

## **Cascade Natural Gas Corporation 2012 IRP Work Plan**

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's ("Cascade" or "the Company") Work Plan for its 2012 Integrated Resource Plan ("IRP") is filed pursuant to the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) IRP rules (WAC 480-90-238).

### **Purpose of the Integrated Resource Plan/Key Issues for 2012 IRP**

The primary purpose of Cascade's long-term resource planning process has been, and continues to be, to inform and guide the Company's resource acquisition processes, consistent with the rule (WAC 480-90-238). Input and feedback from the Company's Technical Advisory Group (TAG) will continue to be an important resource to help ensure Cascade's IRP is developed from a broader perspective than Cascade could have on its own.

Analytical methods will be similar to those used to develop the Company's 2010 and 2011 IRPs, which includes the use of a linear programming optimization model (SENDOUT) to solve natural gas supply and transportation optimization questions, along with the use of Monte-Carlo simulations to estimate the impact of various uncertainty factors.

### **Outline of IRP Content:**

The following is an outline of the Company's 2012 IRP plan. This list is based on the formats used in Cascade's 2010 IRP. Organizational structure of the final IRP may be revised based on results of analysis and feedback received through the planning process.

- I. Executive Summary
- II. Introduction & Planning Overview
- III. Demand Forecast
- IV. Distribution System Enhancements
- V. Demand Side Resources
- VI. Supply Side Resources
- VII. Resource Integration
- VIII. Two-Year Action Plan
- IX. Appendices

### **2012 IRP Timeline**

The following is Cascade's tentative 2012 IRP timeline:

- 2012 IRP Work Plan filed with WUTC: December 15, 2011
- Develop Demand Forecast: January through March 2012
- Distribution System Planning Analysis: April through June 2012
- Demand Side Resource Analysis: January through June 2012
- Gas Supply Analysis: January through June 2012
- Integration of Supply and Conservation Resources: June through July 2012
- Public Process: Technical Advisory Group Meetings (tentative dates)
  - TAG 1: Key Assumptions (Price Forecast & Economic Indicators) – late February/early March 2012
  - TAG 2: Demand Forecast Results/Resource Alternatives (Supply/Demand Resources) –early April 2012
  - TAG 3: Distribution System Planning/Preliminary Modeling of Conservation Supply Curves, Resource Alternatives (Supply/ Demand Side Resources-Continued) –early May 2012
  - TAG 4: Integration/ 2 year Action Plan –early June 2012
- File Draft 2012 IRP: July 31, 2012

- TAG 5 (if needed): Draft IRP Discussion –late August 2012
- Comments to Company on Draft Plan from parties due October 15, 2012
- Final 2012 IRP Filed: December 14, 2012

#### Planning Assumptions

Information needed to perform analysis will be gathered and input assumptions developed by late May 2012. This will include detailed definitions of alternative scenarios and all primary input assumptions for demand forecasting and resource modeling. Additional planning information will be assimilated into the analytical process and planning information that is not incorporated into the modeling process will continue to be assessed.

#### Resource Analysis:

Natural gas analysis will include long-term optimization and stochastic analysis under the same planning scenarios, including natural gas energy efficiency and supply alternatives.

#### Draft 2012 IRP and Review Period:

Cascade is planning to have its IRP draft plan distributed for initial feedback to the group members by July 31, 2012. Given Cascade's commitment to facilitate and communicate with members of the Technical Advisory Group, the draft IRP content and its key assumptions will be discussed with the Technical Advisory Group during the TAG sessions. Any feedback is due to the Company by October 15, 2012 to give the Company sufficient time to incorporate such feedback as needed into the final plan.

#### Final 2012 IRP Filed December 14, 2012

**Cascade Natural Gas Corporation  
2012 IRP Timeline**

2011	2012													
December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	7/31: Submit Draft IRP	August	September	October	November	December	
File Work Plan with WUTC	Develop Demand Forecast			Distribution System Planning					Review	10/15: Comments Deadline	Revisions	12/14: Submit Final IRP		
	Demand Side Resource Analysis													
	Gas Supply Analysis													
	Resource Integration													
			TAG 1	TAG 2	TAG 3	TAG 4		TAG 5						

**2012 TAG Meetings**

Meeting	Topic	Tentative Date	Tentative Location
<b>TAG 1</b>	Key Assumptions (Price Forecast & Economic Indicators)	March 6, 2012	SEATAC Airport
<b>TAG 2</b>	Demand Forecast Results & Resource Alternatives Part I (Supply/Demand Resources)	April 10, 2012	SEATAC Airport
<b>TAG 3</b>	Distribution System Planning, Resource Alternatives Part II, Preliminary Modeling for Conservation Supply Curves	May 8, 2012	SEATAC Airport
<b>TAG 4</b>	Integration/ 2 year Action Plan	June 5, 2012	CNGC Kennewick
<b>TAG 5</b>	Draft IRP Discussion	August 24, 2012	Olympia