

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of	DOCKET UG-231023
CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION,	ORDER 01
Seeking Extension for 2025 Integrated Resource Plan	APPROVING PETITION TO EXTEND IRP FILING DEADLINE

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 25, 2024, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting a temporary exemption from Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-90-238(4) (Petition). The requested exemption would modify the due date for the Company’s next integrated resource plan (Plan or IRP) to May 23, 2025.
- 2 WAC 480-90-238 requires each natural gas utility to develop an “integrated resource plan,” and to submit each plan within two years after the date on which the previous plan was filed with the Commission. The Company’s last IRP was filed February of 2023, two years after it filed its previous plan in February 2021.
- 3 In its Petition, Cascade states that extending the deadline for its 2025 IRP would be in the public interest and should be allowed pursuant to WAC 480-07-110(2)(c). Cascade states that it will use the additional time for “analysis of building stock attrition rates, electrification, and equity.”¹
- 4 Commission Staff (Staff) analyzed the Petition under the provided by WAC 480-07-110(2)(c).²

¹ Cascade petition at pg. 2.

² WAC 480-07-110(2)(c) (which applies to WAC 480-90-238) states:

(c) *Standard for determination.* The commission uses the public interest standard to determine whether to grant an exemption from, or modification to, a commission rule. Factors the commission may consider in making this determination include whether the rule imposes an undue hardship on the requesting person of a degree or a kind different from hardships imposed on other similarly situated persons, and whether the effect of applying the rule to the requesting person would be contrary to the underlying purposes of the rule and the public interest.

5 Staff notes that Cascade's use of the delay aligns with the Company addressing
recommendations contained in Staff comments responding to its 2023 IRP. For all
appearances, Staff notes that Cascade has been diligently working with Staff and
interested parties during Targeted Technical Advisory group meetings to address and
respond to those recommendations.

6 Thus, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the Company's Petition.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

7 We agree with Staff's recommendation and approve Cascade's Petition. We do believe
that extending the deadlines for the Company to file its draft and final IRPs serves the
public interest. The Company has demonstrated good faith efforts to integrate Staff's
recommendations, and extending the IRP timeline aligns with Company efforts to
improve its planning process.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 8 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with
the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts,
securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service
companies, including natural gas companies.
- 9 (2) Cascade is a natural gas company and a public service company subject to
Commission jurisdiction.
- 10 (3) WAC 480-07-370(3) permits the Company to file petitions seeking relief from a
Commission order.
- 11 (4) Cascade's request to extend the deadline for filing its draft IRP and final IRP
seeks Commission action that the Commission generally considers taking at an
open public meeting. See WAC 480-07-370(3).
- 12 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on
August 8, 2024.
- 13 (6) After reviewing Cascade's Petition filed in Docket UG-231023 and giving due
consideration to all relevant matters, the Commission finds that the Company's

petition is in the public interest. As such, there is a basis to grant the Petition; it therefore should be approved.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14* (1) Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's Petition filed June 25, 2024, is approved. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation shall be allowed an additional three months, until May of 2025, to file its final Integrated Resource Plan.
- 15* (2) This Order shall not affect the Commission's authority over rates, services, accounts, valuations, estimates, or determination of costs, on any matters that may come before it.
- 16* The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective August 8, 2024.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFF KILLIP
Executive Director and Secretary