

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UG-060256
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	ORDER 01
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS)	
CORPORATION,)	
)	
Respondent.)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
.....)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS

BACKGROUND

1 On February 14, 2006, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, (Cascade) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-3, designated as:

Thirty-Third Revision Sheet No. 2 Canceling Thirty-Second Revision Sheet No. 2
Eighth Revision Sheet No. 9 Canceling Seventh Revision Sheet No. 9
Tenth Revision Sheet No. 10 Canceling Ninth Revision Sheet No. 10
First Revision Sheet No. 10-B Canceling Original Sheet No. 10-B
Original Sheet No. 25
Original Sheet No. 25-A
Original Sheet No. 26
Original Sheet No. 26-A
Original Sheet No. 200
Original Sheet No. 200-A
Original Sheet No. 500-C
Forty-Second Rev. Sheet No. 502, Canceling Forty-First Rev. Sheet No. 502
Forty-Seventh Rev. Sheet No. 503 Canceling Forty-Sixth Rev. Sheet No. 503
Thirty-First Rev. Sheet No. 504, Canceling Thirtieth Rev. Sheet No. 504
Thirtieth Rev. Sheet No. 505, Canceling Twenty-Ninth Rev. Sheet No. 505
Forty-Sixth Rev. Sheet No. 511, Canceling Forty-Fifth Rev. Sheet No. 511
Twenty-Seventh Rev. Sheet No. 512, Canceling Twenty-Sixth Rev. Sheet No. 512
Forty-Fourth Rev. Sheet No. 541, Canceling Forty-Third Rev. Sheet No. 541
Forty-First Rev. Sheet No. 570, Canceling Fortieth Rev. Sheet No. 570
Thirty-Eighth Sheet No. 577, Canceling Thirty-Seventh Sheet No. 577

Seventh Revision Sheet No. 663 Canceling Sixth Revision Sheet No. 663
Fourth Revision Sheet No. 663-A Canceling Third Revision Sheet No. 663-A
Fifth Revision Sheet No. 664 Canceling Fourth Revision Sheet No. 664
Second Revision Sheet No. 664-A Canceling First Revision Sheet No. 664-A

The stated effective date is March 16, 2006. Cascade's filing seeks Commission authorization to increase its rates and charges for natural gas service by \$11.7 million, or 4.5 percent on an annual basis.

- 2 The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by Cascade. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and Cascade has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings if necessary to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including natural gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040, Chapter 80.04 RCW, Chapter 80.28 RCW, Chapter 80.08 RCW and Chapter 80.12 RCW.*
- 4 (2) Cascade is a natural gas company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 5 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 15, 2006.
- 6 (4) The tariff revisions filed by Cascade on February 14, 2006, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Cascade, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) Cascade has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable.

- 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.
- 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 and reasonable.
- 10 (8) Cascade may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The tariff revisions filed on February 14, 2006, are suspended.
- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 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) Cascade Natural Gas Corporation shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective March 15, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner