

**BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

CASCADE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION,

Respondent.

DOCKET UG-240008

CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION

**THIRD EXHIBIT TO THE
DIRECT TESTIMONY OF HART GILCHRIST**

March 29, 2024

PROVISIONAL ADDITIONS TO PLANT IN SERVICE

2024 – 2025 Minor Projects

OVERVIEW OF MINOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS

Funding Project	Description	FERC Account No.	2024 Plant Additions	2024 Estimated In-Service Date	2025 Plant Additions	2025 Estimated In-Service Date
FP-323967	UG-CNG PUR AR/VR Gas Emergency Response	303	\$41,466	12/25/2024	\$0	
FP-323968	UG-CNG PUR AR/VR I-Leak Upgrade/Enhance	303	\$7,539	6/1/2024	\$0	
FP-320934	PUR Training Props Bremerton WA Trl.	394.1	\$16,946	6/30/2024	\$0	
FP-320935	PUR Training Props Kennewick Wa Trlr	394.1	\$14,987	6/25/2024	\$0	
FP-316451	UG-PCAD Annual Enhancements-CNG	303	\$109,304	12/31/2028	\$20,571	12/31/2028
FP-324053	Construction Training Yard Elma D Off	394.1	\$50,215	8/1/2024	\$0	
FP-324251	Purch AED for Bellingham WA	398	\$2,009	3/30/2024	\$0	
FP-324253	Purch PAPR's for Washington 2024	394.1	\$10,043	7/10/2024	\$0	
Total Specific	Provisional Additions to Plant In-Service 2024-2025 --- Minor Projects		\$252,509		\$20,571	

DISCUSSION OF MINOR SPECIFIC PROJECTS

1. FP-323967 & FP-323968 AR/VR TRAINING DEVELOPMENT

Q. Please describe Cascade’s Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality training development.

A. Cascade’s Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality training development is an additional method of delivering training to field personnel. It leverages immersive real-world scenarios that employees participate in to learn in a hands-on environment that would

be otherwise difficult to emulate—for instance, gas odor emergencies and gas leak emergencies.

Q. What are the anticipated benefits from the AR/VR training development?

A. The AV/VR training development will benefit Cascade’s employees by providing a simulated real-world training on emergency response in a safe, realistic environment. Prior to this, employees learned through on-the-job training and policy review. This provides an immersive environment for learning/training.

Q. What is the timeline of implementation of the AR/VR training development?

A. This project began in 2023 with the development of inside and outside gas odor modules. The Company is currently using these modules to deliver training, and plans to further develop those modules in 2024.

Q. What are the estimated costs for the Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality training development project?

A. The total capital investment for Cascade’s Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality training development is \$49,005.32 in 2024.

Q. Is Cascade seeking cost recovery for implementation of AR/VR?

A. Yes, Cascade is seeking cost recovery for implementation of the AR/VR training development in the amount of \$49,005.32.

2. FP-324053 CONSTRUCTION TRAINING YARD DEVELOPMENT

Q. Please describe Cascade's construction training yard development.

A. The construction training yard in Elma, Washington will provide additional training opportunities to address excavation skill and safety, emergency response, pipe repair, line locating, measurement and other construction field operations related tasks.

Q. What are the anticipated benefits of the construction training yard development?

A. The benefit to employees is a dedicated space for hands-on training in a non-live environment. Employees can practice excavation around gas facilities that are not energized, conduct line locating and simulate in-trench pipe repair. Prior to this, employees learned these skills through policy review and on-the-job training experiences.

Q. What are the estimated costs for the construction training yard development project?

A. The total capital investment for Cascade's construction training yard development is \$50,215.00 in 2024, when the yard is expected to be complete.

Q. Is Cascade seeking cost recovery for implementation of the construction yard?

A. Yes, Cascade is seeking cost recovery for development of the construction training yard in the amount of \$50,215.00.

3. FP-324251 AED REPLACEMENT

Q. Please describe Cascade's AED replacement program.

A. Cascade's Automated External Defibrillator replacement program will replace existing AEDs that are currently installed throughout the Cascade territory as they become worn or obsolete. AEDs are placed in the Company's facilities so that employees are prepared to respond quickly and effectively in the event of a cardiac emergency.

