

**WUTC v. Cascadia Water, LLC**

**Docket No. UW-240151 - Vol. III**

**January 14, 2025**



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND )  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, )  
)  
Complainant, )  
)  
vs. )DOCKET NO. UW-240151  
)  
CASCADIA WATER, LLC, )  
)  
Respondent. )PAGES 120 - 167  
)

PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING  
VIA ZOOM - VOL III  
COMMISSIONER ANN RENDAHL PRESIDING

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
621 Woodland Square Loop SE  
Lacey, Washington 98504

TRANSCRIBED BY: ELIZABETH PATTERSON HARVEY, FAPR, RPR,  
WA CCR 2731

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A P P E A R A N C E S:

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ALSO PRESENT

Melissa Castaneda-Kerson - Public  
Involvement Specialist

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January 13, 2025 6:00 p.m.  
-o0o-

COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Good afternoon,  
everyone. Today is Tuesday, January the 14th, 2025. And  
this is a public comment hearing of the Washington  
Utilities and Transportation Commission in Docket  
UW-240151, which is Cascadia Water, LLC's general rate  
case.

I'm Ann Rendahl. I'm a commissioner here at  
the commission. I'm joined by my colleague, Commissioner  
Milt Doumit. Commissioner Doumit and I are both sitting  
as judges this afternoon, as is the administrative law  
judge in this case, Judge Fukano. And as in a court of  
law, we're not able to answer questions or engage in  
dialogue today, but we are here to listen to your  
comments, which will become part of the record in this  
case.

I appreciate you joining us for this public  
comment hearing today. I'm going to provide an overview  
of the case and the process for the hearing, and then  
turn it over to Melissa Castaneda-Kerson, the public  
involvement specialist for the commission, to provide  
some logistics about the hearing and further instructions

1 (Pages 120 to 123)

