BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

**UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

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

**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**

1. (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.
2. (2) Cascade is a natural gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
3. (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.
4. (4) Cascade has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
5. (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.
6. (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.
7. (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.
8. (8) Cascade may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

**O R D E R**

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

1. (1) The tariff revisions Cascade Natural Gas Corporation filed on December 1, 2015, are suspended.
2. (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.
3. (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.
4. (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation’s books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations as described above.
5. (5) The parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Commission’s discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
6. (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**

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| 35th Revision Sheet No. 2 | Canceling | 34th Revision Sheet No. 2 |
| 20th Revision Sheet No. 2-A | Canceling | 19th Revision Sheet No. 2-A |
| 3rd Revision Sheet No. 7 | Canceling | 2nd Revision Sheet No. 7 |
| 5th Revision Sheet No. 21 | Canceling | 4th Revision Sheet No. 21 |
| 1st Revision Sheet No. 25 | Canceling | Original Sheet No. 25 |
| 3rd Revision Sheet No. 301 | Canceling | 2nd Revision Sheet No. 301 |
| 53rd Revision Sheet No. 502 | Canceling | 52nd Revision Sheet No. 502 |
| 58th Revision Sheet No. 503 | Canceling | 57th Revision Sheet No. 503 |
| 42nd Revision Sheet No. 504 | Canceling | 41st Revision Sheet No. 504 |
| 41st Revision Sheet No. 505 | Canceling | 40th Revision Sheet No. 505 |
| 58th Revision Sheet No. 511 | Canceling | 57th Revision Sheet No. 511 |
| 38th Revision Sheet No. 512 | Canceling | 37th Revision Sheet No. 512 |
| 52nd Revision Sheet No. 570 | Canceling | 51st Revision Sheet No. 570 |
| 49th Revision Sheet No. 577 | Canceling | 48th Revision Sheet No. 577 |
| 35th Revision Sheet No. 595 | Canceling | 34th Revision Sheet No. 595 |
| 81st Revision Sheet No. 596 | Canceling | 80th Revision Sheet No. 596 |
| 3rd Revision Sheet No. 597 | Canceling | 2nd Revision Sheet No. 597 |
| 16th Revision Sheet No. 663 | Canceling | 15th Revision Sheet No. 663 |
| 4th Revision Sheet No. 685‑A | Canceling | 3rd Revision Sheet No. 685‑A |
| 4th Revision Sheet No. 687 | Canceling | 3rd 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 |  |
| 3rd Revision Sheet. No. 12-C | Withdrawn |  |
| 54th Revision Sheet No. 541 | Withdrawn |  |
| 5th Revision Sheet No. 545 | Withdrawn |  |
| 8th Revision Sheet No. 599 | Withdrawn |  |
| 5th Revision Sheet No. 664 | Withdrawn |  |
| 1st Revision Sheet No. 665 | Withdrawn |  |
| 4th Revision Sheet No. 678 | Withdrawn |  |
| 3rd Revision Sheet No. 678-A | Withdrawn |  |
| 2nd Revision Sheet No. 679 | Withdrawn |  |
| 9th Revision Sheet No. 681 | Withdrawn |  |
| Substitute 6th Revision Sheet No. 682 | Withdrawn |  |
| 4th Revision Sheet No. 683 | Withdrawn |  |
| Substitute 4th Revision Sheet no. 684 | Withdrawn |  |
| Substitute 3rd Revision Sheet No. 684-A | Withdrawn |  |
| Original Sheet No. 699 | Withdrawn |  |