

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

CASCADE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION,

Respondent.

DOCKET UG-200568

ORDER 04

GRANTING MOTION TO AMEND
PREHEARING CONFERENCE
ORDER

BACKGROUND

- 1 On June 19, 2020, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-3. The purpose of the filing is to increase rates and charges for natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington. Specifically, Cascade requests authority to increase charges and rates for natural gas service by approximately \$13.8 million, or 5.283 percent in base rates. The Commission suspended operation of the tariffs on June 25, 2020, by Order 01 entered in this docket.
- 2 The Commission convened a virtual prehearing conference on July 8, 2020.
- 3 On July 13, 2020, the Commission issued Order 03, Prehearing Conference Order and Notice of Hearing. Paragraph 9 of Order 03 required that a party submitting a data request: (1) include a list in the email serving the data request that identifies each data request by number and the subject or issue of each data request being issued and (2) group the data requests by subject or issue in the cover letter serving the data request.
- 4 On November 5, 2020, Commission staff (Staff) submitted a Joint Motion to Modify Prehearing Conference Order by email to the presiding officer (Joint Motion). In the Joint Motion, Staff requested on behalf of all parties that the Commission amend paragraph 9 of Order 03. Staff requested that the Commission add the following language to the end of paragraph 9: "Beginning on November 20, 2020, the parties will make best efforts to respond to data requests within 5 days and will timely request extensions if needed."

DISCUSSION

5 We grant the parties' Joint Motion to amend Order 03. Pursuant to WAC 480-07-405(7)(a)(ii), a party must normally respond to a data request in ten business days. We find it consistent with the public interest to shorten this timeframe in light of the parties' Joint Motion. Paragraph 9 of Order 03 is therefore amended to read as follows:

At the prehearing conference, Staff proposed further requirements for parties issuing data requests. Staff proposed requiring that the requesting party (1) include a list in the email serving the data request that identifies each data request by number and the subject or issue of each data request being issued and (2) group the data requests by subject or issue in the cover letter serving the data request. No party objected to these proposed requirements. The Commission therefore adopts Staff's recommendations on this issue for the purposes of this case. Beginning on November 20, 2020, the parties will make best efforts to respond to data requests within 5 days and will timely request extensions if needed.

ORDER

- 6 (1) The parties' Joint Motion to amend Order 03, Prehearing Conference Order and Notice of Hearing in Docket UG-200568 is GRANTED.
- 7 (2) Paragraph 9 of Order 03, Prehearing Conference Order and Notice of Hearing is amended as indicated in paragraph 5 of this order.

Dated at Lacey, Washington, and effective November 6, 2020.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

/s/ Michael Howard
MICHAEL HOWARD
Administrative Law Judge