

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

<p>WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,</p> <p>Complainant,</p> <p>v.</p> <p>CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION,</p> <p>Respondent.</p>	<p>DOCKET UG-240008</p> <p>ORDER 02</p> <p>COMPLAINT AND ORDER SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS</p>
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BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 29, 2024, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective WN U-3 Tariff for natural gas service, as listed in Appendix A, attached to this Order. Cascade characterizes its filing as a general rate case (GRC). The Company proposes a two-year multiyear rate plan for its natural gas rates pursuant to Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 80.28.425. The Company’s proposed revised tariff sheets provide an effective date of May 1, 2024.
- 2 Cascade proposes a two-year rate plan starting March 1, 2025, and March 1, 2026. In rate year 1, Cascade seeks a \$43.8 million increase in overall natural gas revenues. In rate year two, Cascade seeks \$11.7 million in overall natural gas revenues.
- 3 On March 29, 2024, and on April 5, 2024, Cascade filed testimony and exhibits with the Commission.

DISCUSSION

- 4 Cascade’s requested increase might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public, and Cascade has not demonstrated that the increase would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient. Pursuant to RCW 80.04.130(1), the Commission, therefore, suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, regulations, practices, accounts, and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies.
- 6 (2) Cascade is a gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) The tariff revisions Cascade filed on March 29, 2024, would increase charges and rates for service provided by Cascade and might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public.
- 8 (4) Cascade has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 9 (5) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate Cascade's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of Cascade's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of Cascade's operations.
- 10 (6) The Commission finds that this docket meets the criteria of WAC 480-07-400(2)(b)(i) and the parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 11 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), Cascade bears the burden to prove that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable, and sufficient.
- 12 (8) Cascade may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.020.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The tariff revisions Cascade Natural Gas Corporation filed on March 29, 2024, in Docket UG-240008 are suspended.

- 14 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 15 (3) Cascade Natural Gas Corporation must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period unless authorized by the Commission.
- 16 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's books, accounts, practices, activities, property, and operations as described above.
- 17 (5) The parties may conduct discovery pursuant to the Commission's discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 18 (6) Cascade Natural Gas Corporation shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation consistent with RCW 80.20.020.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective April 18, 2024.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chair

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

MILTON H. DOUMIT, Commissioner

Appendix A
WN U-3 Tariff, Natural Gas Service

12 th Revision Sheet No. 25	Canceling	11 th Revision Sheet No. 25
1 st Revision Sheet No. 25-A	Canceling	Original Sheet No. 25-A
2 nd Revision Sheet No. 25-B	Canceling	Substitute 1 st Revision Sheet No. 25-B
69 th Revision Sheet No. 503	Canceling	68 th Revision Sheet No. 503
53 rd Revision Sheet No. 504	Canceling	52 nd Revision Sheet No. 504
52 nd Revision Sheet No. 505	Canceling	51 st Revision Sheet No. 505
70 th Revision Sheet No. 511	Canceling	69 th Revision Sheet No. 511
Original Sheet No. 555		
Original Sheet No. 556		
64 th Revision Sheet No. 570	Canceling	63 rd Revision Sheet No. 570
62 nd Revision Sheet No. 663	Canceling	21 st Revision Sheet No. 663
13 th Revision Sheet No. 663-A	Canceling	12 th Revision Sheet No. 663-A