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CHAD M. STOKES

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December 1, 2006

**VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS  
AND ELECTRONIC FILING**

Carol Washburn  
Executive Secretary  
Washington Utilities & Transportation  
Commission  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive, S.W.  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Re: *In the Matter of the Joint Application for an Order Authorizing the Sale of  
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to MDU Resources Group, Inc.*  
WUTC Docket No. UG-061721

Dear Ms. Washburn:

Enclosed please find an original and 12 copies of the Petition to Intervene and the Notice of Appearance on behalf of the Northwest Industrial Gas Users (NWIGU) in the above-referenced docket. An electronic submission will be sent to the Records Center on December 1, 2006 as well as to all parties listed on the service list.

Thank you for your assistance.

Very truly yours,



Chad M. Stokes

CMS/tr  
Enclosures  
cc: Service List

**BEFORE THE  
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Joint Application of     ) DOCKET NO. UG-061721  
MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC. AND     )  
CASCADE NATURAL GAS     )  
CORPORATION     ) NORTHWEST INDUSTRIAL GAS  
For an Order Authorizing Proposed     ) USERS' PETITION TO INTERVENE  
Transaction     )  
   )  
   )  
   )  
   )  
   )

1.           The Northwest Industrial Gas Users ("NWIGU") hereby submit this Petition to Intervene in the above-captioned proceeding.
  
2.           The following name and address for NWIGU should be included on the official list of parties of record in these proceedings, and all correspondence and communications concerning this proceeding should be addressed to:

Paula E. Pyron  
Executive Director  
Northwest Industrial Gas Users  
4113 Wolf Berry Court  
Lake Oswego, OR 97035-1827  
Telephone: (503) 636-2580  
Facsimile: (503) 636-0703  
E-mail: ppyron@nwigu.org

Paula Pyron is designated as the person to receive service of documents on behalf of NWIGU in this proceeding.

3. Ed Finklea, Chad Stokes and Lindsay Kandra of Cable Huston Benedict Haagensen & Lloyd LLP will represent NWIGU in this proceeding, and have filed a separate Notice of Appearance as required in WAC §480-07-345(2). All correspondence and communications concerning this proceeding should be addressed to:

Edward A. Finklea  
Chad M. Stokes  
Cable Huston Benedict Haagensen & Lloyd LLP  
1001 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000  
Portland, OR 97204-1136  
Telephone: (503) 224-3092  
Facsimile: (503) 224-3176  
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[cstokes@chbh.com](mailto:cstokes@chbh.com)

4. This Petition to Intervene is submitted pursuant to WAC § 480-07-355. In support of this Petition to Intervene, NWIGU states the following:

5. NWIGU is a nonprofit association comprised of thirty-two end-users of natural gas with major facilities in the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. NWIGU members include diverse industrial interests, including food processing, pulp and paper, wood products, electric generation, aluminum, steel, chemicals, electronics and aerospace. The association provides an information service to its members and participates in various regulatory matters that affect member interests. NWIGU member companies purchase natural gas sales and transportation services from local distribution companies (“LDCs”), including Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (“Cascade” or the “Company”).

PAGE 2 -- NWIGU’S PETITION TO INTERVENE

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6. On November 13, 2006, Cascade and MDU Resources Group, Inc. submitted to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“WUTC” or “Commission”) a filing requesting that the Commission issue an order authorizing MDU Resources’ acquisition of all outstanding common stock of Cascade. As a result, Cascade would become a direct, wholly owned subsidiary of MDU Resources.
7. The merger of Cascade and MDU Resources will impact the interests of NWIGU member companies. As customers of Cascade, NWIGU members have a direct and substantial interest in the proposed merger of these entities. No other party can adequately represent NWIGU member companies’ interests, and the Commission’s determination in this proceeding will directly affect NWIGU member companies.
8. NWIGU reserves the right to propound data requests, review responses to data requests, submit testimony and exhibits, call witnesses, cross-examine all witnesses called by other parties and submit any written arguments and motions that may be appropriate to represent its interests in these proceedings.
9. NWIGU’s participation in these proceedings will assist the Commission in resolving the issues in these proceedings and will not unreasonably broaden the issues, unduly burden the record, or delay these proceedings.

10. WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing, NWIGU respectfully requests leave to intervene as a party in these proceedings, with all of the procedural and substantive rights associated with full party status as described in WAC §480-07-340.

DATED: December 1, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



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Edward A. Finklea, OSB 84216  
Chad M. Stokes, OSB 00400, WSB 37499  
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& Lloyd LLP  
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Of Attorneys for the  
Northwest Industrial Gas Users

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on December 1, 2006, I caused to be served the foregoing NORTHWEST INDUSTRIAL GAS USERS' PETITION TO INTERVENE upon all parties of record in the current service list of these proceedings by mailing a copy properly addressed with first class postage prepaid.

### SERVICE LIST

JON T. STOLTZ Senior Vice President Cascade Natural Gas Rates and Planning PO Box 24464 Seattle, WA 98124	LAURENCE REICHMAN Perkins Coie LLP 1120 NW Couch St., Floor 10 Portland, OR 97209-4128
GREG J. TRAUTMAN Assistant Attorney General, WUTC Attorney General's Office PO Box 40128 Olympia, WA 98504-0128 Attorney for WUTC	JAMES VAN NOSTRAND Perkins Coie LLP Representing Cascade Natural Gas Corp. 1120 NW Couch Street, FL 10 Portland, OR 97209-4128
SIMON FFITCH, AAG Office of the Attorney General Public Counsel 900 4 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 2000 Seattle, WA 98164	DON BALL Vice-President – Regulatory Affairs Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. 400 North Fourth Street Bismarck, ND 58501-4092

DANIEL S. KUNTZ Assistant General Counsel MDU Resources Group, Inc. Representing MDU Resources Group, Inc. 1200 West Century Avenue P.O. Box 5650 Bismark, ND 58506-5650	
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DATED: December 1, 2006.



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PAGE 2 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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