

Agenda Date: May 28, 2015
Item Number: A3

Docket: PG-150425
Company: Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

Staff: Scott Rukke, Pipeline Safety Engineer

Recommendation

Issue an order granting Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (CNGC or company) request to install a new gate station at an interconnect with Northwest Pipeline (NWP) located between the Rights of Way of W. Brinkley Rd. and Highway 82 in Kennewick, WA. The new gate station will require that CNGC install and operate approximately 100 feet of 8-inch diameter pipe with a maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of 811 pounds per square inch gauge (psig).

Discussion

A gas pipeline company must have permission from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (commission) to operate a gas pipeline at greater than 500 psig, within five hundred feet of certain buildings described in WAC 480-93-020. The commission has adopted the Code of Federal Regulation, Title 49, Part 192 and 480-93 of the Washington Administrative Code as minimum standards for natural gas pipeline construction.

NWP currently operates a valve station and interstate transmission pipeline next to CNGC's proposed gate station. NWP will install a tap on their existing interstate transmission facility and run approximately 50 feet of 8-inch pipeline and install a new metering station between the tap and proposed gate station. Downstream of the new NWP metering station, CNGC will take custody of the pipeline and install 100 feet of 8-inch pipeline to serve the proposed gate station. The proposed gate station will heat the gas in preparation for pressure reduction, reduce the gas pressure from an MAOP of 811 psig to a proposed MAOP of 250 psig and odorize the gas for entry into the distribution system.

In order to serve the growing communities of Kennewick, Richland and West Richland, WA, CNGC needs the additional gate station to allow additional natural gas capacity into their existing distribution system.

A review of CNGC's proposed gate station construction plans indicate that it meets all of the pertinent requirements of the Code of Federal Regulation, Title 49, Part 192 and 480-93 of the Washington Administrative Code and that the selected location of the gate station has the least impact on surrounding population densities.

The gate station is necessary to ensure adequate natural gas capacity in CNGC's growing Tri-Cities distribution system.

Conclusion

After examination of the request with an on-site field visit and meeting with CNGC personnel, and after giving consideration to all relevant matters, staff recommends the commission issue an Order granting CNGC's request to install and operate a gate station above 500 psig, located between the Rights of Way of W. Brinkley Rd. and Highway 82 in Kennewick, WA, subject to the conditions in the Order.