

Agenda Date: March 27, 2002  
Item Number: 2D

**Docket: UG-020156**

Company Name: Cascade Natural Gas

Staff: Al Jones, Pipeline Safety Engineer  
Kjel Finnvik, Pipeline Safety Engineer

**Recommendation:**

Cascade Natural Gas (Cascade) is requesting delaying their proposal to construct a gas transmission pipeline in order to provide Staff with additional information for safeguards and proximity considerations. Staff recommends the Commission hear from property owners adjacent to the proposed pipeline who were notified by letter of today's Public Open Meeting.

**Background:**

The purpose of the Cascade filing is to receive authorization pursuant to WAC 480-93-020 to operate a pipeline at pressures exceeding 500 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) within 500 feet of buildings and areas for human occupancy. Cascade's proposed pipeline will be constructed to operate at a maximum pressure of 720 psig in the City of Shelton and parts of Mason County. The nearest building is 30 feet from the proposed pipeline. The pipeline will be buried and bored underground for a distance of approximately 2.6 miles. The borings will be located beneath Shelton Creek, U S Highway 101, John's Prairie Road and Brockdale Road.

The Commission has adopted the Code of Federal Regulations Title 49 Part 192 and Chapter 480-93 Washington Administrative Code as the minimum standards. The most restrictive natural gas pipeline safety rules specify that pipelines in a highly populated area be operated at pressures producing a hoop stress of no greater than 40% of specified minimum yield strength of the pipe. The proposed pipeline will be designed at a lower hoop stress of approximately 23.5% of the pipe's specified minimum yield strength.

**Considerations:**

Commission Staff has evaluated the proposed facility and are discussing with Cascade additional safeguards, pursuant to WAC 480-93-020 for Proximity Considerations. The safeguards will identify more stringent requirements than federal standards in the design, construction, and operation of the pipeline. We anticipate the agreement will be stipulated in an Appendix A of the Order.

**Recommendation:**

Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission accept Cascade's request delaying their proposal to construct a gas transmission pipeline in order to provide Staff with additional information for safeguards and allow for comments by property owners adjacent to the proposed pipeline who were notified by letter of today's Public Open Meeting.