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Hazard: electrical grounding to PSE natural gas meters



CALL PSE'S CUSTOMER CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AT 1-888-321-7779 OR VISIT PSE.COM/CUSTOMERCONSTRUCTION FOR MORE INFORMATION.

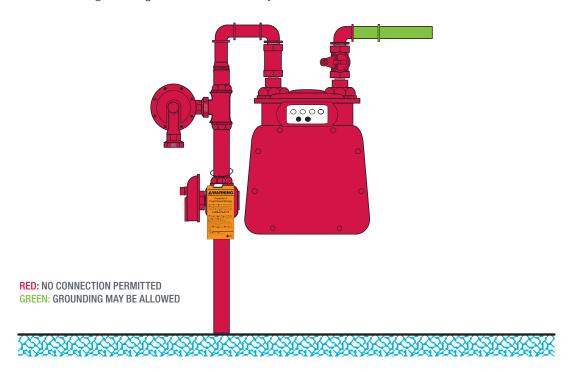
The use of gas meters and piping as grounds for other systems endangers the public. Please help PSE reduce this risk by sharing the following message with building inspectors and contractors.

For the safety of customers and our natural gas system, do not make or approve **any** connections to natural gas meters or **PSE** piping. Doing so is dangerous and is prohibited by the National Electric Code (NEC), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and Puget Sound Energy.

PSE's gas piping system must be electrically isolated from all customer piping, electrical, mechanical and structural systems. Electrical ground wires attached to a gas meter can cause a gas leak, a structure fire or injury.

Electrical grounding and bonding must follow the specific rules of the NEC to ensure an effective ground-fault current path. If bonding jumpers are necessary, they must be installed on the customer side of the meter. Special fittings on the customer side provide protection and isolate the meter and utility gas system. There should be no electrical continuity between utility gas lines, the building structure or grounding electrode system.

While bonding to a natural gas meter may seem like an efficient way to ground, using natural gas equipment for this purpose is putting the installer, our natural gas system and our customers at risk. Play it safe. Follow code and look for available grounding electrodes to make your connection.



Note: PSE personnel do not remove grounds as this is potentially a dangerous practice. Instead, PSE will inform customers of the problem and encourage them to hire an electrician to remove the ground as only skilled electricians should perform this work to avoid an electrical fault. PSE will work with state and city electrical inspectors to resolve and enforce compliance with gas line installation standards and applicable electrical codes.

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Additional info

NEC 250.52(B) prohibits grounding of any building electrical equipment or system to the PSE owned gas riser. Grounding to a riser compromises the corrosion control systems used to protect PSE's natural gas piping, and the riser often does not provide an adequate means of electrical grounding.

Not only is such grounding prohibited; if done incorrectly, it can present a shock hazard to both the customer and PSE personnel. PSE's gas services have dielectric coatings that inhibit the ability to ground. Some of the coatings used are epoxy, polyethylene tape, extruded polyethylene and coal tar enamel and should not be removed.

NFPA 54, Section 7.12.5 requires that PSE's gas piping system be electrically isolated from all customer piping, wiring and grounding systems. PSE gas piping shall never be used as a ground for an electrical system.

NEC 250.104 (B) requires that interior metal piping (such as customer gas fuel lines) that may become energized be electrically grounded so that fault currents may be safely discharged. PSE's meter set assemblies include insulating fittings, so proper electrical grounding of the customer's fuel line does not affect PSE's cathodic protection.

If a bonding jumper is needed, it needs to be attached to the customer side of the gas piping. Customer gas piping is required to be bonded when the electrical service is upgraded or replaced.

Please contact your local authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) or an electrical contractor before making connection to gas piping or electrical equipment.

