

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the Matter of the Application of **PACIFIC**)
NATURAL GAS CO. to Amend Its Certificate)
of Public Convenience and Necessity to)
Operate a Gas Plant for Hire in the General)
Areas of Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Skagit and)
Thurston Counties, Washington, to Encompass)
Additional Areas in Snohomish and Cowlitz)
Counties, Washington, Including all the)
Incorporated Area of the Town of Castle Rock)
.)

CAUSE NO. U-8937

ORDER GRANTING
APPLICATION TO AMEND
CERTIFICATE

By application filed with and received by this Commission April 1, 1957, the Pacific Natural Gas Co. seeks to amend its present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire to include additional territory adjacent to some of its presently certificated area.

Pacific now holds gas Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 8, dated October 31, 1956. The company's certificated area includes Mount Vernon in Skagit County; Snohomish and Monroe in Snohomish County; McCleary, Elma, Montesano, Aberdeen, Cosmopolis and Hoquiam in Grays Harbor County; Longview, Kelso and Woodland in Cowlitz County and areas adjacent to each of the foregoing. The above areas are more fully described and detailed in the Second Supplemental Order in Cause No. U-8841, Appendices A-1 to A-5 inclusive. The application does not request any enlargement of the presently certificated areas detailed in Appendices A-1 and A-3.

The company requests that its present certificate be amended to encompass additional area adjacent to Longview and Kelso in Cowlitz County including the Town of Castle Rock; additional area adjacent to Woodland in Cowlitz County; and additional area adjacent to Snohomish and Monroe in Snohomish County. Pacific states that a review of its present certificated area shows the additional area it seeks is necessary for the orderly and logical expansion of its gas service area. Also, a change in the location of the proposed city gate station for Snohomish and Monroe will place it outside of the company's presently certificated area. After a discussion with the Commission's staff the company voiced no objection to the staff's suggestion that some of the area outlined in this application be eliminated, since gas service in those areas does not appear to be economically feasible in the foreseeable future.

It has been the Commission's belief that a gas company should make a sincere effort to meet the demand for gas service in its certificated areas before requesting any additional service area, and the Commission is aware that up until the last few months the Pacific Natural Gas Co. made little progress in providing natural gas service throughout its certificated area. However, the Commission is also aware that unforeseen difficulties in obtaining materials and financing were primarily the cause of delaying the company's original construction schedule. Amending the company's certificate to include the requested territory should have no effect on its presently proposed natural gas service schedule. It is also the Commission's plan to review periodically the progress all holders of gas certificates of public convenience and necessity are making in providing adequate gas service to their certificated areas.

Commonwealth Services, Inc., a nationally known firm of consulting engineers, was employed by the Pacific Natural Gas Co. to make an economic feasibility study of Pacific's service area and natural gas program and a copy of that study has been supplied the Commission. The study's conclusions are that the Pacific company's plans are reasonable and economically sound and realistic.

Pacific Natural Gas Co. has all necessary franchises from the cities, towns and counties with the exception of Snohomish County, for the areas it seeks certification. It has applied to Snohomish County for a franchise and knows no reason why it should not be granted.

All the additional territory sought by the company is adjacent to its presently certificated area and necessary gas distribution facilities could be installed within a reasonable time. The company expects to have no trouble in obtaining an adequate supply of natural gas for the additional area.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Pacific Natural Gas Co. operates a gas plant for hire in this state, subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
2. Pacific Natural Gas Co. has heretofore been issued in Cause No. U-8841, Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 8, to operate a gas plant for hire in Mount Vernon and vicinity in Skagit County; Snohomish, Monroe and vicinity in Snohomish County; McCleary, Elma, Montesano, Aberdeen, Cosmopolis, Hoquiam and vicinity in Grays Harbor County; Longview, Kelso and vicinity in Cowlitz County; Woodland and vicinity in Cowlitz County. The presently certificated areas are fully delineated in the Supplemental Order in Cause No. U-8841, Appendices A-1 to A-5 inclusive.
3. Pacific Natural Gas Co. seeks to amend its present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire to include additional area adjacent to Snohomish and Monroe in Snohomish County; additional area adjacent to Longview and Kelso including the Town of Castle Rock in Cowlitz County; and additional area adjacent to Woodland in Cowlitz County.
4. The area sought to be incorporated in the present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity is adjacent to the company's present certificated areas.
5. At present there is no gas company operating a gas plant for hire in the area in question.
6. The Commission has no other application requesting certification for any of the area sought by Pacific Natural Gas Co.
7. Pacific Natural Gas Co.'s plans for supplying gas service in the area encompassed in its application appears to be economically feasible.
8. The operation of a gas plant for hire by the Pacific Natural Gas Co. in the additional area, as modified in a conference with the Commission's staff, is or will be required by the public convenience and necessity.
9. The Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity presently held by the Pacific Natural Gas Co. should be amended to include additional area adjacent to its presently certificated areas in Snohomish and Cowlitz Counties.

ORDER

1. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED That the application of the Pacific Natural Gas Co. to amend its present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire is approved to encompass additional areas as follows:

a. All of the incorporated area comprising the cities or towns of Snohomish and Monroe and additional portions of Snohomish County, Washington, adjacent thereto lying within the area described as follows:

Beginning at a point which is the northwest corner of Sec. 2, T 28 N, R 5 E, W. M.; thence easterly along the north lines of Secs. 2 and 1, T 28 N, R 5 E, and of Secs. 6, 5, 4 and 3, T 28 N, R 6 E, to the northeast corner of said Sec. 3; thence southerly along the east lines of Secs. 3, 10 and 15, T 28 N, R 6 E, to the southeast corner of Sec. 15; thence easterly along the north lines of Secs. 23 and 24, T 28 N, R 6 E, and of Sec. 19, T 28 N, R 7 E, to the northeast corner of said Sec. 19; thence southerly along the east lines of Secs. 19, 30 and 31, T 28 N, R 7 E, and of Secs. 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 and 31, T 27 N, R 7 E, to the southeast corner of said Sec. 31; thence westerly along the south line of Sec. 31, T 27 N, R 7 E, and of Secs. 36, 35, 34, 33, 32 and 31, T 27 N, R 6 E, to the southwest corner of said Sec. 31; thence northerly along the range line to the northwest corner of Sec. 7, T 27 N, R 6 E; thence westerly along the south lines of Secs. 1 and 2, T 27 N, R 5 E, to the southwest corner of said Sec. 2; thence northerly along the west line of Sec. 2, T 27 N, R 5 E, and along the west lines of Secs. 35, 26, 23, 14, 11 and 2, T 28 N, R 5 E, to the point of beginning, all in Snohomish County, Washington.

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as further shown on Appendix A-2 attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof.

b. All the incorporated area comprising the cities or towns of Longview, Kelso and Castle Rock and additional portions of Cowlitz County, Washington, adjacent thereto lying within the area described as follows:

Beginning at a point which is the northwest corner of Sec. 20, T 10 N, R 2 W, W.M.; thence easterly along the north lines of Secs. 20, 21, 22, 23 and 24, T 10 N, R 2 W and Secs. 19 and 20, T 10 N, R 1 W, to the northeast corner of said Sec. 20; thence south along the east lines of Secs. 20, 29 and 32, T 10 N, R 1 W, Secs. 5, 8, 17, 20, 29 and 32, T 9 N, R 1 W, Secs. 5, 8, 17, 20, 29 and 32, T 8 N, R 1 W, and Secs. 5, 8, 17 and 20, T 7 N, R 1 W, to the southeast corner of Sec. 20, T 7 N, R 1 W; thence westerly along the south lines of Sec. 20, and Sec. 19, T 7 N, R 1 W, to the west bank of the Columbia River; thence northwesterly along the northwest bank of the Columbia River to its intersection with the west boundary of Sec. 7, T 8 N, R 3 W; thence northerly to the northwest corner of said Sec. 7; thence easterly along the north lines of Secs. 7 and 8, T 8 N, R 3 W, to the northeast corner of said Sec. 8; thence northerly along the west lines of Sec. 4, T 8 N, R 3 W, and Sec. 33, T 9 N, R 3 W, to the northwest corner of said Sec. 33; thence easterly along the north lines of Secs. 33, 34, 35 and 36, T 9 N, R 3 W, and Sec. 31, T 9 N, R 2 W, to the northeast corner of Sec. 31, T 9 N, R 2 W; thence northerly along the west lines of Secs. 29, 20, 17, 8 and 5, T 9 N, R 2 W, and Secs. 32, 29 and 20, T 10 N, R 2 W, to the point of beginning, all in Cowlitz County, Washington.

as further shown on Appendix A-4 attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof.

c. All the incorporated area comprising the Town of Woodland and additional portions of Cowlitz County, Washington, adjacent thereto lying within the area described as follows:

Beginning at a point which is the northwest corner of Sec. 26, T 6 N, R 1 W, W.M.; thence easterly along the north line of Secs. 26 and 25, T 6 N, R 1 W, and to the northeast corner of said Sec. 26; thence southerly along the east line of Secs. 26 and 35, T 6 N, R 1 E, W.M., and along the east line of Sec. 2, T 5 N, R 1 E, W.M., to the intersection of said east line with the northwesterly shoreline of the Lewis River; thence westerly and southwesterly along the northwesterly shoreline of said Lewis River to its intersection with the northerly shoreline of the Columbia River; thence along the northerly shoreline of the Columbia River to its intersection with the north line of Sec. 33, T 6 N, R 1 W; thence easterly along the north line of Secs. 33 and 34, T 6 N, R 1 W, to the northeast corner of Sec. 34; thence northerly along the west line of Sec. 26, T 6 N, R 1 W, to the northwest corner of said Sec. 26, being the point of beginning.

all located within Cowlitz County, Washington, as further shown on Appendix A-5 attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof.

2. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity issued pursuant to Order paragraph No. 1 above, supersedes and cancels Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 8, issued to Pacific Natural Gas Co., October 31, 1956. Said certificate of October 31, 1956, should be forthwith returned to this Commission.

3. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That on or after November 15, 1957, the Commission shall bring the matter on for further consideration to determine the appropriate alterations, if any, to be made to the certificate issued pursuant to Order paragraph No. 1 above, to conform to the requirements of public convenience and necessity as the same may then be made to appear.

4. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That jurisdiction over this cause is retained to effectuate the provisions of this order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 2nd day of May, 1957.

WASHINGTON PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Joseph Starin
JOSEPH STARIN, Commissioner

Francis Pearson

FRANCIS PEARSON, Commissioner