

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Request of PUGET SOUND ENERGY, Petitioner, For Less Than Statutory Notice in Connection with Tariff Revisions	DOCKET UG-180070 ORDER 01 ORDER GRANTING LESS THAN STATUTORY NOTICE; ALLOWING TARIFF REVISIONS
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BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 19, 2018, Puget Sound Energy, (PSE or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, designated as 26th Revision of Sheet No. 101-B and 7th Revision of Sheet No. 101-D. The purpose of this filing is to extend the current City of Medina 6 percent utility tax rate through to January 31, 2019, per City Ordinance 951.
- 2 RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121 require 30 days' notice to the Commission prior to the effective date of the tariff. The tariff sheets bear an effective date of February 19, 2018. This date recognizes the required 30-day statutory notice. The Company requests, however, less than statutory notice as permitted by WAC 480-80-122, and that the revisions become effective January 31, 2018. PSE requests less than statutory notice because the City of Medina 6 percent utility tax rate continues to be effective after January 31, 2018, and PSE only became aware of Ordinance 951 sometime around January 18, 2018. This request will allow PSE to implement the City of Medina's utility tax rate on the effective date of the ordinance.
- 3 WAC 480-90-194 requires notice to customers or publication of the increase sought in this filing. Granting PSE's less than statutory notice request also requires an exemption from WAC 480-90-194. For the same reason PSE identified for seeking less than statutory notice, the Company seeks an exemption from the notice requirements. PSE proposes to post notify customers through a bill message.
- 4 The tariff revisions to extend the current City of Medina 6 percent utility tax rate through to January 31, 2019, are necessary in order for PSE to continue to collect the 6 percent

utility tax from affected ratepayers. PSE's current tariff sunsets the 6 percent utility tax rate on January 31, 2018.

5 Commission staff (Staff) has reviewed the Company's filing and believes that granting the Company's request for less than statutory notice is in the public interest.

DISCUSSION

6 We grant the Company's request. Since the proposed tariff revisions appear 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 January 31, 2018.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

7 (1) The 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.

8 (2) PSE is a gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

9 (3) PSE 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 30 days' notice. For good cause shown, however, the Commission may allow changes without requiring 30 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.

10 (4) Staff has reviewed PSE's request in Docket UG-180070 and recommends the Commission grant the Company's request for less than statutory notice. Staff further recommends the Commission grant an exemption from WAC 480-90-194 and require PSE to post notify customers through a bill message.

11 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 25, 2018.

12 (6) After reviewing PSE's proposed tariff revisions filed on January 19, 2018, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the

Commission finds the proposed tariff revisions should become effective January 31, 2018.

- 13 (7) The Commission also finds PSE should be granted an exemption from the customer notice requirements in WAC 480-90-194.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) Puget Sound Energy's request for less than statutory notice is granted.
- 15 (2) After the effective date of this Order, Puget Sound Energy is granted an exemption from WAC 480-90-194, which requires a 30-day notice to customers of proposed changes to increase charges or restrict access in service. Puget Sound Energy must provide notice to customers through a bill message sent out to affected customers' in their next bill.
- 16 (3) The tariff revisions Puget Sound Energy filed on January 19, 2018, will be effective on January 31, 2018.

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 January 25, 2018.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary