

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET NO. PG-041624
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER NO. 08
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	ORDER MODIFYING ORDER
)	NO. 7 APPROVING
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,)	SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT
)	
Respondent.)	
.....)	

Synopsis: The Commission clarifies and modifies Order No. 07 to reflect the exact language of the Complaint initiating this proceeding.

1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDING.** Docket No. PG-014624 is a complaint proceeding initiated by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) against Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (PSE or the company) and an emergency adjudicative proceeding to determine whether to order emergency relief. The complaint arises out of an explosion on September 2, 2004, at the house located at 16645 SE 26th Place, Bellevue, Washington where natural gas service was provided by PSE.

2 **APPEARANCES.** James F. Williams, Perkins Coie LLP, Bellevue, Washington, represents PSE. Cheryl A. Zakrzewski, Assistant City Attorney, Bellevue, Washington, represents the City of Bellevue. Donald T. Trotter, Assistant Attorney General, Olympia, Washington, represents Commission Staff.

3 **BACKGROUND.** On October 7, 2005, the Commission entered Order No. 07 in which it approved a settlement agreement filed by the parties disposing of all

issues in this proceeding. In the Order, the Commission related the history of the proceeding, stating in part: "The Commission immediately initiated an Emergency Adjudication to investigate the cause of the explosion, which was alleged to be incorrect wiring in the VASA Park Rectifier."¹

4 **REQUEST FOR MODIFICATION.** In a motion filed by Commission Staff on October 12, 2005, and joined in by all the parties to the proceeding, the parties request that the Commission clarify and modify the language in Order No. 07 stating that the alleged cause of the September 2, 2005 explosion was incorrect wiring in the Vasa Park rectifier. The parties state that paragraph 14 of Commission Staff's September 13, 2004 Complaint explicitly alleges that corrosion in the service line caused the explosion, and that the incorrect configuration of the rectifier may have caused a condition dangerous to the public. The parties request that the Commission revise Order No. 07 to fully reflect the allegations contained in the Complaint.

5 **DISCUSSION AND DECISION.** We find that Order No. 07 should be corrected to fully reflect the language of the Complaint initiating this proceeding.

6 The Complaint states that natural gas entered Mrs. Schmitz' house through a leak in her service line;² Mrs. Schmitz's service line was served by a cathodic protection system, part of which was the Vasa Park rectifier;³ the cathodic protection system was designed to prevent or reduce corrosion;⁴ and, the Vasa Park rectifier was incorrectly configured at the time of the explosion.⁵ The Complaint explicitly states: "Based on the information available at this time, the Commission alleges the leak in [Mrs. Schmitz'] service pipe was caused by corrosion."⁶ Therefore, the parties are correct and the language in the third

¹ Order No. 07, ¶ 4.

² Complaint, ¶ 10.

³ Complaint, ¶ 13.

⁴ Complaint, ¶ 12.

⁵ Complaint, ¶ 15.

⁶ Complaint, ¶ 14.

sentence of paragraph 4 of Order No. 07 should be revised as follows: “The Commission immediately initiated an Emergency Adjudication to investigate the cause of the explosion, which was alleged to be a leak in the service pipe caused by corrosion. The service pipe was connected to the cathodic protection system provided by the Vasa Park Rectifier. [footnote omitted]”

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS That Order No. 07 Approving Settlement Agreement is be modified as stated in the text of this Order.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 19th day of October, 2005.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner