, and that the revision become effective April 1, 2012. PSE requests less than statutory notice to offer the service to a qualifying customer under the proposed tariff. Because of the emergency nature of this service, specific provisions are included in Schedule 50, Emergency Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Service such that the service is only available through April 1, 2012, and can only be provided to customers whose own compressed natural gas facilities are not available due to acts of God, acts of the public enemy, wars, natural disasters or other similarly-caused disruptions of facilities.

Since the proposed tariff revision appears to be fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, and less than statutory notice is consistent with the public interest, it is appropriate that the Commission grant PSE's request with an effective date of April 1, 2012.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.
- Puget Sound Energy, Inc., is a gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- Puget Sound Energy, Inc., is subject to RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121, which require gas companies to file changes in any rate or charges with thirty days' notice. For good cause shown, however, the Commission may allow changes without requiring thirty days notice by order specifying the changes to be made and the time when it shall take effect. RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-122.
- 7 (4) Staff has reviewed PSE's request in Docket UG-120388 and recommends the Commission grant the Company's request for less than statutory notice.
- 8 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 29, 2012.
- 9 (6) After reviewing PSE's proposed tariff revision filed on March 22, 2012, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds the proposed tariff revision should become effective April 1, 2012.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10 (1) Puget Sound Energy, Inc.'s request for less than statutory notice is granted.
- 11 (2) The tariff revisions Puget Sound Energy, Inc., filed on March 22, 2012, will be effective on April 1, 2012.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary