

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

CASCADE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION,

Respondent.

DOCKET UG-190775

ORDER 01

COMPLAINT AND ORDER
SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS

BACKGROUND

- 1 On September 13, 2019, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, (Cascade or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its tariff Schedule 583, Temporary Federal Income Tax Rate Credit, for rates effective November 1, 2019. Schedule 583 rates refund taxes that ratepayers over-paid between January 1, 2018, and July 31, 2018, when the federal corporate tax rate was reduced to 21 percent but the 35 percent tax rate remained embedded in customer rates.
- 2 Through these revisions to Schedule 583, Cascade proposes to implement a surcharge to collect amounts the Company claims it over-credited to customers. In docket UG-170929, Order 06, the Commission ordered Cascade to return an estimated \$1.6 million; however, Cascade reports that its actual interim period benefit was \$1.12 million, and by the effective date of this tariff (November 1) the Company will have refunded approximately \$1.76 million. Cascade requests that it collect the \$645,000 balance through a Schedule 583 surcharge.
- 3 This matter came before the Commission at its October 24, 2019, regularly scheduled open meeting. Following a discussion, the Company requested the matter be set for hearing.

DISCUSSION

4 Because Cascade has not demonstrated that its proposed tariff revisions are in the public
interest, the Commission suspends the tariff filing for investigation and further
proceedings.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with
the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers
of property, and affiliated interests of public service companies; including natural
gas companies.
- 6 (2) Cascade is a natural gas company and a public service company subject to
Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) The Commission concludes that the tariff revisions Cascade filed on September
13, 2019, warrant further investigation. Accordingly, the tariff revisions should be
suspended.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 8 (1) The tariff revision Cascade Natural Gas Corporation filed in September 13, 2019,
is suspended.
- 9 (2) The Commission may hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 10 (3) Cascade Natural Gas Corporation must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this
docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective October 24, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

JAY M. BALASBAS, Commissioner