

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Application of

CASCADE NATURAL GAS  
CORPORATION,

To Amend its Certificate of Public  
Convenience and Necessity to Operate a  
Gas Plant for Hire in the West Richland,  
Washington Area Within Benton County

DOCKET UG-190662

ORDER 01

GRANTING APPLICATION

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On August 9, 2019, consistent with the requirements of Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 80.28.190, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or Company) filed an application to amend its present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire (Application). Cascade filed supplemental information on February 5, 2020, and December 9 and 10, 2021, to include a supporting feasibility study, legal description as Exhibit B-2, an additional map, and an updated Appendix A-12.
- 2 Cascade is presently certificated for and is now providing gas service in Benton County. Cascade is requesting a certificate to expand the West Richland service area in Benton County, Washington.<sup>1</sup> The additional areas requested are contiguous to the existing certificated areas and do not overlap with certificated areas of another utility.<sup>2</sup>
- 3 The Application requests no determination at this time about the reasonableness of the gas pipeline facility servicing this addition to Cascade's service area.
- 4 Commission staff (Staff) reviewed the Company's filing and believes that Cascade is best suited to serve the requested service territory economically. No other gas provider is currently serving in this area.

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<sup>1</sup> See map in Exhibit B-1 of the filing.

<sup>2</sup> Legal description is shown in Exhibit B-2 of the filing.

## DISCUSSION

5 We agree with Staff's recommendation. RCW 80.28.190 gives the Commission authority  
to grant certificates of necessity and convivence to gas companies that we find are  
operating in good faith and within the confines of the area for which such certificate shall  
be sought.

6 We find that Cascade is economically best situated to serve the requested service territory  
because no other gas provider is currently serving in this area. Accordingly, the  
Application should be granted to satisfy the public convenience and necessity.

## FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with  
the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities,  
and transfers of public service companies, including gas companies.
- 8 (2) Cascade is a gas company and is a public service company subject Commission  
jurisdiction.
- 9 (3) RCW 80.28.190 states no gas company shall operate in this state any gas plant for  
hire without first having obtained from the Commission a certificate declaring  
that public convenience and necessity requires or will require such operation and  
setting forth the area or areas within which service is to be rendered.
- 10 (4) Cascade has previously been issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and  
Necessity to operate a gas plant for hire.
- 11 (5) Cascade has filed an Application to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience  
and Necessity to include an additional area in Benton County. This area is  
contiguous to Cascade's presently certificated area.
- 12 (6) Staff has reviewed the Company's Application and recommends approval of the  
application to amend its certificate to include the additional area requested.
- 13 (7) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled  
meeting on December 23, 2021.

- 14 (8) After reviewing the request filed by Cascade and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public convenience and necessity that Cascade's Certificate be amended to reflect the addition of areas in the West Richland, Washington area, located in Benton County.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 15 (1) The application of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to amend its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire within the certificated area in Skagit County is granted and the Certificate shall be amended in accordance with the legal description provided in the supplemental information filed on February 5, 2020, in Exhibit B-2.
- 16 (2) This Order makes no determination at this time as to the reasonableness of the gas pipeline facility to serve this addition to Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's service area and recognizes the right of the Commission to determine such reasonable services and expenditures, together with treatment of same, in any formal proceeding before the Commission dealing with Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's results of operations for ratemaking purposes.
- 17 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Executive Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective December 23, 2021.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL  
Executive Director and Secretary