

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

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	DOCKET UG-140181
	)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS	)	ORDER 02
CORPORATION,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	
Seeking Amendment of Temporary	)	
Exemption from the Provisions of	)	ORDER GRANTING
WAC 480-90-238(4) Related to the	)	AMENDMENT OF INTEGRATED
Timing of Integrated Resource Plan	)	RESOURCE PLAN FILING DATE
Filing	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1      On February 5, 2014, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting a temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4), which requires each regulated natural gas company to submit an IRP within two years of the date of its previous filing. The Company’s petition requested a one-time extension of the filing date for only the 2014 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) from December 15, 2014, to March 15, 2015.
- 2      On February 27, 2014, the Commission granted Cascade a temporary exemption in Order 01 in this docket to allow the Company additional time to update its forecasting and modeling approaches.
- 3      On July 30, 2014, Cascade filed a petition to amend the filing deadline of the 2014 IRP from March 15, 2015, to May 29, 2015. In its petition the Company explained that, based on feedback from its advisory group, it needs additional time to modify the forecasting model currently being developed by a third-party consultant. The Company further stated that this is the first time in several years it has conducted a joint IRP development process with Washington and Oregon stakeholders. Cascade stated that the involvement of stakeholders from both states requires additional technical workshops and time to respond to feedback.

4 Commission Staff (Staff) has reviewed the request and solicited feedback from staff at the Oregon Public Utilities Commission and from Cascade's IRP Technical Advisory Group. Staff believes that the changes in forecasting methodology requested by stakeholders more appropriately serve the public interest by improving load forecasts, which will enable the Company to more accurately evaluate supply shortfalls and lowest reasonable cost resource alternatives.

5 Commission Staff recommends granting Cascade's request to revise the filing date of its 2014 IRP from March 15, 2015, to May 29, 2015, pursuant to the temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4) granted by the Commission in Order 01 in this docket. The 2016 IRP will be due December 15, 2016.

### **FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

6 (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, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies.

7 (2) Cascade is engaged in the business of providing natural gas services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

8 (3) Cascade is subject to WAC 480-90-238(4), which requires natural gas companies to submit an IRP within two years after the date the previous plan was filed with the Commission.

9 (4) Under WAC 480-90-008, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-90, if consistent with the public interest and the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. See also WAC 480-07-110.

10 (5) The Commission previously granted Cascade a temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4), allowing Cascade to file its 2014 IRP on or before March 15, 2015.

- 11 (6) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 11, 2014.
- 12 (7) After reviewing Cascade's petition filed in Docket UG-140181 on July 30, 2014, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that revising the filing date pursuant to the temporary exemption is reasonable, in the public interest, and therefore should be granted.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 13 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's request to amend the temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4) to revise the filing date of its 2014 Integrated Resource Plan is granted, allowing Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to file its 2014 Integrated Resource Plan on or before May 29, 2015.
- 14 (2) Cascade Natural Gas Corporation must file a revised work plan for the 2014 Integrated Resource Plan with the Commission in Docket UG-140008 within thirty days of the effective date of this order.
- 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 September 11, 2014.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN KING, Executive Director and Secretary