



STATE OF WASHINGTON

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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February 20, 2019

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

**RE: 2019 Natural Gas Incident Investigation NRC No. 1235803 – Puget Sound Energy,
King County East – January 06, 2019 – 25807 SE 152nd St. - (Investigation No. 7926)**

Dear Ms. Gilbertson:

Thank you for your 30-day follow-up letter dated January 31, 2019 regarding National Response Center (NRC) incident No. 1235803 located at 25807 SE 152nd Street in Issaquah. This incident involved a downed power line that energized the locate wire on a polyethylene main causing leakage and ignition of the escaping gas. No injuries resulted from this incident, but the cost to your organization eventually exceeded \$50,000, which triggered reporting to the NRC under CFR Part 191.5.

We have concluded our investigation and found no violations or areas of concern related to this incident. This investigation is closed as of the date of this letter.

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
Duane Henderson, Manager, Gas System Integrity, PSE

UTC Incident Investigation Form

Notification ID:	No. 3452	Investigation ID:	No. 7926
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Inspector Name:	Scott Rukke 360-664-1241 360-870-4923 srukke@utc.wa.gov
Date Report Submitted to Chief Engineer:	January 31, 2019
Date Report Reviewed & Approved by Chief Engineer:	Joe Subsits, 2/20/2019

Operator:	Puget Sound Energy
District/Unit:	East King County
Locations:	25807 SE 157ND ST Issaquah, WA
Incident Dates:	January 6, 2019

Description:
On January 6, 2019, WA State was experiencing a large wind storm. A downed powerline arced to the ground and energized the number 14 copper locate wire installed alongside a 2-inch PE main. The energized wire caused several burn holes on the PE main resulting in two leaks one of which ignited near the street resulting in a small fire.

Facts/Chronology of Events:
<p>Date and Time of Call: Jan 06, 2019 19:15 Date and Time of Incident: Jan 06, 2019 09:38 Operator On Site - Date and Time: Jan 06, 2019 10:55 Situation Controlled by Operator - Date and Time: Jan 06, 2019 16:08</p> <p>PSE reported at 7:15pm on Sunday, 1/6/2019 that a downed powerline caused an electrical arc into the locate wire on a 2-inch PE main. PSE responded to an odor call at 9:38am (1/6/2019) and arrived at 10:55am. As they were searching for the source of the gas odor PSE employees found a small "blue flame" burning near a culvert which turned out to be a natural gas leak which had ignited. PSE extinguished the fire and shut down the leak at 4:08pm.</p> <p>PSE implemented their arc/lightning strike procedures and began to conduct a leak survey of the affected area and found a second leak which is assumed to be caused by the same energized locate wire.</p> <p>No structures were involved. PSE had to wait for Asplund to remove downed trees from the site so that they can conduct further leak surveys and determine if other areas were affected. UTC Staff did not respond to the incident site at the time it occurred due to the wind storm</p>

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and widespread downed trees and power lines in addition to the incident not being federally reportable initially.

Pse had to replace Several segments of PE main due to burn damage and once the costs exceeded \$50,000 the incident was reported to the NRC. This occurred on January 22, 2019.

Causes/Contributing Factors:

A windstorm caused downed powerlines which arced to ground energizing the locate wire on a PE main. The energized locate wire burned holes into a 2-inch PE main.

Regulatory Analysis/ Violations:

No violations at this time. This incident was classified as Natural Forces.

Follow up/ Recommendations:

No recommendations at this time. PSE has a procedure for responding to this type of incident.