

Agenda Date: August 9, 2012
Item Number: A2

Docket: PG-121050
Company Name: Puget Sound Energy

Staff: Dave Cullom, Pipeline Safety Engineer

Recommendation

Issue an order granting PSE's request to temporarily operate a pipeline at pressures up to 268 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) subject to the conditions recommended by staff.

Discussion

Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is proposing to uprate the Salishan Supply system. In the process of performing this uprate, PSE is requesting permission to temporarily operate the Salishan Supply and the Pierce Transit Supply up to, but not to exceed 268 psig for a total of 48 hours within a 30 day period. The purpose of the Salishan HP Supply uprate is to improve reliability to the south Tacoma area, including the Pierce Transit Supply system.

A gas pipeline company must have permission from the Commission to operate a pipeline at greater than 250 psig, up to and including 500 psig, within one hundred feet of certain buildings described in [WAC 480-93-020](#). 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 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.

Conclusion

After examination of the request and giving consideration to all relevant matters, staff recommends the Commission issue an Order granting PSE's request to temporarily operate above 250 psig and subject to the conditions in the Order.