

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Investigation of the	)	
Gas Pipeline System of	)	DOCKET PG-150120
	)	
	)	ORDER 01
	)	
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation	)	ORDER ACCEPTING
	)	AGREEMENT AND CLOSING
	)	DOCKET
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) regulates the safety of gas pipelines, including those owned and operated by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (CNG or Company). Commission Staff (Staff) conducted gas pipeline inspections in the Longview, Bellingham and Kennewick districts, in March, May, and October 2013, respectively.
- 2 Staff sent Inspection Reports to CNG on April 11, May 29, and November 5, 2013, alleging several violations of Commission statutes and rules and identifying areas of concern. CNG provided a written response to the reports on May 10, June 28, and December 18, 2013. CNG and staff engaged in further discussion regarding the investigation, Staff’s findings, and CNG’s responses, and subsequently reached an agreement to resolve the issues Staff identified.
- 3 On February 3, 2015, Commission Staff and CNG filed a “Stipulated Agreement to Close Docket” (the Agreement). The Agreement is attached as Exhibit A to, and incorporated into, this Order. The Agreement addresses certain issues in this docket, including compliance and specific steps CNG will take to improve its system and practices.
- 4 The Agreement is not effective until it is accepted by the Commission. If CNG fails to comply with the terms of the Agreement or this Order, the Commission may invoke its authority to assess penalties for violations of a Commission order.

**DISCUSSION**

5 The terms of the Settlement Agreement are not contrary to law or public policy and  
reasonably resolve all issues in this proceeding. The Settlement Agreement supports the  
Commission's goal of compliance by requiring the Company to take specific actions to  
bring its system and practices in line with regulations governing natural gas pipelines.  
Given these factors, we find the Settlement Agreement is consistent with the public  
interest and should be approved as filed.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 6 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the  
State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the safety of  
gas pipeline companies.
- 7 (2) CNG is a gas pipeline company operating in the state of Washington subject  
to Commission jurisdiction.
- 8 (3) Commission Staff conducted inspections of CNG's gas pipeline system in the  
Longview, Bellingham, and Kennewick districts in March, May, and October  
2013, respectively.
- 9 (4) Commission Staff and CNG have entered into a Settlement Agreement, attached  
as Exhibit A to, and incorporated into, this Order, as an appropriate resolution of  
the issues raised by the inspections in March, May, and October 2013.
- 10 (5) After reviewing the Agreement entered into between CNG and Commission Staff,  
and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the Agreement is in the  
public interest and represents an appropriate resolution of the issues raised by the  
inspections of CNG's natural gas pipelines in the Longview, Bellingham and  
Kennewick districts in March, May, and October 2013, respectively.
- 11 (6) The Settlement Agreement is effective date as of the date of this Order.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 12* (1) The Settlement Agreement is approved without condition, is attached as Exhibit A to, and incorporated into, this Order, and is adopted as the final resolution of the disputed issues in this docket.
- 13* (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction to effectuate the terms of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective February 12, 2015.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner