

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of

CASCADE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION,

To Amend its Certificate of Public
Convenience and Necessity to Operate a
Gas Plant for Hire in the Bow, Washington
area within Skagit County

DOCKET UG-160181

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING APPLICATION

BACKGROUND

- 1 On February 8, 2016, consistent with the requirements of RCW 80.28.190, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or Company) filed an application to amend its present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire (Application).
- 2 Cascade is presently certificated for and is now providing gas service in Skagit County. Cascade is requesting a certificate to expand the service area in unincorporated Skagit County near Bow, Washington, an unincorporated community.¹ The additional area requested is contiguous to the existing certificated area.²
- 3 The Application requests no determination at this time about the reasonableness of the gas pipeline facility servicing this addition to Cascade's service area. The Company recognizes the right of the Commission to determine such reasonable services and expenditures, together with the treatment of same, in any formal proceeding before the Commission dealing with Cascade's results of operations for ratemaking purposes.
- 4 Commission Staff (Staff) reviewed the Company's filing and determined that Cascade is best suited to serve the requested service territory economically. No other gas provider is currently serving in this area.

¹ See map in attachment B-1 of the filing.

² Legal description is shown in attachment B-2 of the filing.

5 Accordingly, the Application should be granted to satisfy the public convenience and
necessity.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the
State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules,
regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service
companies, including gas companies.
- 7 (2) Cascade is a gas company and is a public service company subject Commission
jurisdiction.
- 8 (3) RCW 80.28.190 states no gas company shall operate in this state any gas plant for
hire without first having obtained from the Commission a certificate declaring
that public convenience and necessity requires or will require such operation and
setting forth the area or areas within which service is to be rendered.
- 9 (4) Cascade has previously been issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and
Necessity to operate a gas plant for hire.
- 10 (5) Cascade has filed an Application to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience
and Necessity to include an additional area in Skagit County. This area is
contiguous to Cascade's presently certificated area.
- 11 (6) Commission Staff have reviewed the Company's Application and recommends
approval of the application to amend its certificate to include the additional area
requested.
- 12 (7) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled
meeting on March 24, 2016.
- 13 (8) After review of the request filed by Cascade and giving due consideration, the
Commission finds it is consistent with the public convenience and necessity that
the Certificate of Cascade be amended to reflect the addition of areas in the Bow,
Washington area, located in Skagit County.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) The application of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire within the certificated area in Skagit County is granted and the Certificate shall be amended in accordance with the legal description provided in the supplemental information filed on February 8, 2016, in attachment B-2.
- 15 (2) This Order makes no determination at this time as to the reasonableness of the gas pipeline facility to serve this addition to Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's service area, and recognizes the right of the Commission to determine such reasonable services and expenditures, together with treatment of same, in any formal proceeding before the Commission dealing with Cascade's results of operations for ratemaking purposes.
- 16 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Executive Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 24, 2016.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary