BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of)	
)	DOCKET NO. UG-001119
CASCADE NATURAL GAS)	
CORPORATION,)	
)	
for a Certificate of Public Convenience and)	PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER
Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire in)	
the General Area of Grant County)	
	.)	

- PREHEARING CONFERENCE: A prehearing conference was held in this proceeding in Olympia, Washington, on Tuesday, January 30, 2001. The prehearing conference was held before Administrative Law Judge Marjorie R. Schaer.
- PARTIES: The parties were present as follows: Cascade Natural Gas ("Cascade") by John West, attorney at law, Seattle; the Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission and its staff ("Commission Staff") by Robert D. Cedarbaum, Assistant Attorney General, Olympia; Avista Corporation ("Avista") by Tom DeBoer, Paine, Hamblen, Coffin, Brooke & Miller LLP, Spokane; and Northwest Industrial Gas Users ("NWIGU") by Edward A. Finklea, Energy Advocates LLP, Portland.
- ISSUES: The parties agree that the petition presents two issues. First, whether Cascade must obtain a Commission certificate in order to provide the services it seeks authority to provide in its application. Second, if the first question is answered affirmatively, (a) does the public convenience and necessity require that Cascade be granted authority to provide the services, and (b) is the service provided by the existing certificate holder in Grant County satisfactory to the Commission. Cascade informed the Commission that in this proceeding it will address only its request to be allowed to provide service in the portion of Grant County described in its application.
- 4 **SCHEDULE:** Cascade informed the Commission that it no longer seeks expedited treatment of this Application. The parties agreed to the following procedural schedule:

February 27, 2001

Cascade files direct testimony and exhibits

PAGE

March 27, 2001	Commission Staff, Avista and NWIGU file direct testimony and exhibits
April 10, 2001	Cascade files rebuttal testimony and exhibits
May 1 - 3, 2001	Hearings before the Commission

Additional procedural dates may be established by subsequent notice or order.

- 5 **DISCOVERY:** The parties requested the opportunity for discovery. The discovery tools in WAC 480-09-480 will be available to the parties.
- 6 **PROTECTIVE ORDER:** The parties anticipate that confidential information may be sought, and request that the Commission enter a protective order.
- NOTICE TO PARTIES: Any objection to the provisions of this Order must be filed within ten (10) days after the date of mailing of this statement, pursuant to WAC 480-09-460(2). Absent such objections, this Prehearing Conference Order will control further proceedings in this matter, subject to Commission review.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this day of January, 2001.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARJORIE R. SCHAER, Administrative Law Judge

DOCKET UG-001119 PARTIES' REPRESENTATIVES

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