

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET UG-110401
TRANSPORTATION	)	
COMMISSION,	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,	)	
	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISION
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On March 1, 2011, Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (PSE or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a revision to its currently effective Tariff WN U-2, designated as Fifteenth Revision of Sheet No. 1120. The stated effective date is April 1, 2011. This tariff is the natural gas conservation service tracker.
- 2     In this filing, PSE would increase charges and rates for service by approximately \$4,913,753 or 0.50 percent. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Staff has not concluded its analysis to recommend that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 3     (1)    The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate 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](#).
- 4     (2)    PSE is a gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

- 5 (3) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 24, 2011.
- 6 (4) The tariff revision PSE filed on March 1, 2011, would increase charges and rates for service provided by PSE, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) Staff has not completed its analysis in order to recommend that the tariff revision would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 8 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in [RCW 80.04.130](#), the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate PSE's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of PSE's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of PSE's operations.
- 9 (7) As required by [RCW 80.04.130 \(4\)](#), PSE bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 10 (8) PSE may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with [RCW 80.20](#).

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 11 (1) The tariff revision Puget Sound Energy filed on March 1, 2011, is suspended.
- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 13 (3) Puget Sound Energy must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 14 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Puget Sound Energy's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.

- 15 (5) Puget Sound Energy shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with [RCW 80.20](#).

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 24, 2011.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner