

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

In the Matter of the Joint Application of)	DOCKET UG-061721
)	
MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC.)	
AND CASCADE NATURAL GAS)	
CORPORATION)	NOTICE OF PREHEARING
)	CONFERENCE
For an Order Authorizing Proposed)	(Set for December 6, 2006, 10:30
Transaction)	a.m.)
)	
.....)	

1 MDU Resources Group, Inc. (MDU Resources) and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade) filed a joint application with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) on November 13, 2006, requesting that the Commission issue an order authorizing MDU Resources’ acquisition of all outstanding common stock of Cascade. Cascade would become a direct, wholly owned subsidiary of MDU Resources. A more detailed account of the transaction is included in the application, which is available for inspection at the Commission’s office located at Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington, and on the Commission’s web site at www.wutc.wa.gov/061721. It is appropriate that the matters raised in the pleadings be brought before the Commission for hearing.

2 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter under Title 80, and has legal authority to regulate the rates, services, and practices of gas utilities, including certain transfers of property. The statutes that apply to this matter include chapters 80.01 RCW, 80.04 RCW, 80.12 RCW and 80.28 RCW, including but not limited to RCW 80.01.040 and RCW 80.04.020. The rules that apply to this matter include those within chapters 80.04 RCW and 80.28 RCW, and chapters 480-90 and 480-143.

3 The Commission will hear this matter under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), particularly Part IV of chapter 34.05 RCW relating to adjudications. The provisions of the APA that relate to this proceeding include but are not limited to RCW 34.05.413, RCW 34.05.431, RCW 34.05.440, RCW 34.05.449, and RCW 34.05.452. The Commission’s procedural rules in chapter 480-07 WAC apply in this proceeding.

4 The Commission finds there is good cause to hear this matter shortened notice. *See, WAC 480-07-440(1)(a).*

5 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That it will hold a prehearing conference in this matter at 10:30 a.m., on December 6, 2006, in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.**

6 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider any requests for intervention, to resolve scheduling matters including establishing dates for distributing evidence and work papers, to identify the issues in the proceeding and to determine other matters to assist the Commission in resolving the matter, as listed in WAC 480-07-430.

7 **INTERVENTION:** Persons who wish to intervene should file a petition to intervene in writing at least three business days before the date of the prehearing conference. *See WAC 480-07-355(a).* The Commission will consider oral petitions to intervene during the conference, but strongly prefers written petitions to intervene. Party representatives must file a notice of appearance with the Commission no later than the business day before the conference. *See, WAC 480-07-345(2).* If any party or witness needs an interpreter or other assistance, they should fill out the form attached to this notice and return it to the Commission. The Commission will set the time and place for any evidentiary hearings at the prehearing conference, on the record of a later conference or hearing session, or by later written notice.

8 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that any party who fails to attend or participate in the prehearing conference set by this Notice, or any other stage of this proceeding, may be held in default under RCW 34.05.440. The Commission specifically invokes the sanction provisions of WAC 480-07-450 which allow the Commission to seek penalties for a party in default.**

9 The names and mailing addresses of all known parties and their known representatives are as follows:

Applicants:

MDU Resources Group, Inc.
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Jon T. Stoltz, Senior Vice President
Regulatory and Gas Supply
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
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Representatives:

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Lawrence Reichman
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Commission:

Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
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(360) 664-1160

Representative: Gregory Trautman
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Public Counsel: Judith Krebs
Public Counsel Section
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(206) 464-6595
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- 10 The Commissioners of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and Administrative Law Judge Dennis J. Moss, from the Commission's Administrative Law Division, will preside during this proceeding.
- 11 The Attorney General has designated Judith Krebs of the Office of Public Counsel to represent the public. You may use the Commission's address, shown below, for contacting Public Counsel, or you may contact Public Counsel directly by writing or calling the address or telephone number listed below.
- 12 The Commission will give parties notice of any other procedural phase of the proceeding in writing or on the record, as appropriate during this proceeding.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 27, 2006.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary

Inquiries may be addressed to:

Secretary
Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
Chandler Plaza Building
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160

- or - Public Counsel Section
Office of the Attorney General
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104-3188
(206) 464-7744

NOTICE

Hearing facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Smoking is prohibited. If limited English-speaking, hearing-impaired parties or witnesses are involved in a hearing and need an interpreter, a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to the party or witness.

If you need an interpreter, or have other special needs, please fill out this form and return it to Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Attention: Carole J. Washburn, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, P. O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250. (PLEASE SUPPLY ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION)

Docket : _____

Case Name: _____

Hearing Date: _____ Hearing Location: _____

Primary Language: _____

Hearing Impaired (Yes) _____ (No) _____

Do you need a certified sign language interpreter:

Visual _____ Tactile _____

Other type of assistance needed: _____

English-speaking person who can be contacted if there are questions:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: (____) _____