

BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES & TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
UG-06____
GENERAL RATE APPLICATION
OF



February 14, 2006

**Prepared Direct Testimony of
Katherine J. Barnard**

**Statement of Operation Per Books
Revenue Sensitive Cost Conservation Factor
Removal of Severance and Executive Transition Related Expenses
Restatement of Payroll & Related Costs
Restatement of Washington Property Taxes
Restatement for Changes in Franchise Fees
Removal of Certain Promotional Expenses
Proforma Public Awareness Program Adjustment
Proforma Payroll & Related Costs Adjustment
Proforma Insurance Expense Adjustment
Proforma Postal Rate Change Adjustment
Proforma Property Tax Adjustment
Proforma Membership/Dues Adjustment
Proforma Amortization of Gain on Propane Air Plant Adjustment
Proforma Adjustment of Gas Management Upgrade
Proforma Adjustment for Integrated Resource Planning Costs
Proforma Adjustment for CIS Mainframe Upgrade
Proforma Conservation Advertising Adjustment
Proforma Low Income Bill Assistance Program Adjustment**

1 **PREPARED TESTIMONY OF KATHERINE J. BARNARD**
2 **(Statement of Operations Per Books and Rate of Return,**
3 **Revenue Sensitive Cost Conversion Factor, Restating Adjustments, and**
4 **Proforma Adjustments)**
5

6 Q. Please state your name and address for the record.
7

8 A. Katherine J. Barnard, 222 Fairview Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 98109
9

10 Q. By whom are you employed and what is your title?
11

12 A. I am employed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation as the Senior Director of Regulatory
13 Affairs.
14

15 Q. What are your primary responsibilities at Cascade?
16

17 A. I am responsible for the preparation of rate related exhibits in support of the Company's
18 various regulatory filings and general rate filings, as well as integrated resource planning.
19

20 Q. Please describe your education background and previous experience.
21

22 A. I am a graduate of the University of Washington with Bachelor of Arts degrees in both
23 Business Administration and Arts & Sciences. My Business Administration degree was in
24 Finance with additional course work in accounting.
25

26 I have been employed at Cascade since 1992. Prior to joining Regulatory Affairs
27 department in 1996, I was employed as a Senior Accountant where I was responsible for

1 developing the income statement, including the allocation of Washington and Oregon
2 balances, and the development of the statement of operations used in regulatory reporting.
3 Prior to joining Cascade, I was employed by the Washington Utilities and Transportation
4 Commission as Revenue Requirement Specialist. My responsibilities included reviewing
5 tariff filings, affiliated interest applications, and performing audits of several telephone
6 companies' compliance reports. Between 1988 and 1990, I was the Manager – Separations
7 at Nevada Bell where my responsibilities were the development of rates for the Company's
8 FCC tariff filings along with FCC and National Exchange Carriers Association (NECA)
9 compliance reporting. Between 1985 and 1987, I was employed by Ernst & Whinney's
10 Telecommunications Consulting Group where I was responsible for the preparation of cost
11 allocation studies for several small telephone companies.

12
13 Q. Have you previously sponsored testimony?

14
15 A. Yes, I have sponsored testimony before both the Washington Utilities and Transportation
16 Commission and the Public Utility Commission of Oregon.

17
18 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?

19
20 A. The purpose of my testimony is to present the Company's Washington Results of Operation
21 for the test period, which is the twelve months ended September 30, 2005. Additionally, I
22 will explain several of the restating and proforma adjustments to the test year results of
23 operation.

24
25 Q. Will you please explain the difference between a restating adjustment and a proforma
26 adjustment.

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1 A. A restating adjustment is prepared when a change took place during the 12 month test period
2 and, without the adjustment, the test period would reflect only a portion of the changed
3 condition. The purpose of the restating adjustment is to adjust the balances as if the change
4 had been in place during the entire test period. A proforma adjustment is prepared when a
5 change occurred subsequent to the test period, but is known and measurable.

