



STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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May 2, 2006

Jeanine Livingston
Contracting Compliance Specialist
Washington Federation of State Employees
1212 Jefferson Street SE, Suite 300
Olympia, WA 98501

Dear Ms. ^{Jeanine} Livingston:

The Utilities and Transportation Commission plans is considering entering into a contract with an expert witness to provide consultation and advice in connection with compliance with a commission order. This case relates to a Puget Sound Energy (PSE) under Docket No. PG-041624 in which a gas pipeline exploded causing the death of a Bellevue woman in her home.

Under this order, PSE is required to perform a detailed risk study of all coated steel gas service pipelines in order to assess the risk of failure due to corrosion. This work requires knowledge and experience in the mechanics of corrosion and computer software used to analyze and prioritize risk based on numerous environmental factors. This work is highly specialized and falls outside the normal work of employees. The company has hired a consultant to advise them in the use of this software and we likewise need outside expertise.

The use of outside experts will not affect the work assignments of agency employees, since the work performed by the outside experts is not typically performed by agency employees. If you have any questions please contact Alan Rathbun, Pipeline Safety Director, 664-1254.

Sincerely,

Carole J. Washburn
Executive Secretary

cc. Debra Wilhelmi
Alan Rathbun
Mike Young
Mary DeYoung

RIMS
WA