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 124</p> <p>1 for those who wish to speak.</p> <p>2 We have scheduled two public comment hearings</p> <p>3 for this proceeding. We held one yesterday evening, and</p> <p>4 we're holding this hearing this afternoon.</p> <p>5 To ensure that everyone who wishes to speak</p> <p>6 will have an opportunity to do so, if you spoke at the</p> <p>7 hearing last night, please allow others to speak first</p> <p>8 today before you ask to speak again.</p> <p>9 I'm going to talk a bit about the case. And</p> <p>10 this is from the information that is in the commission's</p> <p>11 docket on the website. Cascadia Water filed, with the</p> <p>12 commission, proposed tariffs on February 29, 2024. The</p> <p>13 commission set the filing for litigation on June 28,</p> <p>14 2024.</p> <p>15 Cascadia Water's rate filing requested a</p> <p>16 total revenue increase of 1.727 million, or 72 percent,</p> <p>17 72.5 percent. This increase is split across its island,</p> <p>18 mainland, peninsula, and Pelican Point systems.</p> <p>19 In its case, Cascadia requests these</p> <p>20 increases due to increased operating expenses and</p> <p>21 substantial systemwide investment. Since its last general</p> <p>22 rate case, Cascadia has acquired 16 additional water</p> <p>23 systems.</p> <p>24 There are four parties participating in this</p> <p>25 case: Cascadia Water; commission staff, who looks to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 126</p> <p>1 Advocates of Washington are parties to the proceeding and</p> <p>2 have not agreed to the settlement.</p> <p>3 The commission will hold a formal hearing on</p> <p>4 the settlement on February 11, and will review the</p> <p>5 record, including all the public comments and testimony</p> <p>6 from this hearing after the settlement hearing, and will</p> <p>7 make a decision based on that record. The hearing was</p> <p>8 originally scheduled for February 4, but has been moved</p> <p>9 to February 11.</p> <p>10 The settling parties have agreed to a revenue</p> <p>11 requirement increase of 1.67 million. This increase</p> <p>12 would be split between Cascadia's western water systems,</p> <p>13 defined as the island and peninsula water systems, and</p> <p>14 the Pelican Point Water system in the same proportion as</p> <p>15 when they filed their case.</p> <p>16 The settlement provides that the revenue</p> <p>17 increase would be phased in over three phases, with half</p> <p>18 of the revenue increase going into effect if the</p> <p>19 commission approved the settlement. The remaining half</p> <p>20 of the revenue increase would be recovered equally</p> <p>21 through a surcharge in the second and third years.</p> <p>22 So in addition to the testimony in evidence</p> <p>23 and the settlement that we have already in the record in</p> <p>24 this case, and that will be the subject of our hearing on</p> <p>25 February 11, we also invite comments by customers and</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 125</p> <p>1 ensure that rates are fair, just, reasonable, and in the</p> <p>2 public interest, and they participate like any other</p> <p>3 party to the proceeding; the Public Counsel Unit of the</p> <p>4 Attorney General's Office, which represents residential</p> <p>5 and small commercial customers; and the Water Consumer</p> <p>6 Advocates of Washington, a consumer advocacy group.</p> <p>7 The parties participated this fall in</p> <p>8 mediation before an administrative law judge assigned by</p> <p>9 the commission, but that mediation was not successful.</p> <p>10 However, on December 20, 2024, the company</p> <p>11 and commission staff let the commission know that they</p> <p>12 had agreed to a settlement of the issues in the case.</p> <p>13 And on Friday, January the 10th, they filed the</p> <p>14 settlement stipulation with the commission in the docket</p> <p>15 in this case.</p> <p>16 So the settlement is posted on the</p> <p>17 commission's website under the docket number, and it is</p> <p>18 publicly available. We will provide you a link to the</p> <p>19 commission's website in this docket in the chat later in</p> <p>20 this meeting, and you can always ask commission staff</p> <p>21 questions.</p> <p>22 The supporting testimony and documents were</p> <p>23 filed with the commission yesterday.</p> <p>24 The Public Counsel Unit of the Washington</p> <p>25 Attorney General's Office and the Water Consumer</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 127</p> <p>1 members of the public on their views on the rate case and</p> <p>2 settlement pending before the commission.</p> <p>3 And I realize the settlement was just filed</p> <p>4 recently, and many of you probably have not read it. So</p> <p>5 we will extend the time for comments in this case, and</p> <p>6 I'll discuss that later this afternoon.</p> <p>7 The comments we receive from you this</p> <p>8 afternoon will be made part of the formal record in the</p> <p>9 case. And so for that reason, we're recording the</p> <p>10 hearing today.</p> <p>11 The commissioners and the administrative law</p> <p>12 judge are here to listen to your comments.</p> <p>13 By statute, the office of public counsel</p> <p>14 represents the interests of Cascadia's residential and</p> <p>15 small commercial customers, and I see that Tad Robinson</p> <p>16 O'Neill, representing public counsel, is attending the</p> <p>17 hearing today.</p> <p>18 If you have questions about this case, you</p> <p>19 can contact the commission's public involvement staff.</p> <p>20 That's Melissa Castaneda-Kerson, who is assigned to this</p> <p>21 case.</p> <p>22 And you can also reach out to the office of</p> <p>23 public counsel.</p> <p>24 And when Melissa provides logistics for the</p> <p>25 hearing today, she'll repeat -- she'll give you the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 128</p> <p>1 information about how to reach out to staff and to public  2 counsel, and it will be included on the slide for you to  3 see.  4 For those who do not wish to speak today, the  5 commission will continue to accept written comments in  6 this case until about a week after the hearing. Last  7 night, we decided that the deadline for receiving  8 comments in this case would be February 18, a week after  9 the hearing. And Melissa will provide information about  10 how you can submit those comments to the commission or to  11 public counsel.  12 So now I'm going to turn to Melissa  13 Castaneda-Kerson from our public involvement staff to go  14 over the logistics for this meeting. Melissa?  15 MELISSA CASTANEDA-KERSON: Thank you,  16 Commissioner Rendahl.  17 Good afternoon. My name is Melissa  18 Castaneda-Kerson, and I am a public involvement  19 representative with the Utilities and Transportation  20 Commission. I will be the moderator for the comment  21 hearing this afternoon.  22 If you did not sign up in advance to provide  23 your comment at this afternoon's hearing and you wish to  24 do so, please put your first and last name into the chat.  25 If you're calling in, please press Star 9 to raise your</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 130</p> <p>1 provide your comments.  2 Closed captioning is available via the  3 toolbar at the bottom of the Zoom application.  4 When you are called on to speak, you will  5 have two minutes to provide your comment. If you  6 attended the January 13 Cascadia Water public comment  7 hearing and provided your comment, please refrain from  8 commenting again. We want to make sure that all  9 customers have had an opportunity to speak.  10 If you do not wish to speak this afternoon  11 and want to provide your comments in writing, you can  12 submit written comments in the following ways. You can  13 e-mail at Comments@utc.wa.gov. You can call toll free at  14 1-888-333-9882, or you can write us at P.O. Box 47250,  15 Olympia, Washington, 98504.  16 The commissioners and judges in formal  17 filings like this cannot answer questions. However, if  18 you do have questions, you can e-mail  19 Comments@utc.wa.gov. That's Comments@utc.wa.gov, or call  20 (888) 333-9882 and ask to speak to Melissa  21 Castaneda-Kerson. Or you can contact public counsel by  22 emailing Utility@atg.wa.gov or calling (206) 464-7744.  23 Before I turn the time over to Commissioner  24 Rendahl, if you wish to speak this afternoon and haven't  25 provided your name yet, please put your first and last</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 129</p> <p>1 hand and we will call on you for your name in a few  2 minutes. If you have already provided your name to us,  3 there is no need to provide it again.  4 Now for some meeting logistics: Please mute  5 your connections unless you are called on to speak. If  6 you are participating via the Zoom application, you can  7 mute by clicking the microphone icon. A slash will  8 appear across the microphone, indicating you have  9 successfully muted your connection. To unmute, click  10 your microphone again. The slash will disappear. Please  11 remember to mute your connection again after you are done  12 speaking.  13 If you called in with your phone, press Star  14 6 on your phone to mute yourself. When you are called on  15 to speak, press Star 6 to unmute yourself. After you are  16 done speaking, press Star 6 to mute yourself.  17 Please wait to be called on for comment, and  18 do not interrupt other speakers.  19 There are two options to report technical  20 difficulties. Use the chat feature in Zoom, or you can  21 call Ryan Smith at (360) 915-3646.  22 The chat feature should be used to report  23 technical difficulties and to ask to be added to the  24 sign-in sheet. We will not be accepting comments via the  25 zoom chat feature, so please do not use the chat to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 131</p> <p>1 name into the chat if you're using the Zoom application.  2 If you're calling in, please press Star 9 to  3 raise your hand, and we will call on you to provide your  4 name.  5 I will now turn the time over to Commissioner  6 Rendahl, Commissioner Doumit, and Judge Fukano. Thank  7 you.  8 JUDGE HUGHES: Thank you, Mel.  9 I do see that a phone number ending in 6890  10 has raised their hand. And so if you can unmute yourself  11 by pressing Star 6, we'll take your name on the list for  12 those who wish to speak. So if you press Star 6, it  13 should unmute your line.  14 JEFF BAKEMAN: Am I unmuted?  15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: You are unmuted.  16 JEFF BAKEMAN: Okay. Yeah.  17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: What is your name,  18 sir?  19 JEFF BAKEMAN: Yeah, Jeff Bakeman,  20 B-A-K-E-M-A-N, customer of Cascadia.  21 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And I think  22 you're already on the list, if I'm not mistaken. Let me  23 check.  24 JEFF BAKEMAN: Yeah, I think I am.  25 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I wanted to make sure</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 132</p> <p>1 that we have everybody. So thank you. If you go back on 2 mute, I will call on you shortly. 3 JEFF BAKEMAN: That's what I'm doing. 4 Bye-bye. 5 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And you can lower your 6 hand by pressing Star 9. Okay. Thank you very much. 7 Again, thank you all for being here today and 8 being willing to speak to the commission. We'll take 9 your comments in the order in which we received your 10 interest in speaking. Some of you provided your name in 11 advance of the hearing and others provided your names 12 later today. 13 So if I call your name and you're not present 14 or do not respond, I will move on to the next name, but I 15 will come back to your name at the end of and ask if 16 there's anyone who wishes to speak who hasn't yet spoken. 17 In other words, anybody who wants to speak will be given 18 an opportunity to do so today. 19 If you have requested to speak, if you could 20 please raise your right hand and respond to the following 21 oath: Do you swear or affirm that the statement you 22 provide tonight is the truth and nothing but the truth? 23 And I'm hoping the answer is yes. 24 Okay. With that, we'll go to our first 25 witness -- I mean our first person who wants to speak.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 134</p> <p>1 And I look at the settlement from information 2 I got, like, on Sunday, I think. And so I recalculated 3 our bill, the last bill I got from Cascadia based on 4 that, and it went up 111 percent. So it actually went up 5 from their thing. 6 So I guess my question is what kind of 7 business model is this? This isn't a business like you 8 see on Shark Tank. 9 You've got to -- it's a public service, 10 basically, a trust. And yes, there's probably -- and I'm 11 sure there needs to be some upgrades to the water system. 12 That's fine. But shouldn't that go -- be spread out over 13 20 to 30 years? 14 I don't know if they got -- didn't anticipate 15 this at the time they started the business or got in over 16 their heads, or whatever, and realized we have to combine 17 a bunch of small systems and jack up the rates to make it 18 work for us. 19 So 97 percent seems like a lot. And it 20 doesn't seem like a business model for a utility, to me, 21 that's fair and just and reasonable. And like I said, 22 everybody out there, who's listening to this, did you 23 ever get a bill saying 97 percent? 24 So that's what I've got to say. And I guess 25 that's it, but I appreciate you listening.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 133</p> <p>1 And that would be Tim Bone. Tim, are you there? 2 TIM BONE: Yes, can you hear me? 3 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I can. Please go 4 ahead. 5 6 COMMENTS BY TIM BONE 7 TIM BONE: Great. Okay. I'm a customer of 8 Cascadia. I live out, I guess what's called The Estates, 9 west of Sequim, near Carlsborg Road, near the golf course 10 out there. 11 So yeah. Back in March or something I got 12 this thing from -- mail from Cascadia Water saying that 13 they wanted to increase my bill by 97 percent. And I 14 thought, wow; seemed like an awful lot. 15 And so I did some -- I've done a little, just 16 research. I went across Washington state various places 17 and looked, and asked how much is the water rates going 18 up where you are? Kennewick, 5 percent; Snoqualmie, 3; 19 Toppenish, 3; Spokane, 4.9; Longview, 11.5; Chelan, 4 20 percent. So I got a bunch of those. 21 So my question is for everyone who's 22 listening on this call now, have you ever gotten a 23 statement from your water company saying they were going 24 to raise your rate 97 percent? Probably not. Must be a 25 reason for that.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 135</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you so 2 much. Thank you for your comments. 3 Okay. The next person on the list is Glen 4 Piper. Glen, are you there? 5 GLEN PIPER: Yes, I am. Can you hear me? 6 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: We can hear you. 7 Please go ahead. 8 9 COMMENTS BY GLEN PIPER 10 GLEN PIPER: Thank you. 11 I'm from the Silver Lake water system that's 12 been assumed by the current water company, Whidbey 13 Island. 14 I did send in a written response, so I'm 15 going to keep this short. But I'll echo what the 16 previous gentleman just said. A utility is basically a 17 monopoly that we are all forced to utilize. Aid, 18 consistency, safety, et cetera, et cetera. 19 And I think that should be a strong 20 consideration, that A), the owners of a monopoly 21 shouldn't be looking at this as a cash cow. 22 I do agree that we need safe and reliable 23 water. And there's no problem with that. However, 24 having moved here from the original owner, which was 25 unmetered, he changed the system over to metered under</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 136</p> <p>1 the requirements of being able to account for water 2 usage, judge it, et cetera, et cetera. We just started 3 paying more for that water without a raise in the base 4 rate. 5 The second people to buy the system from them 6 raised the rates a little bit, but also were very up 7 front with the modifications to install a filtration 8 system to basically remove manganese and iron from the 9 water, and proposed not a rate raise, but a single 10 payment to account for the system, which was reasonable. 11 They were up front about it, explained the costs, the 12 system requirements and stuff like that and the rates 13 were reasonable. 14 The latest company apparently says they made 15 a bunch of changes and they want to raise it, you know, 16 more than 100 percent. 17 I did the calculations, and my rates are 18 going to be going well above 100 percent. And I just 19 feel that as a public utility, again, I don't know the 20 reason why. I have not seen their business model. 21 But it seems excessive, and I think 22 inappropriate, because for instance, they ever not been 23 up front as far as what the exact changes are to benefit 24 us. They require that information or that money, 25 expenditure, and again, why it can't be done overall.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 138</p> <p>1 looks like a punt. It looks like we're really not going 2 to raise the rates too much. We'll raise the water usage 3 rate, but we won't raise the base. And then the next 4 year, we'll kick in all the rest and it will be pretty 5 much what we tried to get in the first place, very close. 6 If that's the case, that's a stinky settlement and a 7 sneaky settlement. 8 Secondly, on the settlement -- forget 9 that. That's it for the settlement. 10 The other one, we talked about costs. If the 11 purchase price of the system -- somebody bought this 12 thing recently. That's what's going on. The purchase 13 price may have been very high, considering the condition 14 of the system. If that's the case, we also have all 15 these upcoming expenses to upgrade parts of the system, 16 which are part of the language in the settlement, part of 17 the language in the rest of it. It seems like we're 18 paying twice. So I'd like that to be looked into because 19 that might have something to do with the cost. 20 Number 3, did I hear you say they purchased 21 16 additional water systems recently? I'm not really 22 sure that I heard that right. But if I heard that right, 23 it just seems like these are business people, not water 24 people, that are rolling up a bunch of businesses, 25 figuring out how to upgrade the cost of them, and then</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 137</p> <p>1 Thank you very much. I'm done. 2 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you very much, 3 Glen. I appreciate your comments. And thank you for 4 also submitting written comments. Much appreciated. 5 The next person who signed up to speak is 6 Jeff Bakeman. Jeff, you can go ahead and unmute your 7 line by pressing Star 6. And you can go ahead and speak. 8 JEFF BAKEMAN: I think I'm unmuted. 9 COMMISSIONER RENDAH: Yes, you are. Please 10 go ahead. 11 12 COMMENTS BY JEFF BAKEMAN 13 JEFF BAKEMAN: First, I wanted to say thanks 14 to the commissioners for the work that they do and the 15 judge, you know. You do this every day. I can't believe 16 it. But I wanted to first say thanks. 