

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of  
  
CASCADE NATURAL GAS  
CORPORATION,  
  
Petitioner,  
  
Seeking Exemption from the Provisions  
of WAC 480-80-121 Relating to Tariff  
Changes with Statutory Notice

DOCKET UG-170041  
  
ORDER 01  
  
ORDER GRANTING  
EXEMPTION FROM RULE

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On January 16, 2017, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting an exemption from WAC 480-80-121 (Petition).
- 2 WAC 480-80-121 requires that the Commission receive proposed tariff changes not less than thirty days in advance of the requested effective date.
- 3 In its Petition, Cascade states that on November 30, 2016, the City of West Richland passed an ordinance, effective January 1, 2017, that decreases its gas utility tax from 8.5 percent to 6 percent of total operating revenues. On December 9, 2016, the Yakima City Council passed an ordinance, effective February 8, 2017, that increases the cap from \$4,000 per customer per month to \$8,000 per customer per month for the City's 6 percent utility tax rate.
- 4 Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommends the Commission grant Cascade's request for an exemption from WAC 480-80-121.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5 (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.
- 6 (2) Cascade a natural gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.

- 7 (3) Cascade is subject to WAC 480-80-121, which provides that the Commission must receive tariff changes not less than thirty days in advance of requested effective date.
- 8 (4) Under WAC 480-110-215, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-110, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. See also WAC 480-07-110.
- 9 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 26, 2017.
- 10 (6) After review of the petition filed in Docket UG-170041 by Cascade on January 16, 2017, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is in the public interest and is consistent with purposes underlying the regulation and applicable statutes and should be granted.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 11 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation is granted an exemption from WAC 480-80-121, Relating to Tariff Changes with Statutory Notice.
- 12 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective January 26, 2017.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary