



## News Release

### **Puget Sound Energy requests 16.7 cents per therm adjustment on all natural gas bills to recover higher wholesale gas costs**

(Bellevue, Wash., June 28, 2000) -- With natural gas prices on the open market nearly double the prices of a year ago, Puget Sound Energy today filed a routine request with state regulators to pass through the rising costs of natural gas purchased for customers under terms of the long established purchased gas adjustment (PGA) mechanism.

The request, filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), seeks an upward adjustment of 16.7 cents per therm on bills for all Puget Sound Energy natural gas sales customers—industrial, commercial and residential. With the adjustment, requested to go into effect Aug. 1, 2000, the average household Puget Sound Energy natural gas bill would go up about \$13 a month, to \$64.

The PGA mechanism passes through to customers increases or decreases in the gas supply portion of the natural gas service rates based upon changes in the price of natural gas purchased from producers and wholesale marketers. Puget Sound Energy does not profit from changes under the PGA. The PGA is separate from Puget Sound Energy's general gas service rates that have been under a rate stability plan since 1997.

The Energy Information Administration of the U.S. Department of Energy estimates wholesale natural gas prices nationwide will be 50 percent higher this summer and 60 percent higher this heating season, compared to the same period last year.

It is anticipated that the WUTC will make a decision by July 31.

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