6
7 Q. Do you sponsor exhibits in this filing?
8

9 A. Yes, I sponsor 19 exhibits. The exhibits are marked as the following:

KJB-2 Statement of Operations Per Books
KJB-3 Revenue Sensitive Cost Conversion Factor
KJB-4 Removal of Severance and Executive Transition Related Expenses
KJB-5 Restatement of Payroll & Related Costs
KJB-6 Restatement of Washington Property Tax
KJB-7 Restatement for Changes in Franchise Fees
KJB-8 Removal of Certain Promotional Expenses
KJB-9 Proforma Public Awareness Program Adjustment
KJB-10 Proforma Wage & Related Costs Adjustment
KJB-11 Proforma Insurance Expense Adjustment
KJB-12 Proforma Postal Rate Change Adjustment
KJB-13 Proforma Property Tax Adjustment
KJB-14 Proforma Membership/Dues Adjustment
KJB-15 Proforma Amortization of Gain on Propane Air Plant
KJB-16 Proforma Adjustment of Gas Management Upgrade
KJB-17 Proforma Adjustment for Integrated Resource Planning Costs
KJB-18 Proforma Adjustment for CIS Mainframe Upgrade
KJB-19 Proforma Conservation Advertising Adjustment
KJB-20 Proforma Low Income Bill Assistance Program Adjustment

10
11 Q. Were all of these exhibits either prepared by you or under your supervision?
12

13 A. Yes

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1 EXHIBIT ____ (KJB-2)

2 Statement Of Operations Per Books And Rate Of Return

3
4 Q. Please describe Exhibit ____ (KJB-2).

5
6 A. Exhibit ____ (KJB -2) includes five schedules. Schedule 1 displays the test period operating
7 results for the State of Washington. Schedule 2 calculates the direct and allocated
8 Washington operating revenues and expenses. Schedule 3 develops the average rate base for
9 the test year. Schedule 4 develops the working capital allowance included in rate base.
10 Schedule 5 shows the calculation of formulas used to allocate indirect costs.

11
12 Q. Please explain Schedule 1.

13
14 A. Schedule 1 summarizes the State of Washington results of operations, the rate base, and the
15 resulting rate of return of 6.60% for the test period. The results of operations balances were
16 carried forward from Schedule 2, column (d). The rate base amount was carried forward
17 from Schedule 3, column (d). The amounts from Schedule 1, column (b) are carried forward
18 to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2), Schedule 1, page 1, column (b).

19
20 Q. Please describe Schedule 2.

21
22 A. Schedule 2 shows the assignment of revenues and costs between Washington and Oregon
23 operations for the test period. Expenses are classified as either direct or general. Those
24 classified as direct are generally incurred at the district level and are directly assigned to the
25 appropriate state. General expenses are incurred at the corporate level and are not directly
26 attributable to one state; therefore they have been allocated based on formulas that have
27 been agreed upon by the Commissions of both Washington and Oregon. The goal in

1 developing these formulas was to achieve a fair and reasonable allocation of indirect
2 expenses that was easy to use and one that would provide relative stability on a year-to-year
3 basis. Since implementation and joint acceptance by the Company and both state
4 commissions more than twenty years ago, they have been used on a consistent basis.

5
6 Q. Please describe the formulas used in allocating general expenses on Schedule 2.

7
8 A. The "three-factor formula" has been used to allocate most general expenses, the
9 development of which is shown on Schedule 5, lines 1 through 7. This formula is a simple
10 average of the three factors consisting of the ratios for each state to the total system for the
11 proceeding fiscal year of (1) average number of customers, (2) employees directly assigned
12 to each state, and (3) gross plant directly assigned to each state.

13
14 General depreciation is allocated on two separate formulas, each of which is appropriate to
15 the categories of plant being depreciated. Depreciation expense associated with the General
16 Office, telemetry equipment, and the central warehouse are allocated on the three-factor
17 formula. Meters & regulators are not assigned directly to a state when purchased and
18 therefore the related depreciation expense is allocated on the average number of customers
19 factor.

20
21 Q. How are federal and state income taxes assigned to Washington operations?

22
23 A. Current and deferred federal income taxes are allocated between states based on the pre-tax
24 operating income less interest expense attributable to each state. The calculation of this
25 formula is shown on Schedule 5, lines 8 through 12. Investment tax credit (ITC)
26 amortization is allocated based on the rate base assigned to each state. The development of
27 this ratio is shown on Schedule 5, line 14. Oregon state income taxes are directly assigned
28 to Oregon.

1 Q. Please explain Schedule 3.

2
3 A. This exhibit develops the average rate base for the test year. The amounts represent the
4 average of monthly account balance averages for the test year, except that the amounts on
5 lines 12 and 13 represent balances of accumulated deferred income taxes as of the end of the
6 test year. This exception is made to comply with the established regulatory policy of this
7 Commission.

8
9 Q. Please describe what you have characterized in your exhibit as direct and allocated amounts.

10
11 A. Direct amounts are plant investments that specifically serve Washington customers and
12 primarily consist of distribution plant and district business offices. Allocated amounts are
13 plant investments that support operations in both Washington and Oregon, such as the
14 Company's corporate headquarters in Seattle and central warehouse in Yakima. Allocation
15 factors are the same as those described in Schedule 5. The cost of meters and regulators are
16 accumulated in FERC plant accounts without regard to state segregation. Thus, these costs
17 are allocated on the ratio of the number of customers in each state. Accumulated deferred
18 income tax balances, which relate to depreciation and depreciable plant basis differences,
19 are allocated on the ratio of direct plant in Washington.

20
21 Q. Please explain Schedule 4.

22
23 A. This schedule develops investor-supplied working capital included in rate base. Page 1 first
24 calculates total system investor-supplied working capital and then computes the ratio of
25 working capital to total average investments (line 5 divided by line 4). This ratio is then
26 carried to page 2, line 6 and multiplied by the total Washington average operating
27 investments on line 5. The resulting product represents the working capital allowance

1 included in Washington rate base, which is carried forward to Exhibit ____ (KJB-2),
2 Schedule 3, page 1, column (d), line 15.

3
4 **EXHIBIT ____ (KJB-3)**

5 **Revenue Sensitive Cost Conversion Factor**

6
7 Q. Please explain Exhibit ____ (KJB-3).

8
9 A. This exhibit develops the revenue sensitive cost factors and the net to gross conversion
10 factor for the test period. Line 1 represents gross revenue using decimals instead of
11 percentages. The factor for uncollectibles was derived by dividing the test period net write-
12 offs of uncollectible accounts by the gross revenue from gas sales for the twelve months
13 immediately preceding the test period. Lines 4, 5 and 6 display the revenue sensitive cost
14 factors as identified. Line 8 shows the conversion of the federal corporate income tax rate,
15 and Line 9 is the resulting conversion factor.

16
17 Q. What use is made of the revenue sensitive factors?

18
19 A. Each time a revenue adjustment figure is developed in these proceedings, it is necessary to
20 calculate the associated change in expense directly related to the changes in revenue. In the
21 summary Exhibit __ (JTS-2), Mr. Stoltz uses these factors each time an adjustment to
22 revenue is made.

23
24 Q. What use is made of the net to gross conversion factor?

25
26 A. The net to gross conversion factor is used to convert the net operating income changes to
27 gross revenue requirements. This factor is applied in Exhibit ____ (JTS-9).

1 identified as the September 2005 reorganization, removes the costs of the severance and
2 outplacement services provided to those employees impacted by the reorganization. The
3 combined impact of this adjustment is a reduction in operating expenses of \$2,143,627,
4 which was carried forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2), Page 2, Column (f), Line 11.

5
6 Q. Please explain Exhibit ____ (KJB-5)

7
8 A. Exhibit ____ (KJB-5), Restate Payroll and Related Costs, shows the amount necessary to
9 restate test year operating expenses and payroll taxes for the annualizing effect of changes in
10 wages and salary levels during the year. The Company annually adjusts the salaries of its
11 non-bargaining unit and non-field bargaining unit employees on December 1st each year.
12 Field bargaining unit employees are typically granted wage increases on April 1st of each
13 year. This adjustment restates test year expenses to the level that would have been incurred
14 had the salary adjustments been in effect at the beginning of the year.

15
16 Q. How did you calculate the amount of the adjustment?

17
18 A. I first determined the total amount of salaries and wages paid to the non-bargaining unit and
19 non-field bargaining unit employees for the period of October 2004 through November 2004
20 and the field bargaining unit employees for the period of October 2004 through March 2005,
21 (*i.e.* the portion of the test year prior to the effective date of their respective increases).
22 Salaries for the non-bargaining unit and non-field bargaining unit employees were totaled
23 for three distinct groups: Officers, General Office employees, and Washington Direct
24 assigned salaries. The 77.06% three-factor formula was applied to both the Officer group
25 and the General Office employees to determine the level of the salaries attributable to
26 Washington. Then the average annual increase of 2.71% was applied to salaries for the
27 October 2004 through November 2004 period. The resulting amounts were the increased
28 salary levels that would have been in effect the first two months of the test year had the

1 increases granted December 1, 2005 been in effect for the entire test year. A similar process
2 was followed for the field bargaining unit employees. The wages for the field bargaining
3 unit employees for the period of October 2004 through March 2005 were calculated and the
4 average annual increase of 3%, as defined in their Union contract, was applied to restate the
5 wages as if the April 1, 2005 adjustment had been in effect for the entire test year.
6 Additionally, the adjustment annualizes the base salaries associated with the new CEO and
7 CFO who joined the Company on April 1 and June 27 respectively and removes the test
8 period salaries paid to the previous CEO and CFO. The sum from the resulting adjustments
9 is an increase in operating expenses of \$ 501,433.

10
11 The wage and salary increase also subject the Company to an obligation for additional
12 Social Security and Medicare taxes. The estimated amount of the tax increase is \$15,601.
13 The combined impact is an increase in operating expenses of \$517,034, which is carried
14 forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2), Page 2, Column (g), Line 12.

15
16 Q. Please describe Exhibit ____ (KJB-6).

17
18 A. Exhibit ____ (KJB-6), Restatement of Washington Property Taxes, adjusts the test period to
19 annualize the increase in property taxes. The Company operates on a fiscal year ending
20 September 30th, which corresponds with the test period. Washington property taxes are
21 assessed on a calendar year basis and therefore the test period reflects only 75% of the
22 change in the 2005 tax assessment. This adjustment results in an increase in operating
23 expenses of \$86,974. This amount was carried forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2), Page 2,
24 Column (h), Line 15.

25
26 Q. Please describe Exhibit ____ (KJB-7).

27

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1 A. Exhibit ___(KJB-7), Restatement for Changes in Franchise Fees, adjusts the test period to
2 reflect the removal of franchise taxes paid by the Company to four cities during the test
3 period that were charged on a percent of revenue basis. The original franchise agreements
4 for both the cities of Shelton and Yakima expired during 2005, resulting in the removal of
5 \$426,458 in operating franchise taxes which the Company is no longer obligated to pay.
6 Additionally, the Company is proposing an adjustment to remove the franchise taxes
7 associated with the cities of Union Gap and Port Orchard, and is filing a corresponding Tax
8 Addition for those two cities as shown on Schedule 500-C. The removal of expenses
9 associated with the Union Gap and Port Orchard franchise taxes results in an additional
10 reduction of \$68,544 in expenses. The combined impact of these adjustments is a total
11 decrease in operating expenses of \$495,002, which is carried forward to Exhibit ___(JTS-2),
12 Page 2, Column (i), Line 15.

13
14 Q. Why did you remove the franchise fees associated with the Cities of Union Gap and Port
15 Orchard when those agreements did not expire during the test period?

16
17 A. These expenses were removed to reflect that when the current franchise agreements expire,
18 the associated franchise fees, which are currently charged on a percent of revenue basis, will
19 expire. According to Washington State Law (RCW35.21.860) franchise fees can no longer
20 be charged on a percent of revenue basis. Fees based on a percent of revenue are considered
21 a utility or business and occupation tax subject to a combined ceiling of 6% according to
22 state law and are recoverable directly from those customers residing within the city limits
23 through the tax addition schedules (Schedule 500 through Schedule 500-B). The franchise
24 agreement with the City of Union Gap is set to expire during 2006. Although the Port
25 Orchard agreement does not expire until 2014, it seems appropriate that the 2% franchise fee

1 be collected directly from those customers residing within the city limits, rather than being
2 included as an operating expense recoverable from all Washington ratepayers.

