



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160 • www.utc.wa.gov

May 9, 2014

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS
ON PROPOSED RULE
(By Monday, June 9, 2014)**
and
**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE ADOPTION HEARING
(Set for Wednesday, July 2, 2014, at 10:30 a.m.)**

RE: Rulemaking to consider amending WAC 480-93-223, increasing the maximum civil penalty for violations involving gas pipeline operators, Docket PG-140105

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:

This letter informs you of the progress made in this rulemaking docket concerning the possible adoption of proposed revisions to WAC 480-93-223, "Gas Companies – Safety". rules governing natural gas pipeline operators to increase the maximum civil penalties for violations of the gas pipeline safety laws and regulations from \$100,000 to \$200,000 per violation, and a maximum penalty for a related series of violations from \$1,000,000 to \$2,000,000. This letter also provides notice of an opportunity to file written comments on the proposed rule amendments and to participate in the formal rule adoption hearing scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on July 2, 2014.

On May 7, 2014, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) filed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CR-102) with the Office of the Code Reviser. The proposed rule would provide for the enforcement of pipeline safety standards by injunctive and monetary sanctions that are at a minimum, as stringent as those set out at the federal level under the Code of Federal Regulations. State agency participation in the federal pipeline safety program requires the agency to adopt each federal safety standard applicable to intrastate pipelines under its jurisdiction. The Commission has reviewed comments received from stakeholders received to date in this docket and has prepared a proposed rule for review and comment by interested persons. The proposed rule is available for inspection on the Commission's web page at www.utc.wa.gov/140105. If you are unable to access the Commission's web page and would like a copy of the

proposed rule mailed to you, please contact the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234. The CR-102 filing initiates the final part of the rulemaking process, which includes a written comment period, a public adoption hearing, and a decision by the Commission.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

The Commission gives notice of your opportunity to submit written comments on the proposed rule to the Commission by filing with the Commission Executive Director and Secretary either by electronic transmission as described below, or by physical delivery to 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., P.O. Box 47250, Olympia, Washington, 98504-7250, no later than **5:00 p.m., Monday, June 9, 2014**. The proposed rule, as filed with the Code Reviser, is available for inspection on the Commission's web site at <http://www.utc.wa.gov/140105>.

Electronic copies: The Commission requests that comments be provided in electronic format to enhance public access, for ease of providing comments, to reduce the need for paper copies, and to facilitate quotations from the comments. You may submit comments via the Commission's Web portal at <http://www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing> or by electronic mail to the Commission's Records Center at records@utc.wa.gov. Please include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (PG-140105)
- The commenting party's name
- The title and date of the comment or comments

An alternative method for submitting comments is mailing or delivering an electronic copy to the Commission's Records Center on a flash drive, compact disk (CD), or 3 ½ inch, IBM-formatted, high density disk, in .pdf Adobe Acrobat format or in Word 2010 or later format. Include all of the information requested above. The Commission will post on the Commission's web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at <http://www.utc.wa.gov/140105>. If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a flash drive or CD, the Commission will always accept a paper document.

ADOPTION HEARING

The Commission gives further notice of your opportunity to attend the public hearing and make oral comments about the proposal for the adoption of the proposed rule at **10:30 a.m., Wednesday, July 2, 2014**. This public hearing will be held in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, S.W., Olympia, Washington.

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FUTURE

The Commission will post information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments, on its website as it becomes available. If you wish to receive further information on this rulemaking you may:

- 1) Call the Commission's Records Center at 360-664-1234.
- 2) E-mail the Commission at records@utc.wa.gov.
- 3) Mail written comments to the address below.

When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket PG-140105 to ensure that you are included on the appropriate service list.

The Commission's mailing address is:

Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Questions? If you have questions about this Notice, about the rulemaking process, or this rulemaking in particular, you may contact Anthony Dorrough at (360) 664-1318 or email at adorroug@utc.wa.gov, or Joe Subsits at (360) 664-1322 or email at jsubsits@utc.wa.gov.

STEVEN V. KING
Executive Director and Secretary