

**RCW 80.12.020 Order required to sell, merge, etc.—Exemption.**

(1) No public service company shall sell, lease, assign or otherwise dispose of the whole or any part of its franchises, properties or facilities whatsoever, which are necessary or useful in the performance of its duties to the public, and no public service company shall, by any means whatsoever, directly or indirectly, merge or consolidate any of its franchises, properties or facilities with any other public service company, without having secured from the commission an order authorizing it to do so. The commission shall not approve any transaction under this section that would result in a person, directly or indirectly, acquiring a controlling interest in a gas or electrical company without a finding that the transaction would provide a net benefit to the customers of the company.

(2) This section shall not apply to any sale, lease, assignment or other disposal of such franchises, properties or facilities to a special purpose district as defined in RCW 36.96.010, city, county, or town. [2009 c 24 s 3; 1981 c 117 s 1; 1961 c 14 s 80.12.020. Prior: 1945 c 75 s 1; 1941 c 159 s 2; Rem. Supp. 1945 s 10440b.]

**Finding—2009 c 24:** See note following RCW 80.12.010.