

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

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	DOCKET NO. PG-041732
	)	
Puget Sound Energy,	)	ORDER NO. 01
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
	)	
Seeking Authorization to Operate the	)	ORDER GRANTING REQUEST
Black Diamond Gate Station with a	)	TO OPERATE GATE STATION
Maximum Allowable Operating	)	AT PRESSURES EXCEEDING 500
Pressure Greater Than Five Hundred	)	POUND PER SQUARE INCH
psig Pursuant to WAC 480-93-020	)	GAUGE
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On September 17, 2004, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) filed with the Commission a petition requesting Commission approval to operate the Black Diamond Gate Station at pressures exceeding five hundred pounds per square inch gauge (psig).
- 2 WAC 480-93-183 requires gas companies to petition the Commission for a waiver of WAC 480-93-020 if applicable, before operating a pipeline above five hundred psig. The Commission considered the petition at its regular open meeting on January 26, 2005.
- 3 WAC 480-93-020 prohibits operating a facility above five hundred psig within five hundred feet of: a building intended for human occupancy which is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the Commission; property which has been zoned as residential or commercial prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the Commission; 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 authorization for construction is filed with the Commission; and a public highway, as defined in RCW 81.80.010(3).

- 4 PSE proposes to build the gate station to receive gas from the Williams Northwest Pipeline Company (Williams). The gate station will consist of an odorizer, heater, and two-stage pressure regulator, with downstream overpressure protection provided by monitor regulators on both pressure reductions. The station is designed for a Maximum Allowable Operating Pressure (MAOP) of 960 psig through the high pressure (HP) outlet valve. The MAOP downstream of the HP outlet valve will be 500 psig. All station piping upstream of the HP outlet valve will be tested to a minimum of 1440 psig and the components will be American National Standard Institute (ANSI) 600 with a rating of 1480 psig. All station piping downstream of the HP outlet valve will be tested to a minimum of 750 psig and the components will be ANSI 300 with a rating of 740 psig. PSE proposes to operate the inlet of the station at a Maximum Operation Pressure (MOP) of 960 psig (the maximum delivery pressure from Williams) and the outlet of the station at a MOP of 250 psig. The station will operate at less than 20% Specified Minimum Yield Strength (SMYS) at the MOP and MAOP.
- 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 the internal pressure produces a hoop stress of no greater than 40 percent SMYS of the pipe if in any class location unit where buildings with four or more stories above ground are prevalent. There are no above ground buildings with four or more stories in the vicinity of the gate station. PSE will construct the proposed gate station to operate at

a hoop stress of less than 20 percent of the pipeline's SMYS to provide for a higher margin of safety.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) 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 (2) 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 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 26, 2005.
- 9 (4) 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 above 500 psig, under the terms and conditions listed in paragraph 4 of this Order.

### ORDER

#### THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10 (1) After the effective date of this Order, the petition of Puget Sound Energy for authorization to operate above 500 psig is granted, in

accordance with WAC 480-93-020, subject to the conditions listed in paragraph 4 of this Order.

- 11 (2) 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 26th day of January, 2005.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary