

Docket No. UG-190210 - Vol. I

**Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v.
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation**

April 16, 2019



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND) DOCKET NO. UG-190210
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)
)
Complainant,)
)
vs.)
)
CASCADE NATURAL GAS)
CORPORATION,)
)
)
Respondent.)

PREHEARING CONFERENCE - VOLUME I

Pages 1-13

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES RAYNE PEARSON & LAURA CHARTOFF

April 16, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
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1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; APRIL 16, 2019

2 10:00 A.M.

3 --o0o--

4 P R O C E E D I N G S

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6 JUDGE PEARSON: We'll go ahead and be on the
7 record. So good morning. We're here today for a
8 prehearing conference in Docket UG-190210, which is
9 captioned Washington Utilities and Transportation
10 Commission versus Cascade Natural Gas Corporation.

11 My name is Rayne Pearson and with me is
12 Laura Chartoff. We are administrative law judges with
13 the Utilities and Transportation Commission, and we will
14 be co-presiding in this matter along with the
15 Commissioners.

16 So let's start by taking appearances and
17 addressing the petitions for intervention. And let's
18 begin with Cascade.

19 MS. RACKNER: Lisa Rackner for Cascade
20 Natural Gas.

21 JUDGE CHARTOFF: Thank you.

22 And for Staff?

23 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Jennifer
24 Cameron-Rulkowski, Assistant Attorney General, and with
25 me also on the phone is Jeff Roberson, Assistant

1 Attorney General.

2 JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you.

3 Public Counsel?

4 MS. GAFKEN: Good morning. Lisa Gafken,
5 Assistant Attorney General, appearing on behalf of
6 Public Counsel.

7 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And for the Alliance
8 of Western Energy Consumers?

9 MR. STOKES: Good morning. This is Chad
10 Stokes for the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers.

11 JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you.

12 And for The Energy Project?

13 MR. FFITCH: Good morning, Your Honor. This
14 is Simon ffitch on behalf of The Energy Project.

15 JUDGE PEARSON: Thank you.

16 Is there anyone else on the bridge line who
17 wishes to enter an appearance?

18 Okay. Hearing none, that brings us to the
19 petitions for intervention. Are there any petitions for
20 intervention other than the ones that have already been
21 filed in the docket?

22 Okay. Hearing nothing, we will proceed.
23 We've reviewed the two petitions to intervene; one filed
24 on behalf of AWEC and one filed on behalf of The Energy
25 Project. Are there any objections to either of those

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1 petitions?

2 MS. RACKNER: None.

3 MS. GAFKEN: No.

4 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Then those petitions
5 to intervene are granted.

6 So the Commission has already entered a
7 protective order, that brings us to the procedural
8 schedule. I want to remind the parties that the
9 Commission has adopted new procedural rules regarding
10 electronic filing and service and I'm sure you are all
11 familiar with at this point. The Commission requires
12 electronic filing of documents for formal filings.

13 In this case, the Commission will also
14 require the filing of an original and five paper copies
15 for internal distributions. And if the filings include
16 information designated as confidential or highly
17 confidential, please file the original and three copies
18 of the fully unredacted version, and we don't need
19 additional -- sorry, and five copies, not three copies,
20 of the unredacted version. And we don't need paper
21 copies of the part -- partially or fully redacted
22 version. You can just file those in electronic format
23 only. And the Commission's rules provide for electronic
24 service of documents, so the Commission will serve
25 parties electronically and the parties will serve each

1 other electronically.

2 If any party has not yet designated a lead
3 representative for service, please do so via an email to
4 me and Judge Chartoff as soon as possible. My email is
5 rayne.pearson@utc.wa.gov, and Judge Chartoff's email is
6 laura.chartoff@utc.wa.gov. And if anyone would like to
7 add names and email addresses of other representatives
8 or support staff who should receive electronic courtesy
9 copies of all documents filed in this proceeding, please
10 email that to us as well.

11 And then I'm going to turn it over to Judge
12 Chartoff for the remainder.

13 JUDGE CHARTOFF: Okay. Thank you.

14 So the next topic is data requests. So I'm
15 aware that parties often request that any data requests
16 and their responses be shared with every other party. I
17 can include this as a requirement in the prehearing
18 conference order. Is there any objection to my
19 including this requirement to share all data requests
20 and responses with all parties?

21 MS. GAFKEN: No, that's quite welcomed.

22 JUDGE CHARTOFF: Thank you. Okay. I will
23 do that.

24 Okay. The next topic is the procedural
25 schedule. Prior to going on the record, we were handed

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1 a draft procedural schedule.

2 Can -- Ms. Cameron-Rulkowski, can you
3 address that?

4 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Yes, I would be
5 happy to. Thank you. For those on the phone, what I
6 handed to both of the judges and also to the other
7 parties who are present in the room is a draft
8 procedural schedule as we have been discussing.
9 However, for the settlement conference number one, I
10 have put to be determined for the date there since we
11 haven't come up with a date yet.

12 So the dates that we have, I'll go ahead and
13 read that into the record. After that initial
14 settlement conference, we have response testimony and
15 exhibits, August 22nd; and then Cascade to circulate a
16 joint issues matrix, September 5th; a second settlement
17 conference the week of September 16th; rebuttal and
18 cross-answering testimony, October 8th; and then we have
19 a placeholder for the notice to be issued for a public
20 comment hearing 30 days prior to the public comment
21 hearing, and then we also have a placeholder for the
22 public comment hearing to be determined.

23 Then Cascade files the joint issues matrix
24 October 21st; the discovery cutoff is -- is also October
25 21st; exhibit list, cross-examination exhibits, witness

1 lists, time estimates, and exhibit errata will be filed
2 October 28th; the evidentiary hearing is November 4th
3 and the morning of November 5th; post-hearing briefs and
4 the updated joint issues matrix are December 19th.

5 And I would be happy to email a copy of this
6 draft procedural schedule to both judges, both of you,
7 Your Honors.

8 JUDGE CHARTOFF: Thank you.

9 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And before we went on
10 the record, you indicated that you may be able to take a
11 brief recess and determine that first settlement
12 conference date?

13 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Yes.

14 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So should we do that
15 now?

16 MS. GAFKEN: Before we do that, I just
17 wanted to ask if -- with respect to the public comment
18 hearing, Public Counsel would recommend having two
19 public comment hearings. It's referred to in the
20 singular. And, of course, we're -- we're happy to work
21 with Andrew Roberts on that issue, but because Cascade's
22 service territory is noncontinuous and it's quite spread
23 out, it seems to make sense to have more than one.

24 JUDGE CHARTOFF: I thought there would be
25 three based on -- I was going off the last -- the last

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1 rate case where they were -- they were held in
2 Bremerton, Kelso, and Kennewick, so I don't know if
3 that's still the plan.

4 MS. GAFKEN: I had forgotten that.

5 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

6 MS. GAFKEN: But at least two --

7 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

8 MS. GAFKEN: -- and, you know, three is
9 appropriate, and I don't think we would object to that.

10 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay.

11 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: I have not consulted
12 with Mr. Roberts or consumer involvement, but I
13 anticipate that Staff would support having hearings in
14 multiple places.

15 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. And is the Company
16 okay with that?

17 MR. PARVINEN: Yeah.

18 MS. RACKNER: Yeah, we're fine.

19 JUDGE PEARSON: So what we'll probably just
20 do is just note that in the prehearing conference that
21 the public comment hearing will be held before any
22 hearing on the final disposition of the case, the
23 customers will receive at least 30 days' notice, and
24 that we anticipate they'll be in at least two locations.

25 MS. GAFKEN: Thank you.

1 JUDGE PEARSON: Mm-hmm.

2 All right. So at this point, we can take a
3 brief recess if you all want to confer about the -- the
4 settlement date. If you want to just come get us in my
5 office. Anyone who has a keycard can do that.

6 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Thank you, Your
7 Honor, we will do that.

8 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Then we are in
9 recess.

10 MS. RACKNER: Thank you.

11 (A recess was taken from.

12 10:10 a.m. until 10:21 a.m.)

13 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So we are back on the
14 record following a brief recess. I understand that the
15 parties have a tentative date for the first settlement
16 conference?

17 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Yes, Your Honor, and
18 our tentative settlement date is Wednesday, July 17th.
19 And if you're amenable, we would like to include
20 language that if we need to change that date, we will --
21 we would accomplish that simply by notice to the -- to
22 the Commission rather by moving for a schedule change.

23 JUDGE PEARSON: Mm-hmm. That is perfectly
24 fine. Notice to the Commission to which we will not
25 respond.

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1 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Thank you, Your
2 Honor.

3 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. Okay. And it looks
4 like we have everything else that we need at this point.
5 Is there anything else that we need to address while
6 we're here today?

7 MS. RACKNER: None here.

8 JUDGE PEARSON: Nothing?

9 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Not from Staff, Your
10 Honor.

11 JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So we will issue a
12 prehearing conference order shortly containing the
13 procedural schedule and other guidelines for the
14 disposition of this case. Thank you all for coming and
15 we are adjourned.

16 (Adjourned at 10:22 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF THURSTON

I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.



Tayler Garlinghouse

Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358

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