**SECTION 10**

**STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT**

**Overview**

**Key Points**

* Six Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meetings were held in SeaTac and Kennewick.
* Multiple opportunities for public participation were available.
* Several walkthroughs of technical components (e.g., SENDOUT® modeling) were conducted upon request.

Input and feedback from Cascade’s Technical Advisory Group (TAG) is an important resource to help ensure the IRP includes perspectives external to the Company and responsive to stake-holders. Cascade believes its approach to public engagement exceeds that required by rule WAC 480-90-238.

**Approach to Meetings and Workshops**

As a result of various issues identified in the WUTC’s April 14, 2016, letter to the Company regarding the 2014 IRP, the Commission ordered Cascade to file a new IRP on or before December 14, 2016. As a result, the Company faced a shortened IRP development and process arc of less than eight months. The Company committed to an aggressive timeline in order to ensure compliance with the WUTC order.

The Company’s standard approach is to hold a series of public meetings, typically near Seattle. Cascade’s IRP stakeholders are widely spread out geographically; Seattle is more easily accessible for individuals to attend than Kennewick. For those unable to travel, all meetings allowed for WebEx/teleconference participation. Cascade scheduled six TAG meetings between June and November 2016. Additionally, throughout the plan development stage Cascade responded to WUTC Staff requests to cover Cascade’s forecasting methodology in greater detail, through supplemental workshops, as well as provided a more detailed overview of the Company’s Gas Supply function.

Cascade recognizes the involvement in its Technical Advisory Group represents a material time commitment by participants. The Company very much appreciates the investment attendees provided to this process, through their time, review of multiple documents, and subsequent suggestions. This IRP has been improved due to the focus of the engaged stakeholders.

**List of Stakeholders**

The Company encourages public participation in the IRP process. Invited participants at these public meetings include interested customers, regional upstream pipelines, Pacific Northwest LDCs, utility Commission Staff, associated stakeholder representatives such as the Northwest Gas Association, Washington Public Counsel, and the Northwest Industrial Gas Users. Internally, the Cascade IRP stakeholders and participants came from the following departments:

* Resource Planning
* Gas Supply/Gas Control
* Regulatory Affairs
* Operations/Engineering
* Conservation, Energy Efficiency
* Finance/Accounting
* Information Technology
* Executive group

Additionally, Cascade contracted the services of an IRP consultant, Bruce W Folsom Consulting LLC, to assist the Company with meeting the aggressive 2016 IRP schedule. More discussion about the Company’s commitment to the IRP process can be found in Section 11, Regulatory Compliance.

**TAG Meetings**

Cascade held six public TAG meetings with internal and external stakeholders. Information about each meeting date and major agenda items are provided below.

2016 IRP TAG 1 Meeting – Thursday, June 16, 2016

* Location: Seattle, WA at the Sea-Tac Airport Conference Center from 9 am to noon
* IRP Timeline
* Demand Forecast Methodology
* Latest Economic Indicators

2016 IRP TAG 2 Meeting – Tuesday, July 19, 2016

* Location: Seattle, WA at the Sea-Tac Airport Conference Center from 9 am to noon
* Demand Forecast Results
* Current and Alternative Supply Resources
* Transport Issues

2016 IRP TAG 3 Meeting – Tuesday, August 23, 2016

* Location: Kennewick, WA at Cascade’s Headquarters, Snake River Room from 9 am to 3 pm
* Demand Side Management
* Planned Scenarios and Sensitivities
* Carbon Legislation

2016 IRP TAG 4 Meeting – Thursday, September 15, 2016

* Location: Seattle, WA at the Sea-Tac Airport Conference Center from 9 am to noon
* Distribution System Planning
* Preliminary Resource Integration Results
* Avoided Costs

2016 IRP TAG 5 Meeting – Friday, October 14, 2016

* Location: Kennewick, WA at Cascade’s Headquarters, Snake River Room from 9 am to noon
* Final Integration Results
* Proposed Two-Year Action Plan
* Discussion of any Remaining Items Prior to Filing the Draft 2016 IRP

2016 IRP TAG 6 Meeting – Thursday, November 17, 2016

* Location: Kennewick, WA at Cascade’s Headquarters, Snake River Room from 9 am to 11am
* History and Current modeling of SENDOUT®
* Final Integration Results and solve for 2016 IRP

**Opportunity for Public Participation**

Cascade is fully committed to ensuring public participation in its IRP process. Cascade filed the Work Plan for the 2016 IRP with the WUTC on April 28, 2016. Notice was also provided via email to all participants of Cascade’s 2014 IRP. Additionally, in order to improve the public’s access to the Company’s IRP related information, Cascade recently established a dedicated Internet webpage where all parties can view the IRP timeline, TAG presentations and minutes, as well as current and past IRPs.[[1]](#footnote-1) For future IRPs the Company will announce the IRP process in a customer insert as close to practical to the filing of the IRP Work Plan.

1. *See* https://www.cngc.com/rates-services/rates-tariffs/integrated-resource-plan [↑](#footnote-ref-1)