

MINUTES

Thursday, March 25, 2021

9:30 A.M.

PRESENT: David Danner, Chairman
Jay Balasbas, Commissioner
Ann Rendahl, Commissioner

The regular meeting of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission was called to order on Thursday, March 25, 2021 by Chairman Danner. Mark Vasconi, Director, Regulatory Services, indicated no changes to the Agenda. Mark Vasconi, Director, Regulatory Services, indicated no changes for this agenda.

CONSENT: No Consent items for this agenda.

UTILITIES:

- A)1. 38:33 mp4 Docket Number UE-210114; Avista Corporation; Revises Tariff WN U-28, Schedule 73 Residential Debt Relief Program to establish and implement a temporary COVID-19 bill assistance program for residential customers effective April 1, 2021, following the Term Sheet the Commission approved in Docket U-200281. Under this program, the Company will administer financial relief to households that have participated in the Company's Energy Assistance Programs in the past two years, and households at or below 200 percent of federal poverty line, up to a maximum benefit of \$2500. The total funding available is \$6.5 million. The Company will defer the cost and seek recovery at a later date. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Jing Liu, staff; Corey Dahl, Public Counsel, Attorney General's Office; Shawn Collins, The Energy Project; Shawn Bonfield, Avista Corporation

The Commissioner's allowed the tariffs filed by Avista Corporation to become effective by operation of law.

- A)2. 38:33 mp4 Docket Number UG-210115; Avista Corporation; Add new Tariff sheets to WN U-29, Schedule 173, to revise Avista Corporation's Washington COVID-19 Bill Assistance – Residential Debt Relief Program effective April 1, 2021, following the term sheet the Commission approved in Docket U-200281. Avista will provide debt relief up to \$2,500 to qualifying low-income households. The total funding available is \$6.5 million. The Company will defer

the cost and seek recovery at a later date. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Jing Liu, staff; Corey Dahl, Public Counsel, Attorney General's Office; Shawn Collins, The Energy Project; Shawn Bonfield, Avista Corporation

The Commissioner's allowed the tariffs filed by Avista Corporation to become effective by operation of law.

- A)3. 38:33 mp4 Docket Number UE-210131; PacifiCorp; Revises WN U-76, adding a new tariff Schedule 119 to implement the Company's temporary COVID-19 residential bill assistance program (Automatic Grant, for customers who have received low income assistance through the Company, and Arrearage Forgiveness Grant, for certain other customers), effective April 1, 2021, following the Term Sheet the Commission approved in Docket U-200281. The total funding available is \$3.1 million. The Company will defer the cost and seek recovery at a later date. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Jing Liu, staff; Corey Dahl, Public Counsel, Attorney General's Office; Shawn Collins, The Energy Project; Ariel Sun, PacifiCorp

The Commissioner's allowed the tariffs filed by PacifiCorp to become effective by operation of law.

- A)4. 38:33 mp4 Docket Number UG-210137; Puget Sound Energy; Revises Tariff WN U-2, Schedule 129, to implement PSE's second Crisis Affected Customer Assistance Program (CACAP-2), effective April 12, 2021. CACAP-2 will provide up to \$2,500 in bill assistance for each qualifying low-income household, per program year, with a total program budget of \$7,700,000 for gas customers. The Company will defer the cost and seek recovery at a later date. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Jing Liu, staff; Corey Dahl, Public Counsel, Attorney General's Office; Shawn Collins, The Energy Project; Eric Englert, Puget Sound Energy

The Commissioner's allowed the tariffs filed by Puget Sound Energy to become effective by operation of law.

- A)5. 38:33 mp4 Docket Number UE-210138; Puget Sound Energy; Revises Tariff WN U-60, Schedule 129, to implement PSE's second Crisis Affected Customer Assistance Program (CACAP-2), effective April 12, 2021. CACAP-2 will provide up to \$2,500 in bill assistance for each qualifying low-income household, per program year, with a total program budget of \$20,000,000 for electric customers.

