

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of)	
)	DOCKET NO. UG-011624
THE CITY OF ELLENSBURG)	
)	
For Waiver of Certain Pipeline)	
Facilities from Regulatory Definitions)	ORDER GRANTING WAIVER
of the Term "Main" [WAC 480-93-)	
005(12), CFR 49 Part 192.3])	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 12, 2002, The City of Ellensburg, a Washington Corporation, filed with the Commission a request for waiver of WAC 480-93-005(12) and CFR Title 49 Part 192.3, Definitions. 49 CFR Part 192 is incorporated into the Washington Administration Code as WAC 480-93-010. The waiver will provide the City of Ellensburg the right to install new service lines from branching points on existing service lines to adjacent buildings where the pressure does not exceed 60 pounds per square-inch gauge.
- 2 The City of Ellensburg requests the waiver for the following reasons: 1) the installation is more economical if the line is not required to meet the standards of a main; 2) the branch service eliminates construction within the road right-of-way and thereby reduces exposure to conflicts and possible hazardous exposure with existing utilities; 3) local jurisdictions would prefer that they not cut roads when other means are available to serve customers; 4) less pipe installed to serve customers equates to less exposure to future dig-ins.

FINDINGS

- 3 (1) WAC 480-93-005 (12) states that a "main" is a gas pipeline which serves as a common source of gas for more than one service line, which crosses a public right-of-way, or which crosses property not owned by the customer or the gas company. A service line means a distribution line that transports gas from a common source of supply to a customer meter or the connection to a customer's piping. A customer is defined as any individual who purchases gas for his own consumption. A "main" is defined by 49 CFR 192.3 as a distribution line that serves as a common source of supply for more than one service line.

- 4 (2) The Commission is authorized to modify or waive a rule in accordance with WAC 480-93-230.
- 5 (3) The Commission is certified under the Pipeline Safety Law and must give the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) written notice of any waiver of 49 CFR codes.
- 6 (4) The effective date of any waiver of federal regulation is subject to a sixty-day review and approval by the USDOT.
- 7 (5) The practice of installing services from branching points on existing service lines to adjacent buildings is common in the natural gas distribution industry. Similar waivers have been also granted to other public service companies in Washington. Thus no reduction of public safety is anticipated by granting this request.

O R D E R

- 8 (1) IT IS HERBY ORDERED that the request by The City of Ellensburg for a waiver of WAC 480-93-005(12) and CFR Title 49 Part 192.3, definition of “main” be granted for certain City of Ellensburg pipelines located on private property that serve no more than two residential building customers.
- 9 (2) IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the buildings must be located on contiguous private property and not be divided by streets, roads, alleys or other public thoroughfares.
- 10 (3) IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this waiver will only apply to mains with a maximum allowable operating pressure of sixty pounds per square-inch-gauge or less that are located on private property.
- 11 (4) IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this waiver will not apply to high-pressure services of “farm taps” operating over sixty pounds per square-inch-gauge located adjacent to a building.
- 12 (5) IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the effective date of the request for waiver of 49 CFR 192.3 “main” be subject to United States Department of Transportation, Office of Pipeline Safety sixty-day review and approval.
- 13 (6) IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that jurisdiction over this Docket is retained to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 24th day of April, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PARTRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner