



News Release

PSE Expands upon Energy-Conservation Effort; Filing with Regulators Sets Two-Year Targets to Improve Energy Efficiency, Consistent with Energy-Resource Plan

BELLEVUE, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Nov. 5, 2003--Implementing its plan to provide customers with reliable and stable sources of energy supplies, Puget Sound Energy (the utility subsidiary of Puget Energy (NYSE:PSD)) filed a request with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) to expand upon its conservation programs to achieve elevated 2004 and 2005 targets for energy savings.

PSE's filing calls for its expanded energy-efficiency programs to save its customers approximately 39.2 average megawatts (aMW) of electricity and more than 5-million therms of natural gas over the next two years. These increased energy-savings goals are aggressive based on the findings of the updated Least Cost Plan that PSE filed with the WUTC in August.

"While households and businesses in our service area have saved more than 15 average megawatts of electricity and 2.1 million therms of natural gas over the past 12 months, we are confident they can use energy even more efficiently on an ongoing basis with some additional tools and programs," said Cal Shirley, director of energy efficiency services for PSE. "The increased conservation targets are a tribute to our customers' commitment to energy efficiency and the environment."

The filing details a broad array of programs serving residential, commercial and industrial customers. The programs are designed to help all types of customers lower their electricity and natural-gas usage -- and cut their bills -- by offering technical assistance, cost-benefit analyses and a variety of financial incentives. They range from consumer rebates on energy-efficient appliances, furnaces, water heaters and lighting to customized grants for upgrading energy-intensive commercial and industrial equipment.

PSE developed its expanded energy-efficiency strategy in consultation with customer groups, environmental organizations and state regulators.

"The NW Energy Coalition enthusiastically commends Puget Sound Energy's pursuit of energy efficiency," said Sara Patton, executive director of the NW Energy Coalition. "The utility really understands that saved energy is the cheapest and cleanest energy. PSE is working to hold down customers' bills at the same time it invests in the long-term health of the utility and the community."

The filing also details several pilot programs PSE plans to roll out over the next two years. These pilot programs will feature a variety of offerings such as heat-pump maintenance, multi-family lighting retrofits, mobile-home duct systems for residential customers, and HVAC maintenance for commercial customers.

"The pilot programs will test the effectiveness of certain energy-efficiency offerings and their application to our customers," Shirley said. "We expect these pilot programs to contribute approximately 8.3 average megawatts and 1.2 million therms to our energy-efficiency targets for 2004 and 2005."

Pending WUTC approval, PSE's filing is a major step in its strategy to ensure stable energy supplies and reasonable prices for its customers through a balanced resource portfolio featuring energy efficiency, renewable resources and efficient thermal generation. Recently, PSE also filed a draft request for proposals with the WUTC to acquire 150 megawatts (MW) of wind power and signed an agreement to acquire a 49.85-percent share of a clean-burning, natural gas-fired power plant near Tacoma, Wash.

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