



Puget Sound Energy
P.O. Box 97034
Bellevue, WA 98009-9734
PSE.com

July 21, 2020

Filed Via Web Portal

Mr. Mark L. Johnson, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

**Re: Advice No. 2020-22
PSE's Natural Gas Tariff Revision - Filed Electronically**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Pursuant to RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-101 and WAC 480-80-105(1)(c), please find enclosed for filing the following proposed revisions to the WN U-2, Tariff for natural gas service of Puget Sound Energy ("PSE"):

1st Revision of Sheet No. 1129-A.2 Schedule 129 Low Income Program (Continued)

The purpose of this filing is to revise PSE's Crisis Affected Customer Assistance Program ("CACAP") in order to utilize additional funds under PSE's Schedule 129 Low Income Program. This proposal does not change the current Schedule 129 rates. The CACAP is designed to provide assistance to Customers who are impacted by the current COVID-19 pandemic.

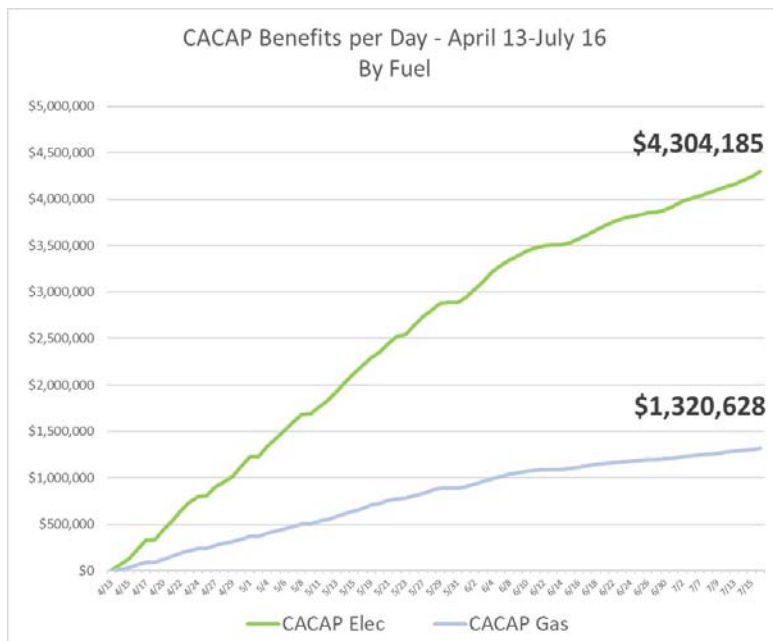
The CACAP benefits are currently a combined total of \$11,000,000. The total benefits of the CACAP available to natural gas Customers were initially capped at \$7,000,000. The total benefits of the CACAP available to electric Customers were initially capped at \$7,800,000. Both the electric and gas cap combined together were initially subject to the overall cap of \$11,000,000, and therefore it was possible that combined distributions may equal \$11,000,000, but each individual electric or natural gas cap may not be reached.

