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	Deve 70	-	
1	Page 76 the natural gas services that Cascade provides are	1	Page 78 all of the details about the case and the filings and
1 2	essential services, and because they are not subject to		the settlement on the Commission's web site in this
		3	docket number, and I believe the docket number, if it's
3	the same kind of competition as other services that you		
4	might receive, the Commission regulates them to make	4	not in the public counsel's handout, it is 15-2286, so
5	sure that the rates they charge to their customers are	5	you can go on the Commission's web site and find that information.
6	fair, just, reasonable and sufficient. And what that	6	
7	means is that the rates should be no higher than		We have a short video that we have that
8	necessary for the company to be able to provide services	8	describes the rate case process at the Commission and so
9	that are offered in a safe and reliable way, and that	9	we are going to show that video. The purpose of this
10	the rates are sufficient for the company to meet its	10	hearing is to hear directly from customers affected by
11	expenses and obligations, and for the investors to earn	11	this rate request. There are several people who wish to
12	a reasonable return on their investment.	12	speak, so as soon as we watch the video, I will ask you
13	So there's a handout prepared by the Office	13	to come forward and I will administer an oath and have
14	of the Attorney General, the Office of Public Counsel,	14	you state your name and if you represent a company or
15	that's in the back of the room that is available near	15	organization and then you will make your statement. We
16	where you signed in. That handout has a synopsis of	16	have a court reporter here taking down your comments.
17	what the company requested in its rate case and the key	17	Any comments you make today, as well as any written
18	points addressing the settlement that all the parties in	18	comments you may wish to submit to the Commission, will
19	the case have negotiated. I won't repeat those details	19	be included in the record of the proceeding as part of
20	here.	20	the evidence in the case that the Commission will
21	There is a representative, Mr. ffitch, of	21	receive. Those written statements can be sent in
22	the Offices of Public Counsel here, if you have	22	through next Friday the 24th, and there's details on
23	questions about the case and settlement you wish to ask	23	this handout from public counsel about how to submit any
24	him.	24	written comments in the proceeding.
25	There's also a representative of the	25	So Mr. Roberts, why don't we start the
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1	company, Mr. Parvinen, and others in the back if you	1	video, and I will move out of the way here so you can
2	want to discuss matters with the company.	2	see it.
3	There's also counsel for the Commission	3	(Video plays from 6:12 p.m. to 6:24 p.m.)
4	staff that serves as party in the case, Mr. O'Connell	4	MS. RENDAHL: Okay, I hope that was helpful.
5	right here, and our public involvement staff, Andrew	5	We spent some time trying to make sure that the
6	Roberts, over here.	6	information was most useful.
7	So the Office of Public Counsel represents	7	So now is time for those of you that are
8	the interests of consumers in our proceedings, and also	8	interested in submitting comments on the case, and I
9	our regulatory staff represented by Mr. O'Connell	9	will take you in order. So when I call your name, if
10	operates as an independent party. In cases like this	10	you can step up to the microphone and state your name,
11	they review the company's case, and just like public	11	spell it, and first I will administer an oath.
12	counsel, they participate in the case as a party and	12	So Mr. Dwyer Dale, please come up.
13	advocate on many of the issues in the case.	13	MR. DALE: That's me. I'm Dwyer Dale. I'm
14	Other parties to this case include the	14	from Burlington, Washington. I'm a gas user.
15	Northwest Industrial Gas Users, who represent the	15	MS. RENDAHL: And how do you spell your last
16	industrial customers of Cascade Natural Gas, as well as	16	name for the court reporter.
17	The Energy Project that represents low income customers.	17	MR. DALE: D-A-L-E.
18	The commissioners sit as judges in these	18	MS. RENDAHL: Great. Thank you.
19	proceedings, so we can't discuss the merits of the case	19	So please go ahead and make your statement.
20	with the parties, except in a hearing, in a formal	20	MR. DALE: My statement is I had some
21	hearing, like the one we are having this morning, or	21	questions I would like to ask people and clarify
22	through briefs or other filings.	22	something.
23	So the information about Cascade's original	23	MS. RENDAHL: Oh, I'm sorry.
24	rate case request and the terms of the settlement are	24	(Commissioner swears in witness.)
	summarized in public counsel's handout. You can find		

	Daga 90		
1	Page 80	1	Page 82 hearing and get more and the company and get more
1	DWYER DALE, witness herein, having been	1 2	details on the settlement.
2	first duly sworn on oath,		
3	was examined and testified as follows:	3	And that settlement, we had a hearing on
4		4	that settlement this morning, and once the public
5	MR. DALE: So if I have questions first	5	comment hearings are over and we receive all the written
6	before I start	6	comments, the commissioners will deliberate on whether
7	MS. RENDAHL: So I am not really in a	7	to approve the settlement as the gentleman on the
8	position to answer questions, but the gentleman who	8	video said, "approve, reject or modify the settlement,"
9	MR. DALE: Can I ask questions of somebody	9	and that's the decision
10	from Cascade Natural Gas?	10	MR. DALE: I had no knowledge of that before
11	MS. RENDAHL: You can, and they are	11	I came tonight.
12	available after the hearing, they can answer your	12	So anyway, so when I looked at this proposal
13	questions.	13	I went in and looked at the MDU financial section, and
14	MR. DALE: So this is part of what I want to	14	apparently they have had some real financial problems.
15	talk about.	15	And I don't know if Cascade Natural Gas is going to
16	MS. RENDAHL: Why don't you ask the	16	you know, the funds that they are requesting are going
17	questions and then they can come up to you later.	17	to help them out, but MDU is basically putting a
18	MR. DALE: My first question, is Cascade	18	\$50 million pipeline in and they got to finance that,
19	Natural Gas a public or private corporation?	19	plus they put in a what do you call it? What do you
20	MS. RENDAHL: I am going to maybe ask	20	call Tesaro a refinery also back there, which is not
21	Mr. Parvinen.	21	doing too well either, so if you look at their financial
22	MR. PARVINEN: Do you just want a quick	22	statement, not that great. They are holding up I
23	answer?	23	looked at that and I said, How does that affect Cascade
24	MS. RENDAHL: Yeah.	24	Natural Gas in relationship to the increases they
25	MR. PARVINEN: It's part of a public	25	wanted, but, of course, I don't know that.
	Page 81		Page 83
			-
1	corporation.	1	Then I went and took a look at what they
1 2	corporation. MS. RENDAHL: Part of	1 2	Then I went and took a look at what they talked about in their brochure about a 10% return to
	corporation.		Then I went and took a look at what they talked about in their brochure about a 10% return to shareholders' equity, and I am in the stockmarket and I
2	corporation. MS. RENDAHL: Part of MR. PARVINEN: So a subsidiary of a public	2	Then I went and took a look at what they talked about in their brochure about a 10% return to shareholders' equity, and I am in the stockmarket and I don't find anybody in the utilities area paying any 10%,
2 3	corporation. MS. RENDAHL: Part of MR. PARVINEN: So a subsidiary of a public MS. RENDAHL: Subsidiary of MDU.	2 3	Then I went and took a look at what they talked about in their brochure about a 10% return to shareholders' equity, and I am in the stockmarket and I don't find anybody in the utilities area paying any 10%, and MDU right now is paying 3.75% on the dividend, and I
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2 3 4 5 6	corporation. MS. RENDAHL: Part of MR. PARVINEN: So a subsidiary of a public MS. RENDAHL: Subsidiary of MDU. MR. DALE: I know who they are.	2 3 4 5 6	Then I went and took a look at what they talked about in their brochure about a 10% return to shareholders' equity, and I am in the stockmarket and I don't find anybody in the utilities area paying any 10%, and MDU right now is paying 3.75% on the dividend, and I don't know what Cascade Natural Gas is doing, and how
2 3 4 5 6 7	corporation. MS. RENDAHL: Part of MR. PARVINEN: So a subsidiary of a public MS. RENDAHL: Subsidiary of MDU. MR. DALE: I know who they are. So my question is, can the public, can I buy stock in Cascade Natural Gas? MR. PARVINEN: No.	2 3 4 5 6 7	Then I went and took a look at what they talked about in their brochure about a 10% return to shareholders' equity, and I am in the stockmarket and I don't find anybody in the utilities area paying any 10%, and MDU right now is paying 3.75% on the dividend, and I don't know what Cascade Natural Gas is doing, and how they pay how the funds go back to MDU. It's probably the majority holder of the Cascade, right? MS. RENDAHL: I will suggest that you talk
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	Page 84		Page 86
1	something in a minute.	1	customers are going to be paying yeah no, it
2	And basically then this new change that's	2	does 2.55%, down here. Now, natural gas is coming
3	coming about, I don't have much more to say. I like	3	down quite a bit over the past year or so. I mean, the
4	Cascade Natural Gas, actually, and I like the service	4	Saudis are trying to drive a lot of our American
5	they gave me, but I just after next year, you	5	companies out of business, is what that's all about.
6	know, the prospective, please put in something that I	6	But we are holding in there because of the fracking that
7	can look at your financial statement, you know.	7	was found in North Dakota. A friend of mine owns some
8	Thank you.	8	farms over there and they are not doing as well as they
9	MS. RENDAHL: Thank you very much.	9	were doing previously because of this oil war thing
10	Appreciate it.	10	that's going on, and the regulations are provided by our
11	Okay, the next person who has requested to	11	government, but still it just seemed a little wrong,
12	speak is Tom Dodgson. If you could come up.	12	10%, and now I find out I can't buy stock in it, so I am
13		13	wondering where the stock it's like Sound Transit,
14	TOM DODGSON, witness herein, having been	14	Sound Transit is a quasi-government private corporation
15	first duly sworn on oath,	15	and you can't seem to find out who owns or how to buy
16	was examined and testified	16	stock in it either, and they just keep wanting more and
17	as follows:	17	more money as well. So I'm just here to find out what's
18		18	going on.
19	MS. RENDAHL: Could you state your name and	19	I would like to make a suggestion, that I
20	spell your name for the court reporter.	20	have had good service with Cascade Natural Gas. As far
21	MR. DODGSON: Thomas Dodgson, D-O-D-G-S-O-N.	21	as connecting and disconnecting and gas and starting and
22	MS. RENDAHL: Okay, please go ahead and make	22	ending services with my properties, and but it would
23	your statement.	23	be nice if they were able to provide a service where
23	MR. DODGSON: Well, I pretty much had the	24	they actually work on the equipment, because Washington
25	same questions that you had. In the little pamphlet	25	Natural Gas I believe in Seattle does this. You can
20		25	
_	Page 85		
1	Page 85	1	Page 87
1	thing here it said that you need \$10 million for	1	call them up if you are having a problem with your
2	thing here it said that you need \$10 million for something, and I it didn't say in here how many	2	call them up if you are having a problem with your furnace and they will send somebody down to check out
2 3	thing here it said that you need \$10 million for something, and I it didn't say in here how many customers you have, so it was like \$10 million divided	2	call them up if you are having a problem with your furnace and they will send somebody down to check out the furnace, and Cascade Natural Gas doesn't do that, so
2 3 4	thing here it said that you need \$10 million for something, and I it didn't say in here how many customers you have, so it was like \$10 million divided by how many people would be how much.	2 3 4	call them up if you are having a problem with your furnace and they will send somebody down to check out the furnace, and Cascade Natural Gas doesn't do that, so I would appreciate that, you know, if that was if
2 3 4 5	thing here it said that you need \$10 million for something, and I it didn't say in here how many customers you have, so it was like \$10 million divided by how many people would be how much. And then down here it says that's that	2 3 4 5	call them up if you are having a problem with your furnace and they will send somebody down to check out the furnace, and Cascade Natural Gas doesn't do that, so I would appreciate that, you know, if that was if that could be made part of their repertoire for
2 3 4 5 6	thing here it said that you need \$10 million for something, and I it didn't say in here how many customers you have, so it was like \$10 million divided by how many people would be how much. And then down here it says that's that 10% shareholder equity boy, if I could get 10%, you	2 3 4 5 6	call them up if you are having a problem with your furnace and they will send somebody down to check out the furnace, and Cascade Natural Gas doesn't do that, so I would appreciate that, you know, if that was if that could be made part of their repertoire for servicing customers. But otherwise everything is fine,
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	Page 88		Page 90
1	are the lead agency that hosts The Energy Project on	1	addressing ongoing concerns, determining program budget
2	behalf of Washington State Community Action Partnership,	2	and exploring alternative program designs.
3	and that's the network of community action agencies that	3	Next a needs assessment. The purpose of a
4	help deliver energy assistance and low income household	4	needs assessment study is to identify the number of
5	weatherization programs throughout the state in	5	households in poverty in Cascade service areas in
6	Cascade's territory, so I really appreciate this	6	Washington. The company and community action
7	opportunity to provide comments on the rate case.	7	partnership agencies can use the results of that study
8	For the past ten years we have been	8	to better direct resources with the greatest need.
9	operating the Washington Energy Assistance Fund,	9	Next, program evaluation. Cascade will
10	otherwise known as "WEAF," in Cascade's territory, and	10	conduct a program evaluation if customer participation
11	our staff, in cooperation with The Energy Project, has	11	remains low. Evaluation will at a minimum identify the
12	been working diligently over the past nine months to	12	key areas for improvement and align the program design
13	ensure that a number of important changes are	13	with program goals.
14	incorporated into this rate case that pertain to both	14	Next, annual reporting. Cascade would file
15	energy assistance programs and weatherization programs.	15	an annual report on its low income program and make that
16	This is the first time since the initiation	16	report available to stakeholders by January 15th of each
17	of these programs that any substantial changes have been	17	year. The report would include the actual program
18	made to their structure, and we are confident these	18	costs, including support provided to customers,
19	changes will provide more meaningful benefits to more	19	reimbursement for the community action agency program
20	eligible Cascade customers.	20	delivery cost, and Cascade's administration costs for
21	The last full year of the WEAF program, the	21	the WEAF program.
22	Opportunity Council served 735 households with a total	22	Next, the maximum grant amount per
23	benefit amount of a little over \$233,000, which is an	23	household. Currently the WEAF maximum annual grant
24	average benefit per household of \$318 of assistance. So	24	award cap is \$500 per household. The previously
25	far in this current year we have served 490 households	25	mentioned low income advisory group would evaluate the
	Page 89		Page 91
	- 0		
1	in Whatcom and Island Counties.	1	per household cap going forward.
1 2		1 2	
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2	This is an important program, and it's one	2	per household cap going forward. Next, removing the monthly spending cap for
2 3	This is an important program, and it's one that ensures that those that utilize Cascade service stay connected to critical utility services.	2 3	per household cap going forward. Next, removing the monthly spending cap for community action agencies and allow access to the full
2 3 4	This is an important program, and it's one that ensures that those that utilize Cascade service stay connected to critical utility services. I want to highlight the issues that are	2 3 4	per household cap going forward. Next, removing the monthly spending cap for community action agencies and allow access to the full annual allocation. Under this recommendation Cascade would remove the monthly spending cap for each community
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Do	cket No. UG-152286 - Vol. III		WUTCV. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
1	Page 92		Page 94
1 2	And then the last recommendation under the	1	MS RENDAHL: Please state your name and
∠ 3		2	MS. RENDAHL: Please state your name and spell it for the court reporter.
4		4	MS. FAYETTE: My name is Misty Fayette,
	for funding. Under this recommendation the funding level for the WEAF program would increase by 5.1%, which	5	F-A-Y-E-T-T-E.
5		6	
6 7	is twice the percentage of the proposed bill increase for an average residential customer in this rate case	7	MS. RENDAHL: And you are with?
	and that would happen each year for the next five years.		MS. FAYETTE: Community Action of Skagit
8		8	County.
9	And finally one comment about the low income		MS. RENDAHL: Please, go ahead.
10	weatherization assistance program. Under this	10	MS. FAYETTE: I am the energy program
11	recommendation, Cascade would in concert with the	11	specialist. I work one on one with our clients who have
12		12	Cascade Natural Gas. I am in agreeance with Greg and
13		13	everything that he has proposed here.
14	investigate the barriers to low income weatherization	14	I just wanted to give you a little bit of
15	within Cascade's Washington territory and develop a	15	numbers from Skagit County. Last year we served 379
16	proposal for overcoming those barriers.	16	households with the WEAF program. That came to a
17	The company and stakeholders may consider	17	benefit amount total benefit amount of \$150,072 with
18	approaches that Cascade has employed in other states,	18	the average benefit for each customer being around \$396.
19	such as the low income weatherization pilot tariff	19	So far this year we have served 280 households in Skagit
20	that's currently operating in the State of Oregon.	20	County, and we are going to continue serving households
21	Thank you.	21	this year up until September 30th, which is the cutoff
22	MS. RENDAHL: I just have a couple	22	for that program.
23	questions.	23	I think our clients that we see, since they
24		24	are very low income, are impacted by the rate increase,
25		25	and they these things that have been proposed by Greg
	Page 93		Page 95
1	heard this morning.	1	will benefit them by allowing us to serve them with more
2		2	money, get the word out more. That's one of our
3		3	downfalls is trying to get the trying to get the word
4	that you know that we, along with other community action	4	out to our clients that we are here with this money
5		5	available to them.
6	provisions.	6	MS. RENDAHL: Okay, thank you very much.
7	MS. RENDAHL: Okay.	7	MS. FAYETTE: You are welcome.
8		8	MS. RENDAHL: And those are all the folks
9		9	that have signed up to comment.
10	filed with the Commission; is that correct?	10	Is there anyone else who wishes to make a
11	MR. WINTER: Correct.	11	comment before we close the hearing today?
12	MS. RENDAHL: And so when it's filed with	12	MR. DODGSON: I have a question.
13	the Commission, then that would be available to the	13	MS. RENDAHL: Okay, well, questions, since I
14	public.	14	am going to be making a decision in this case with my
15	MR. WINTER: Correct.	15	colleagues, the other two commissioners, if you have
16	MS. RENDAHL: Thank you very much for your	16	questions about the details of the case itself at the
17	comments.	17	end of this hearing you can talk to Mr. ffitch with
		1	Public Counsel, with Mr. Parvinen from the company and
18	MR. WINTER: Thank you.	18	
18 19	MR. WINTER: Thank you. MS. RENDAHL: The next person is Misty	18	Mr. O'Connell from commission staff.
			Mr. O'Connell from commission staff. If you have questions about the details of
19	MS. RENDAHL: The next person is Misty Fayette.	19	If you have questions about the details of the settlement or how things work, it's probably best
19 20	MS. RENDAHL: The next person is Misty	19 20	If you have questions about the details of the settlement or how things work, it's probably best for them to answer your questions than for me to answer
19 20 21	MS. RENDAHL: The next person is Misty Fayette.	19 20 21	If you have questions about the details of the settlement or how things work, it's probably best for them to answer your questions than for me to answer them.
19 20 21 22	MS. RENDAHL: The next person is Misty Fayette. MISTY FAYETTE, witness herein, having been	19 20 21 22	If you have questions about the details of the settlement or how things work, it's probably best for them to answer your questions than for me to answer

	Page 96		Page 98
1	So why don't you come up again and state	1	CERTIFICATE
2	your name.	2	STATE OF WASHINGTON)
3	MR. DODGSON: My name is Thomas Dodgson.	3	COUNTY OF KING)
4	MS. RENDAHL: You are already sworn in.	4	·
5	MS. DODGSON: I was kind of wondering about	5	I, KIM M. DORE-HACKBARTH, a Certified Shorthand
6	this WEAF program, is this administered to illegal	6	Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby
7	aliens?	7	certify that the foregoing transcript is true and
8	MS. RENDAHL: Okay, that, I am going	8	accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.
9	to allow them I don't know the details and I am going	9	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand
10	to allow the members of the community action agency to	10	and seal this 27th day of June, 2016.
11	answer your questions after I close the official portion	11	
12	of the hearing, so they will be available to hear MR. DALE: I have a recommendation that	12	
13		13	
14	before you start your portion of the meeting that you	14	KIM M. DORE-HACKBARTH, RPR, CCR
15	have the representatives of Cascade Natural Gas, we can question them before we get up so we are knowledgeable,	15	
16	and that would have made it a lot easier on my delivery	16 17	
17 18	if I knew some of these things. Now I have to go	18	
19	backwards instead of forwards.	19	
20	MS. RENDAHL: That's a very good suggestion.	20	
20	So at this point, I appreciate all of the	21	
22	comments that we have heard, and, again, if you have	22	
23	written comments you want to submit, you have you can	23	
24	submit them to the Commission by next Friday, the 24th,	24	
25		25	
25	and the instructions on how to submit them are on the	25	
	and the instructions on how to submit them are on the Page 97	25	
1	and the instructions on how to submit them are on the Page 97 sheet prepared by Public Counsel that's at the back of	25	
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