

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET PG-111454
)	
PUGET SOUND ENERGY,)	ORDER 01
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
Seeking Authorization to Operate a)	
Facility with a Maximum Allowable)	
Operating Pressure Greater Than 250)	
PSIG Pursuant to WAC 480-93-020)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On Aug 10, 2011, Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting Commission approval to operate a pipeline at greater than 250 psig (pounds per square inch gauge).

- 2 A gas pipeline company must have permission from the Commission to operate a pipeline at greater than 250 psig, up to and including 500 psig, within one hundred feet of certain buildings described in WAC 480-93-020.

- 3 The proposed pipeline has one structure identified which is a family residence, within 100 feet of the proposed pipeline.

- 4 The Company proposes to reconstruct and operate the inlet side of the Little Rock Gate Station (RS-0991) at a pressure in excess of 250 psig. The only piping that will be operated at a MAOP of 350 psig will be the odorizer piping and approximately 6 feet of 2 inch pipe and fittings between the PSE regulator body and the gas suppliers line of demarcation. The purpose of this request is to facilitate an increase in operating pressure and an increase in the peak flow this facility can support. This will continue to ensure the reliability of the IP-306 gas distribution to customers south of Olympia. This project will allow for service to the Granite Construction Asphalt plant and provide reliable service to existing customers during peak demand periods.

- 5 The Commission has adopted the Code of Federal Regulation, Title 49, Part 192 and 480-93 of the Washington Administrative Code as minimum standards for natural gas pipeline construction. The most restrictive natural gas pipeline safety rules specify that pipelines in a highly populated area (Class 4 Location) be operated at pressures producing a hoop stress of no greater than 40 percent of the specified minimum yield strength (SMYS) of the pipe.
- 6 The rebuilt gate station inlet will be constructed for a maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of 350 psig or a hoop stress of 7.72 percent of SMYS, less than 40 percent SMYS for Class 4 Location. The normal operating pressure will be at 275 psig and that corresponds to a hoop stress of 6.06 percent SMYS. The pipeline will be pressure tested at a minimum of one and one-half times the MAOP or 525 psig.
- 7 Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommended the Commission grant the petition subject to the following condition(s):

(a) Filings and Notices

1. Notify the Commission two business days prior to the commencement of construction.
2. Residents near or in proximity of the Gate Station will be contacted and informed of the future pipeline construction and any additional information found in the public awareness requirements of CFR 192.616.

(b) Design and Construction

1. The 2-inch diameter pipe will be constructed of American Petroleum Institute (API) 5L Grade B with a nominal wall thickness of 0.154 inch.
2. The pipeline will be built to maintain the pipe stress level for natural gas at or below 7.72 percent of the SMYS at the MAOP of 350 psig.
3. The pipeline will be constructed and tested strictly in accordance with PSE's Gas Operating Standards.

(c) **Operations and Maintenance**

1. PSE shall not operate the pipeline in excess of 350 psig, without further Commission approval.
2. PSE will provide a 24-hour Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system to monitor the system operating pressures.
3. PSE will conduct leak surveys on the pipeline in accordance with PSE Operating Standard 2625.1100. The survey is to be conducted no less frequently than annually, not to exceed 15 months, unless additional surveys are required by Commission rules.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (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.*
- 9 (2) PSE is a gas pipeline company and subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 10 (3) The Commission has adopted the Code of Federal Regulation, Title 49, Part 192 and 480-93 of the Washington Administrative Code as minimum standards for natural gas pipeline construction. The most restrictive natural gas pipeline safety rules specify that pipelines in a highly populated area (Class 4 Location) be operated at pressures producing a hoop stress of no greater than 40 percent of the SMYS of the pipe. PSE's proposed design factor of 0.20 exceeds the 0.40 factor for Class 4 locations.
- 11 (4) The proposed 2-inch pipeline will be constructed and operated by Puget Sound Energy. The purpose of the pipeline is to facilitate an increase in operating pressure and an increase in the peak flow volume this facility can support.
- 12 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 15, 2011.

- 13 (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 250 pounds per square inch gauge up to and including 350 psig subject to the conditions recommended by Commission Staff in paragraph 7 of this order.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) After the effective date of this Order, the petition of Puget Sound Energy for authorization to operate a pipeline at greater than 250 psig up to and including 350 psig is granted.
- 15 (2) This authorization is conditioned on Puget Sound Energy meeting the following, which exceed the minimum regulatory requirements:
- (a) **Filings and Notices**
1. Notify the Commission two business days prior to the commencement of construction.
 2. Residents near or in proximity of the Gate Station will be contacted and informed of the future pipeline construction and any additional information found in the public awareness requirements of CFR 192.616.
- (b) **Design and Construction**
1. The 2-inch diameter pipe will be constructed of American Petroleum Institute (API) 5L Grade B with a nominal wall thickness of 0.154 inch.
 2. The pipeline will be built to maintain the pipe stress level for natural gas at or below 7.72 percent of the SMYS at the MAOP of 350 psig.

3. The pipeline will be constructed and tested strictly in accordance with Puget Sound Energy's Gas Operating Standards.

(c) **Operations and Maintenance**

1. Puget Sound Energy shall not operate the pipeline in excess of 350 psig, without further Commission approval.
2. Puget Sound Energy will provide a 24-hour Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system to monitor the system operating pressures.
3. Puget Sound Energy will conduct leak surveys on the pipeline in accordance with Puget Sound Energy Operating Standard 2625.1100. The survey is to be conducted no less frequently than annually, not to exceed 15 months, unless additional surveys are required by Commission rules.

- 16 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Puget Sound Energy to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective September 15, 2011.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner