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Via Electronic and United States Mail

June 23, 2017

Gregory J. Kopta, Administrative Law Judge
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

RE: *WUTC v. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation*
UG-152286

Dear Judge Kopta:

The relevant members of Commission Staff (Staff) have reviewed Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's (Cascade or Company) June 13, 2017, petition to exceed WEAFF annual budgets and defer program costs as necessary. The Company's account of the circumstances and advisory board negotiations described in the filing is accurate. Staff participated in negotiations and supports Cascade's petition as filed. Staff thus recommends the Commission issue an order authorizing Cascade to:

1. exceed the "not-to-exceed" WEAFF program budgets for the 2016 through 2021 program years, as established in Order 04 of Docket UG-152286;
2. seek the annual collection of WEAFF program funding that is 15% over the 'not to exceed amounts' after consideration with the WEAFF Advisory Committee;
3. establish a 5% soft cap to the program year budgets; and
4. defer program costs that exceed those collected through Schedule 593, Washington Energy Assistance Fund (WEAF) Program Cost Recovery.

Sincerely,

BRETT P. SHEARER
Assistant Attorney General

BPS:klg
cc: Parties