

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET PG-150425
)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS)	ORDER 01
CORPORATION,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
Seeking Authorization to Operate a)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
Facility with a Maximum Allowable)	
Operating Pressure Greater Than 500)	
PSIG Pursuant to WAC 480-93-020)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 12, 2015, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (CNGC or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting Commission approval to operate a pipeline at greater than 500 psig (pounds per square inch gauge).

- 2 A gas pipeline company must have permission from the Commission to operate a pipeline at greater than 500 psig within five hundred feet of certain buildings described in WAC 480-93-020.

- 3 The Company proposes to install a new gate station at an interconnect with Northwest Pipeline (NWP) located between the Rights of Way of West Brinkley Road and Highway 82 in Kennewick, WA.

- 4 The scope of the project will require that the Company install and operate approximately 100 feet of 8-inch diameter pipe with a maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of 811 psig. 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 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.

- 5 The new gate station is necessary to bring additional natural gas capacity into the CNGC's distribution system that serves the growing communities of Kennewick, Richland and West Richland, WA.
- 6 The Commission has adopted the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 192 and Washington Administrative Code 480-93 as the minimum standards for gas pipeline construction. The location proposed for the gate station is in an area predominantly classified as a Class 3 location based on population density. A class 3 location limits the hoop stress of any pipeline to 50 percent of the specified minimum yield strength (SMYS) of the pipe. The most restrictive gas pipeline safety rules specify that pipelines in a highly populated area (Class 4 Location) can be operated at pressures producing a hoop stress of no greater than 40 percent of the SMYS. The proposed gate station will operate at no greater than 18.77 percent of the SMYS.
- 7 The Company has chosen a location for the proposed gate station that presents the least impact on the surrounding communities. It is next to an existing interstate transmission valve station in an area zoned for light industrial use. Other potential locations were located in more residential areas or near schools. At the proposed location the following structures were in existence or under construction and located within 500 feet of the proposed site:
- 5200 W. Brinkley Road. (129 feet)
 - 5115 W. Brinkley Road. (457 feet)
 - 6100 W. Brinkley Road. (427 feet)
 - 6321 W. Brinkley Road. (104 feet)
 - 6241 W. Brinkley Road. (72 feet)
 - The pavement edge westbound lanes of Interstate Highway I-82, near milepost 112.34. (180 feet)
- 8 Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommended the Commission grant the petition subject to the following condition(s):
- (a) Prior to Commission approval, the Company will contact each building owner located within 500 feet of the proposed construction site and make them aware of the proposed gate station through their Public Awareness Program. Records of this contact, with content, will be provided to the Commission prior to the hearing date.

- (b) Where feasible, CNGC will perform radiographic inspection of all buried gate station inlet piping welds.
- (c) All buried piping will be electrically inspected and coating defects repaired prior to backfilling. Coating defects shall be repaired in accordance with CNGC's Operating Standards.
- (d) The minimum test pressure for the gate station inlet piping will be 1225 psig. The test will be for a minimum of 8 hours without pressure loss unless the loss can be justified by a corresponding change in temperature. If CNGC identifies any leaks, the test will be stopped, the leaks repaired, and the test started over. CNGC will conduct a 1 hour leak test at 100 psig prior to conducting the full pressure test.
- (e) CNGC will imbed the pipe in an essentially rock free material such as sand to protect the pipe and coating. Rock shield may be used where the use of sand is impractical or prohibited.
- (f) Cathodic protection of any buried steel pipeline facilities will be implemented within 90 days of the completion of construction.
- (g) CNGC will provide telephonic notification to Commission staff at least two weeks prior to starting on site construction.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to adopt and enforce rules for gas pipeline safety.
- 10 (2) CNGC is a gas pipeline company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 11 (3) In WAC 480-93, the Commission has adopted minimum standards for gas pipeline construction. Pursuant to these standards, gas pipelines are designed to withstand higher pressure than the MAOP prescribed by these rules. The most restrictive gas pipeline safety rules specify that pipelines in a highly populated

area must be operated at pressures producing a hoop stress of no greater than 40 percent of the SMYS of the pipe.

- 12 (4) CNGC is proposing to construct and maintain a gate station at an interconnect with Northwest Pipeline (NWP) located between the Rights of Way of West Brinkley Road. and Highway 82 in Kennewick, WA. A review of CNGC's proposed gate station construction plans indicate that it meets or exceeds all of the pertinent requirements of the Code of Federal Regulation, Title 49, Part 192 and 480-93 of the Washington Administrative Code. The selected location of the gate station has the least impact on the surrounding community. The gate station is necessary to ensure adequate natural gas supply to CNGC's distribution system serving the growing communities of Kennewick, Richland and West Richland, WA.
- 13 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 28, 2015.
- 14 (6) After reviewing CNGC's petition and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to conditionally grant CNGC's request to operate at greater than 500 psig.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 15 (1) Effective date of this Order, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's petition for authorization to operate a pipeline at greater than 500 psig is granted.
- 16 (2) This authorization is conditioned on Cascade Natural Gas Corporation agreeing to the conditions set forth in paragraph 8 of this Order.
- 17 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to effectuate the terms of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 28, 2015.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

ANN RENDAHL, Commissioner