

Docket No. UG-170929 - Vol. I

**Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v.
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation**

October 9, 2017



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)
))
Complainant,)
))
vs.) DOCKET NO. UG-170929
))
CASCADE NATURAL GAS)
CORPORATION,)
))
))
Respondent.)

PREHEARING CONFERENCE, VOLUME I

Pages 1-8

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GREGORY J. KOPTA

10:00 a.m.

October 9, 2017

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
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Olympia, Washington 98504

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1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; OCTOBER 9, 2017

2 10:00 A.M.

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5 P R O C E E D I N G S

6 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. Then let's be on
7 the record in Docket UG-170929, caption, Washington
8 Utilities and Transportation Commission versus Cascade
9 Natural Gas Company. We are here today for a prehearing
10 conference, and my name is Gregory J. Kopta. I'm the
11 administrative law judge who will be presiding with the
12 commissioners in this proceeding.

13 Let's begin by taking appearances beginning
14 with the Company.

15 MS. RACKNER: Lisa Rackner on behalf of
16 Cascade Natural Gas with the law firm of McDowell
17 Rackner & Gibson.

18 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. And with Staff.

19 MR. O'CONNELL: Andrew J. O'Connell,
20 Assistant Attorney General on behalf of Commission
21 Staff.

22 JUDGE KOPTA: Public Counsel.

23 MR. BRYANT: Armikka Bryant, Assistant
24 Attorney General on behalf of Public Counsel.

25 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. And I understand

1 we have people on the phone who wish to make an
2 appearance. For The Energy Project.

3 MR. FFITCH: Simon ffitch, attorney
4 appearing for The Energy Project.

5 JUDGE KOPTA: And for Northwest Industrial
6 Gas Users.

7 MR. STOKES: Good morning. This is Chad
8 Stokes from the Cable Huston law firm for the Northwest
9 Industrial Gas Users.

10 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. Is there anyone
11 else who wishes to make an appearance other than those
12 who already have?

13 Hearing not, I think that's our cast of
14 characters for the day.

15 First item of business is interventions.
16 I've -- the Commission has received petitions to
17 intervene from the Northwest Industrial Gas Users and
18 The Energy Project. We have those in writing. I don't
19 think we need anything further. Are there any
20 objections to intervention by those two parties?

21 MR. O'CONNELL: None from Staff, Your Honor.

22 MS. RACKNER: None from the Company.

23 MR. BRYANT: None from Public Counsel.

24 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. And then the
25 Commission will grant those petitions and those two

1 parties will be parties.

2 The Order 01 has already made discovery
3 available and we've -- Commission's already entered a
4 protective order, so that takes care of that. And the
5 prehearing conference order I will let you know how many
6 copies to provide. I still need to check and make sure
7 how many we need. It won't be the original and 19. It
8 will be substantially less, but I will let you know in
9 that order.

10 I think the last thing we need to talk about
11 is schedule, unless folks have something else that they
12 want to discuss today. Not seeing anything. Staff
13 counsel has provided me with a schedule that would
14 have -- well, I'll just say the hearings would be May 15
15 through 17, 2018. The suspension date is
16 August 1st, 2018.

17 So is this an agreed schedule,
18 Mr. O'Connell?

19 MR. O'CONNELL: Yes, Your Honor. The
20 parties have consulted with each other about these dates
21 and did agree to propose that schedule for this case.

22 JUDGE KOPTA: Okay. Rather than read this
23 off into the record, I think I will just provide a copy
24 to the court reporter, and I don't see any issues at
25 this point. Did you check with the commissioners'

1 calendar to see if those dates for a hearing are
2 available, Mr. O'Connell?

3 MR. O'CONNELL: Thank you, Your Honor. Yes,
4 I did consult someone over on that side of the
5 Commission who did confirm that the commissioners were
6 available and were in town that week of May.

7 JUDGE KOPTA: Okay. Well, that's kind of
8 the first priority when we're scheduling hearings. So I
9 will confirm that that works. I will let the parties
10 know if there's any issue, otherwise I think we can
11 adopt this schedule. I'll confirm that in the
12 prehearing conference order.

13 So that's my list. Anyone have anything
14 else that we need to talk about today? All right.
15 Hearing none, we're adjourned. Thank you.

16 (Proceedings ended at 10:06 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF WASHINGTON

COUNTY OF THURSTON

I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.



Tayler Garlinghouse
Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358

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