

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET UG-150754
)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS)	ORDER 01
CORPORATION,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
Seeking Amendment of Temporary)	ORDER GRANTING
Exemption from the Provisions of)	AMENDMENT OF INTEGRATED
WAC 480-90-238(4) Related to the)	RESOURCE PLAN FILING DATE
Timing of Integrated Resource Plan)	
Filing)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On May 6, 2015, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting a temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4), which requires each regulated natural gas company to submit an integrated resource plan (IRP) within two years of the date of its previous filing. Cascade’s petition requested an extension of the filing deadline of the 2014 IRP from May 29, 2015, to July 17, 2015.¹ In its petition the Company explained that it needed additional time to complete the IRP due to a medical emergency.
- 2 Commission Staff (Staff) reviewed the petition and requested that Cascade include in the 2014 IRP an additional scenario where the amount of Washington conservation modeled for cost-effectness be equivalent to 100 percent of the achievable economic potential, with administrative costs included. Subsequently on May 19, 2015, Cascade filed a revised petition agreeing to include such a scenario in the 2014 IRP. With the inclusion of this analysis Staff believes the filing date extension serves the public interest.
- 3 Commission Staff recommends granting Cascade’s request to revise the filing date of its 2014 IRP from May 29, 2015, to July 17, 2015, pursuant to the temporary exemption

¹ The Commission previously extended Cascade’s 2014 IRP deadline twice. See Docket UG-140181, Orders 01 and 02, extending the deadline from December 15, 2014, to March 15, 2015, and from March 15, 2015, to May 29, 2015, respectively. Both extensions were granted to allow time for improvements to modeling methods. The second extension allowed additional time to modify the forecasting model being developed by a third-party consultant and to conduct a joint IRP development process with Washington and Oregon stakeholders.

from WAC 480-90-238(4) granted by the Commission in Order 02 in Docket UG-140181. The 2016 IRP will be due December 15, 2016.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies.
- 5 (2) Cascade is engaged in the business of providing natural gas services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 6 (3) Cascade is subject to WAC 480-90-238(4), which requires natural gas companies to submit an IRP within two years after the date the previous plan was filed with the Commission.
- 7 (4) Under WAC 480-90-008, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-90, if consistent with the public interest and the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. See also WAC 480-07-110.
- 8 (5) The Commission, in Docket UG-140181, previously granted Cascade two temporary exemptions from WAC 480-90-238(4), allowing Cascade to file its 2014 IRP on or before March 15, 2015, and then on or before May 29, 2015.
- 9 (6) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 28, 2015.
- 10 (7) After reviewing Cascade's petition filed in Docket UG-150754 on May 6, 2015, and revised on May 19, 2015, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that revising the filing date pursuant to the temporary exemption is reasonable, in the public interest, and therefore should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's request for temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4) to revise the filing date of its 2014 Integrated Resource Plan is granted, allowing Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to file its 2014 Integrated Resource Plan on or before July 17, 2015.
- 12 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 28, 2015.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN KING, Executive Director and Secretary