

**From:** Mike Hazel  
**To:** [Public Involvement \(UTC\)](#)  
**Cc:** [ATG WWW E-mail Public Counsel](#); [Michael Hazel](#)  
**Subject:** Comments regarding CNG rate increase proposal  
**Date:** Sunday, February 18, 2018 10:08:35 AM

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Good morning-

With my latest gas bill I received notice of Cascade Natural Gas's proposed rate increase. I have reservations for a number of reasons that I will list here for your consideration.

First, in their notice, CNG states, "The average residential customers... will pay \$2.09 more per month...". This is clearly a duplicitous attempt to mislead customers and bury their concurrent proposal (captured in their chart) to increase the basic service charge by \$2.00/month. Since CNG did not see fit to address the proposed increase service charge in its communication to customers, then it stands to reason it is not a critical piece of their plan to address any purported budget issue, and this portion of the proposed cost hike - at a minimum - should be rejected.

Second, given that wages and inflation have been stagnant for nearly a decade, it defies logic that CNG's capital costs have increased substantively in recent years. Any assertion to the contrary should be viewed with skepticism by WUTC.

Third, your records will show that the last time CNG proposed and was granted a rate hike, gas and oil prices were substantially higher (oil at ~\$100/barrel) and projected to remain at those levels. However, shortly after implementing that substantial rate increase, oil and gas prices fell through the floor. As a result, the rate increase CNG needed in order to "earn a fair return on its investments" at far higher commodity prices resulted in a MUCH FAIRER return on its investments, and also should have created a significant cushion for investment and maintenance of its infrastructure. Any justification for this current proposed increase should first address how CNG managed its unforeseen windfall.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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Sent from my iPhone