

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET NO. PG-030484
)	
PUGET SOUND ENERGY,)	ORDER NO. 1
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
Seeking Authorization to Operate a)	
Facility with a Maximum Allowable)	
Operating Pressure Greater Than)	
Two Hundred Fifty psig Pursuant to)	
WAC 480-93-030.)	ORDER GRANTING REQUEST
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 28, 2003, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), filed with the Commission a petition requesting Commission approval to operate above 250 psig (pounds per square inch gauge) in accordance with WAC 480-93-030.

- 2 WAC 480-93-183 requires gas companies to petition the Commission for a waiver of WAC 480-93-030 if applicable, before operating a pipeline above two hundred fifty psig.

- 3 WAC 480-93-030 prohibits operating a facility above two hundred fifty psig within 100 hundred feet of a building intended for human occupancy which is in existence or under construction prior to the date the company seeks authorization for construction with the Commission or a well-defined outside area, such as a playground, recreation area, outdoor theater, or other place of public assembly, which is occupied by twenty or more people, sixty days in any twelve-month period which is in existence or under construction prior to the date the Company seeks authorization for construction.

- 4 PSE proposes to build 6,600 feet of 16-inch main to coincide with roadwork to be done in the area. PSE currently operates 20,000 feet of 8-inch natural gas main in Redmond. Additional capacity is needed to serve the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond.
- 5 Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommends authorization be granted subject to specified conditions.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate public service companies, including every person or corporation transporting natural gas by pipeline, or having for one or more of its principal purposes the construction, maintenance or operation of pipelines for transporting natural gas. *RCW 80.28.210.*
- 7 PSE, is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under the provisions of RCW 80.28.210 and Chapter 480-93 WAC.
- 8 PSE is a company having one of its principle purposes the construction, maintenance, and operation of a pipeline used for transporting natural gas in this state. They are proposing to build 6,600 feet of 16-inch main to coincide with roadwork to be done in the area. They currently operate 20,000 feet of 8-inch natural gas main between the Redmond Gate Station at 227 NE Avenue and Union Hill Road to the Redmond Limit Station (#2387) located at Avondale Way and Union Hill Road. Additional capacity is needed to serve the cities of Bellevue, Kirkland and Redmond. The proposed route will run parallel to the existing 8-inch main at Union Hill Road. PSE has agreed to exceed minimum safety requirements by increasing the design strength of the pipe, providing additional inspections, and installing remote monitoring.

- 9 This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 14, 2003.
- 10 After examination of the petition and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to grant PSE's request to operate the proposed 16-inch pipeline at pressures not exceeding 300 psig, conditioned upon PSE's meeting the commitments it has made regarding structural strength of the pipeline and the conduct of inspections and monitoring.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 After the effective date of this Order, the petition of Puget Sound Energy for authorization to operate the newly constructed 16" pipeline above 250 psig is granted, in accordance with WAC 480-93-030.
- 12 This authorization is conditioned on the following conditions:
- (i) The 16-inch diameter pipe will be constructed in accordance with American Petroleum Institute (API) 5L Grade X-56 steel pipe with a nominal wall thickness of 0.375 inches.
 - (ii) PSE will provide a 24-hour Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system to monitor the system operating pressures.
 - (iii) PSE will install two mainline valves on the 16-inch pipeline. Valves will be located at the ends of the segment.

- (iv) PSE will radiographically examine 100 percent of the girth welds on the 16-inch diameter pipeline except welds that cannot be practically radiographed. PSE will provide written evidence where radiographs are impractical, including the certified radiographers statement. All welds will be inspected and defects will be replaced or repaired in accordance with API Standard 1104 specification, 18th edition or company standard, whichever is more stringent. All repaired welds will be radiographed to ensure pipeline integrity and compliance with standards.
- (v) PSE will provide at least four feet of cover atop of the pipeline. Cover of no less than three feet is allowed where four feet is impractical.
- (vi) The entire coating will be electrically tested for flaws (“jeeped”) to ensure coating integrity. Any flaws will be repaired.
- (vii) PSE will have cathodic protection test locations at intervals sufficient to determine the adequate protection of the pipeline during surveys. The overall test point location plan must be reviewed by PSE to ensure that the protection of the entire pipeline may be assessed by the test locations chosen.
- (viii) Six inches of shading and backfill material will be used around the pipe to protect the pipe and coating. The material around the pipe will be free of sharp rocks with a maximum particle size of ½ inch and containing a large percentage of fines. Rock shield is allowed in places where sand is not available. The backfill material must be free from sharp objects and large objects and large clods that could damage the pipe and/or coating. If the trench material is not free from sharp or unusually rough surfaces, the trench must be over-excavated six inches and refilled with select fill

material free of sharp rocks with a maximum particle size of ½ inch and containing a large percentage of fines.

- (ix) The 6,600-foot segment of pipe at Union Hill Road shall be designed to operate with a hoop stress less than 20 percent of the specified minimum yield strength of the pipe.
- (x) Pressure testing for the 16-inch segment will be a minimum of 750 psig for a 24-hour period. All leaks and defects will be repaired or replaced and retested.
- (xi) Leak surveys will be conducted in accordance with PSE Operating Standard 11.2. The survey is to be conducted at least every three years unless additional surveys are required by Commission rules.
- (xii) The operating pressure of the pipeline will not exceed 300 psig without Commission approval.
- (xiii) Cathodic protection will be installed within 90 days after the pipeline is installed.
- (xiv) PSE will notify the Commission 48 hours prior to the commencement of construction.
- (xv) PSE will submit a map of the pipe location and the final construction specifications to the Commission within 30 days of project completion.

13 The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Puget Sound Energy to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 14th day of May, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary