



News Release

Progress On Power Restoration; Natural Gas System is Stable

BELLEVUE, Wash.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Feb. 28, 2001--Puget Sound Energy (NYSE:PSD) crews have restored power to an additional 3,500 customers late this afternoon, bringing the total without power down to approximately 4,600 as of 6 p.m.

A total of 200,000 PSE customers lost power when today's earthquake tripped off power lines. The PSE customers still without power are primarily in the King-Auburn area and in parts of Thurston County.

Puget Sound Energy crews are now working on repairing downed power poles and other equipment, expecting that final power outage restoration should be completed later this evening.

Other than some minor damage to a handful of natural gas pipes, Puget Sound Energy reports that there was no major damage to the natural gas system. PSE customer service technicians have been responding to approximately 500 calls from customers reporting they smelled natural gas escaping, but have found no significant damage to homes or businesses.

It is recommended that Puget Sound Energy customers with natural gas service check their gas pipes and appliances for damage, and be alert for the smell or sound of escaping natural gas. If you do not smell or hear any natural gas leaking, then natural gas service does not need to be shut off. If you do smell the odor of escaping natural gas inside your home or outside near the meter, do NOT turn any electrical switches on or off, use the telephone or do anything that might create a spark. All occupants should evacuate the house or building and phone Puget Sound Energy from another location at 1-888-225-5773.

Puget Sound Energy serves 924,000 electricity customers in nine counties, and 591,000 natural gas customers in six counties, mostly in Western Washington.

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