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 1 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

 2 UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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 4 WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND )

 5 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, )

 6 Complainant, )

 7 vs. ) Docket No. UG-152286

 8 CASCADE NATURAL GAS ) Volume I

 9 CORPORATION, )

10 Respondent. )

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12 Pre-hearing Conference held before

13 GREGORY J. KOPTA, Administrative Law Judge

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15 Pages 1-14

16 9:30 a.m. - 9:44 a.m.

17 January 26, 2016

18 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW

19 Room 206

20 Olympia, Washington

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25 Mary M. Paradise, CSR 2469

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 1 A P P E A R A N C E S

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 3 GREGORY J. KOPTA, Administrative Law Judge

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 5 ON BEHALF OF WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND

 6 TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION:

 7 BRETT P. SHEARER

 8 Assistant Attorney General

 9 PO Box 4128

10 Olympia, Washington 98504-0128

11

 ON BEHALF OF CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION:

12

 LISA F. RACKNER

13

 McDowell Rackner & Gibson

14

 419 SW 11th Avenue

15

 Portland, Oregon 97205

16

17 ON BEHALF OF NORTHWEST INDUSTRIAL GAS USERS:

18 (Present via bridge line.)

19 CHAD M. STOKES

20 Cable Huston

21 1001 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000

22 Portland, Oregon 97204-1136

23

24

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 1 ON BEHALF OF THE ENERGY PROJECT:

 2 (Present via bridge line.)

 3 BRAD M. PURDY

 4 Law Office of Brad M. Purdy

 5 2019 North 17th Street

 6 Boise, Idaho 83702

 7

 ON BEHALF OF PUBLIC COUNSEL:

 8

 LISA W. GAFKEN

 9

 Assistant Attorney General

10

 Public Counsel Division

11

 800 Fifth Avenue

12

 Suite 2000, TB-14

13

 Seattle, Washington 98104-3188

14

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16 E X H I B I T I N D E X

17 NUMBER: PAGE

18 (None Marked.)

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 1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; January 26, 2016

 2 9:30 a.m.

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 5 JUDGE KOPTA: Let's be on the record in

 6 docket UG-152286, captioned Washington Utilities

 7 and Transportation Commission versus Cascade

 8 Natural Gas Corporation. I'm Gregory J. Kopta, the

 9 administrative law judge who will be presiding with

10 the commissioners in this docket.

11 We are here today for a pre-hearing

12 conference to settle matters of a procedural

13 nature. And let's begin by taking appearances,

14 starting with the company.

15 MS. RACKNER: Lisa Rackner with the law

16 firm of McDowell Rackner & Gibson for Cascade

17 Natural Gas. Would you like my address and

18 contact?

19 JUDGE KOPTA: We don't need the whole

20 thing at this point. I think it's already in the

21 pleadings, but I'll make sure that you have that.

22 JUDGE KOPTA: For Commission staff?

23 MR. SHEARER: Bret Shearer, assistant

24 attorney general on behalf of Commission staff.

25 JUDGE KOPTA: Public counsel?

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 1 MS. GAFKEN: Lisa Gafken, assistant

 2 attorney general here on behalf of public counsel.

 3 JUDGE KOPTA: And Mr. Stokes?

 4 MR. STOKES: Good morning, Chad Stokes for

 5 the Northwest Industrial Gas Users.

 6 JUDGE KOPTA: And Mr. Purdy?

 7 MR. PURDY: Brad Purdy on behalf of The

 8 Energy Project.

 9 JUDGE KOPTA: Thank you. Anyone else

10 wishing to make an appearance? Hearing none, that

11 seems to be the cast of characters.

12 The first issue on my list is

13 interventions. The Commission has received

14 petitions to intervene from the Northwest

15 Industrial Gas Users and The Energy Project. Are

16 there any objections to allowing those parties to

17 intervene?

18 MS. RACKNER: None.

19 MR. SHEARER: None from staff.

20 MS. GAFKEN: None from public counsel.

21 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. Then we will

22 grant those petitions to intervene, and those

23 parties will be parties to this proceeding.

24 We've already taken care of discovery and

25 a protective order. So a couple of other issues.

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 1 One is the Commission in the process of converting

 2 to electronic document service. We aren't quite

 3 there yet, but in anticipation that we will be

 4 during the course of this proceeding, we'd like to

 5 get the consent of all the parties to serve

 6 notices, orders, anything else that the Commission

 7 sends out electronically without a paper copy. Do

 8 all the parties consent to that?

 9 MS. RACKNER: Yes, Cascade consents.

10 MS. GAFKEN: Public counsel consents to

11 electronic transmission from the Commission.

12 MS. RACKNER: As does staff.

13 JUDGE KOPTA: And Mr. Purdy and

14 Mr. Stokes?

15 (Conflicting telephonic responses.)

16 JUDGE KOPTA: Mr. Purdy first.

17 MR. PURDY: I'm sorry. Judge, I didn't

18 hear that.

19 JUDGE KOPTA: Yes, you talked over each

20 other, so the court reporter couldn't get it. So

21 if you would repeat what you said, Mr. Purdy

22 MR. PURDY: I think I said, yes, that

23 sounds great. It's wonderful.

24 JUDGE KOPTA: Okay. And Mr. Stokes?

25 MR. STOKES: That's fine for the Gas Users

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 1 as well.

 2 JUDGE KOPTA: Great. Thank you. Another

 3 thing that we are starting to do is because of the

 4 volume of testimony and exhibits, we would like to

 5 have exhibit lists that accompany filings that are

 6 made with testimony. And I realize the company, as

 7 part of their initial filing, has already made that

 8 filing, but we would like to have you provide us

 9 with an exhibit list so that we make sure that we

10 know what all your exhibits are and what they're

11 named and -- rather than having us do it.

12 So as we go through this proceeding, when

13 you make filings of testimony, we'd like to have

14 that accompanied by an exhibit list. And there

15 will be a final exhibit list as part of your cross-

16 examination exhibit filing right before the

17 hearing, but this is just so we can keep track, as

18 things progress, and you're not scrambling at the

19 last minute to make sure that we have a list of all

20 the exhibits.

21 MS. RACKNER: Would the Commission --

22 MR. PURDY: This is Brad Purdy. So for

23 the filing of testimony, are you envisioning

24 something that would amount to a table of contents

25 with a description of each exhibit, or something

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 1 more like we file, as you just mentioned, later in

 2 the case?

 3 JUDGE KOPTA: What I envision is something

 4 more along the lines of what we prepare at the end

 5 of the case. That makes it easier for me. If you

 6 put it in the form of an exhibit list, then I can

 7 cut and paste, as opposed to having to re-create.

 8 So this is all about making life easier for me, of

 9 course.

10 MR. PURDY: Thank you.

11 MS. RACKNER: Would it be helpful if the

12 company prepared an exhibit list for the initial

13 filing and got that in as soon as possible to the

14 Commission?

15 JUDGTE KOPTA: That was going to be my

16 next request. Thank you, Ms. Rackner, that would

17 be perfect.

18 So then as far as I know, that brings us

19 to a schedule. And I have received from

20 Mr. Shearer a proposed schedule, and I'm assuming

21 that this is a proposed schedule on behalf of all

22 of the parties, is that correct?

23 MS. GAFKEN: That's correct.

24 JUDGE KOPTA: And it all looks fine to me,

25 with one caveat, which is that the hearing date

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 1 that you have proposed of July 26th is not

 2 convenient for the commissioners' schedules. So I

 3 believe the following week will work for the

 4 commissioners, and if that works for the parties,

 5 then we will schedule the hearings for -- to begin

 6 on August 2nd.

 7 MR. SHEARER: That's good with staff, your

 8 Honor.

 9 MS. GAFKEN: The date also works for

10 public counsel.

11 MS. RACKNER: The date works for Cascade.

12 And so my only question is whether there's any need

13 to reconsider the date for the post-hearing briefs.

14 JUDGE KOPTA: Well, that was kind of a

15 cascade, if you'll excuse the expression, effect of

16 changing that date, is that it will have impacts

17 both on the post-hearing briefs, and obviously, on

18 the deadline for filing cross-examination exhibits.

19 I didn't know whether they would have any

20 impacts on any of the other dates, whether you

21 wanted to move any of them back or keep them where

22 they are.