3
4 Q. Please describe Exhibit ____ (KJB-8).

5
6 A. Exhibit ____ (KJB-8), Removal of Certain Promotional Expenses, removes expenses
7 historically removed for ratemaking purposes. According to WAC 480-90-223 the
8 Company must remove promotional advertising expenses. Additionally, the Commission
9 has historically required an adjustment to remove promotional compensation provided to
10 Consumer Representatives during the test period. This results in a reduction to operating
11 expenses of \$183,585, which is carried forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2), Page 2, Column (j),
12 Line 10.

13
14 **EXHIBIT ____ (KJB-9) Through EXHIBIT ____ (KJB-20)**

15 **Proforma Adjustments**

16
17 Q. Please explain the purpose of Exhibits ____ (KJB-9) through (KJB-20)

18
19 A. Each of these exhibits contains a separate proforma adjustment, which is necessary to adjust
20 test period results of operations for changes that will occur during the review period, prior to
21 new rates being established.

22
23 Q. Please describe each exhibit, explain why it is necessary, and identify its effect on operating
24 income or rate base.

25
26 A. Exhibit ____ (KJB-9) is the proforma adjustment associated with the federally mandated
27 pipeline operator public awareness program, which was enacted in 2005. Beginning June

1 2006, the Company is required to initiate a formal public awareness campaign to both
2 customers and non-customers in our operating area and near our facilities in accordance with
3 the American Petroleum Institute (API) Recommended Practice (RP) 1162. Cascade has
4 historically provided safety information to its customers. As part of the new program
5 requirements, however, the Company must consider a broader audience, such as non-
6 customers, and expand the type and volume of information that is provided. Based on the
7 Company's draft program, the Company will increase the number and type of mailing
8 materials that are distributed to customers, non-customers, and local emergency and public
9 officials. Additionally the Company plans to expand its efforts into radio advertising in
10 order to reach targeted stakeholders. All of these new initiatives are estimated to increase
11 our spending for public awareness by \$120,000 per year. This amount was then allocated to
12 Washington operations based on the 3-factor formula of 77.06%. This results in an increase
13 in operating expenses of \$92,472, which is carried forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2), page 3,
14 column (b), line (11).

15
16 Q. Please explain Exhibit ____ (KJB-10)

17
18 A. Exhibit ____ (KJB-10) is the proforma adjustment to reflect future changes in wages and
19 salaries anticipated to occur prior to rates being established in this case. As I explained
20 earlier in my testimony, the Company generally grants annual wage and salary increases to
21 its non-bargaining unit and non-field bargaining unit employees on December 1st of each
22 year. Field bargaining unit employees are typically granted wage increases on April 1st of
23 each year.

24
25 Q. How did you develop this amount?
26

1 A. I analyzed the payroll records to determine the total amount of wages and salaries paid
2 during the test year to each of the categories described earlier in my testimony on Exhibit
3 _____(KJB-5). To these amounts I added the amounts previously calculated for the effect of
4 the December 1, 2004 and April 1, 2005 increases in wages and salaries, (Exhibit____(KJB-
5 5). The result is the amount of restated wages and salaries for the test year. The non-
6 bargaining unit employees were adjusted to reflect the 3% annual salary adjustment awarded
7 December 1, 2005. In addition, a 3% pool of total monies was added for anticipated
8 increases for field bargaining unit employees on April 1, 2006 and for all other employees
9 on December 1, 2006, both within the anticipated review period. For each of the proforma
10 changes, I performed the same calculations described in my testimony on Exhibit
11 _____(KJB-5) to determine the estimate amounts of these salary adjustments and the
12 estimated Social Security and Medicare payroll taxes associated with the increased
13 compensation. The resulting adjustment of salaries and wages charged to Washington
14 operating expenses is \$796,398. The corresponding adjustment of Social Security and
15 Medicare payroll taxes is \$56,129, for a total adjustment of \$852,527. This amount is
16 carried forward to Exhibit _____(JTS-2), page 3, column (c), line 12.

