

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

CASCADE NATURAL GAS  
CORPORATION,

Respondent.

DOCKET UG-240008

**CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION**  
**SECOND EXHIBIT TO THE**  
**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF TAMMY J. NYGARD**

**March 29, 2024**

**PROVISIONAL ADDITIONS TO PLANT IN SERVICE**

**2024 – 2025 Minor Projects**

**SPECIFIC PROJECTS**

<b>Funding Project</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>FERC Account No.</b>	<b>WA 2024 Cascade Plant Additions</b>	<b>WA 2024 Estimated In-Service Date</b>	<b>WA 2025 Cascade Plant Additions</b>	<b>WA 2025 Estimated In-Service Date</b>
FP-321327	UG - CC&B Upgrade & Betterments - CNGC	303	\$395,809	8/1/2024	\$0	
FP-321574	UG-Powerplan Upgrade 2024 CNGC	303	\$249,077	9/30/2024	\$0	
FP-322685	UG - UIPlanner Upgrade - CNGC	303	\$0		\$870,373	11/30/2025
FP-324014	UG-Tungsten Autovoucher - CNGC	303	\$0		\$24,021	12/1/2025
<b>Total Specific</b>	<b>Provisional Additions to Plant In-Service 2024-2025 --- Minor Projects</b>		<b>\$644,885</b>		<b>\$894,394</b>	

**Q. Can you please provide additional information regarding the specific projects for 2024 and 2025 listed above?**

A. Yes. I am supporting Cascade Natural Gas Corporation’s (“Cascade” or “Company”) request for recovery of the four specific projects listed above, and the following provides additional detail regarding these projects.

**A. CC&B Upgrade & Betterments Project**

**Q. Please describe the CC&B Upgrade & Betterments project.**

A. This project will upgrade Cascade’s Customer Care and Billing system (“CC&B”), which Cascade uses as its customer billing system. This project is to upgrade the software for changes and improvements. CC&B is moving to version 2.9 on July 1, 2024. We are currently on CC&B version 2.7, which went live on August 1, 2022. The project is a MDU Utilities Group (“MDUG”) project, and the amount represents Cascade’s share of the total cost. The CC&B Upgrade will get CC&B to a more current version in order to

keep maintenance costs down and position CC&B to utilize the latest releases and cloud services.

**Q. What are the estimated costs for the CC&B Upgrade & Betterments project?**

A. The total capital investment for CC&B Upgrade & Betterments project is \$395,808.65 in 2024.

**B. PowerPlan Upgrade 2024 Project**

**Q. Please describe the PowerPlan Upgrade 2024 project.**

A. The Company uses PowerPlan software for Fixed Assets, Tax and to budget for annual capital and O&M costs. This project is to upgrade the software for changes and improvements. PowerPlan is moving from the 2018 version, which was end of life in 2023, to the 2023 version. We are on extended support for PowerPlan in 2024 since we signed an agreement for the upgrade in 2024. The project is a MDUG project, and the amount represents Cascade's share of the total cost.

The current version of Power Plan was end of life in 2023, with limited support after. The upgrade will allow the Company to use a software that is supported. Along with this upgrade, the Company is implementing mass asset retirement obligation ("ARO") functionality. The Company currently uses the "Site" method of loading ARO inputs into PowerPlan, utilizing complex spreadsheets to first determine the results by entering annual activity. Therefore, even though the data already exists in PowerPlan, we annually pull it out via reports, complete the spreadsheet, then either delete or add back or modify each ARO vintage layer. This takes many hours annually and creates a manual process that could produce mistakes and makes changing rate assumptions difficult.

Implementing the mass ARO functionality will allow the system to automatically pickup addition and retirement information monthly and automatically adjust the ARO balances as needed.

**Q. What are the estimated costs for the PowerPlan Upgrade 2024 project?**

A. The total capital investment for the PowerPlan Upgrade 2024 project is \$249,076.76 in 2024.

**C. UI Planner Project**

**Q. Please describe the UI Planner project.**

A. The Company uses UI Planner to track and forecast current and future year financial information. This project is to upgrade the software for changes and improvements. The current UI Planner version sunsetted in December 2023 and we are therefore moving to version 2 in 2025. The project is a MDUG project, and the amount represents Cascade's share of the total cost. The current version of UI Planner was end of life on December 31, 2023, with limited support after. The upgrade will allow the Company to use software that is supported.

**Q. What are the estimated costs for the UI Planner 2024 project?**

A. The total capital investment for the UI Planner project is \$870,373.19 in 2025.

**D. Tungsten Autovoucher Project**

**Q. Please describe the Tungsten Autovoucher project.**

A. The Company uses Tungsten as part of the Accounts Payable system. This project is to upgrade the software for changes and improvements. The Tungsten Autovoucher project

will automate some of the manual items currently in the system. The project is a MDUG project, and the amount represents Cascade's share of the total cost. The Tungsten Autovoucher project would aim to automate some of the invoicing process that is currently manually entered, which will improve efficiency and reduce the possibility of errors.

**Q. What are the estimated costs for the Tungsten Autovoucher project?**

A. The total capital investment for the Tungsten Autovoucher project is \$24,020.78 in 2025.