23 MS. GAFKEN: I'll just chime in. I think

24 the testimony dates can probably stay where they

25 are. Excuse me. But moving the brief date back a

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 1 bit to accommodate the later hearing, and then we

 2 could probably move up the cross-examination

 3 exhibits as well, to get them, you know, about a

 4 week before.

 5 JUDGE KOPTA: Okay. That's easy enough to

 6 do, and I can take care of that.

 7 I notice on here that there is a line item

 8 for a company filed issues list, which will be

 9 helpful, I think, but -- so the anticipation is

10 that the company will file an issues list on March

11 9th, and then there will be a joint issues list

12 from all of the parties in May. Is that the

13 parties' anticipation?

14 MS. RACKNER: Yes.

15 MS. GAFKEN: Yes.

16 MR. SHEARER: Yes, your Honor.

17 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. I think that

18 works for me.

19 MS. GAFKEN: I'm sorry.

20 JUDGE KOPTA: Yes.

21 MS. GAFKEN: I had one other comment about

22 the public comment hearing.

23 JUDGE KOPTA: Yes.

24 MS. GAFKEN: Just to provide a little bit

25 of information there. So I have spoken with staff

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 1 and Cascade as well about these ideas, and they

 2 seem amenable as well. We're looking at going two

 3 public comment hearings because of the disparate

 4 nature of the -- the service territory. It's very

 5 spread out. So we're looking at one in the

 6 Kennewick area and then another one in the Mount

 7 Vernon area.

 8 And then I would propose the week of June

 9 13th, so that would be after all of the testimony

10 is in, but before the hearing. Obviously, that's

11 based on commissioner availability. So, you know,

12 I understand the actual dates will be set by later

13 notice.

14 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. I will consult

15 with the commissioners and see what their

16 preference is, but I've noted what your proposal

17 entails, and we'll see what we can do.

18 MS. GAFKEN: Okay. And the part of the

19 proposal, also, was based on staff provided some

20 great information about customer accounts in each

21 of the areas, and so that those two locations seem

22 to cover at least most customers, and then also

23 provide an opportunity for other outlying areas to

24 -- to travel to those locations.

25 JUDGE KOPTA: Okay. Well, you've done

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 1 your homework. Thank you.

 2 MS. GAFKEN: Thank you.

 3 JUDGE KOPTA: Anything else that we need

 4 to take up at this point? Hearing nothing, I will

 5 be issuing a pre-hearing conference order that

 6 reflects what we've talked about today, and we will

 7 proceed accordingly. Thank you. We're adjourned.

 8 MS. RACKNER: Thank you, your Honor.

 9 MS. GAFKEN: Your Honor, I'm sorry. There

10 was one other thing on my list that I --

11 JUDGE KOPTA: On the record or off the

12 record?

13 MS. GAFKEN: I just had a question about

14 the informal electronic service list and

15 individuals that we wanted on that. Are we still

16 doing that?

17 JUDGE KOPTA: Yes, we are. And if you

18 have anybody that you want to add to the list, then

19 please let me know, preferably, as soon as

20 possible. We usually like to try to get these

21 pre-hearing conference orders out expeditiously.

22 So if you have some names that you would

23 like to make sure that we include on the master

24 service list for electronic service, then --

25 MS. GAFKEN: Sure. I can send you e-mail

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 1 addresses. It's the usual suspects; my analysts

 2 and legal assistants.

 3 JUDGE KOPTA: Right. Right. That goes

 4 for everybody. So if you can just send us those

 5 names and e-mail addresses, we'll make sure that

 6 they're on the master service list and so everybody

 7 has them.

 8 MS. GAFKEN: Thank you.

 9 MS. RACKNER: Okay. We'll probably be

10 adding somebody, too.

11 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. Thank you.

12 MR. PURDY: Thank you, Judge.

13 (The pre-hearing conference adjourned at

14 9:44 a.m.)

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 4 STATE OF WASHINGTON

 5 COUNTY OF KING

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 7 I, Mary M. Paradise, a Certified Shorthand

 8 Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do

 9 hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the

10 pre-hearing conference is true and accurate to the

11 best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

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13 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my

14 hand this 1st day of February, 2016.

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19 MARY M. PARADISE, CSR

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