

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

In the Matter of the Application of)	DOCKET NO. UG-031630
)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS)	ORDER NO. 1
CORPORATION,)	
)	
Applicant,)	
)	
To Amend its Certificate of Public)	
Convenience and Necessity to Operate)	
a Gas Plant for Hire in the West)	ORDER GRANTING
Richland, Benton County)	APPLICATION
.....)	

BACKGROUND

1 On October 7, 2003, in compliance with RCW 80.28.190, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade) filed an application to amend its present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire, to extend the service area into the city of West Richland and portion of Richland, both of which are located in Benton County (Exhibit B-1).

DISCUSSION

2 Cascade has offered natural gas service to new developments in the vicinity of West Richland contingent upon receiving the proposed service area expansion request (See attachment for legal description, Exhibit B-2).

3 This filing requests no determination at this time as to the reasonableness of the gas pipeline facility to service this addition to Cascade's service area, and recognizes the right of the Commission to determine such reasonable services and expenditures, together with the treatment of same, in any formal proceeding before the Commission dealing with Cascade's results of operation for ratemaking purposes. Notice was sent to interested parties requesting comments

and concerns regarding this application. Staff has not received comments or concerns.

- 4 It appears that Cascade is best suited to serve the requested service territory economically, therefore, the application herein should be granted to satisfy the public convenience and necessity.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW, and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*
- 6 (2) Cascade is a gas company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 7 (3) RCW 80.28.190 states no gas company shall operate in this state any gas plant for hire without first having obtained from the Commission a certificate declaring that public convenience and necessity requires or will require such operation and setting forth the area or areas within which service is to be rendered.
- 8 (4) Cascade has previously been issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to operate a gas plant for hire.
- 9 (5) Cascade has filed an application to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to extend the service area boundary into the

city of West Richland and portion of Richland, both of which are located in Benton County.

- 10 (6) Commission Staff has reviewed the Company's application and recommends the operation of natural gas plant for hire in the additional area requested is required for the public convenience and necessity.
- 11 (7) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 28, 2004.
- 12 (8) After review of the request filed in Docket UG-031630 by Cascade and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public convenience and necessity that the Certificate of Cascade be amended to reflect the addition of areas applied for herein.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The application of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire within the certificated area in the city of West Richland and portion of Richland, both of which are located in Benton County is granted.
- 14 (2) This Order makes no determination at this time as to the reasonableness of the natural gas pipeline facility to serve this addition to Cascade's service area, and recognizes the right of the Commission to determine such reasonable services and expenditures, together with treatment of same, in

any formal proceeding before the Commission dealing with Cascade's results of operations for ratemaking purposes.

- 15 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 28th day of January, 2004.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary