

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

CASCADE NATURAL GAS  
CORPORATION,

Respondent.

DOCKET UG-210755

ORDER 05

SECOND PREHEARING  
CONFERENCE ORDER

- 1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDING.** On September 30, 2021, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-3. The purpose of the filing is to increase rates and charges for natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington. Specifically, Cascade requests authority to increase charges and rates for natural gas service by approximately \$13.7 million, or 5.12 percent in base rates. The Commission suspended operation of the tariffs on October 13, 2021, by Order 01 entered in this Docket.
- 2 On October 25, 2021, the Commission convened a virtual prehearing conference, and on October 26, 2021, entered Order 03, Prehearing Conference Order and Notice of Hearing.
- 3 On February 18, 2022, counsel for Commission staff (Staff) notified the presiding Administrative Law Judges that Staff and Cascade had reached a full settlement in principle. Staff requested the Commission suspend the procedural schedule and convene a status conference to modify the schedule to accommodate the settlement.
- 4 On February 23, 2022, the Commission issued a Notice Suspending the Procedural Schedule and Notice of Status Conference.
- 5 **CONFERENCE.** The Commission convened a virtual status conference on March 10, 2022, before Administrative Law Judges Samantha Doyle and Rayne Pearson.

6 **APPEARANCES.** Counsel for all parties made appearances. Contact information for the  
representatives of each party is attached as Appendix A to Order 03.

7 **PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE.** Staff and Cascade (Settling Parties) presented a  
proposed procedural schedule at the status conference. Public Counsel, the Energy  
Project, and the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (Opposing Parties) proposed an  
alternative schedule. The Commission adopts a hybrid of the two schedules as described  
below.

8 First, the Opposing Parties explained that they remain unaware of the terms of the  
settlement and expressed frustration that the Settling Parties have not provided a term  
sheet describing their agreement. The Opposing Parties thus request a settlement filing  
deadline of March 17, 2022, to provide adequate time for the parties to review and  
respond to the agreement. The Settling Parties, and particularly Staff, requested a  
deadline of March 24, 2022, to file the settlement and supporting documents to provide  
adequate time for Staff to perform its review and for the Settling Parties to resolve any  
final details.

9 We agree with the Opposing Parties that due process considerations weigh in favor of  
requiring the Settling Parties to file a term sheet describing the terms of the settlement in  
advance of filing the settlement agreement and supporting documents, particularly  
considering Staff's request for additional time. Accordingly, we require the Settling  
Parties to file a settlement term sheet by March 15, 2022, to allow the Opposing Parties to  
begin preparing their responsive testimony. We require the Settling Parties to file the  
settlement agreement and all supporting documents, including fully functional exhibits  
for revenue requirement, rate spread, and rate design by March 22, 2022. Together, these  
requirements and deadlines strike an appropriate balance between the Opposing Parties'  
need to prepare responsive testimony and Staff's need to review, finalize, and support the  
settlement.

10 Second, the Opposing Parties propose a response testimony filing deadline of April 25,  
2022, and the Settling Parties propose a deadline of April 22. All parties propose a  
rebuttal testimony deadline of May 2. We adopt the Opposing Parties' proposal and  
require responsive testimony to be filed by April 25, 2022, to provide the Opposing  
Parties adequate time to review and respond to the settlement. We also require the  
Settling Parties to file joint rebuttal testimony and adopt the proposed filing date of May  
2. All other deadlines leading up to the hearing date adopted in Order 03 remain

unchanged, except that we adopt the Settling Parties' proposal to address the Commission's need for post-hearing briefing at the evidentiary hearing.

11 The revised procedural schedule is attached to this Order as Appendix A.

12 **PARTICIPANT FUNDING AND PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE.** The Commission adopts the filing deadline proposed during the status conference for participant funding requests. Participating organizations seeking a fund grant must file a Request for Case Certification (Request) and Notice of Intent to Request a Fund Grant (Notice) by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 18, 2022. Any party that files a Request and Notice prior to that date may amend its filing up until the deadline on March 18.

13 The Commission determines that each participating organization should be required to file with the Commission its proposed budget 30 days after the Commission issues a decision on its Request and Notice. The Commission incorporates these deadlines into the revised procedural schedule in Appendix A.

14 **NOTICE TO PARTIES: A party who objects to any portion of this Order must file a written objection within ten (10) calendar days after the service date of this Order, pursuant to WAC 480-07-430 and WAC 480-07-810. The service date appears on the first page of this Order, in the upper right-hand corner. Absent such objection, this Order will control further proceedings in this docket, subject to Commission review.**

Dated at Lacey, Washington, and effective March 11, 2022.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

*/s/ Rayne Pearson*  
RAYNE PEARSON  
Administrative Law Judge

**APPENDIX A  
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE  
DOCKET UG-210755**

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Initial Filing	<b>September 30, 2021</b>
Prehearing Conference	<b>October 25, 2021</b>
Status Conference	<b>March 10, 2022</b>
Settling Parties Term Sheet	<b>March 15, 2022</b>
Settlement Agreement, Supporting Testimony, and Exhibits	<b>March 22, 2022</b>
Opposing Parties Response Testimony and Exhibits <sup>1</sup>	<b>April 25, 2022</b>
Settling Parties Joint Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits; Staff, Public Counsel, and Intervenor Cross-Answering Testimony and Exhibits	<b>May 2, 2022</b>
Public Comment Hearing	<b>May 25, 2022</b>
Discovery Deadline – Last Day to Issue Data Requests	<b>May 11, 2022</b>
Cross-examination Exhibits, Witness Lists, and Cross-examination Time Estimates	<b>May 25, 2022</b>
Evidentiary Hearing	<b>June 1 and 2, 2022 at 9 a.m.</b>
Post-Hearing Briefs	<b>TBD</b>
Compliance Filing	<b>TBD</b>
Statutory Suspension Deadline	<b>September 1, 2022</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Response time to data requests shortened to 5 business days.