December 22, 2004

Carol Washburn Executive Secretary Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW Olympia, WA 98504-7250 Via E-Mail and Hand Delivered

Re: Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation; Docket No. PG-030438

Dear Ms. Washburn:

We write on behalf of Respondent Cascade Natural Gas Corporation ("Cascade") to request a 30-day extension for filing its answer to the Complaint filed in the case referenced above. Cascade requests an extension of time to January 21, 2005. Cascade requests this extension because it is engaged in settlement discussions with WUTC staff in an effort to resolve this matter.

I have spoken to Assistant Attorney General Sally Johnston, attorney for the WUTC, regarding this request for a 30-day extension. Ms. Johnston informed me the WUTC does not object to Cascade's request for a 30-day continuance to allow the parties to continue with settlement negotiations. Cascade makes this request pursuant to WAC 480-07-370(c)(iv) and WAC 480-07-385.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please call me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Joseph B. Genster

JBG/bkp *E-Mail:* jbg@hcmp.com Enclosures

cc (w/Encl.): Cascade Natural Gas Corporation #291950 NNNNN-001 699q01!.doc