

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UG-152286
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	
Complainant,)	ORDER 01
)	
v.)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
CASCADE NATURAL GAS)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
CORPORATION,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On December 1, 2015, 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 as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. Cascade agrees to a suspension of the tariffs, which have a proposed effective date of January 1, 2016. The purpose of this filing is to increase rates and charges for natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington.

- 2 In this filing, Cascade requests authority to increase charges and rates for natural gas service by approximately \$10.5 million, or 4.17 percent in base rates. Because this increase might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Cascade has not demonstrated that the increase would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property, and affiliated interests of public service companies, including natural gas companies.

- 4 (2) Cascade is a natural gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 5 (3) The tariff revisions Cascade filed on December 1, 2015, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Cascade and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 6 (4) Cascade has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 7 (5) Cascade's rates and charges for natural gas service shown on any tariffs that Cascade does not propose to revise may also be investigated to determine if they are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 8 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate Cascade's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Cascade's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Cascade's operations. The Commission finds that this docket meets the criteria of WAC 480-07-400(2)(b)(i) and that the parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 9 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), Cascade bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 10 (8) Cascade may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The tariff revisions Cascade Natural Gas Corporation filed on December 1, 2015, are suspended.

- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required. Such hearings may also examine Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's rates and charges for natural gas service shown on any tariffs that Cascade Natural Gas Corporation does not propose to revise.
- 13 (3) Cascade Natural Gas Corporation must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period unless authorized by the Commission.
- 14 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations as described above.
- 15 (5) The parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 16 (6) Cascade Natural Gas Corporation shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent required in RCW 80.20.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective December 21, 2015.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

Appendix

TARIFF WN U-3

35 th Revision Sheet No. 2	Canceling	34 th Revision Sheet No. 2
20 th Revision Sheet No. 2-A	Canceling	19 th Revision Sheet No. 2-A
3 rd Revision Sheet No. 7	Canceling	2 nd Revision Sheet No. 7
5 th Revision Sheet No. 21	Canceling	4 th Revision Sheet No. 21
1 st Revision Sheet No. 25	Canceling	Original Sheet No. 25
3 rd Revision Sheet No. 301	Canceling	2 nd Revision Sheet No. 301
53 rd Revision Sheet No. 502	Canceling	52 nd Revision Sheet No. 502
58 th Revision Sheet No. 503	Canceling	57 th Revision Sheet No. 503
42 nd Revision Sheet No. 504	Canceling	41 st Revision Sheet No. 504
41 st Revision Sheet No. 505	Canceling	40 th Revision Sheet No. 505
58 th Revision Sheet No. 511	Canceling	57 th Revision Sheet No. 511
38 th Revision Sheet No. 512	Canceling	37 th Revision Sheet No. 512
52 nd Revision Sheet No. 570	Canceling	51 st Revision Sheet No. 570
49 th Revision Sheet No. 577	Canceling	48 th Revision Sheet No. 577
35 th Revision Sheet No. 595	Canceling	34 th Revision Sheet No. 595
81 st Revision Sheet No. 596	Canceling	80 th Revision Sheet No. 596
3 rd Revision Sheet No. 597	Canceling	2 nd Revision Sheet No. 597
16 th Revision Sheet No. 663	Canceling	15 th Revision Sheet No. 663
4 th Revision Sheet No. 685-A	Canceling	3 rd Revision Sheet No. 685-A

4 th Revision Sheet No. 687	Canceling	3 rd Revision Sheet No. 687
Original Sheet No. 25-A	New	
Original Sheet No. 25-B	New	
Original Sheet No. 25-C	New	
Original Sheet No. 594	New	
3 rd Revision Sheet. No. 12-C	Withdrawn	
54 th Revision Sheet No. 541	Withdrawn	
5 th Revision Sheet No. 545	Withdrawn	
8 th Revision Sheet No. 599	Withdrawn	
5 th Revision Sheet No. 664	Withdrawn	
1 st Revision Sheet No. 665	Withdrawn	
4 th Revision Sheet No. 678	Withdrawn	
3 rd Revision Sheet No. 678-A	Withdrawn	
2 nd Revision Sheet No. 679	Withdrawn	
9 th Revision Sheet No. 681	Withdrawn	
Substitute 6 th Revision Sheet No. 682	Withdrawn	
4 th Revision Sheet No. 683	Withdrawn	
Substitute 4 th Revision Sheet no. 684	Withdrawn	
Substitute 3 rd Revision Sheet No. 684-A	Withdrawn	
Original Sheet No. 699	Withdrawn	