

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

|                           |   |                                      |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  | ) | DOCKET PG-111723                     |
| TRANSPORTATION            | ) |                                      |
| COMMISSION,               | ) |                                      |
|                           | ) | ORDER 01                             |
| Complainant,              | ) |                                      |
|                           | ) |                                      |
| v.                        | ) | PREHEARING CONFERENCE                |
|                           | ) | ORDER; NOTICE OF HEARING             |
| PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC., | ) | <b>(Set for October 15-16, 2013)</b> |
|                           | ) |                                      |
| Respondent.               | ) |                                      |
| .....                     | ) |                                      |

1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDING.** On March 1, 2013, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) brought a complaint against Puget Sound Energy, Inc. (PSE or Company) following the Commission’s investigation of a natural gas explosion and fire that injured two people and destroyed a house at 12312 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue N.E., in Seattle, Washington, on September 26, 2011. The complaint alleges that PSE violated WAC 480-93-188(4) by failing to complete leak surveys, and violated WAC 480-93-180 by failing to follow sections 4625.1140 and 4625.1130 of the Company’s procedural manual. A more detailed account of the alleged violations is included in the complaint, which is available for inspection at the Commission’s headquarters office located at the Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington, and on the Commission’s web site at [www.utc.wa.gov/111723](http://www.utc.wa.gov/111723).

2 **CONFERENCE/PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Commission convened a prehearing conference in this proceeding at Olympia, Washington on April 18, 2013, before Administrative Law Judge Adam E. Torem, whom the Commission appoints as presiding officer in this proceeding.

3 **PARTY REPRESENTATIVES.** Donald Trotter, Assistant Attorney General,  
Olympia, Washington, represents Commission Staff.<sup>1</sup> Donna Barnett, Perkins Coie,  
Bellevue, Washington, represents PSE.

4 **PETITIONS FOR INTERVENTION.** The Commission received no petitions for  
intervention.

5 **PROTECTIVE ORDER.** No party sought a protective order.

6 **DISCOVERY.** The parties jointly requested an opportunity to conduct formal  
discovery. The Commission finds that the needs of this adjudication require the  
methods of discovery set out in the Commission's discovery rules, WAC 480-07-400  
– 425.

7 **PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE.** The parties conferred and submitted an agreed  
procedural schedule. The Commission adopts the parties' procedural schedule as set  
forth in Appendix A to this Order.

8 **NOTICE OF HEARING.** The Commission will hold an evidentiary hearing in this  
matter beginning **Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at 9:30 a.m.**, in the Commission's  
Hearing Room, Second Floor, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park  
Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington. The hearing will continue on Wednesday,  
October 16, 2013, if necessary.

9 **DOCUMENT PREPARATION AND FILING REQUIREMENTS.** The parties  
must file the **original plus 8 copies** of all pleadings, motions, briefs, and other  
prefiled materials. These materials must conform to the format and publication  
guidelines in WAC 480-07-395 and WAC 480-07-460. The Commission prefers that  
materials be three-hole punched with *oversized* holes to allow easy handling. The  
Commission may require a party to refile any document that fails to conform to these  
standards.

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<sup>1</sup> In a formal proceeding, such as this, the Commission's regulatory staff participates like any other party, while the Commissioners make the decision. To assure fairness, the Commissioners, the presiding administrative law judge, and the Commissioners' policy and accounting advisors do not discuss the merits of this proceeding with the regulatory staff, or any other party, without giving notice and opportunity for all parties to participate. *See* RCW 34.05.455.

10 All filings must be mailed or delivered to the Executive Director and Secretary, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, P.O. Box 47250, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington 98504-7250. Both the post office box and street address are required to expedite deliveries by the U.S. Postal Service.

11 An electronic copy of all filings must be provided through the Commission's Web Portal ([www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing](http://www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing)) or by e-mail delivery to ([records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov)). Alternatively, parties may furnish an electronic copy by delivering with each filing a CD, USB compatible flash drive or other electronic media including the filed document(s). Parties must furnish electronic copies in MS Word 6.0 (or later) supplemented by a separate file in .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) format. Parties must follow WAC 480-07-140(5) in organizing and identifying electronic files.

12 **ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS.** The Commission grants a one-day extension of the paper-filing requirement under WAC 480-07-145(6), allowing electronic submission of documents with the Commission on the deadlines established in the procedural schedule. Parties must submit documents through the Commission's Web Portal ([www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing](http://www.utc.wa.gov/e-filing)) or by e-mail to ([records@utc.wa.gov](mailto:records@utc.wa.gov)), and file an **original, plus 8 paper copies**, of the documents with the Commission by the following business day. Parties must provide courtesy copies of their electronic submissions to the presiding administrative law judge and the parties to the proceeding. In accordance with WAC 480-07-145(6)(a)(i), parties submitting documents electronically must ensure complete submission no later than 3:00 p.m. on the date established for filing. This provides adequate time for Records Center personnel to post and distribute them before close of business.

13 **ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION.** The Commission supports the informal settlement of matters before it. Parties are encouraged to consider means of resolving disputes informally. The Commission has limited ability to provide dispute resolution services; if you wish to explore those services, please call the Director, Administrative Law Division, at 360-664-1355.

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14 **NOTICE TO PARTIES:** A party who objects to any portion of this Order must file a written objection within 10 calendar days after the service date of this Order, pursuant to WAC 480-07-430 and WAC 480-07-810. The service date appears on the first page of the order in the upper right-hand corner. Absent such objection, this Order will control further proceedings in this matter, subject to Commission review.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective April 19, 2013.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

ADAM E. TOREM  
Administrative Law Judge

**APPENDIX A**

PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

**DOCKET PG-111723**

| <b>EVENT</b>   | <b>DATE</b>         |
|--|---------------------|
| Commission Staff Direct Testimony and Exhibits           | July 10, 2013       |
| Company Direct Testimony and Exhibits                    | August 20, 2013     |
| Staff Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits                    | September 19, 2013  |
| Evidentiary Hearing                                      | October 15-16, 2013 |
| Simultaneous Post-Hearing Initial Briefs (30 page limit) | November 7, 2013    |