17
18 Q. Please explain Exhibit _____(KJB-11).

19
20 A. Exhibit ____ (KJB-11) is the proforma adjustment to reflect the expected increase in costs
21 associated with property and liability insurance since the test year. The effect of this
22 adjustment is to increase operating expenses by \$117,438, which, is carried forward to
23 Exhibit _____(JTS-2), page 3, column (h), line (11).

24
25 Q. Please explain Exhibit _____(KJB-12)

1 A. Exhibit ___(KJB-12) is the proforma adjustment necessary to reflect the change in postal
2 rates implemented by the United States Postal Service on January 8, 2006. The increase will
3 result in a 5.4% increase in postage costs. The effect of this adjustment is an increase in
4 operating costs of \$43,525, which is carried forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2), page 3,
5 column (i), line (11).

6
7 Q. Please explain Exhibit ____ (KJB-13).

8
9 A. Exhibit ___(KJB-13) is the proforma adjustment to reflect the estimated increase in the
10 2006 property tax assessment, which the Company typically receives during the July time
11 period.

12
13 Q. Please explain how this adjustment was calculated.

14
15 A. The adjustment was calculated by applying the average annual increase to the restated
16 Washington property taxes developed in Exhibit ____ (KJB-6). The estimated increase of
17 3.42% was based on the average annual increase in the assessed value that has occurred over
18 the prior three years. Applying this percentage to the restated property taxes results in an
19 adjustment of \$95,381, which is carried forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2), page 4, column
20 (j), line 15.

21
22 Q. Please explain Exhibit ____ (KJB-14)

23
24 A. Exhibit ___(KJB-14) is the proforma adjustment necessary to reflect the change in
25 membership dues for industry associations. Since the test period, Cascade discontinued its

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1 membership in Western Energy Institute (WEI) and joined the American Gas Association
2 (AGA). The three-factor formula was applied to the respective fees. The effect of this
3 adjustment is an increase in operating costs of \$105,856, which is carried forward to Exhibit
4 _____(JTS-2), page 4, column (k), line (11).

5
6 Q. Please explain Exhibit ____ (KJB-15).

7
8 A. Exhibit ____ (KJB-15) is the proforma adjustment necessary to reflect the amortization of the
9 gain on the sale of the propane air plant. In 1998, Cascade sold its propane air plant and in
10 accordance with the Commission's letter ruling in Docket No. UG-981508, deferred the gain
11 on the sale of the plant. In accordance with the letter ruling, the Company has been accruing
12 interest on the outstanding balance and the Company agreed to begin amortizing the
13 outstanding balance in conjunction with a general rate case. Based upon a 3-year
14 amortization of the estimated balance, including interest through December 31, 2006, the
15 annual amortization amount would be \$35,514. This adjustment represents a decrease in the
16 Company's operating expenses, which is carried forward to Exhibit _____(JTS-2), page 4,
17 column (l), line (13).

18
19 Q. Please explain Exhibit ____ (KJB-16).

20
21 A. Exhibit ____ (KJB-16) shows the proforma adjustment associated with the upgrade of the gas
22 management system and the implementation of the risk management software module
23 scheduled to be in service during the rate review period. The adjustment reflects the
24 incremental depreciation, property tax and annual software maintenance expenses associated
25 with the system upgrade. These amounts are \$33,926; \$2,849; and \$66,272 respectively and
26 were carried forward to Exhibit _____(JTS-2), page 4, column (m), lines 13, 15, and 11.

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1 Additionally, the exhibit calculates the proforma adjustment to rate base of \$211,155. That
2 amount was carried forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2), page 4, column (m), line (21).

