

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET PG-090162
)	
PUGET SOUND ENERGY,)	ORDER 01
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
Seeking Authorization to Operate a)	
Facility with a Maximum Allowable)	
Operating Pressure Greater Than 500)	
PSIG Pursuant to WAC 480-93-020)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 29, 2009, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting approval to operate a pipeline at greater than 500 psig (pounds per square inch gauge).

- 2 A gas pipeline company must have permission from the Commission to operate a pipeline at greater than 500 psig within one hundred feet of certain buildings described in WAC 480-93-020.

- 3 PSE proposes to construct and operate approximately 1350 feet of 6-inch transmission pipe from the Cedar Hills Landfill to Williams Northwest Pipeline. This main will allow PSE to use recovered landfill gas to be delivered to PSE’s distribution system to diversify PSE’s energy portfolio and to serve as an additional gas resource.

- 4 Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommended the Commission grant the petition subject to the following condition(s):
 - (a) PSE will submit a map of the transmission line to the Commission within 30 days of project completion.

 - (b) The Cedar Hills Landfill line will be constructed to maintain the hoop stress level of the pipe below 20 percent of specified minimum yield strength (SMYS) of the pipe material at the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of 960 psig.

- (c) PSE will test the line to a minimum 1440 psig. The test pressure is 1.5 times the MAOP of 960 psig.
- (d) PSE will bury the transmission line with at least 48-inches of cover to provide additional protection.
- (e) PSE will perform radiograph inspections of 100 percent of all welds unless impractical. Upon request by the Commission, PSE will provide written documentation where radiographs are impractical including the written radiographer's statement. Defects will be remediated in accordance with PSE's standards.
- (f) The pipe coating will be electrically inspected (jeeped) and coating defects repaired prior to backfilling.
- (g) PSE will incorporate the Cedar Hill Landfill line into its integrity management program within one (1) year of the issuance of this order if the segment is located in a High Consequence Area.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to adopt and enforce rules for gas pipeline safety. *RCW 81.88.040 and RCW 81.88.065.*
- 6 (2) PSE is a gas pipeline company and subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) In WAC 480-93, the Commission has adopted minimum standards for gas pipeline construction. Pursuant to these standards, gas pipelines are designed to withstand higher pressure than the MAOP prescribed by these rules. The most restrictive gas pipeline safety rules specify that pipelines in a highly populated area must be operated at pressures producing a hoop stress of no greater than 40 percent of the SMYS of the pipe.

- 8 (4) PSE is proposing to construct and operate a new transmission line connecting the Cedar Hills Landfill to Williams North West Pipeline. The line will provide PSE customers with an additional gas resource. PSE agrees to the conditions set forth in paragraph 4 (a) through (g) of this Order. These conditions exceed minimum regulatory requirements.
- 9 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 26, 2009.
- 10 (6) After reviewing PSE's petition and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to conditionally grant PSE's request to operate at greater than 500 psig.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) After the effective date of this Order, the petition of Puget Sound Energy for authorization to operate a pipeline at greater than 500 pounds per square inch gauge is granted.
- 12 (2) This authorization is conditioned on:
- (a) The maximum pressure that PSE may operate the Cedar Hills Landfill transmission line is 820 psig.
- (b) The requirements set forth in paragraph 4 (a) through (g) of this Order. These conditions exceed the minimum regulatory requirements
- 13 (3) 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 February 26, 2009.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary