

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET PG-121050
)	
PUGET SOUND ENERGY,)	ORDER 01
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
Seeking Authorization to Operate a)	
Facility with a Maximum Allowable)	
Operating Pressure Greater Than 250)	
PSIG Pursuant to WAC 480-93-020)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 12, 2012, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting Commission approval to operate a pipeline at greater than 250 psig (pounds per square inch gauge).

- 2 A gas pipeline company must have permission from the Commission to operate a pipeline at greater than 250 psig within one hundred feet of certain buildings described in WAC 480-93-020.

- 3 PSE has identified 505 such structures within 100 feet of the proposed pipeline.

- 4 PSE proposes to initiate the Salishan High Pressure (HP) Uprate Project in August 2012. The purpose of the project is to increase the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) in the Salishan system from the current 150 psig to 250 psig. The Salishan Supply consists of 6.1 miles of 8" HP main. The MAOP of the supply is currently limited to 150 psig. The increase in pressure will improve the capacity of the south Tacoma area, including the Pierce Transit Supply system.

- 5 The Commission has adopted the Code of Federal Regulation, Title 49, Part 192 and 480-93 of the Washington Administrative Code as minimum standards for natural gas pipeline construction. The most restrictive natural gas pipeline safety rules specify that pipelines in a highly populated area (Class 4 Location) be operated at pressures producing a hoop stress of no greater than 40 percent of the specified minimum yield strength (SMYS) of the pipe. During the temporary pressure authorization, the Pierce Transit Supply may be

subjected to a pressure 268 psig or a hoop stress of 14.64 percent of SMYS, less than 40 percent SMYS for Class 4 Location. The Salishan Supply may be subjected to 19.53 percent SMYS at 268 psig during the uprate process to ensure that the entirety of the Salishan system will be subjected to a pressure no less than 250 psig during the fourth and final incremental pressure increase and subsequent leak survey.

6 Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommended the Commission grant the petition subject to the following condition(s):

(a) Filings and Notices

1. PSE will follow the uprate procedure detailed in the PSE Salishan Uprate Procedure, filed 7/2/12, with the Commission. If there are any changes to the procedure, the Commission shall receive a copy of the procedure update at least 5 business days before the uprate can proceed.
2. Prior to the commencement of the uprate, the Commission shall receive a telephonic notice of the project's start followed by an email confirmation at least two business days in advance.
3. Residents along the pipeline right-of-way will be contacted and informed of the uprate.

(b) Design and Construction

1. PSE will maintain the pipe stress level for natural gas at or below 19.53 percent of the SMYS, on any of the systems subject to this petition, during the temporary pressure increase to 268 psig.
2. PSE will repair all leaks on all systems being subjected to a pressure increase or uprate, including class "C" leaks, before the operation may commence. If new leaks occur during any of the pressure increments, they will be remediated before increasing the pressure to the next increment.

(c) Operations and Maintenance

1. PSE shall not operate the Salishan Supply in excess of 250 psig, except during the testing period requested, without further Commission approval.

2. PSE will provide a 24-hour Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system to monitor the system operating pressures during the uprate procedure.
3. PSE will conduct leak surveys on the pipeline in accordance with PSE Operating Standard 2625.1100. The surveys are to be conducted no less frequent than quarterly for the first year and semi-annually for the second year, unless additional surveys are required by Commission rules.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to adopt and enforce rules for gas pipeline safety. RCW 81.88.040 and RCW 81.88.065.
- 8 (2) PSE is a gas pipeline company and subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 9 (3) In WAC 480-93, the Commission has adopted minimum standards for gas pipeline construction. Pursuant to these standards, gas pipelines are designed to withstand higher pressure than the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) prescribed by these rules. The most restrictive gas pipeline safety rules specify that pipelines in a highly populated area must be operated at pressures producing a hoop stress of no greater than 40 percent of the specified minimum yield strength (SMYS) of the pipe. The two HP system MAOPs included in this request are below a design factor of 0.20 which exceeds the 0.40 factor for Class 4 locations.
- 10 (4) The proposed uprated pipeline system will be operated by Puget Sound Energy. The purpose of the Salishan HP Supply uprate is to improve reliability to the south Tacoma area, including the Pierce Transit Supply system.
- 11 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 9, 2012.
- 12 (6) After reviewing PSE's petition and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to conditionally grant PSE's request to operate at greater than 250 psig.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) After the effective date of this Order, the petition of Puget Sound Energy for authorization to operate a pipeline at greater than 250 pounds per square inch up to and including 268 psig is granted for the purposes of maintaining system stability during the Salishan uprate to 250 psig.
- 14 (2) This authorization is conditioned on:
- (a) **Filings and Notices**
1. PSE will follow the uprate procedure detailed in the PSE Salishan Uprate Procedure, filed 7/2/12, with the Commission. If there are any changes to the procedure, the Commission shall receive a copy of the procedure update at least 5 business days before the uprate can proceed.
 2. Prior to the commencement of the uprate, the Commission shall receive a telephonic notice of the project's start followed by an email confirmation at least two business days in advance.
 3. Residents along the pipeline right-of-way will be contacted and informed of the uprate and any additional information found in the public awareness requirements of Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), Title 49, Part 192.616.
- (b) **Design and Construction**
1. PSE will maintain the pipe stress level for natural gas at or below 19.53 percent of the SMYS, on any of the systems subject to this petition, during the temporary pressure increase to 268 psig.
 2. PSE will repair all leaks on all systems being subjected to a pressure increase or uprate, including class "C" leaks, before the operation may commence. If new leaks occur during any of the

pressure increments, they will be remediated before increasing the pressure to the next increment.

(c) **Operations and Maintenance**

1. PSE shall not operate the Salishan Supply in excess of 250 psig, except during the testing period requested, without further Commission approval.
2. PSE will provide a 24-hour Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system to monitor the system operating pressures during the uprate procedure.
3. PSE will conduct leak surveys on the pipeline in accordance with PSE Operating Standard 2625.1100. The survey is to be conducted no less frequent than quarterly for the first year and semi-annually for the second year, unless additional surveys are required by Commission rules.

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

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective August 9, 2012.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner