



PUGET SOUND ENERGY (PSE) GENERAL RATE CASE INFORMATION SHEET

Prepared by Public Counsel Unit, Attorney General's Office
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The Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel) represents the interests of residential and small business customers of electric, gas, water, and telecommunications companies and customers of transportation companies regulated by the Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC). Public Counsel keeps private utilities accountable to ratepayers by opposing unfair or unreasonable price increases. This role is more important than ever as many private utilities are dramatically raising prices, and the cost of living is increasing.

Puget Sound Energy's Rate Increase Proposal

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is a private utility monopoly that serves 1.2 million electric and 900,000 natural gas customers in Washington. On February 27, 2026, PSE filed a general rate case to increase electricity and natural gas rates for Washington customers. If approved, the new rates go into effect on February 1, 2027.

This proposal would increase customer electricity rates by \$28.31 per month in the first year and 28% over the next three years. By 2029, the average customer's electric bill would increase by \$50.58 a month, or roughly \$606.96 per year. Gas rates would go up by \$13.63 per month in the first year, and 20% over the next four years. By 2029, the average customer's gas bill would increase by \$21.96 a month, or \$263.52 per year. Over the next three years, PSE would raise rates by \$3.4 billion compared with today's energy bills.

PSE may only impose rate increases on customers that are fair, just, reasonable, equitable, and sufficient.

Public Counsel's Position

The AG's office argues that PSE's proposed rate increases are excessive and unreasonable.

By lowering PSE's return on equity to the actual cost of capital, asking shareholders to pay their fair share of expenses such as insurance, trade association dues, and executive compensation costs, and by demanding PSE more accurately estimate future costs, the AG's office believes PSE could save customers as much as \$1.6 billion in 2027 alone.

PSE's requested rate increase would guarantee them a profit margin of 10.8% over the next four years. Their current profit margin is 9.9%. The AG's office instead urges the UTC to support a lower profit margin of 8.17%.

Private Utilities

Private utility companies are licensed by the state to operate as monopolies in their service areas. Under law, when utility monopolies want to raise rates, they must be approved by the UTC. Utilities may only impose rate increases on customers that are fair, just, and reasonable, and in the public interest. The law also created Public Counsel in the AG's office, who advocate for ratepayers.





If you have questions, you can contact Public Counsel by email at: utility@atg.wa.gov, or by mail at:

**Attorney General's Office, Public Counsel Unit,
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000,
Seattle, WA 98104.**

Process for Commission Decision

On February 2, 2026, the UTC issued an order setting the rate case for formal adjudication on the grounds that "PSE's requested increase might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public, and PSE has not yet demonstrated that the increase would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient." The next step is for the Commission to review the filing and issue a decision. The UTC will hold an evidentiary hearing on November 4-5, 2026 and new rates will go into effect no later than February 1, 2027.

Submit a Comment

If you would like to comment on PSE's unreasonably steep rate increase, the Commission is holding a virtual Public Comment Hearing on Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. You can participate remotely via the Zoom links below or by phone.

Join via Zoom by visiting: <https://utc-wa-gov.zoom.us/j/82213518474?pwd=BmsrsNzVWp6WmQpoBdLBoxxvxD6Qb0.1>

Join via phone by calling: (253) 215-8782 and use Meeting ID: 822 1351 8474# and Passcode: 226995#

The public can additionally submit comments in the following ways:

- Via UTC web form at: utc.wa.gov/consumers/ (click on "Submit a Comment" link)
- By e-mail at: comments@utc.wa.gov
- By mail at: UTC, P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250
- By phone: 1-888-333-WUTC (9882)

Please include the following in any written comment: your name, mailing address, the name of the company (PSE), and the Docket Number UE-260005 or UG-260006. For more information, see the UTC's webpage here: <http://www.utc.wa.gov/>, or call 1-800-562-6150.

For concerns involving the application of equity and justice in UTC and regulated companies' processes and decisions, you can reach out directly to equity-focused staff within the UTC by emailing EquityFeedback215@utc.wa.gov