

**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 Designated Portions
of Skagit, Benton, Franklin, Kitsap, and
Walla Walla Counties in Washington

DOCKET UG-210784

ORDER 01

GRANTING APPLICATION

BACKGROUND

- 1 On August 27, 2021, 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 December 8, 10, and 15, 2021, to update the legal description as Exhibit B-10 and B-11, map, and Appendices A-4 and A-12.
- 2 Cascade is presently certificated for and is now providing gas service in Skagit, Benton, Franklin, Kitsap, and Walla Walla Counties. Cascade is requesting a certificate to expand the service areas in Skagit, Benton, Franklin, Kitsap, and Walla Walla Counties, Washington.¹ The additional areas requested are contiguous to the existing certificated areas and do not overlap with certificated areas of another utility.²
- 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.

¹ See maps in Exhibits B-1 through B-9 of the filing.

² Legal description is shown in Exhibits B-10 and B-11 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 additional designated areas in Skagit, Benton, Franklin,
Kitsap, and Walla Walla Counties. These areas are contiguous to Cascade's
presently certificated areas.

12 (6) Staff has reviewed the Company's Application and recommends approval of the
application to amend its certificate to include the additional areas requested.

13 (7) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled
meeting on December 23, 2021.

- 14 (8) After review of the request filed by Cascade and giving due consideration, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public convenience and necessity that the Certificate of Cascade be amended to reflect the addition of the designated areas in Skagit, Benton, Franklin, Kitsap, and Walla Walla Counties, Washington.

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 areas in Skagit, Benton, Franklin, Kitsap, and Walla Walla Counties is granted and the Certificate shall be amended in accordance with the legal description provided in the application filed on August 27, 2021, in Exhibits B-10 and B-11.
- 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