

**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

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

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PREHEARING CONFERENCE, VOLUME I

Pages 1-8

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE GREGORY J. KOPTA

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10:00 a.m.

October 9, 2017

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW  
Olympia, Washington 98504

REPORTED BY: TAYLER GARLINGHOUSE, CCR 3358

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S  
2 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:  
3 GREGORY J. KOPTA  
4 Washington Utilities and  
5 Transportation Commission  
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7 Olympia, Washington 98504

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13 \* \* \* \* \*

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1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; OCTOBER 9, 2017  
2 10:00 A.M.  
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4  
5 P R O C E E D I N G S  
6  
7 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. Then let's be on  
8 the record in Docket UG-170929, caption, Washington  
9 Utilities and Transportation Commission versus Cascade  
10 Natural Gas Company. We are here today for a prehearing  
11 conference, and my name is Gregory J. Kopta. I'm the  
12 administrative law judge who will be presiding with the  
13 commissioners in this proceeding.  
14 Let's begin by taking appearances beginning  
15 with the Company.  
16 MS. RACKNER: Lisa Rackner on behalf of  
17 Cascade Natural Gas with the law firm of McDowell  
18 Rackner & Gibson.  
19 JUDGE KOPTA: All right. And with Staff.  
20 MR. O'CONNELL: Andrew J. O'Connell,  
21 Assistant Attorney General on behalf of Commission  
22 Staff.  
23 JUDGE KOPTA: Public Counsel.  
24 MR. BRYANT: Armikka Bryant, Assistant  
25 Attorney General on behalf of Public Counsel.  
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 ffitich, 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 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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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 CERTIFICATE  
 2  
 3 STATE OF WASHINGTON  
 4 COUNTY OF THURSTON  
 5  
 6 I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand  
 7 Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby  
 8 certify that the foregoing transcript is true and  
 9 accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.  
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 Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358



