

MI NT FARM ENERGY CENTER LLC

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Carole J. Washburn
Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Subject: Cascade Natural Gas Rate Increase – Docket UG-060256

Dear Commission Staff:

Mint Farm Energy Center (“MFEC”) is petitioning the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (“WUTC”) to reject the rate increase by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (“Cascade”). The MFEC is a natural gas generating facility that was under construction and then suspended in 2002. As the new owners of the project, we are in the process of trying to remobilize the project and finish construction. The prior contract between Cascade and the Mint Farm project had been rejected in the bankruptcy court because of uneconomic terms and conditions. By increasing Cascade’s tariff rates, the remobilization of the project may end up being terminated. Because of the increased competitive nature of energy production in the Northwest, every incremental cost can severely impact the future of the project.

The addition of the MFEC project would increase the revenue paid to Cascade. Because of MFEC’s increased capacity charges to Cascade and the need to make the project competitive to compete with other projects in the area, MFEC was going to petition the WUTC to actually generate a lower cost industrial rate prior to releasing construction. Our alternative is to bypass the Longview Cascade network to connect directly the Northwest Pipeline or one of two other pipelines in the area that are higher operating pressures.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Scott Magie @ (605) 359-0200.

Sincerely,



Scott M. Magie
Project Director