



## News Release

### **Puget Sound Energy's Natural-Gas Customers Receive 3rd Rate Cut This Year**

BELLEVUE, Wash., Oct 30, 2002 (BUSINESS WIRE) -- State regulators today approved an overall 12.5 percent cut in natural-gas rates for customers of Puget Sound Energy, the utility subsidiary of Puget Energy (NYSE:PSD).

The rate reduction, effective Nov. 1, averages 11.4 percent for residential customers. Their monthly savings, based on typical household gas usage of 80 therms per month, will average \$6.80. Customers who heat their homes with natural gas, however, will see greater savings in winter months as their energy consumption rises.

"As fall temperatures drop and gas use goes up, the effects of this rate reduction will be more apparent for our customers," said Tim Hogan, PSE's senior vice president of external affairs. "It's a welcome development with the approach of winter."

Today's action by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission marks the third cut in PSE's natural-gas rates this year. Each of those rate reductions was in response to lower-than-anticipated wholesale prices the utility pays to acquire gas for its customers.

Taken together, the three rate decreases mean PSE's residential customers now are paying about 28 percent less for natural gas than they paid a year ago. The typical monthly household gas bill (based on 80 therms of usage, year-round) has dropped by about \$20 this year -- to \$52.57 per month.

Puget Sound Energy, a combined electric and natural-gas utility, serves 615,000 gas customers in parts of Snohomish, King, Pierce, Thurston, Lewis, and Kittitas counties.

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