<p style="text-align: center;"><b>A</b></p> <p><b>a.m</b> 1:15 4:2 7:16  <b>ability</b> 8:9  <b>accurate</b> 8:9  <b>adjourned</b> 7:15  <b>administrative</b>              1:13 2:2 4:11  <b>adopt</b> 7:11  <b>agree</b> 6:21  <b>agreed</b> 6:17  <b>Andrew</b> 2:13 4:19  <b>aoconnel@utc.w...</b>              2:16  <b>appearance</b> 5:2,11  <b>appearances</b> 4:13  <b>appearing</b> 5:4  <b>Armikka</b> 2:7 4:23  <b>armikkab@atg...</b>              2:10  <b>Assistant</b> 2:8,13              4:20,23  <b>attorney</b> 2:8,13 3:4              4:20,24 5:3  <b>August</b> 6:16  <b>available</b> 6:3 7:2,6  <b>Avenue</b> 1:22 2:8,19              3:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>B</b></p> <p><b>Bainbridge</b> 3:5  <b>beginning</b> 4:13  <b>behalf</b> 4:15,20,24  <b>best</b> 8:9  <b>Box</b> 2:14 3:5  <b>bride</b> 3:8  <b>bridge</b> 3:3  <b>Bryant</b> 2:7 4:23,23              5:23  <b>Buell</b> 1:21  <b>business</b> 5:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>C</b></p> <p><b>C</b> 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1:21  <b>LLP</b> 3:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>M</b></p> <p><b>M</b> 3:9  <b>Mailstop</b> 2:9  <b>McDowell</b> 2:19              4:16  <b>morning</b> 5:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>N</b></p> <p><b>N</b> 2:1 3:1 4:4</p>	<p><b>name</b> 4:10  <b>Natural</b> 1:7 2:17              4:9,16  <b>NE</b> 3:4  <b>need</b> 5:19 6:6,7,10              7:14  <b>Northwest</b> 3:8 5:5              5:8,17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>O</b></p> <p><b>O</b> 4:4  <b>O'Connell</b> 2:13              4:19,19 5:21 6:18              6:19 7:2,3  <b>o0o--</b> 4:3  <b>objections</b> 5:20  <b>October</b> 1:16 4:1  <b>Okay</b> 6:22 7:7  <b>Olympia</b> 1:19 2:5              2:15 4:1  <b>order</b> 6:2,4,5,9 7:12  <b>Oregon</b> 2:20 3:10  <b>original</b> 6:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>P</b></p> <p><b>P</b> 2:1,1 3:1,1 4:4  <b>Pages</b> 1:12  <b>Park</b> 1:18 2:4  <b>parties</b> 5:20 6:1,1              6:20 7:9  <b>PC</b> 2:19  <b>people</b> 5:1  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<p><b>provide</b> 6:6,23  <b>provided</b> 6:13  <b>Public</b> 2:6 4:22,24 5:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Q</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>R</b></p> <p><b>R</b> 2:1 3:1 4:4 8:1  <b>Rackner</b> 2:18,19 4:15,15,17 5:22  <b>read</b> 6:22  <b>Realtime</b> 1:21  <b>received</b> 5:16  <b>record</b> 4:7 6:23  <b>REPORTED</b> 1:20  <b>reporter</b> 6:24 8:7  <b>Reporting</b> 1:21  <b>Respondent</b> 1:9  <b>right</b> 4:6,18,25 5:10 5:24 7:14  <b>Road</b> 3:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>S</b></p> <p><b>S</b> 2:1 3:1 4:4  <b>schedule</b> 6:11,13,17 6:21 7:11  <b>scheduling</b> 7:8  <b>School</b> 3:4  <b>Seattle</b> 1:22 2:9  <b>see</b> 6:24 7:1  <b>seeing</b> 6:12  <b>Shorthand</b> 8:6  <b>side</b> 7:4  <b>Simon</b> 3:3 5:3  <b>simon@ffitchlaw...</b> 3:6  <b>skill</b> 8:9  <b>South</b> 1:18 2:4  <b>Staff</b> 2:12 4:18,21 5:21 6:12  <b>State</b> 8:3,7  <b>Stokes</b> 3:9 5:7,8  <b>substantially</b> 6:8  <b>Suite</b> 1:22 2:8,19 3:5,10</p>	<p><b>sure</b> 6:6  <b>suspension</b> 6:15  <b>Sw</b> 1:18 2:4,19 3:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>T</b></p> <p><b>T</b> 8:1,1  <b>takes</b> 6:4  <b>talk</b> 6:10 7:14  <b>Taylor</b> 1:20 8:6,12  <b>TB-14</b> 2:9  <b>Thank</b> 7:3,15  <b>thing</b> 6:10  <b>think</b> 5:13,19 6:10 6:23 7:10  <b>THURSTON</b> 8:4  <b>today</b> 4:9 6:12 7:14  <b>town</b> 7:6  <b>transcript</b> 8:8  <b>Transportation</b> 1:2 1:4,18 2:4 4:8  <b>true</b> 8:8  <b>two</b> 5:20,25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>U</b></p> <p><b>UG-170929</b> 1:6 4:7  <b>understand</b> 4:25  <b>Users</b> 3:8 5:6,9,17  <b>UTC</b> 2:14  <b>Utilities</b> 1:2,4,18 2:3 4:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>V</b></p> <p><b>versus</b> 4:8  <b>VOLUME</b> 1:11  <b>vs</b> 1:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>W</b></p> <p><b>want</b> 6:12  <b>Washington</b> 1:1,4 1:18,19,22 2:3,5,9 2:15 3:5 4:1,7 8:3 8:7  <b>we're</b> 7:8,15  <b>we've</b> 6:3  <b>week</b> 7:6  <b>wish</b> 5:1</p>	<p><b>wishes</b> 5:11  <b>works</b> 7:9  <b>writing</b> 5:18  <b>www.buellrealti...</b> 1:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>X</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Y</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Z</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>0</b></p> <p><b>01</b> 6:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>1</b></p> <p><b>1-8</b> 1:12  <b>10:00</b> 1:15 4:2  <b>10:06</b> 7:16  <b>1001</b> 3:10  <b>11th</b> 2:19  <b>1300</b> 1:18 2:4  <b>1325</b> 1:22  <b>15</b> 6:14  <b>17</b> 6:15  <b>1840</b> 1:22  <b>19</b> 6:7  <b>1st</b> 6:16</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>2</b></p> <p><b>2000</b> 2:8 3:10  <b>2017</b> 1:16 4:1  <b>2018</b> 6:15,16  <b>206</b> 1:23 2:10 3:6  <b>224-3092</b> 3:11  <b>287-9066</b> 1:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3</b></p> <p><b>321</b> 3:4  <b>3358</b> 1:20 8:12  <b>360</b> 1:23 2:15  <b>383</b> 3:5  <b>389-2055</b> 2:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>4</b></p> <p><b>400</b> 2:19  <b>40128</b> 2:14</p>	<p><b>419</b> 2:19</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5</b></p> <p><b>503</b> 2:20 3:11  <b>534-9066</b> 1:23  <b>595-3925</b> 2:20  <b>5th</b> 2:8 3:10</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>6</b></p> <p><b>664-1192</b> 2:15  <b>669-8197</b> 3:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>7</b></p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>8</b></p> <p><b>800</b> 1:24 2:8  <b>846-6989</b> 1:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>9</b></p> <p><b>9</b> 1:16 4:1  <b>97204</b> 3:10  <b>97205</b> 2:20  <b>98101</b> 1:22  <b>98104</b> 2:9  <b>98110</b> 3:5  <b>98504</b> 1:19 2:5,15</p>
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