Q. What are the anticipated benefits of AED replacement?

A. The benefit of AED replacement is to have functional AED's available at Cascade offices should there be a need to respond to a cardiac emergency. This is an ongoing safety initiative to have and keep functional AED's in office locations throughout the company.

Q. What are the estimated costs for the AED Replacement project?

A. The total capital investment for the AED Replacements is \$2,008.60 in 2024.

Q. Is Cascade seeking cost recovery for its AED replacement efforts?

A. Yes, Cascade is seeking cost recovery for implementation of its AED replacement efforts in the amount of \$2,008.60

4. **FP-324253 POWERED AIR PURIFYING RESPIRATOR DEPLOYMENT**

Q. Please describe Cascade's Powered Air Purifying Respirator deployment.

A. Cascade's Powered Air Purifying Respirator deployment adds a layer of safety for welders by providing respiratory protection from manganese and other potentially harmful weld fumes.

A Powered Air Purifying Respirator is a portable battery powered respirator installed in a helmet that filters ambient air into the user's immediate environment, directing clean, filtered air to the user's face. Air pushed into the user's breath zone by a fan creates positive pressure inside the helmet, which prevents unfiltered ambient air from entering the area around the user's face.

Q. What are the anticipated benefits of Powered Air Purifying Respirators?

A. Cascade's welders benefit from an added layer of protection against welding fumes emitted during welding. This helps make the welding environment cleaner.

Q. What are the estimated costs for the Powered Air Purifying Respirator deployment project?

A. The total capital investment for the Powered Air Purifying Respirator deployment is program is \$10,043.00 in 2024.

Q. Is Cascade seeking cost recovery for implementation of Powered Air Purifying Respirators?

A. Yes, Cascade is seeking cost recovery for implementation of Powered Air Purifying Respirators in the amount of \$10,043.00

5. FP-320934, FP-320935 PURCHASE TRAINING PROPS

Q. Please describe Cascade's Purchase Training Props project.

A. The purchase of training props is to provide tools for mobile training trailers. We have a mobile training workforce that utilize the training props to provide consistent in-depth safety and field operations training at the district locations. The types of props purchased include, but are not limited to: meters, regulators, valves, squeeze tools, gauges, Sensit CGI/Sensit LZ30 leak survey tools, meter by-pass kits, stopping and tapping equipment, service stop change device, electrofusion machines, mustang clamps, met-fit tooling, small diameter butt fusion machines, metro-tech and RD line locators, Jameson line locator feed tools, and self-contained breathing apparatus.

Q. What are the anticipated benefits of training props?

A. Training props allow employees to learn how things work in a hands-on environment prior to using tools/equipment in a live environment.

Q. What are the estimated costs for the training props?

A. The total capital investment for the training props is \$31,932.78 in 2024.

Q. Is Cascade seeking cost recovery for implementation of training props?

A. Yes, Cascade is seeking cost recover for implementation of training props in the amount of \$31,932.78

6. FP-316451 PRAGMACAD ANNUAL ENHANCEMENTS

Q. Please describe Cascade's Pragmacad Annual Enhancements.

A. Pragmacad (PCAD) is Cascades service order field deployment software that is used to issue service work to field technicians and document work done. This enhancement is intended to interface PCAD with Cascade's Operator Qualification database (EWN) to allow the Company to create service work orders within PCAD and assign them to workers with the appropriate qualifications to perform the work. Today, this is a manual process that relies on both the scheduler assigning the order and the employee receiving the order. Once this enhancement is implemented, PCAD will automatically only allow work to be issued to and completed by a qualified employee.

Q. What is the anticipated benefits of Cascade's Pragmacad Annual Enhancements?

A. The benefit of this enhancement is an automated process to ensure that the work being issued from PCAD is completed by employees with the appropriate operator qualifications for the task(s) to be performed.

Q. What are the estimated costs for the Pragmacad enhancements?

A. The total capital investment for the training props is \$109,304.13 in 2024.

Q. Is Cascade seeking cost recovery for implementation of Pragmacad enhancements?

A. Yes, Cascade is seeking cost recovery for implementation of Pragmacad in the amount of \$129,875.28