

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	
)	
AVISTA UTILITIES)	
Washington Water Power Division,)	
)	DOCKET PG-021399
Petitioner,)	
)	
For a Waiver of WAC 480-93-010 to)	
install an above-ground polyethylene)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
gas main in steel casing above the)	
Spokane River in Spokane)	
Washington.)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 21, 2002, Avista Utilities, a Washington corporation, filed a petition, the effect of which would be to waive 49 CFR 192.321(a). Title 49, Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations is incorporated into the Washington Administrative Code as WAC 480-93-010. The waiver would allow Avista to install a 6-inch polyethylene (PE) natural gas pipelines inside a 10-inch steel casing across the Spokane River at Argonne Road in Spokane, Washington. Avista intends to install the pipe during May of 2003.
- 2 This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting on November 27, 2002. The Commissioners, having determined that granting the petition is consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this order.

DISCUSSION

3 WAC 480-93-010, by reference to Title 49, Part 192, Section 321(a) of the Code of
Federal Regulations, prohibits the installation of above ground PE gas piping.
The Commission has previously granted Avista Utilities waivers to install above
ground PE gas piping for bridge crossings. The U.S. Department of
Transportation, Research and Special Programs Administration, Office of
Pipeline Safety is currently in a rulemaking process to develop rules that will
allow this type of installation in the future.

4 Avista's request is accompanied by a description of the design of the pipe and
installation that meets all applicable stress, thermal, and safety limits for the
installation of PE pipe. In addition to meeting the applicable stress, thermal, and
safety limits, Avista proposes additional safety measures which are listed below.
The Commission finds that Avista's proposal for waiver of WAC 480-93-010 to
the extent it adopts 49 CFR 192.321(a), conditioned upon implementation of the
additional safety measures Avista has proposed, is consistent with the public
interest and Avista's request should be granted.

FINDINGS OF FACT

5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of
the State of Washington, vested by statute with the authority to regulate
rates, rules, regulations, practices, and accounts of public service
companies including gas companies.

6 (2) Avista Utilities is a Washington corporation and is a public service
company as defined in RCW 80.04.010.

7 (3) Avista's design and installation of the pipe meets all applicable stress,
thermal, and safety limits for the installation of PE pipe.

- 8 (4) Avista proposes the following additional safety measures:
- The Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure of this pipeline will be 60 psig.
 - All above-ground pipe will be encased in a 10-inch steel casing which will terminate below ground level.
 - The 10-inch steel casing will be installed inside the box girder of the bridge away from direct sunlight.
 - A thermal well will be installed on the casing to allow for the monitoring of temperature fluctuations.
 - Avista will conduct temperature readings during the highest and lowest temperatures of the year and after one year will review the information to ensure that the design limitation of the PE pipe is not exceeded. This review must be documented and kept for the life of the pipeline.
 - A boot-type end seal will be used at both ends of the casing.
 - Thinsulators will be spaced a maximum of 5 feet apart.
 - Continuous coil pipe will be used to eliminate any fusion joints inside the casing.
 - Quarterly leak surveys will be conducted with an approved combustible gas indicator or hydrogen flame ionization unit for two years following completion of the installation.

- After two years of operation, leak surveys will be conducted during regularly scheduled bridge patrols.
- Avista will maintain all documentation related to the construction and installation of this bridge crossing for the life of the facility. This documentation will include stress calculations and temperature readings.
- Avista's Operations and Maintenance Procedures Manual will include details or procedures for any special requirements specific to this type of installation.
- Avista's Operations and Maintenance Procedures Manual will detail any record keeping requirements specific to this type of installation.

9 (6) Under WAC 480-93-230, the Commission may modify or waive a pipeline safety rule when an undue hardship or an unsafe condition may result from the application of any rule in Chapter 480-93 WAC.

10 (7) Title 49, Part 192 of the Code of Federal Regulations is incorporated into the Washington Administrative Code by WAC 480-93-010.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

11 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of, and all parties to, these proceedings.

12 (2) Avista Utilities is a public service company as defined in RCW 80.04.010.

- 13 (3) Avista requests a waiver of WAC 480-93-010, to the extent it adopts 49 CFR 192.321(a), and seeks permission to install a 6-inch polyethylene (PE) natural gas pipeline inside a 10-inch steel casing across the Spokane River at Argonne Road in Spokane, Washington. Because the federal regulation is incorporated in WAC 480-93-010, this is a request for a waiver of the state regulation.
- 14 (4) Avista's request is consistent with the public interest.
- 15 (5) Pursuant to WAC 480-93-230, the Commission grants the waiver of WAC 480-93-010, to the extent it adopts 49 CFR 192.321(a) on the terms and conditions stated in Finding of Fact number 4 above and directs the Secretary to issue the following Order.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 16 (1) The request by Avista Utilities for a waiver of WAC 480-93-010, to the extent it adopts Title 49, Part 192.321(a) be granted to allow the installation of an above ground, encased, 6-inch PE bridge crossing across the Spokane River at Argonne Road in Spokane Washington.
- 17 (2) As a condition of the grant of the waiver, Avista must implement the additional safety measures listed in Finding of Fact Number 4.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective this 27th day of November, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary