

Received
Records Management
Jul 28, 2023

7860 264th PI NW
Stanwood, WA 98292
July 22, 2023

UG-230551

Washington Transportation and Utility Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, WA 98503

RE: Cascade Natural Gas Schedule 592 Filing

In a notice included with my current utility bill, Cascade Natural Gas provided notice of a recent filing with the WTCU. Information provided regarding the filing was that it was for approval of a rate increase to cover recovery of costs associated with the Cascade Arrearage Relief Energy Savings (CARES) program.

Cascade Natural Gas has requested that the cost recovery mechanism for CARES be approved starting October 1, 2023. While I don't have an issue with approval for cost recovery under the CARES program, information found on the Cascade Natural Gas website and that found on the provided notice shows that, if approved in its current form, there will be a cost recovery overlap with the company's current WEAFF bill assistance program. Although the WEAFF program has an expiration date of September 30, 2023, they state that the cost recovery mechanism will remain in place until October 31, 2024 – overlapping cost recovery for the CARES program by more than a year.

I would suggest that any rate increase approved for CARES cost recovery be either 1) offset by the costs projected to be recovered under the WEAFF program during the stated overlap period, or 2) approval of the rate increase be conditioned on termination of the WEAFF cost recovery mechanism on the expiration date of the WEAFF program.

Your consideration of this issue is appreciated.

Sincerely,


ROBERT W. SEHLKE

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WASH. UT. & TP. COMM

SCANNED