3 Q. Please explain Exhibit ____ (KJB-17).

4
5 A. Exhibit ____ (KJB-17) shows the proforma adjustment necessary to reflect the incremental
6 Integrated Resource Planning costs that the Company will incur in order to implement the
7 additional analyses required by the Commission. Based on the Commission's
8 recommendations in response to the Company's 2002 Plan, as part of the Company's 2004
9 2-year Action Plan the Company committed to preparing additional Monte-Carlo type
10 analyses. In order to accomplish this, the Company has purchased Vector Gas Software,
11 which is an "add-on" module to the Sendout optimization model that the Company has used
12 for analyzing supply and demand side resources alternatives. In order to run the program, an
13 additional server and additional Oracle database licenses must be purchased. The
14 adjustment reflects the incremental depreciation, property tax and annual software
15 maintenance and licensing expenses associated with the system upgrade. These amounts are
16 \$4,768; \$455; and \$6,627 respectively and were carried forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2),
17 page 4, column (n), lines 13, 15, and 11. The exhibit calculates the corresponding proforma
18 adjustment to rate base of \$33,359. That amount was carried forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-
19 2), page 4, column (n), line (21). Additionally, the Company has included the incremental
20 costs of \$45,200 associated with a third-party, Stellar Processing, preparing the Washington
21 Conservation Potential. Although this particular study will not be done on an annual basis,
22 the Company believes that in conjunction with the decoupling and the additional focus on
23 conservation, this level of expense is representative of the conservation consulting costs the
24 Company will incur on an annual basis to analyze available conservation resources, design
25 incremental conservation programs, and evaluate the cost-effectiveness of existing and
26 potential programs. The amount of \$45,200 was carried forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2),
27 page 4, column (n), line (9).

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Q. Please explain Exhibit _____(KJB-18).

A. Exhibit ___(KJB-18) shows the proforma adjustment associated with the upgrade of Cascade’s mainframe system, which runs the Company’s Billing and Customer Information System (CIS) scheduled to be in service during the rate review period. The adjustment reflects the incremental depreciation, property tax and annual software/maintenance expenses associated with the system upgrade. These amounts are \$24,621; \$2,795; and \$69,919 respectively and were carried forward to Exhibit _____(JTS-2), page 4, column (o), lines 13, 15, and 11. Additionally, the exhibit calculates the proforma adjustment to rate base of \$202,802. That amount was carried forward to Exhibit _____(JTS-1), page 4, column (o), line (21).

Q. Please explain Exhibit _____(KJB-19).

A. Exhibit ___ (KJB-19) shows the proforma adjustment to reflect the estimated conservation advertising that the Company will incur in association with its Conservation Alliance Plan, Rule 22, described in Mr. Stoltz’s testimony. The Company anticipates actively marketing and advertising the benefits of conservation upon approval of the Conservation Rewards Program. The Company estimates that it will increase its promotion of the benefits of conservation through radio and newspaper advertisements along with direct mail brochures in addition to the Company’s current approach of promoting conservation only through bill inserts. Additionally, the Company will pursue opportunities to provide community education, by working with the office of Community Trade and Economic Development (CTED) and other local agencies and participating in energy fairs and home improvement shows. The estimated incremental costs associated with this program is \$150,000, which is

1 an increase in operating expenses and is carried forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2), page 4,
2 column (p), line (9).

3
4 Q. Please explain Exhibit ____ (KJB-20)

5
6 A. Exhibit ____ (KJB-20) shows the proforma adjustment associated with the Low Income Bill
7 Assistance program described in Mr. Stevens' testimony. As explained in his testimony,
8 the Company would provide funding to the Community Action Agencies within its service
9 territory to be used for bill assistance to Cascade's low income customers. The adjustment
10 shows the overall funding of \$800,000, which was then reduced to reflect the estimated
11 reduction in public utility tax associated with incremental low income bill assistance
12 programs. The \$107,000 amount is the base credit available to Cascade as identified in the
13 Washington Department of Revenue's May 2, 2005 Special Notice. The net impact of this
14 adjustment is to increase operating expenses by \$693,000. These amounts are carried
15 forward to Exhibit ____ (JTS-2), page 4, column (q), lines 9 and 15.

16
17 Q. Does this complete your testimony?

18
19 A. Yes, it does.
20