

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

CASCADE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION,

Respondent.

DOCKET UG-190210

ORDER 04

GRANTING MOTION TO MODIFY
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
**(Response Testimony is now due on
September 5, 2019; Rebuttal and
Cross Answering Testimony is now
due on October 15, 2019)**

- 1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDING.** On March 29, 2019, 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 \$12.7 million, or 5.56 percent in base rates. The Commission suspended operation of the tariffs on April 3, 2019, by Order 01 entered in this docket.
- 2 **CONFERENCE.** On April 16, 2019, the Commission convened a prehearing conference in Olympia, Washington, before Administrative Law Judges Rayne Pearson and Laura Chartoff. During the prehearing conference, the parties proposed a procedural schedule. On April 18, 2019, the Commission entered Order 03 adopting the procedural schedule proposed by the parties.
- 3 **MOTION.** On August 7, 2019, Commission staff (Staff) filed an unopposed motion to modify the procedural schedule (Motion). Specifically, Staff asks the Commission to continue the deadline for response testimony from August 22, 2019, to September 5, 2019, and to continue the deadline for filing rebuttal and cross-answering testimony from October 8, 2019, to October 15, 2019.
- 4 In its Motion, Staff explains that the parties are close to reaching a settlement and believe that they can arrive at terms agreed to by all parties within two weeks. The procedural

schedule currently calls for Staff, Public Counsel, the Alliance of Western Energy consumers (AWEC), and the Energy Project to file response testimony in approximately two weeks on August 22, 2019. Staff argues that rescheduling the due date for response testimony would allow the parties to attempt to reach a full settlement without having to expend resources to prepare testimony that would be rendered moot by that settlement. Staff further represents that no party objects to the continuance.

DISCUSSION

- 5 Under WAC 480-07-375(1)(b), parties may file procedural motions requesting the Commission modify the procedural schedule in a proceeding. Staff states that it has conferred with the other parties in this docket and all parties support the Motion.
- 6 Because all parties support Staff's motion, and to aid in timely and efficient resolution of this proceeding, the Commission grants Staff's Motion and modifies the procedural schedule as follows:
- Staff, Public Counsel and Intervenor Response Testimony and Exhibits are now due September 5, 2019; and
 - Company Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits, and Staff, Public Counsel and Intervenor Cross-Answering Testimony and Exhibits are now due October 15, 2019.
- 7 These modifications are reflected in the revised procedural schedule in Appendix A to this order.

ORDER

- 8 THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT Staff's Motion for continuance to modify the procedural schedule is GRANTED.

Dated at Lacey, Washington, and effective August 7, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ Laura Chartoff
LAURA CHARTOFF
Administrative Law Judge

**APPENDIX A
REVISED PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
DOCKET UG-190210**

EVENT	DATE
Rate case filing	March 29, 2019
Initial Settlement Conference	July 17, 2019¹
Staff, Public Counsel and Intervenor Response Testimony and Exhibits ²	September 5, 2019
Cascade Natural Circulates Joint Issues Matrix	September 5, 2019
Second Settlement Conference	Week of September 16
Company Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits; Staff, Public Counsel and Intervenor Cross-Answering Testimony and Exhibits ³	October 15, 2019
Notice Issued for Public Comment Hearings	30 days prior to Public Comment Hearings
Public Comment Hearings	September 5, 2019⁴
Cascade Files Joint Issues Matrix	October 21, 2019
Discovery Deadline – Last Day to Issue Data Requests ⁵	October 21, 2019

¹ The parties may adjust the settlement conference dates by mutual agreement amongst themselves followed by notice to the Commission via letter. Such changes to the settlement conference dates will not require approval from the Commission in this proceeding.

² Response time to data requests relating to this testimony will be 7 business days.

³ Response time to data requests relating to this testimony will be 5 business days.

⁴ On July 3, 2019, the Commission gave notice that a public comment hearing in this matter will be held on September 5, 2019.

⁵ Response time to data requests will be 5 business days.

Exhibit List, Cross-Examination Exhibits, Witness Lists, Time Estimates, and Exhibit Errata	October 28, 2019
Evidentiary Hearing	November 4-5, 2019, at 9 a.m.
Post-Hearing Briefs and Updated Joint Issues Matrix	December 19, 2019
Suspension Date	March 1, 2020⁶

⁶ Based on a 10-month suspension from the stated effective date of May 1, 2019, on the as-filed tariff sheets, per RCW 80.04.130.