The Company will defer the cost and seek recovery at a later date. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Jing Liu, staff; Corey Dahl, Public Counsel, Attorney General's Office; Shawn Collins, The Energy Project; Eric Englert and Teresa Burch, Puget Sound Energy

The Commissioner's allowed the tariffs filed by Puget Sound Energy to become effective by operation of law.

- A)6. 38:34 mp4 Docket Number UG-210145; Cascade Natural Gas Corporation; Revises Tariff WN U-3, adding new tariff Schedule 304 to implement the Company's temporary COVID-19 residential bill assistance program (Big Heart grant), effective April 1, 2021, following the Term Sheet the Commission approved in Docket U-200281. The total funding available is \$2.5 million. The Company will defer the cost and seek recovery at a later date. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Jing Liu, staff; Corey Dahl, Public Counsel, Attorney General's Office; Shawn Collins, The Energy Project; Mike Parvinen, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

The Commissioner's allowed the tariffs filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to become effective by operation of law.

- A)7. 1:23:45 mp4 Docket Number UE-200413; Puget Sound Energy; Petition to amend the date by which the company must file its draft request for proposals for demand response resources from the April 1, 2021, due date established in Order 04 to November 15, 2021. The petition further asks to expand the scope of the request for proposals to include all distributed energy resources. Petition

Appearances: Kyle Frankiewich, staff; Kara Durbin, Puget Sound Energy

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved to issue an order granting Puget Sound Energy's petition to amend Order 04 to require PSE to file a draft request for proposals targeted at distributed energy resources by November 15, 2021. Commissioner Balasbas seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

- A)8. 1:32:15 mp4 Docket Number UE-210122; Puget Sound Energy; Revises Tariff WN U-60, Schedule 551 Electric Vehicle Non-Residential Charging Products and Services to shift from time-based rates to energy-based rates, and to institute a new charge for the time when an electric vehicle stays at a charging port but is no longer charging. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Andrew Rector, staff; Eric Englert and Heather Mulligan, Puget Sound Energy; Anna Drayton, NW Energy Coalition

The Commissioner's took no action, thereby allowing PSE's proposed revisions to Schedule 551 – Electric Vehicle Non-residential Charging Products and Services to become effective March 26, 2021, by operation of law.

TRANSPORTATION:

- B)1. 02:18 mp4 Docket Number TG-200987; Peninsula Sanitation Service, Inc.; General Rate Case in compliance with Order 03 issued in Docket TG-190476 that would generate approximately \$350,000 additional annual revenue. The company provides solid waste collection service to 3,000 customers in Pacific County. The company's last general rate increase became effective February 1, 2014. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Benjamin Sharbono, staff

The Commissioner's took no action, allowing the tariff revisions filed by Peninsula Sanitation Service, Inc., on December 15, 2020, to go into effective April 1, 2021, by operation of law.

- B)2. 06:13 mp4 Docket Number TG-210038; Mason County Garbage Co., Inc.; Tariff revisions for a general rate increase that would generate approximately \$541,000 (7.4 percent) in additional annual revenue for the collection of garbage, recycling in Mason County. The company's last general rate increase was effective April 1, 2013 and brought the company an additional \$139,000 in revenue. The company serves approximately 13,800 residential garbage, 14,000 residential recycling customers, 100 roll off, and 1,000 commercial customers in Mason County. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Tiffany Van Meter, staff; Heather Garland, Mason County Garbage Co., Inc.

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved to issue an order requiring a compliance filing removing asset salvage values from rates, to become effective no later than April 1, 2024, and allowing the tariff pages filed on January 19, 2021, as revised on March 18, 2021, to take effective April 1, 2021. Commissioner Balasbas seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

OTHER:

- C)1. 15:40 mp3 Docket Number U-210187; Washington Department of Commerce; Informational briefing by Washington Department of Commerce regarding rental and low-income utility assistance programs offered by the agency. Special Presentation

Appearances: Cecil Daniels, Department of Commerce

RECESSED: No Recessed items for this agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 AM

Attested by _____
Mark L. Johnson, Executive Director