



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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*Sent Via Email and Certified Mail*

July 31, 2017

Booga K. Gilbertson  
Sr. VP Operations  
Puget Sound Energy  
PO Box 97034 M/S: PSE-12N  
Bellevue, WA 98009-9734

Dear Ms. Gilbertson:

**RE: 2017 National Response Center Incident No. 1180971 – Puget Sound Energy, King County West District – (Investigation No. 7459)**

WUTC staff (staff) have concluded our investigation of the March 7 incident which occurred at 9130 15<sup>th</sup> Place S. in Seattle. This incident was reportable due to a leak repair/replacement that exceeded the \$50,000 threshold. Although the material that failed was never visually inspected, it is assumed that this incident was the result of material failure, probably of vintage DuPont PE pipe that has a history of brittle like cracking and fusion separation.

This investigation will be closed as of July 31.

If you have any questions or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Scott Rukke at (360) 664-1241.

Sincerely,

Sean C. Mayo

Pipeline Safety Director

cc: Cara Peterman, Director, Enterprise Risk Management & Compliance, PSE  
Harry Shapiro, Director, Gas Operations, PSE  
Cheryl McGrath, Manager, Compliance Programs, PSE

# UTC Incident Investigation Form

<b>Notification ID:</b>	3132	<b>Investigation ID:</b>	7459
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<b>Inspector Name:</b>	Scott Rukke
<b>Date Report Submitted to Chief Engineer:</b>	06/15/2017
<b>Date Report Reviewed &amp; Approved by Chief Engineer:</b>	Joe Subsits, 7/27/17

<b>Operator:</b>	Puget Sound Energy
<b>District/Unit:</b>	King County West
<b>Locations:</b>	9130 15 <sup>th</sup> Place S
<b>Incident Dates:</b>	03/07/2017

<b>Description:</b>
<p>NRC report No. 1180971 filed 06/12/2017</p> <p>On 3/7/2017 PSE reported an evacuation (state rule WAC 480-93-200(1)(c) due to a gas leak. At this time it was not considered to be Federally reportable as it did not meet the definition of an incident. PSE could not pinpoint the leak and continued to monitor it and ensure that it was safe while plans were made to replace the pipeline.</p> <p>On 5/2/2017 staff asked for an update and the date the leak had been repaired.</p> <p>On 5/30/2017 staff again asked for an update and the date the leak had been repaired.</p> <p>On 6/2/2017 PSE provided an update stating that approximately 600' of 1.25" Dupont Aldyl-A PE pipe had been replaced because the leak could not be pinpointed. The date of the replacement and shut down of the leak was reported as 04/24/2017 at 03:30 pm. At this time staff asked PSE what the total cost of the incident was and were told that they need to file an NRC report if over \$50,000.</p> <p>An NRC report was filed on 6/12/2017. The cost of the leak response, monitoring and replacement of the main was reported at \$211,000.</p> <p>The leak cause was actually never identified but due to the volume of gas present was assumed to be a butt fusion that failed. The pipe was Aldyl-A vintage pipe with a history of both brittle like cracking and fusion failure.</p>

# UTC Incident Investigation Form

<b>Facts/Chronology of Events:</b>
Originally reported as a State reportable incident under WAC 480-93-200(1)(c) due to an evacuation by the local FD. Due to the inability to actually pinpoint and repair the leak approximately 600' of 1.25" DuPont Aldyl-A PE pipe was replaced and the leak was shut down on 4/24/17. An NRC report was filed on 6/12/2017.
<b>Causes/Contributing Factors:</b>
Assumed to be a fusion failure of vintage DuPont Aldyl-A PE pipe. This incident has been classified as Material Failure even though the failed facility was never actually visually inspected or observed.
<b>Regulatory Analysis/ Violations:</b>
The only issue is the delayed filing of this as a reportable incident. PSE could not pinpoint the leak and continued to work and monitor the area until the facility was replaced in its entirety. This took an extended amount of time. Once it was realized the extent of the replacement and repair costs an NRC report was filed.  No violations recommended at this time.
<b>Follow up/ Recommendations:</b>
None at this time.