

Energy Assistance and Payment Options

Cascade has a variety of tools available to help customers who may need assistance:

- Energy assistance programs.
- Energy-saving tools and advice.
- Payment options.
- Rebates.
- Energy cost comparison.

Customers may qualify for payment arrangements and energy assistance programs on an individual basis.

For additional information on the proposed rate increase, conservation tips, energy efficiency programs, energy assistance programs and bill payment plans, visit the Cascade Natural Gas website at www.cngc.com or contact 1-888-522-1130.



In the Community to Serve®

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation proposes a 4.17 percent increase in natural gas rates.

On Dec. 1, 2015, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade) filed a general rate request with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) to increase gas base rates. If approved, the filed request would increase annual natural gas base revenues by \$10.5 million (4.17 percent).

The WUTC will review Cascade's request; it has up to 11 months to review the filing. If approved, changes will go into effect no later than Nov. 1, 2016.

The main reason for the rate increase request is to recover the cost of the increased investment in natural gas facilities and increased operating expenses. Cascade has made substantial investments to ensure the safety and reliability of its system. Cascade's request is based on a proposed 10.0 percent return on shareholder equity.

Cascade's request also includes a decoupling proposal. Decoupling is a mechanism intended to break the link between a utility's revenues and a consumer's energy usage. The actual revenue per customer will vary, up or down, from the level set by the WUTC. This could be due to changes in weather, conservation or the economy. The decoupling mechanism will account for the difference and Cascade will either surcharge or rebate that amount to customers through an annual adjustment filing.

Based on Cascade's rate class studies, the rate increase is proposed to be allocated only to residential customers to bring rates more in line with the cost of service. The request would increase the total Schedule 503 residential per therm rate from \$0.92438 to \$1.02477. This would result in a proposed 8.93 percent increase for residential customers, or \$4.87 per month for customers who use an average of 54 therms per month.

General Rate Case Information

A general rate case is the legal proceeding in which the WUTC will examine a utility's operations and costs to ensure regulated companies provide safe and reliable service to customers at reasonable rates, while allowing the utility the opportunity to earn a fair return on its investments.

The WUTC will conduct an investigation and hold hearings to examine the requested increase. The WUTC Staff, Cascade, Public Counsel, and other parties will participate and make recommendations to the WUTC.

The WUTC has the authority to set final rates based on the results of its investigation, which may be different from Cascade's requested increase.

Public Comment Hearings

The WUTC will conduct public hearings to take comments from the public at the following locations:

June 14 (Tuesday)

Mount Vernon Police Department Multi-Purpose Meeting Room

1805 Continental Place
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

(Meeting may adjourn earlier if all commenters have had an opportunity to speak)

June 17 (Friday)

Mid-Columbia Libraries Kennewick Branch Large Meeting Room

1620 S. Union Street
Kennewick, WA 99338

6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

(Meeting may adjourn earlier if all commenters have had an opportunity to speak)

The WUTC is committed to providing reasonable accommodations to participants with disabilities. Contact WUTC at 360-664-1132, 306-664-1243 or email human_resources@utc.wa.gov.

There are several ways to share your comments with the WUTC:

- **In person at a public hearing (outlined in this notice)**
- **On the WUTC website at www.utc.wa.gov, and click on Submit a Comment**
- **By email to comments@utc.wa.gov**
- **By phone at 1-888-333-9882**
- **In writing:**
WUTC
P.O. BOX 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Please include your name and mailing address, reference the name of company (Cascade Natural Gas Corporation) and Docket UG-152286.

Public Counsel

The public is represented in this process by the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Attorney General's Office. You may contact Public Counsel in writing at:

Public Counsel
Attorney General of Washington
800 5th Ave., Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104-3188

By email: utility@atg.wa.gov

For more information about Public Counsel, visit: www.atg.wa.gov/utilities-regulated