

**Docket No. UG-210755 - Vol. IV**

**WUTC v. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation**

**May 25, 2022**



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND ) Docket No. UG-210755  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, )  
)   
Complainant, )  
)   
vs. )  
)   
CASCADE NATURAL GAS )  
CORPORATION, )  
)   
Respondent. )

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VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING - VOLUME IV

Pages 1-8

May 25, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
621 Woodland Square Loop Southeast  
Lacey, Washington 98503

(All participants appeared via videoconference.)

DATE TAKEN: MAY 25, 2022

REPORTED BY: ROSE DETLOFF, RMR, CCR #21036100

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A P P E A R A N C E S

COMMISSIONERS:

DAVE DANNER, Chair  
ANN RENDAHL, Commissioner

COMMISSION STAFF:

EMILIE BROWN  
NASH CALLAGHAN  
BRIDGIT FEESER  
ANDREW ROBERTS

CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION:

LORI BLATTNER  
MARK CHILES  
MARK HANSON

PUBLIC COUNSEL:

SHAI BAUMANN  
ANN PAISNER

\* \* \* \* \*

1 LACEY, WASHINGTON; MAY 25, 2022

2 6:00 p.m.

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4 P R O C E E D I N G S

5

6 CHAIR DANNER: Good evening, everyone.

7 It is May 25th, 2022, and this is a meeting of  
8 the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.  
9 And this is a public comment hearing in Docket  
10 UG-210755, and that is a general rate case filed by  
11 Cascade Natural Gas.

12 So I'm Dave Danner. I'm Chair of the  
13 Commission. I'm joined by my colleague, Commissioner  
14 Ann Rendahl.

15 On September 30th, 2021, Cascade Natural Gas  
16 filed a request with the Washington Utilities and  
17 Transportation Commission to increase base rates for  
18 natural gas service. The Company proposed a rate  
19 increase totaling 5.12 percent or \$13.7 million.

20 And this proposed rate, if approved, would  
21 increase residential rates by about 5.34 percent. And  
22 as a result, the average residential customer would pay  
23 about \$2.89 more a month under this request.

24 On March 22nd, 2022, the Commission received a  
25 proposed settlement by Cascade Natural Gas and the UTC

1 Staff, who act as an independent party in this case, to  
2 resolve all the issues in the case, and they proposed a  
3 settlement that would decrease the overall increase from  
4 \$13.7 to \$10.7 million.

5 That is a settlement proposed only by those two  
6 parties, Cascade and the UTC Staff, and it is not  
7 supported by the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers,  
8 The Energy Project, or the Public Counsel, who are also  
9 parties to this case.

10 Today, it's our intent to hear from the public  
11 on their comments on the proposals before the  
12 Commission. We take comments of the public very  
13 seriously. We have received several written comments so  
14 far. And we will hear what any member of the public has  
15 to say tonight and take those matters under advisement  
16 as we consider this case.

17 I'm going to turn it over now to Andrew  
18 Roberts.

19 Andrew, first of all, do you see anyone on the  
20 call tonight who wishes to testify before us?

21 MR. ROBERTS: So there are a couple names up  
22 here that I'm not familiar with, and they could be  
23 Company representatives or our court reporter. I see a  
24 Rose Detloff and a Mark Hanson. I'm not familiar with  
25 either one of those names.

1 THE COURT REPORTER: I am the court  
2 reporter.

3 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you, Rose.

4 MR. HANSON: This is Mark Hanson. I'm with  
5 the Company.

6 CHAIR DANNER: All right.

7 In that case, looking at the list, I am not  
8 seeing any members of the public who wish to comment on  
9 this proposal this evening.

10 So let me ask -- let me just put the question  
11 out there. Is there anyone on the call who wishes to  
12 comment on this case tonight?

13 All right. I am hearing none, so I think  
14 there's no point in introducing Andrew Roberts from our  
15 Staff or our Public Counsel representatives tonight.  
16 Ann Paisner is here and Shai Baumann. And, obviously,  
17 we won't be swearing in any people testifying tonight.

18 Commissioner Rendahl, do you have anything that  
19 you wish to add tonight? Otherwise, we will adjourn  
20 this meeting early.

21 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So I don't have  
22 anything to add, but I see Ann Paisner had put her  
23 camera on, and I wonder if Public Counsel does have  
24 something they wish to say.

25 MS. PAISNER: I do. Thank you. Yeah,

1 sorry.

2 CHAIR DANNER: That's all right. Don't be  
3 sorry.

4 MS. PAISNER: I just wanted to say that, you  
5 know, people can still submit written comments, and I  
6 wanted to provide our e-mail and snail mail address, if  
7 I may.

8 So if members of the public would still want to  
9 provide comments, written, they can e-mail us at  
10 utility@atg.wa.gov. Or they can mail it to us at  
11 Attorney General's Office, Public Counsel Unit, 800  
12 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000, Seattle, Washington 98104.  
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you.

15 And, of course, we will also receive comments  
16 at the Commission at comments@utc.wa.gov.

17 Ann Paisner, do you have a proposal for when we  
18 should have a deadline for public comments?

19 MS. PAISNER: Yes. Well, typically, I  
20 believe the record stays open through the conclusion of  
21 the hearing, and the hearing is scheduled for June 1st  
22 and 2nd. At that rate --

23 CHAIR DANNER: But you need time to compile.

24 MS. PAISNER: Right. Exactly.

25 So that's, I think, approximately one week

1 beyond the hearing. So depending on when the hearing  
2 concludes, which is uncertain at this time -- at that  
3 point, then I believe we would request a week after. So  
4 it's on a Wednesday.

5 CHAIR DANNER: All right. So I think what  
6 we will do, then, is let's welcome comments through June  
7 2nd, and then we will give you seven days after that to  
8 compile and get those to us.

9 MS. PAISNER: Excellent. Thank you.

10 CHAIR DANNER: Does that work for you? All  
11 right.

12 Is that okay with you, Commissioner Rendahl?

13 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes, and that's  
14 consistent with what we've done in prior cases.

15 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Very good. I  
16 appreciate it.

17 And since we don't have any members of the  
18 public joining us tonight, let's just get on with our  
19 evenings, everyone, and I will adjourn the meeting. I  
20 want to thank you all for joining in tonight.

21 So with that, we are adjourned. Thank you.

22 (Proceedings adjourned at 6:06 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF WASHINGTON  
COUNTY OF KING

I, Rose Detloff, a Certified Court Reporter in  
and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that  
the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the  
best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

  
ROSE DETLOFF, CCR, RMR



My commission expires:  
DECEMBER 6, 2022