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STATE OF WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160 • TTY (360) 586-8203

Ref. No Docket PG-031828

December 5, 2003

Kaaren Daugherty, PE
Consulting Engineer
Puget Sound Energy
805 156th Avenue NE
Bellevue, Washington 98007

Dear Ms. Daugherty:

Subject: 6-inch North Chehalis Supply System Uprate/PSE Work Order 109008643

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) has the authority to enforce minimum safety regulations concerning the construction, maintenance and operation of pipelines transporting natural gas in the state of Washington (RCW 80.28.210). The Commission has adopted the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 49, Part 192 and Chapter 480-93 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) as the minimum standards.

Staff has reviewed the documentation provided to the Commission on October 23, 2003, regarding Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) intent to temporarily uprate the 3.9 mile North Chehalis Supply System from the current maximum allowable operating pressure of 100 pounds per square inch gauge (psig), to a planned 280 psig. The request to operate in a Proscribed Area pursuant to WAC 480-93-030, even temporarily, requires Commission approval in order to proceed. Staff believes that the proposed project meets all state and federal pipeline safety codes and requirements.

This request will be placed on the Commission's Open Meeting consent agenda for December 10, 2003, where the matter will be considered. Pipeline Safety Staff's recommendation is to grant the authorization based on a review of the information you submitted and additional safety related measures agreed upon between PSE and Commission staff.

If you have questions or comments, please contact me at (360) 664-1219. Thank you for your continued interest in pipeline safety.

Sincerely,

David Lykken
Pipeline Safety Engineer

RMS
MA