



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W., P.O. Box 47250 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7250  
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**CERTIFIED MAIL**

April 26, 2012

Sue McLain  
Senior Vice President Operations  
Puget Sound Energy  
PO Box 90868 M/S PSE-12N  
Bellevue, WA 98009-0868

Dear Ms. McLain:

**RE: 2012 Standard Natural Gas Inspection - King County East**

Staff from the Utilities and Transportation Commission (staff) conducted a standard inspection from March 20-23, 2011, March 26-29, 2012, and April 6, 2012 of Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) King County - East distribution system. The inspection included a records review and inspection of the pipeline facilities.

I am pleased to report that only one area of concern was identified which unless corrected, could potentially lead to future violation of state and/or federal pipeline safety rules.

As part of the field portion of the inspection, staff observed two relatively new technicians perform pressure control tasks such as bypass, lockup, and relief operations. During the course of the observations, it appeared to staff that the technicians were being "coached" by more experienced personnel.

Training records reveal these individuals hold qualifications that indicated they are fully qualified pressure control technicians. It was staff's opinion that if the more experienced technician was not present and these individuals had to perform the tasks independently, the lack of experience may potentially create an unsafe condition.

We recognize that in the course of conducting these observations that personnel can become distracted to a point where mistakes can be made or they become unsure of themselves while performing these tasks. Nevertheless, I encourage the company to continue to review its training programs to ensure that personnel are adequately trained and qualified to perform covered tasks.

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If you have any questions, or if we may be of any assistance, please contact David Cullom at (360) 664-1141. Please refer to the subject matter described above in any future correspondence pertaining to this inspection.

Sincerely,



David D. Lykken  
Pipeline Safety Director

cc. Carol Wallace, Director, Gas Operations  
Cathy Koch, Director, Compliance  
Duane A. Henderson, Manager, Gas System Integrity  
Cheryl McGrath, Manager, Gas Compliance and Regulatory Audits