

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET NO. PG-041624
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER NO. 04
Complainant,)	
)	PREHEARING CONFERENCE
v.)	ORDER;
)	
PUGET SOUND ENERGY, INC.,)	NOTICE OF PREHEARING
)	CONFERENCE
Respondent.)	(Set for Thursday, February 24,
)	2005 at 9:30 a.m.)
.....)	

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 **CONFERENCES.** The Commission convened an emergency adjudicative proceeding on September 15, 2004, in Olympia, Washington, before Chairwoman Marilyn Showalter, Commissioner Patrick J. Oshie, and Administrative Law Judge Ann E. Rendahl. During the hearing, the Commission granted the Petition to Intervene of the City of Bellevue and accepted the Agreed Submission of Commission Staff and PSE identifying the agreed upon action plan for addressing the emergency. The Commission convened a prehearing conference before Administrative Law Judge Theodora M. Mace on October 21, 2004 and a further prehearing conference on December 9, 2004.

3 **APPEARANCES.** James F. Williams, Perkins Coie LLP, Bellevue, Washington, represents PSE. Lori M. Riordan, Acting City Attorney, Bellevue, Washington,

represents the City of Bellevue. Donald T. Trotter, Assistant Attorney General, Olympia, Washington, represents Commission Staff.

4 **STATUS OF PROCEEDING.** At the second prehearing conference on December 9, 2004, the parties indicated they were not yet ready to set a schedule for hearing. Commission Staff explained that three major items from the action list approved by the Commission in September 2004¹ remain to be completed:

- The metallurgical test of the service line is expected to be completed by mid-January and a report furnished by the end of January 2005.
- PSE expects to complete its investigation by mid-February 2005. However, PSE reported that the investigation is under way, soil samples have been taken and pipe has been replaced at 600 homes in the area.
- The test of coating on the service lines has not been initiated yet, but the company expected to meet with Staff after the prehearing conference to discuss testing procedures. The coating test is also expected to be completed by mid-February.

5 Staff indicated its own investigation is ongoing and that its consultant is working on all the issues related to the complaint.

6 The city of Bellevue stated that PSE is providing weekly progress reports to the city.

7 The parties agreed that they needed time to digest the information from the above-mentioned uncompleted items before they would be able to schedule a hearing. They further agreed that a prehearing conference date of February 24, 2004 should give them sufficient time for this.

8 **NOTICE OF PREHEARING CONFERENCE.** The Commission convenes a prehearing conference in this matter, to address scheduling and other matters appropriate to a resolution of this case. **The conference will be held on**

¹ Order No. 01, Order Requiring Emergency Action, §§ 16 and 28..

Thursday, February 24, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S. W., Olympia, Washington. Persons who cannot attend in person may participate via the Commission's teleconference bridge line **360-664-3846**. Persons desiring to participate via the bridge line must make advance reservations, by calling Margret Kaech at 360-664-1140, no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 2004.

- 9 **DOCUMENT PREPARATION AND FILING REQUIREMENTS.** Parties must file with the Commission an original plus 14 copies of all pleadings, motions, briefs, and other prefiled materials. Paper copies of these materials are required to conform to the format and publication guidelines set forth in WAC 480-07-395 and 480-07-460, and must 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.
- 10 All filings must be mailed to the Commission Executive Secretary, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, P.O. Box 47250, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, S.W. Olympia, Washington 98504-7250, or delivered by hand to the Commission Executive Secretary at the Commission's Records Center at the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, S.W., Olympia, Washington, 98504. 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 by e-mail delivery to <records@wutc.wa.gov>. Alternatively, parties may furnish an electronic copy by delivering with each filing a 3.5-inch IBM-formatted high-density diskette including the filed document(s). The Commission prefers that parties furnish electronic copies in .pdf (Adobe Acrobat) format, supplemented by a separate file in MS Word 6.0 (or later), or WordPerfect 5.1 (or later) format. Parties are required to organize and identify electronic files as specified in WAC 480-07-140(5).

- 12 **ELECTRONIC FILING.** Parties may only file documents electronically with the Commission in this proceeding with the permission of the Administrative Law Judge. Under WAC 480-07-145(6), electronic filing of documents provides a one-day extension of the paper-filing requirement. If, at any time during this proceeding, parties are authorized to file documents with the Commission electronically under WAC 480-07-145(6), Parties must submit the document to records@wutc.wa.gov, and file an original, plus 14 copies, of the document with the Commission by the following business day.
- 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 does have limited ability to provide dispute resolution services; if you wish to explore those services, please call the Director, Administrative Law Division, at 360-664-1142.
- 14 **NOTICE TO PARTIES: Any objection to the provisions of this Order must be filed within ten (10) days after the service date of this Order, pursuant to WAC 480-07-430 and WAC 480-07-810. Absent such objection, this Order will control further proceedings in this matter, subject to Commission review.**

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 9th day of December, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

THEODORA M. MACE
Administrative Law Judge

APPENDIX A

**PARTIES' REPRESENTATIVES
DOCKET NO. PG-041624**

PARTY	REPRESENTATIVE	PHONE	FACSIMILE	E-MAIL
Puget Sound Energy	James Williams Perkins Coie, LLP 1201 Third Avenue, Suite 4800 Seattle, WA 98101-3099	206-359-3543	206-583-8500	jwilliams@perkinscoie.com
City of Bellevue	Lori Molander-Riordan City Attorney's Office PO Box 90012 Bellevue, WA 98009	425-452-6829	425-452-7256	lriordan@ci.bellevue.wa.us
Commission Regulatory Staff	Don Trotter Assistant Attorney General 1400 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW PO Box 40128 Olympia, WA 98504-0128	360-664-1189	360-586-5522	dtrotter@wutc.wa.gov