

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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| In Re the Petition of |) | |
| |) | |
| CASCADE NATURAL GAS |) | |
| CORPORATION |) | DOCKET NO. UG-950326 |
| |) | |
| For an Order Determining the |) | |
| Rate-making Treatment of |) | |
| Certain Special Contracts |) | |
| |) | |
| |) | |
| WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND |) | |
| TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, |) | |
| |) | |
| Complainant, |) | DOCKET NO. UG-951415 |
| |) | |
| v. |) | |
| |) | COMPLAINT AND ORDER SUSPENDING |
| CASCADE NATURAL GAS |) | TARIFF REVISIONS; ORDER |
| CORPORATION, |) | INSTITUTING INVESTIGATION; |
| |) | AND, ORDER OF CONSOLIDATION |
| Respondent. |) | |
| |) | |

On March 15, 1995, in Docket No. UG-950326, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or company) filed with the Commission a petition for a Commission order determining the appropriate ratemaking treatment of certain special contracts. Cascade previously has executed contracts for natural gas service with Longview Fibre Company, March Point Cogeneration Company, Encogen Northwest L.P., Tenaska Gas Company, and B.P. Exploration & Oil, Inc.

On December 11, 1995, in Docket No. UG-951415, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation filed with the Commission, under its Advice No. CNG/W95-12-01, revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-3 designated as:

- Twenty-Ninth Revision Sheet No. 2, Cancelling Twenty-Eighth Revision Sheet No. 2;
- Fourth Revision Sheet No. 6, Cancelling Third Revision Sheet No. 6;
- Fifth Revision Sheet No. 9, Cancelling Fourth Revision Sheet No. 9;
- Thirty-Seventh Revision Sheet No. 501, Cancelling Thirty-Sixth Revision Sheet No. 501 and Thirty-Third Revision Sheet No. 503;
- Nineteenth Revision Sheet No. 504, Cancelling Eighteenth Revision Sheet No. 504;
- Eighteenth Revision Sheet No. 505, Cancelling Seventeenth Revision Sheet No. 505;
- Thirty-Fourth Revision Sheet No. 511, Cancelling Thirty-Third Revision Sheet No. 511;

Thirtieth Revision Sheet No. 502, Cancelling Twenty-Ninth Revision Sheet No. 502;
 Fifteenth Revision Sheet No. 512, Cancelling Fourteenth Revision Sheet No. 512;
 Thirty-Third Revision Sheet no. 541, Cancelling Thirty-Second Revision Sheet No. 541;
 Fifth Revision Sheet No. 545, Cancelling Fourth Revision Sheet No. 545;
 Twenty-Ninth Revision Sheet No. 570, Cancelling Twenty-Eighth Revision Sheet No. 570;
 Twenty-Sixth Revision Sheet No. 577, Cancelling Twenty-Fifth Revision Sheet No. 577;
 Second Revision Sheet No. 663, Cancelling First Revision Sheet No. 663;
 Third Revision Sheet No. 678, Cancelling Second Revision Sheet No. 678;
 Second Revision Sheet No. 685, Cancelling First Revision Sheet No. 685;
 Second Revision Sheet No. 686, Cancelling First Revision Sheet No. 686;
 Second Revision Sheet No. 687, Cancelling First Revision Sheet No. 687; and
 Second Revision Sheet No. 687-A, Cancelling First Revision Sheet No. 687-A.

The stated effective date of the proposed tariff revisions is February 1, 1996.

It appears to the Commission that the proposed tariff revisions would result in rates and charges, rate design, and rate structure for natural gas service, which may be unfair, unjust, and unreasonable or insufficient. In order to protect the rights and interests of the public, the Commission will order that public hearings be held concerning the tariff revisions so that it may determine rates which are just and reasonable.

The Commission will order that the operation of the proposed tariff revisions be suspended pending such hearings and Commission decision. In accordance with RCW 80.04.130, the burden of proof to show that the revisions are just and reasonable shall be upon the company.

The Commission believes the above two matters may involve common questions of fact and law, and therefore should be consolidated for hearing and determination. The Commission reserves the right to sever the proceedings, and to issue separate orders in each proceeding as it deems appropriate.

The Commission believes it necessary, in order to carry out the duties imposed upon it by law, to investigate the company's books, accounts, practices, and activities, to make a valuation or appraisal of respondent's property and to investigate and appraise various phases of Cascade's operation.

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ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

1. The operation of the tariff revisions filed December 11, 1995, in Docket No. UG-951415, is suspended pending hearing and Commission decision.

2. During the suspension period, no change or alteration shall be made in the tariffs which are the subject of the proposed revisions, except upon petition to the Commission and authorization by order of the Commission.

3. One or more hearings concerning whether the proposed tariff revisions are just and reasonable may be held at times and places designated by prior Commission notice.

4. An investigation of the books, accounts, practices, and activities of the company, and a valuation and appraisal of the company's property and operations shall be conducted.

5. The company shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the investigation, valuation, and appraisal, to the extent that requiring such payment is consistent with the provisions of chapter 80.20 RCW.

6. The company shall provide the statement required by WAC 480-80-125 to all affected Cascade Natural Gas Corporation customers in the form and manner specified in the rule.

7. The above captioned and docketed proceedings are consolidated for purposes of hearing and decision; the Commission reserves the right to sever these proceedings, and to issue separate orders in each proceeding as it deems appropriate.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 27th day of December 1995.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION


RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner


WILLIAM R. GILLIS, Commissioner