

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)	DOCKET UG-061721
)	
MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC.)	
AND CASCADE NATURAL GAS)	ORDER 03
CORPORATION)	
)	
For an Order Authorizing Proposed)	
Transaction)	GRANTING LATE
)	INTERVENTION
.....)	

1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDING.** Docket UG-061721 involves a joint application of MDU Resources Group, Inc. (MDU) and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade) for an order authorizing MDU Resources’ acquisition of all outstanding common stock of Cascade.

2 **CONFERENCE.** The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) convened a prehearing conference in this docket at Olympia, Washington on December 6, 2006, before Administrative Law Judge Dennis J. Moss. The Commission considered, among other things, all timely petitions to intervene.

3 **LATE-FILED PETITION TO INTERVENE.** The Energy Project, represented by Mr. Ron Roseman, attorney, Seattle, Washington, petitioned to intervene on March 14, 2007, after the date for timely intervention stated in the Commission’s procedural rules. The rules, however, allow for late-filed petitions when good cause is shown for the late-filed request and the petitioner shows a substantial interest in the outcome of the proceeding or that its participation would be in the public interest. *WAC 480-07-355.*

4 The Energy Project works with Community Action Agencies that provide rate assistance and energy efficiency programs to low income customers of Cascade. The Energy Project also works with utilities to develop and expand rate assistance, and

energy efficiency programs for low income customers. The Energy Project is a frequent party in general rate cases, mergers, and other dockets when energy affordability and customer service polices are at issue. The Energy Project is interested in examining the policies of this newly formed utility as they affect low income customers if an order is granted by the Commission that allows the proposed transaction.

5 The Energy Project's petition states it did not receive notice of this proceeding, despite its participation in previous dockets involving Cascade, thus establishing good cause for the organization's failure to intervene on a timely basis. The Commission has confirmed from its records that it did not issue notice to The Energy Project. The petition also states that Mr. Roseman has consulted with other parties and found none object to his petition on behalf of The Energy Project. This is confirmed by the absence of any opposition being filed within the time allowed under our procedural rules.

6 The Energy Project has shown that it has good cause for its late filing and that it has a substantial interest in this proceeding. The Commission has found the organization's participation in prior Cascade proceedings to be in the public interest. Accordingly, The Energy Project's late-filed petition to intervene should be granted.

ORDER

7 THE COMMISSION ORDERS that The Energy Project's late-filed petition to intervene is granted. The organization may hereafter participate in all phases of this proceeding with the full rights and obligations of a party.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 20, 2007.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DENNIS J. MOSS
Administrative Law Judge