

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of	)	
	)	DOCKET UG-011418
CASCADE NATURAL GAS	)	
	)	
For Authorization to Operate a Facility	)	ORDER GRANTING
with a Maximum Allowable Operating	)	APPLICATION
Pressure Greater than 500 psig Within	)	
500 feet of a Proscribed Area (WAC	)	
480-93-020)	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On November 30, 2001, Cascade Natural Gas (“CNG” or “the Company”), a Washington corporation, filed an application to receive written authorization to allow the operation of a facility above 500 psig within 500 feet of a proscribed area. WAC 480-93-020 prohibits the operation of a facility having a maximum allowable operating pressure (“MAOP”) greater than 500 psig within 500 feet of a proscribed area without prior written authorization of the Commission, unless a waiver previously approved by the Commission continues in effect. The Company states that there are 24 commercial buildings and no residential buildings within the proscribed area as of the date of their request.
- 2 This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting on December 12, 2001. The Commissioners having determined the following order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter the following order and related provisions.

**DISCUSSION**

- 3 CNG is currently proposing to uprate a three-mile section of the 8-inch Kitsap Peninsula transmission pipeline from an MAOP of 499 psig to an MAOP of 535 psig due to insufficient pipeline capacity during extreme cold weather events. During the majority of the year this section of pipeline will be operated at or below 499 psig. During extreme cold weather events the Company will temporarily raise the pressure in this section of the pipeline to 535 psig in order to maintain adequate pipeline capacity. After the Company has determined that the extreme cold weather event has ended, the pressure will be lowered back to 499 psig or below.
- 4 CNG has provided a copy of its uprate procedure for the segment of pipeline to the Commission’s Pipeline Safety Division staff (“Staff”) for review. As required by the Federal Pipeline Safety Regulations contained in 49 CFR Part 192.557, CNG has reviewed the design, operating, and maintenance history of the segment; has made a leak survey and repaired any leaks found and determined to be hazardous; has made any repairs, replacements or alterations in the segment that are necessary for safe operation at the increased pressure; isolated the segment from any adjacent segments

that will continue to operate at a lower pressure; and installed and tested service regulators for all services where the main pressure is higher than the pressure delivered to the customer. CNG's uprate will be made in increments of 10 psig or 25 percent of the total pressure increase and it will conduct leak surveys at each increment, up to the new maximum allowable operating pressure. The proposed uprate procedure as reviewed by Staff meets all applicable state and federal pipeline safety codes and requirements.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

5 THE COMMISSION FINDS:

- 6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of  
the State of Washington, vested by statute with the authority to regulate  
rates, rules, regulations, practices, and accounts of public service companies,  
including gas companies.
- 7 (2) Cascade Natural Gas is a Washington corporation and public service company  
as defined in RCW 80.04.010.
- 8 (3) Cascade filed a petition to request authorization to uprate and operate a natural  
gas pipeline at an MAOP of 535 psig within 500 feet of a proscribed area, in  
accordance with WAC 480-93-020.
- 9 (4) CNG's proposed uprate of the three-mile section of its 8-inch Kitsap  
Peninsula transmission pipeline meets all applicable state and federal pipeline  
safety codes and requirements.
- 10 (5) CNG will only raise the operating pressure within this section of its pipeline  
to 535 psig when necessary during extreme cold weather events in order to  
prevent customer outages downstream.
- 11 (6) After CNG has determined that the cold weather event has ended, the  
Company will lower the operating pressure in this section of its pipeline to  
499 psig or below.
- 12 (7) CNG states that there are 24 commercial buildings and no residential  
buildings within the proscribed area at the time of their petition.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 13 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of, and all parties to these proceedings.
- 14 (2) Cascade Natural Gas is a public service company as defined in RCW 80.04.010.
- 15 (3) CNG filed a petition to request prior authorization to operate a pipeline at an MAOP above 500 psig, within 500 feet of a proscribed area pursuant to WAC 480-93-020.
- 16 (4) CNG's request under WAC 480-93-020 is consistent with the public interest.
- 17 (5) The Commission should grant the request for prior authorization to operate a pipeline with an MAOP of 535, pursuant to WAC 480-93-020.

**ORDER**

18 THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 19 (1) The request by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation for authorization to operate a natural gas pipeline with an MAOP greater than 500 psig within a proscribed area, pursuant to WAC 480-93-020, is consistent with the public interest and should be granted.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective this 20<sup>th</sup> day of December 2001.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN  
Secretary