

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of	)	DOCKET NO. UG-031617
	)	
PUGET SOUND ENERGY,	)	ORDER NO. 1
	)	
Applicant,	)	
	)	
To Amend its Certificate of Public	)	
Convenience and Necessity to Operate	)	
a Gas Plant for Hire in the General	)	ORDER GRANTING
Area of Centralia, Lewis County	)	APPLICATION
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On October 3, 2003, in compliance with RCW 80.28.190, Puget Sound Energy Inc. (PSE) filed an application to amend its present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire, to include an additional area in designated portions of Centralia, Lewis County which are contiguous to presently certificated areas. (Appendix A-6).
- 2     PSE is presently certificated for and is now providing gas service in Western Washington. PSE is requesting a certificate to expand the service area northwest of Central, Lewis County. The additional area requested is contiguous to the existing certificated area. (See attachment for legal description.)
- 3     This filing requests no determination at this time as to the reasonableness of the gas pipeline facility to service this addition to PSE’s service area. The filing is consistent with the right of the Commission to determine such reasonable services and expenditures, together with the treatment of same, in any formal proceeding before the Commission dealing with PSE’s results of operation for ratemaking purposes.

4 It appears that PSE is best suited to serve the requested service territory economically, therefore, the application should be granted to satisfy the public convenience and necessity.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW, and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*

6 (2) PSE is a gas company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

7 (3) RCW 80.28.190 states no gas company shall operate in this state any gas plant for hire without first having obtained from the Commission a certificate declaring that public convenience and necessity requires or will require such operation and setting forth the area or areas within which service is to be rendered.

8 (4) PSE has previously been issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate a gas plant for hire.

9 (5) PSE has filed an application to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to include an additional area in designated portions of Centralia, Lewis County. This area is contiguous to PSE's presently certificated area.

- 10 (6) Commission Staff has reviewed the Company's application and recommends the operation of a gas plant for hire in the additional area requested is required for the public convenience and necessity.
- 11 (7) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 8, 2003.
- 12 (8) After review of the request filed in Docket UG-031617 by PSE and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public convenience and necessity that the Certificate of PSE be amended to reflect the addition of the additional area applied for herein.

## ORDER

### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The application of Puget Sound Energy to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire within the certificated area in a designated portion of Centralia, Lewis County is granted and the Certificate shall be in accordance with the attached Appendix A-6.
- 14 (2) This Order makes no determination at this time as to the reasonableness of the gas pipeline facility to serve this addition to Puget Sound Energy's service area, and recognizes the right of the Commission to determine such reasonable services and expenditures, together with treatment of same, in any formal proceeding before the Commission dealing with Puget Sound Energy's results of operations for ratemaking purposes.

- 15 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Puget Sound Energy to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 8<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary