

Agenda Date: November 9, 2005
Item Number: C1

Docket: PG-050933
Rulemaking – Gas Companies - Safety

Staff: Sondra Walsh - Team Lead
Don Trotter – Assistant Attorney General
Ann Rendahl – Administrative Law Judge

Discussion:

Chapter 480-93 WAC governs the safety of gas pipeline companies and their operations. The Commission adopted substantive changes to the chapter, which became effective on June 2, 2005. In August 2005, the Commission initiated the present rulemaking by filing a CR-101 form with the Office of the Code Reviser to correct and make minimal changes to the recently adopted rules. Because the focus of the rulemaking is to correct minor errors or clarify certain portions of the recently adopted rules rather than make substantive changes to the rules, the Commission has sought written comments only on the rules in question.

On September 28, 2005, the Commission directed the Commission Secretary to file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CR-102) with the Code Reviser. The Commission filed a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with the Code Reviser on October 5, 2005. The Commission issued a notice dated October 7, 2005, informing stakeholders of the proposed rule changes and scheduled adoption hearing on November 9, 2005.

The Commission solicited written comments from all interested persons on the proposed rules by October 26, 2005. The Commission received comments from Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and Ray Allen. Both PSE and Mr. Allen support the proposed rules.

The proposed changes to Chapter 480-93 WAC are included in Attachment A. The following rules are proposed to be:

Amended:

- WAC 480-93-005(18) Definitions:
- WAC 480-93-017 Filing requirements for design, specification, and construction procedures:
- WAC 480-93-178(5) Protection of plastic pipe:

- WAC 480-93-200 Reporting requirements for operators of gas facilities:

As no stakeholder objects or recommends changes to the proposed rules, the proposed rules, reflected in Attachment A, should be adopted to correct minor errors and clarify certain portions of the recently adopted rules in Chapter 480-93 WAC.

Attachment