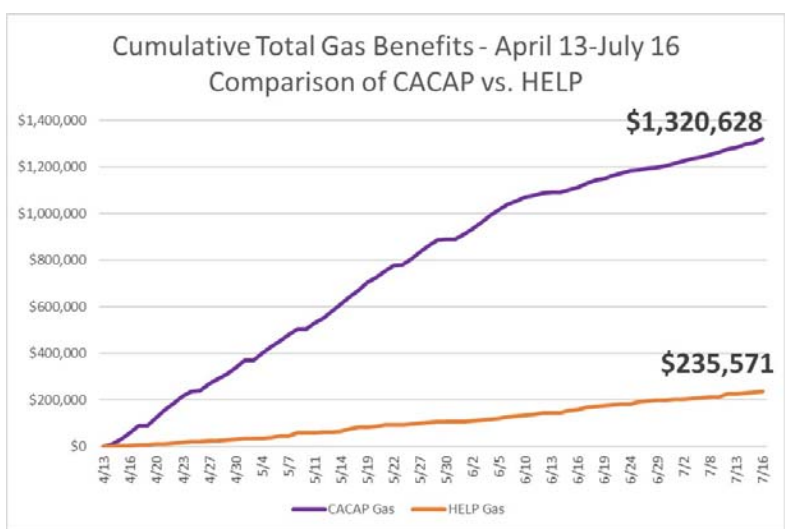
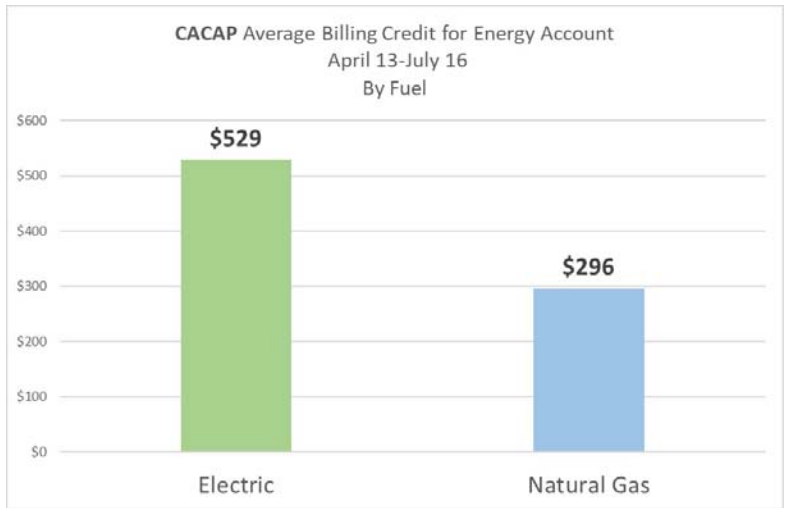
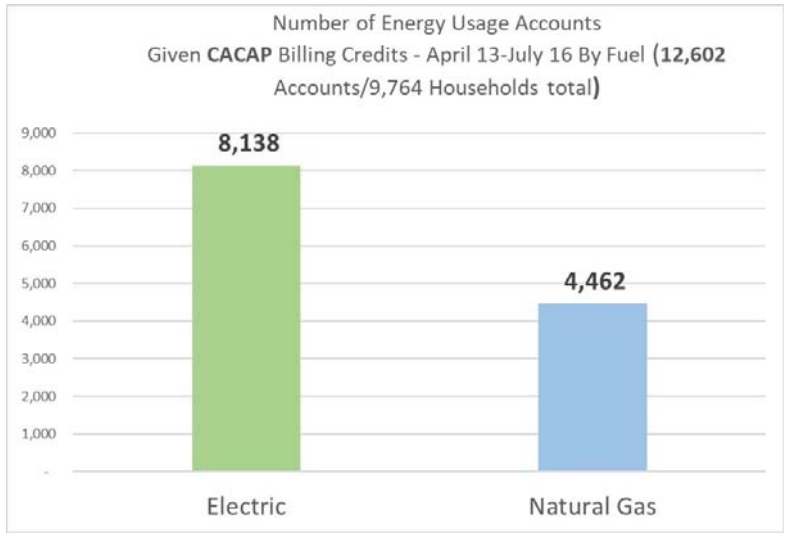
As of July 16 2020, the total benefits of the CACAP distributed to electric customers was \$4,304,185, and the total benefits of the CACAP distributed to natural gas Customers was \$1,320,628. PSE projects that a total of approximately \$4,500,000 additional electric and \$950,000 additional natural gas funds will be requested by qualifying customers by September 30, 2020.

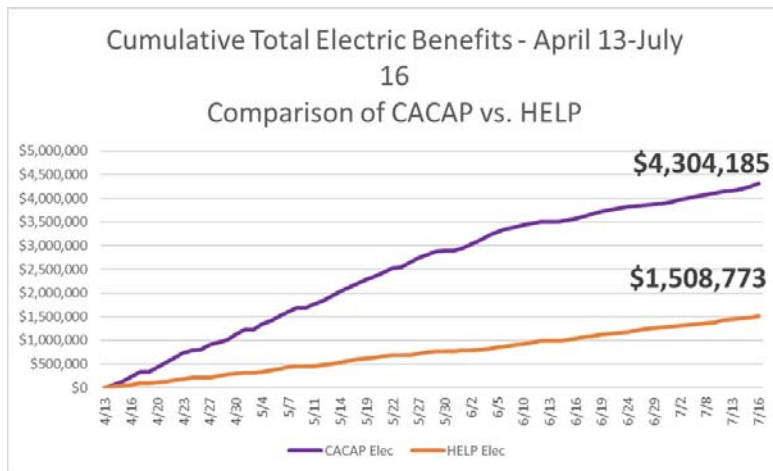
This is a targeted filing focused mainly on changing one item; in this filing, PSE proposes to adjust the electric CACAP cap, with the intention to ensure the ability to extend CACAP benefits

to qualifying electric customers through September 30, 2020 through the temporary use of available PSE HELP funding. This potential funding is only to be utilized in the event that the electric bill assistance benefits required for COVID-19 impacted customers exceed previous expectations. The total benefits of the CACAP available to electric customers, initially capped at \$7,800,000, will be adjusted to \$12,300,000. PSE recognizes that there still are additional carry-over gas HELP funds but based on projected CACAP spending through September 30, 2020 there is not an indication that the original gas cap will be exceeded; the total benefits of the CACAP available to natural gas Customers will remain capped at \$7,000,000 and PSE can address these carry-over gas HELP funds in a separate future filing, if necessary. The overall cap of \$11,000,000 will be removed to allow for each individual cap to be met. In order to maintain the current HELP program year electric funding level allocated to Community Action Agencies, any excess spending, if any, of current program year electric HELP funds will be collected through PSE's existing annual electric Schedule 129 true-up filing and subsequently made available to eligible HELP electric customers. This filing also establishes an end date of the CACAP of September 30, 2020.

As noted in PSE's monthly reports to the Low Income Advisory Committee, and the charts below, the disbursement of CACAP benefits to eligible customers has been very successful. Also notably, natural gas benefits distributed by CACAP compared to HELP have been distributed at a higher and faster rate.







Nothing changes in the calculation of benefits; the Company will continue to determine the CACAP benefit amount per Customer based upon the total March through August 2019 PSE energy bills for the premise where the Customer resides at the time of application. If energy bills for the time period of March through August 2019 are not available the Company will calculate the benefit using a fixed average per-day charge.

PSE previewed these changes at the most recent Low Income Advisory Committee meeting, and based on that conversation and subsequent emails, PSE believes that WUTC Staff, The Energy Project, Public Counsel and NWECC do not oppose PSE filing these tariff changes.

PSE respectfully requests that the Commission allow these tariff changes to become effective on July 31, 2020, with less than statutory notice (“LSN”) so that they can be approved under Proclamation 23 which waives/suspends laws relating to operation of utilities in order to provide relief to utility payers through the Commission and of which is set to expire on August 1, 2020. The information required by WAC 480-80-122 Tariff Changes with Less Than Statutory Notice, is contained in the attached LSN form.

The tariff sheets described herein reflect an issue date of July 21, 2020, and effective date of August 20, 2020. Posting of proposed tariff changes, as required by law and the Commission’s rules and regulations, is being completed through web, telephone and mail access in accordance with WAC 480-90-193.

Please contact Veronica Martin at (425) 457-5624 or veronica.martin@pse.com for general information about this filing, or contact Suzanne Sasville at (425) 424-6534 for additional information about the CACAP. If you have any other questions, please contact me at (425) 456-2142.

Mr. Mark L. Johnson, Executive Director and Secretary

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Sincerely,

/s/ Jon A. Piliaris

Jon A. Piliaris - Director, Regulatory Affairs

Puget Sound Energy

PO Box 97034, EST-07W

Bellevue, WA 98009-9734

(425) 456-2142

Jon.Piliaris@pse.com

cc: Lisa Gafken, Public Counsel
Sheree Carson, Perkins Coie

Attachments:

Natural Gas Tariff Sheet (listed above)

LSN Form