

SERVICE DATE

FEB 26 1996

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In Re the Petition of	)	
	)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION	)	DOCKET NO. UG-950326
	)	
For an Order Determining the	)	
Rate-making Treatment of	)	
Certain Special Contracts	)	
. . . . .	)	
	)	
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	DOCKET NO. UG-951415
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION,	)	
	)	SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER
	)	ON PREHEARING CONFERENCE
Respondent.	)	
. . . . .	)	

**PREHEARING CONFERENCE:** A prehearing conference was held in Olympia, Washington, on Thursday, February 15, 1996. The conference was held before Administrative Law Judge Terrence Stapleton (ALJ) of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

**PARTIES:** Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Company) was represented by John L. West, attorney, Seattle. Staff of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission Staff) was represented by Robert Cedarbaum and Ann Rendahl, Assistant Attorneys General, Olympia. Robert Manifold and Donald T. Trotter, Assistant Attorneys General, Seattle, appeared as Public Counsel. Paula E. Pyron, attorney, Portland, Oregon, represented Northwest Industrial Gas Users (NWIGU).

**INTERVENTIONS:** The petition of NWIGU to intervene is granted, without objection; Ms Pyron will provide for the record a list of NWIGU members receiving service from Cascade. The petition of Northwest Natural Gas Company (NNG) to intervene is denied. Commission Staff objected to the intervention on grounds NNG failed to state an interest in this proceeding which would support intervention; Public Counsel supported the objection of Staff to NNG's intervention. NNG did not enter an appearance at the prehearing conference.

**COPIES OF PREFILED EVIDENCE:** An original plus 19 copies of all prefiled materials shall be filed. At the request of the Commission or any party, prefiled testimony must be provided upon computer diskette in a WordPerfect 5.1 or 6.0, IBM-compatible format. It is sufficient that all documents filed in this proceeding bear only the caption and docket number for the general rate increase filing, Docket No. UG-951415.

**SCHEDULE:** The following schedule is adopted for the remainder of this proceeding:

CROSS-EXAMINE COMPANY DIRECT TESTIMONY	MAY 6-8, 1996
Pre-file Staff/Public Counsel/NWIGU Testimony	June 5, 1996
Pre-file Company Rebuttal Testimony and Cross-Answering Rebuttal Testimony of Other Parties	July 5, 1996
CROSS-EXAMINE DIRECT TESTIMONY OF STAFF/NWIGU/ PUBLIC COUNSEL AND ALL REBUTTAL TESTIMONY	AUGUST 5-9, 1996
BRIEFS DUE	SEPTEMBER 6, 1996
Suspension Deadline	December 2, 1996

The schedule does not include a hearing for receipt of testimony from members of the public because the Company has not completed its notification to customers through billing inserts. Public Counsel was asked to notify the ALJ and the parties, within 30 days of the completion of the Company's notice to customers of the proposed rate increase, whether a hearing for public testimony should be scheduled.

**MOTIONS:** NWIGU filed with the Commission a motion to condense hearings and establish a procedural schedule. The requests for condensing the prefiling and hearing schedules and for filing cross-answering rebuttal testimony were accommodated. The motion to establish a formal schedule for settlement conferences among the parties is denied.

Nevertheless, the Commission strongly encourages all parties to engage voluntarily in meaningful negotiations leading to resolution of issues, and the Company, Commission Staff, Public Counsel, and NWIGU expressed willingness to undertake settlement negotiations. The presiding officer is available to assist the parties in ensuring that opportunities exist to conduct settlement conferences. Finally, the parties must file with the Commission not later than one week prior to the May and August hearings any settlement agreements or stipulations removing issues from consideration at those hearing sessions.

**DISCOVERY:** The Commission's rule on discovery is invoked. Accordingly, the methods for obtaining data as provided by WAC 480-09-480 are available in this proceeding. For the period from the date of the prehearing conference through June 5, 1996, the time for responding to data requests shall be governed by the rule; for the period from June 6, 1996, through August 2, 1996, the parties agree and it is ordered that the time for responding to data requests is shortened to seven days. The parties also agree to use informal discovery procedures for scheduling depositions and other purposes as appropriate.

In addition to prospective discovery pursuant to rule, Commission Staff sought clarification of parties' ability to use information gathered previously through informal data requests under the discrete docketed matters for each individual special contract now under review in this proceeding. No party objected to use of such information, and this order clarifies that such information may be proffered for admission into the record in this proceeding and is subject to the protective order entered January 12, 1996.

**NOTICE TO PARTIES:** Any objection to the provisions of this order must be filed within ten days after the date of its service, pursuant to WAC 480-09-460(2). In the absence of such objections, this prehearing conference order shall control further proceedings in this matter, subject to Commission review.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 26th day of February 1996.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION



Terrence Stapleton  
Administrative Law Judge

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Transcript Order Form

Proceeding name WUTC v CNGC Number UG95415, et al.

Date 02-15-96 Location OLYMPIA WA

ALJ Only  Commissioners presiding

Continental, 206-624-3377  Bridges, 1-800-358-2345

Reporter  On time  Late \_\_\_\_\_

Time in hearing 1:30 Set with \_\_\_\_\_

No transcript order

Transcript needed:  Original & 1  Original & 5

Continue prior order  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Expedite: Delivery in \_\_\_\_\_ business days per \_\_\_\_\_

Presiding officer [Signature]

Reporter Cheryl MacDonald No. of pages \_\_\_\_\_

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