

BEFORE THE
WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

CASCADE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION,

Respondent.

DOCKET NO. UG-060256

COMMENTS OF THE NORTHWEST
INDUSTRIAL GAS USERS TO
PUBLIC COUNSEL'S MOTION TO
COMPEL

INTRODUCTION

1. Pursuant to the Notice of Opportunity to File Written Statements issued April 3, 2006, the Northwest Industrial Gas Users ("NWIGU") file these comments supporting Public Counsel's Motion to Compel Cascade Natural Gas Corporation ("Cascade" or "the Company") to Supplement its General Rate Case Filing.

DISCUSSION

2. The Commission should order Cascade to supplement its filing prior to the close of business on April 10, 2006. The Pre-hearing Conference in this docket is scheduled for April 11, 2006. If Cascade fails to supplement its filing prior to the Pre-Hearing Conference, the schedule established for this case will need to reflect the delays caused by Cascade's failure to make a complete filing.
3. NWIGU agrees with Public Counsel's statements regarding the lack of work papers and other information needed to analyze Cascade's cost-of-service study. Public Counsel correctly notes that Cascade did not include Exhibits LMD-3 or LMD-4 with its

case, even though sponsoring witness Mr. Lamar Maxwell Dickey states that LMD-3 and LMD-4 contain the allocation factors used to develop his cost-of-service study.

4. Without the allocation factors used to develop the cost-of-service study, it is impossible to determine if Cascade's cost study has been accurately developed. On March 27, 2006, NWIGU propounded data requests to obtain the allocation factors and other information necessary to verify the accuracy of the cost study. *See* Exhibit A to these Comments. NWIGU was seeking through data requests material that should have been included in the exhibits and work papers to the general rate case filing. Cascade's data responses, however, lack the information necessary to test the validity of the cost study. Therefore, NWIGU and other parties cannot analyze the validity of Cascade's cost-of-service study based on the information thus far provided by the Company.
5. Cascade has not filed a rate case in Washington in approximately ten years. As part of this filing, Cascade is proposing a major redesign of its industrial rates as part of this filing. The inability of the Company to produce a functioning cost-of-service model with formulas and inputs makes the entire filing woefully inadequate.
6. If Cascade cannot produce a functioning cost-of-service model in electronic form prior to the closure of business on April 10, 2006, NWIGU will be forced to seek a delay in the schedule in this proceeding. An extension beyond the suspension period, which currently runs until January 14, 2007, is likely to be necessary. As Public Counsel properly notes in its Motion, it is grossly unfair to allow Cascade to prosecute this rate case in a manner that shifts production burdens onto intervenors, or allows the Company to put on its case in rebuttal. NWIGU should not have to engage in a discovery battle to determine the formulas and technical data that stand behind a cost-of-service study.

CONCLUSION

7. The cost-of-service study prepared by Mr. Dickey is the lynchpin of a significant rate restructuring Cascade is proposing. WUTC regulations squarely place the production burden on the utility proposing to alter its rates. NWIGU, Public Counsel, WUTC Staff and others should not be forced to engage in expensive and time-consuming discovery battles simply to obtain from Cascade material that should have been part of its filing. If Cascade cannot produce this information prior to the pre-hearing conference, a delay in the scheduling of the case and an extension in the suspension period is the most appropriate remedy.

DATED: April 7, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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BEFORE THE

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission vs. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

Docket No. UG-060256

NWIGU's First Set of Data Requests to Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

Dated: March 27, 2006

I. DEFINITIONS

1. "Documents" refers to all writings and records of every type in your possession, control, or custody, whether or not claimed to be privileged or otherwise excludable from discovery, including but not limited to: testimony and exhibits, memoranda, papers, correspondence, letters, reports (including drafts, preliminary, intermediate, and final reports), surveys, analyses, studies (including economic and market studies), summaries, comparisons, tabulations, bills, invoices, statements of services rendered, charts, books, pamphlets, photographs, maps, bulletins, corporate or other minutes, notes, diaries, log sheets, ledgers, transcripts, microfilm, microfiche, computer data (including E-mail), computer files, computer tapes, computer inputs, computer outputs and printouts, vouchers, accounting statements, budgets, work papers, engineering diagrams (including "one-line" diagrams), mechanical and electrical recordings, telephone and telegraphic communications, speeches, and all other records, written, electrical, mechanical, or otherwise, and drafts of any of the above.

"Documents" includes copies of documents, where the originals are not in your possession, custody or control.

"Documents" includes every copy of a document which contains handwritten or other notations or which otherwise does not duplicate the original or any other copy.

"Documents" also includes any attachments or appendices to any document.

2. "Identification" and "identify" mean:

When used with respect to a document, stating the nature of the document (e.g., letter, memorandum, corporate minutes); the date, if any, appearing thereon; the date, if known, on which the document was prepared; the title of the document; the general subject matter of the document; the number of pages comprising the document; the identity of each person who wrote, dictated, or otherwise participated in the preparation of the document; the identity of each person who signed or initiated the document; the identity of each person to whom the document was addressed; the identity of each person who

received the document or reviewed it; the location of the document; and the identity of each person having possession, custody, or control of the document.

When used with respect to a person, stating his or her full name; his or her most recently known home and business addresses and telephone numbers; his or her present title and position; and his or her present and prior connections or associations with any participant or party to this proceeding.

3. "Person" refers to, without limiting the generality of its meaning, every natural person, corporation, partnership, association, joint venture, unit operation, cooperative, municipality, commission, governmental body or agency, or any other group or organization.
4. "Studies" or "study" includes, without limitation, reports, reviews, analyses and audits.
5. The terms "and" and "or" shall be construed either disjunctively or conjunctively whenever appropriate in order to bring within the scope of this discovery any information or documents which might otherwise be considered to be beyond their scope.
6. The singular form of a word shall be interpreted as plural, and the plural form of a word shall be interpreted as singular, whenever appropriate in order to bring within the scope of this discovery request any information or documents which might otherwise be considered to be beyond their scope.

II. INSTRUCTIONS

1. These requests call for all information, including information contained in documents, which relate to the subject matter of the Data Request and which is known or available to you.
2. Where a Data Request has a number of separate subdivisions or related parts or portions, a complete response is required to each such subdivision, part or portion. Any objection to a Data Request should clearly indicate the subdivision, part, or portion of the Data Request to which it is directed.
3. The time period encompassed by these Data Requests is from 1990 to the present unless otherwise specified.
4. Each response should be furnished on a separate page. In addition to hard copy, electronic versions of the document, including studies and analyses, must also be furnished if available.
5. If you cannot answer a Data Request in full, after exercising due diligence to secure the information necessary to do so, state the answer to the extent possible, state why you cannot answer the Data Request in full, and state what information or knowledge you have concerning the unanswered portions.
6. If, in answering any of these Data Requests, you feel that any Data Request or definition or instruction applicable thereto is ambiguous, set forth the language you feel is ambiguous and the interpretation you are using in responding to the Data Request.
7. If a document requested is unavailable, identify the document, describe in detail the reasons the document is unavailable, state where the document can be obtained, and specify the number of pages it contains.
8. If you assert that any document has been destroyed, state when and why it was destroyed and identify the person who directed the destruction. If the document was destroyed pursuant to your document destruction program, identify and produce a copy of the guideline, policy, or company manual describing such document destruction program.
9. If you refuse to respond to any Data Request by reason of a claim of privilege, confidentiality, or for any other reason, state in writing the type of privilege claimed and the facts and circumstances you rely upon to support the claim of privilege or the reason for refusing to respond. With respect to requests for documents to which you refuse to respond, identify each such document, and specify the number of pages it contains. Provide: (a) a brief description of the document; (b) date of document; (c) name of each author or preparer; (d) name of each person who received the document; and (e) the reason for withholding it and a statement of facts constituting the justification and basis for withholding it.

10. Identify the person from whom the information and documents supplied in response to each Data Request were obtained, the person who prepared each response, the person who reviewed each response, and the person who will bear ultimate responsibility for the truth of each response.
11. If no document is responsive to a Data Request that calls for a document, then so state.
12. These requests for documents and responses are continuing in character so as to require you to file supplemental answers as soon as possible if you obtain further or different information. Any supplemental answer should refer to the date and use the number of the original request or subpart thereof.
13. Whenever these Data Requests specifically request an answer rather than the identification of documents, the answer is required and the production of documents in lieu thereof will not substitute for an answer.
14. Please provide the responses to these Data Requests no later than **April 10, 2006** to:

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DATA REQUESTS

First Data Request of NWIGU in
CNGC Docket UG-060256

1. With regard to the prefiled direct testimony of David Stevens, DWS-1T, page 7, lines 25-27, please provide a copy of the Company's capital expenditure budget.

RESPONSE:

2. With regard to the prefiled direct testimony of Jon Stoltz, JTS-1T, page 7, lines 1-18, please provide the non-core sales revenue and costs for each of the last five calendar years.

RESPONSE:

3. With regard to the prefiled direct testimony of Jon Stoltz, JTS-1T, page 7, line 15, please provide a copy of the workpapers to support the non-core sales revenue and cost figures.

RESPONSE:

4. With regard to the electronic copy of exhibit JTS-2 contained in the EXCEL file UG060256.xls, please provide in the original software (eg. EXCEL) with all formulae intact any linked file to this spreadsheet (eg. Service Chg Revenues-final Feb 7.xls).

RESPONSE:

5. With regard to the electronic copy of Exhibits KJB 4-8 (Final KJB4 thru 8.xls spreadsheet), please provide in the original software (eg. EXCEL) with all formulae intact any linked file to this spreadsheet (eg. Wage Adjustment for 2006 rate case.xls).

RESPONSE:

6. With regard to the electronic copy of Exhibits KJB 9-20 (Final KJB9-20.xls spreadsheet), please provide in the original software (eg. EXCEL) with all formulae intact any linked file to this spreadsheet (eg. Insurance Premium Adjustment to 2005.xls, KJB-Postal.xls, Propoane Plant Adj.xls, Summary of Insurance Renewal 2006.xls).

RESPONSE:

7. With regard to Exhibit PWM-3, please provide an electronic copy of this exhibit in the original software (eg. EXCEL) with all formulae intact and all associated workpapers used to compile the exhibit.

RESPONSE:

8. With regard to Exhibit PWM-4, please provide an electronic copy of this exhibit in the original software (eg. EXCEL) with all formulae intact and all associated workpapers used to compile the exhibit.

RESPONSE:

9. With regard to the prefiled direct testimony of Lamar Dickey, LMD-1T, page 12, lines 7-8, please provide a copy of all workpapers used to derive the class contributions to peak day allocation factor for each of the last three years along with the high and low temperatures on the days.

RESPONSE:

10. Please provide a copy of the Company's most recent Least Cost Plan along with all associated appendices and workpapers.

RESPONSE:

11. With regard to the prefiled direct testimony of Lamar Dickey, LMD-1T, page 12, lines 25-26, please provide a copy of all workpapers used to directly assign transmission and four inch distribution mains to large volume customers.

RESPONSE:

12. With regard to the prefiled direct testimony of Lamar Dickey, LMD-1T, page 15, lines 15-16, please provide a complete copy of Schedule LMD-3 and Schedule LMD-4 and all associated workpapers used to develop inputs to the cost of service model and to perform the cost studies.

RESPONSE:

13. With regard to the prefiled direct testimony of Jay Cummings, FJC-1T, page 4, lines 1-13, please provide a complete copy of all documents and workpapers used to derive the expenditure levels shown in the table.

RESPONSE:

14. With regard to the prefiled direct testimony of Jay Cummings, FJC-1T, page 6, lines 8-21, please provide a schedule (and all associated workpapers) showing the resulting proposed SRIAM rate schedule customer charges for each year from 2007 through 2011 based upon the capital expenditure levels set forth on page 4 of FJC-1T. Where possible, provide the schedule and workpapers in electronic form in the originating software with all formulae in tact.

RESPONSE:

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on April 7, 2006 I caused to be served the foregoing **Comments of The Northwest Industrial Gas Users to Public Counsel's Motion to Compel Supplementation of Cascade's General Rate Case Filing Pursuant to WAC 480-07-500 and WAC 480-07-510** upon all parties of record in these proceedings, as indicated below, by mailing a copy properly addressed with first class postage prepaid.

SERVICE LIST

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Dated in Portland, Oregon this 7th day of April, 2006.

Edward A Finklea

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