17 And I really have three points that are just 18 questions that I hope the staff would look into or 19 already has. Obviously, you don't answer the questions. 20 Yeah. Percentage of increase is huge. I'll 21 probably be from 50 or \$60 to \$120 plus dollars, 22 according to the charts that I've looked at and according 23 to the settlement. 24 My first statement on this so-called 25 settlement -- I hope it's not a settlement -- it really</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 139</p> <p>1 they're going to turn that over as well. 2 So I'm worried in all those regards. And 3 that's the end of my comments. Thank you. 4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Well, Jeff, thank you 5 very much for participating today. Appreciate your 6 comments. Thank you very much. 7 JEFF BAKEMAN: I'm muting. Thank you. 8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And if you do have 9 questions, I'll repeat what Melissa stated earlier. If 10 you do have questions, obviously the commissioners and 11 the judge can't answer them. 12 But the commission staff, the public 13 involvement staff, Melissa Castaneda-Kerson, and others 14 in her group, as well as folks at public counsel, are 15 available to anticipate your questions if you reach out 16 to them with the contact information that Melissa 17 provided. And we'll provide it again at the end of the 18 hearing. If you do have questions, I encourage you to 19 reach out to them. 20 All right. The next person on the list is 21 Susan Gilman. Susan, are you there? 22 SUSAN GILMAN: Yes. Can you hear me? 23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I can hear you, yes. 24 Please go ahead. 25</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 140</p> <p>1</p> <p>2 COMMENTS BY SUSAN GILMAN:</p> <p>3 SUSAN GILMAN: Good. Thank you so much.</p> <p>4 My name is Susan Gilman. I live out on</p> <p>5 Diamond Point in Sequim.</p> <p>6 And I just have some comments which have been</p> <p>7 -- some said before, but Cascadia Water serves more than</p> <p>8 8,000 people through 3,800 connections. Primary</p> <p>9 operations are located on Whidbey Island. How many of</p> <p>10 those 8,000 people even heard of the buyout before it was</p> <p>11 finalized?</p> <p>12 Where is the UTC in all of this?</p> <p>13 How much time was spent by Cascadia with each</p> <p>14 community to talk about the needs and the problems of</p> <p>15 their water systems before going and purchasing 15 more,</p> <p>16 and then turning around and saying they can't -- they</p> <p>17 don't have enough money to fix everything, so they have</p> <p>18 to raise the rates.</p> <p>19 Cascadia closed the deal with Discovery Bay,</p> <p>20 Port Townsend, Jefferson, which is just next to us. They</p> <p>21 then combined the peninsula group together.</p> <p>22 Discovery Bay Village has two wells that</p> <p>23 serve Worldmark time share, owned by individuals, and</p> <p>24 Wyndham Hotel chain. They're commercial profit making,</p> <p>25 charging \$4- to \$600 a night. Owners pay maintenance</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 142</p> <p>1 into his pocket.</p> <p>2 And I wanted to make sure that Cascadia paid</p> <p>3 off these loans before they purchased all these rights,</p> <p>4 because technically, two of the -- excuse me; two of the</p> <p>5 wells that service us out here are on state parks</p> <p>6 property. So they have a lease and they have to pay for</p> <p>7 that water. And there's nothing that shows anywhere that</p> <p>8 that was paid off before the sale.</p> <p>9 Thank you very much.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you very</p> <p>11 much, Susan. I appreciate your comments.</p> <p>12 I see your hand up, sir, but I'm going to --</p> <p>13 unless it's a technical question, I'm going to just keep</p> <p>14 going down the list, and we'll get to you when you signed</p> <p>15 up.</p> <p>16 Gail Miller? Gail, are you there? Gail</p> <p>17 Miller? Okay. We will come back to Gail.</p> <p>18 Richard Tamler? Richard, are you there?</p> <p>19 RICHARD TAMLER: Yes, I'm here.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you. Why</p> <p>21 don't you please go ahead with your comments.</p> <p>22</p> <p>23 COMMENTS BY RICHARD TAMLER</p> <p>24 RICHARD TAMLER: Thank you. My name is</p> <p>25 Richard Tamler. I live on Whidbey Island. I'm a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 141</p> <p>1 fees that include repairs, maintenance, and utilities.</p> <p>2 Before Cascadia purchased in 2021, it appears</p> <p>3 this system was included -- maintained by the Port</p> <p>4 Townsend Community Service, and shows Steve Bauge</p> <p>5 (phonetic) as the operator/owner.</p> <p>6 There are four other wells serving an</p> <p>7 unincorporated area of Jefferson County. Prior to</p> <p>8 Cascadia buying it, was considered the TNC system,</p> <p>9 transient system, serving 25 or more different people for</p> <p>10 60 days or so at a time, very much like a restaurant or</p> <p>11 RV spaces.</p> <p>12 There's not a filed UTC transfer of property</p> <p>13 that approves this sale, nor anything that disclosed to</p> <p>14 the UTC Cascadia's plans for the system.</p> <p>15 Why should residents foot the bill for</p> <p>16 improvements to a strictly commercial concern? This</p> <p>17 needs to be a separate system.</p> <p>18 I do have one more thing to say because</p> <p>19 Aquarius has this \$10.10 on every single person's bill.</p> <p>20 And those are from loans that he took out, supposedly, to</p> <p>21 fix and repair things out on Diamond Point in this area.</p> <p>22 He actually purchased five fire hydrants, and then placed</p> <p>23 them around Diamond Point and led people to believe they</p> <p>24 were active hydrants, when in fact they are not hooked up</p> <p>25 to any water supply at all. That money went directly</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 143</p> <p>1 customer of Cascadia Water, and a member of Water</p> <p>2 Consumer Advocates of Washington.</p> <p>3 So I appreciate that capital improvements to</p> <p>4 our water system are necessary from time to time, and the</p> <p>5 ratepayers need to foot the bill. This seems fair.</p> <p>6 However, doubling customer's water rates to</p> <p>7 pay for the improvements is like taking out a loan from</p> <p>8 the bank and being asked to pay interest forever, even</p> <p>9 after the principal has been paid in full. This does not</p> <p>10 seem fair.</p> <p>11 An assessment spread over a number of years</p> <p>12 would be fair. Or a schedule to roll back rates once the</p> <p>13 improvements have been paid for would be fair.</p> <p>14 I'm retired and on fixed income. Digging my</p> <p>15 own well is out of the question. I'm being asked in a</p> <p>16 single stroke to pay double for one of life's necessities</p> <p>17 for as long as I remain a customer of Cascadia. This</p> <p>18 does not seem fair.</p> <p>19 I trust that the Utilities and Transportation</p> <p>20 Commission will seriously consider the impact of these</p> <p>21 rate increases on consumers and protect consumers from</p> <p>22 corporate monopolies like Cascadia Water. Thank you.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you very much.</p> <p>24 Appreciate your comments, Richard.</p> <p>25 We'll go back to Gail. Gail, are you</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 144</p> <p>1 there? Gail Miller?</p> <p>2 Okay. The next person on the list is Lily</p> <p>3 Todd. And Lily, you spoke last night, so I'm going to go</p> <p>4 through some other folks and then come back to you.</p> <p>5 How about Len Zeeoli? Len, are you</p> <p>6 there? Len Zeeoli? I see you on the screen. But I</p> <p>7 can't hear you. You might be double muted somehow. I'm</p> <p>8 sorry. I can't hear you.</p> <p>9 If you keep looking at it technically, if you</p> <p>10 give us your phone number, one of the staff will reach</p> <p>11 out to you. If you can put it in the chat, our staff can</p> <p>12 try to help you out with the technology here. So it's</p> <p>13 Len Zeeoli. And one of our staff will help you work</p> <p>14 through that.</p> <p>15 Thank you, Len. I know Zoom is not always</p> <p>16 easy to use.</p> <p>17 Dave Bennett?</p> <p>18 DAVE BENNETT: Good afternoon. This is Dave.</p> <p>19 Can you hear me?</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I can hear you, yes.</p> <p>21</p> <p>22 COMMENTS BY DAVE BENNETT</p> <p>23 DAVE BENNETT: Great. My name is Dave</p> <p>24 Bennett. I'm a resident of Whidbey Island, and I'm a</p> <p>25 member of the Water Consumer Advocates of Washington.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 146</p> <p>1 they spend, the more they make.</p> <p>2 And of course the answer to this is we have</p> <p>3 been inquiring to get more information, and they shoot</p> <p>4 back by proceeding to hide their costs. Now in this</p> <p>5 latest agreement is a black box agreement where we don't</p> <p>6 have access to what the spending is or what it is.</p> <p>7 So anyway, the process is broken, and I would</p> <p>8 ask that we could possibly fix this. Thank you.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you.</p> <p>10 Thank you, Len, for putting your phone number</p> <p>11 in the chat. If someone from the staff can reach out to</p> <p>12 Len and help him fix the audio, that would be very much</p> <p>13 appreciated.</p> <p>14 Okay. Well, thank you, Dave. I appreciate</p> <p>15 your comments.</p> <p>16 And I'm going to go back up and see if Gail</p> <p>17 Miller is available. All right. I'm not hearing from</p> <p>18 Gail. We'll go back to the list.</p> <p>19 The next person is Courtney Keith. Courtney,</p> <p>20 are you available?</p> <p>21 COURTNEY KEITH: It's Courtney Keith. Can</p> <p>22 you hear me?</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I can hear, you, yes.</p> <p>24 COURTNEY KEITH: I am not going to comment at</p> <p>25 this time. Thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 145</p> <p>1 I just want to remind some of the comments</p> <p>2 people have made before is that yes, we are facing</p> <p>3 greater than 100 percent, more than doubling of our rates</p> <p>4 now. We faced around a 50 percent increase a couple</p> <p>5 years ago.</p> <p>6 And in three years, we get to do this yet</p> <p>7 again, when Cascadia is promising to spend \$3- to \$4</p> <p>8 million a year on further upgrades that they haven't</p> <p>9 really disclosed what they are.</p> <p>10 And there's no doubt that Cascadia spent \$1.7</p> <p>11 million in this last go around, but there is very little</p> <p>12 confidence or data to support that the spending was</p> <p>13 needed or necessary.</p> <p>14 There's also another thing that's concerning,</p> <p>15 is that the agreement that was worked out between</p> <p>16 Cascadia and the UTC staff, there's very little</p> <p>17 information about what was involved in that agreement</p> <p>18 other than testimonies presented by the UTC staff. But</p> <p>19 they failed to consider the other expert testimonies that</p> <p>20 had been submitted by the attorney general's office and</p> <p>21 four expert witnesses that are also part of WCAW.</p> <p>22 Cascadia has no incentive at all to keep their</p> <p>23 costs down in a normal business model because it's not</p> <p>24 there. The only incentive they have is to spend more.</p> <p>25 And there's no bounds on their spending, because the more</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 147</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you for</p> <p>2 signing up and for being here.</p> <p>3 And I am looking at -- Okay. Ryan said he</p> <p>4 tried to call you, Len. He will try and call you again.</p> <p>5 LEN ZEEOLI: Thank you.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Oh, we can hear you.</p> <p>7 LEN ZEEOLI: You can?</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes. Now we can hear</p> <p>9 you.</p> <p>10 LEN ZEEOLI: Oh, all right. Wonderful.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So Len, go ahead. So</p> <p>12 whatever you did worked. So thank you.</p> <p>13 LEN ZEEOLI: I don't know what I did. Thank</p> <p>14 you.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.</p> <p>16</p> <p>17 COMMENTS BY LEN ZEEOLI:</p> <p>18 LEN ZEEOLI: So I have a written comment. I</p> <p>19 am concerned about the big picture here, not so much the</p> <p>20 little details.</p> <p>21 I'm writing this as a homeowner, taxpayer,</p> <p>22 and customer of the Cascadia Water system in Dungeness</p> <p>23 Plat, Clallam County, to express my concerns regarding</p> <p>24 the rate setting process and the lack of transparency and</p> <p>25 fairness I see in the UTC's handling of this matter.</p>

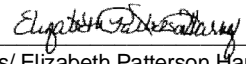



<p style="text-align: right;">Page 148</p> <p>1 I acknowledge and appreciate and thank the  2 UTC's recent request for additional information, which  3 has allowed these proceedings to go further.  4 The predetermination of new rates, which  5 appear to disproportionately benefit Cascadia Water, is  6 troubling. These decisions were made without sufficient  7 public import, the appointment of a third commissioner,  8 or the completion of necessary court proceedings.  9 Furthermore, the required consultation with  10 the Department of Health regarding the water system  11 safety and compliance has not been adequately addressed.  12 As a profit-driven, investor-owned utility,  13 Cascadia is not held to the same public accountability  14 standards as government, yet the UTC has the legal  15 authority to ensure fairness and protect risk --  16 ratepayers from undue burdens.  17 I respectfully request that the UTC take the  18 following actions: Provide clear, transparent  19 information regarding the proposed rate increases,  20 including a full cost-benefit analysis and a detailed  21 plan for our systems. I would like to see at least a  22 five-year plan, and possibly and hopefully a five- and  23 ten-year plan for management of our systems to justify  24 these new rates.  25 We have no information about how Cascadia</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 150</p> <p>1 witnesses on the settlement and make a case as well.  2 So just because there's a settlement filed  3 does not mean that this is done. There is a lot more  4 work to be done in this case. So just for folks'  5 understanding of the process.  6 We are still having an evidentiary hearing.  7 We will discuss the settlement. And so I thank you for  8 your concerns.  9 I do see somebody has put something in the  10 chat. Gail Miller. Okay. Not getting the audio to  11 work. Appreciate that. We will -- I will encourage you  12 to submit written comments in the record, Gail, so that  13 we can take sure we have your comments in the record. So  14 thank you very much. And the information for how to do  15 that, Melissa has just put in the chat, the phone number  16 and the e-mail for you to reach out.  17 And there is a question from Jed Kerry  18 (phonetic) about what is the name of the settlement.  19 There are a lot of documents in the link you posted.  20 Yes. I understand. So again, I would reach out to  21 Melissa and see if she can help you with that.  22 All right. The next person on the list is  23 Carolyn Rice. Carolyn, are you there?  24 CAROLYN RICE: I am here.  25 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Carolyn, thank you.</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 149</p> <p>1 views our system or what they desire to do with it.  2 I would like to see you involving the  3 Department of Health, even if you have to solicit them  4 and get them on the ball.  5 I would also like to see you refrain from  6 final decision making until a third commissioner has been  7 appointed.  8 The UTC must recognize the power disparity  9 between Cascadia and the users. I hope that you can  10 proceed with clarity and purpose and fulfill your  11 obligation to us, which is very clearly stated in the  12 mission statement on the home page of your website. So  13 when we go there, we expect that that's the way we'll be  14 treated. Thank you very much.  15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you very much.  16 And I too hope that we have a third commissioner  17 appointed soon.  18 Just for everyone to know, while there is a  19 settlement that's posted, the commission reviews the  20 settlement along with all of the testimony in evidence in  21 the record, and we will have a hearing on the settlement  22 to review that. We will ask questions of all the  23 parties.  24 The public counsel and the Water Consumers of  25 Washington will have an opportunity to cross-examine</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 151</p> <p>1 Please go ahead.  2 COMMENTS BY CAROLYN RICE  3 CAROLYN RICE: I don't really have a comment  4 other than my concern that this is an investment company  5 rather than a utility company, and that their main  6 concern is for their future investments. So I was just  7 here to gather some, I thought, more information.  8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay.  9 CAROLYN RICE: -- comments. Thank you.  10 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Thank you.  11 And again, if you do have questions, you can  12 reach out to public counsel and to commission staff.  13 Again, this is an opportunity for us to hear from all of  14 you. So I appreciate that.  15 The next person on the list is Jeff Atkinson.  16 Jeff, that's probably you who had your hand up earlier on  17 waiting to speak, and now it's your turn.  18  19 COMMENTS BY JEFF ATKINSON  20 JEFF ATKINSON: Super. All right. Thank  21 you. And I also want to echo that I'm proud of our  22 public process, and I value you and your staff for  23 implementing this democratic system. So thank you very  24 much.  25 In the course of developing their business</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 152</p> <p>1 case for the acquisition, Cascadia no doubt considered  2 the state of the water systems they were buying, the  3 necessary improvements and their desired rate of return  4 on their investment.  5 There's no way, I don't think, possible that  6 in the course of developing their business plan, they  7 would have given greater than tiny odds that you all  8 would improve such a dramatic rate increase. Therefore,  9 we must conclude that something well short of the  10 proposed rate increase will meet Cascadia's targeted  11 returns.  12 And then I would like to comment on the Gem  13 State's rate design. Cascadia should heavily weight the  14 usage of water as the highest weightiest billing factor  15 instead of some sort of fixed fee.  16 There are many, especially in Moses Lake  17 where I live, where we have made significant investment  18 to purchase our irrigation water from other providers.  19 And so these people shouldn't be penalized for using less  20 water on the Cascadia system.  21 The system is constrained, and therefore  22 those who are causing the problem should be charged  23 accordingly.  24 Cascadia's investments should enjoy a long  25 amortization. In order to minimize a rate shock to the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 154</p> <p>1 speak?  2 LILY TODD: Yes, I do.  3 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Go ahead.  4  5 COMMENTS BY LILY TODD  6 LILY TODD: My comments are on the unique way  7 that the UTC operates. From what I have discovered, the  8 commission allows broad claims of confidentiality to the  9 utility districts. What constitutes confidentiality and  10 who decides that this information is protected?  11 I realize you can't answer these questions.  12 If Cascadia is hiding between a claim of  13 confidentiality, does the commission review their  14 documents?  15 If not, how can the commission decide if  16 their charges are warranted?  17 Where is the oversight?  18 Does the commission have a written policy  19 covering requirements for confidential documents?  20 Unlike regular courts, the commission does  21 not allow anyone questioning the rate increase to see  22 many of the submitted documents until the case is closed.  23 If this is true, is the commission's decision final, or  24 is there an appeal process?  25 If we have an appeal process, what is</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 153</p> <p>1 customers, Cascadia should apply the same financial  2 structuring that utilities have employed forever, which  3 is debt financing versus revenue financing.  4 So debt financing spreads the cost of  5 improvements over both current and future customers.  6 Those future customers will benefit from these  7 investments. To spread the costs over three years only  8 is not typical, and it unfairly burdens current customers  9 with the cost of all the improvements that future  10 customers will enjoy.  11 Cascadia should amortize the costs, at a  12 minimum, over the life cycle of the equipment they're  13 purchasing.  14 And finally, if Cascadia is snatching up  15 multiple water systems, they may not be reflecting the  16 economies of scale that they will enjoy in their proposed  17 rate increases.  18 And I'll submit more comprehensive comments  19 in written fashion.  20 But anyway, thank you for taking the time. I  21 sure appreciate the process.  22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you very  23 much, Jeff. Much appreciated for your comments.  24 I am -- I think now I'm going to go back up  25 to Lily Todd. Lily, are you there, and do you wish to</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 155</p> <p>1 it? Can someone e-mail that to me?  2 Can the documents filed in the old case be  3 used to object to a new case, which is turning out to be  4 every three years?  5 Currently the commission has been unable to  6 provide us with 158 very specific document requests. Yet  7 the settlement process continues. How is this fair?  8 What can we do when we finally get the  9 requested documents?  10 I realize the commission's purpose is to keep  11 the utilities flowing to the consumers. Yes, the  12 companies that provide utilities should be allowed to  13 make a reasonable profit. That profit should be tied to  14 efficient running of a business, not a percentage of the  15 money spent.  16 Thank you very much.  17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And thank you,  18 Lily. And I will ask both public counsel and the staff  19 to reach out to you and answer your procedural questions.  20 I can say there are rules governing how we  21 accept confidential information and how we use it, and I  22 will let the staff and public counsel explain that to  23 you.  24 LILY TODD: Thank you very much.  25 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. I'm going to</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 156</p> <p>1 now turn to -- I saw Pat Jorgenson in the chat wanted to  2 speak again. Pat, are you there?  3 DAVID JORGENSEN: Yes. I'm David Jorgenson,  4 Pat's husband.  5 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Right. Right. Thank  6 you.  7  8 COMMENTS BY DAVID JORGENSEN  9 DAVID JORGENSEN: I just wanted to make two  10 points.  11 And the first one is we've been speaking with  12 Clyde Shavers, our state representative, and he has given  13 us some hope that perhaps in the near future, a public  14 utility district may be formed for water consumers in  15 this area.  16 I guess my question would be, is once we have  17 signed up with Cascadia, do we have any recourse as to  18 making a switch to a PUD if one ever is formed?  19 Or are we stuck, once we sign the documents  20 and become a part of Cascadia?  21 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: That's a --  22 DAVID JORGENSEN: The second --  23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I was going to say  24 that's a very good question, but I can't answer it. And  25 you might need to have legal counsel discuss that with</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 158</p> <p>1 And so I will ask now if there's anybody who wishes to  2 speak who hasn't spoken, and if you can either raise your  3 hand in the Zoom function -- I'm going to look here and  4 see if there's any hands raised -- or you can just come  5 off mute and let us know you want to speak.  6 COMMISSIONER DOUMIT: Commissioner Rendahl, I  7 see Courtney Keith has a hand raised.  8 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Oh, thank you for  9 seeing that. Thank you, Commissioner Doumit.  10 Courtney, please go ahead.  11  12 COMMENTS BY COURTNEY KEITH  13 COURTNEY KEITH: I don't know enough about  14 this. I don't know much about this. I just get a letter  15 saying -- well, I don't know much about this. And all I  16 want to do is say thank you to all of the speakers that I  17 heard who had information, and just thank you very much  18 for speaking for me also.  19 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Well, thank you for  20 that additional comment.  21 Is there anyone else who would like to speak,  22 add their comments verbally to the record today?  23 All right. I am not hearing anything.  24 I'm going to talk with public counsel and  25 staff here about our process for making sure we get the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 157</p> <p>1 you.  2 DAVID JORGENSEN: Yeah, I was just wondering  3 whether you could address that in your UTC meetings and  4 give us an idea of if this is a serious thing or not with  5 the legislature, or whether it's just something that will  6 get tabled and never see the light of day?  7 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Well, the legislative  8 session has just started, and we're monitoring that.  9 I think this is something I would appreciate  10 you reaching out to Melissa Castaneda-Kerson so we can  11 see if we can assist you with that or if you would need  12 to have, you know, counsel advise you on your rights  13 there.  14 DAVID JORGENSEN: Right.  15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. And what is  16 your second issue?  17 DAVID JORGENSEN: My only other point is that  18 what we're watching happen to us is similar -- is  19 basically capitalism at work. And my concern is the  20 swing away from democracy towards oligarchy.  21 That's all I have to say.  22 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you for  23 your comments again today.  24 And that is everyone I have on the list, and  25 everyone who I have seen in the chat who wished to speak.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 159</p> <p>1 written comments into the record. This recording will go  2 into the record.  3 So is Tad Robinson O'Neill there? Yes.  4 Thank you. Good to see you again.  5 So last night at the hearing, we reached an  6 agreement on February 18 being the date that anybody else  7 who has not submitted written comments who wishes to  8 submit written comments into the record, that they would  9 submit them to the commission or to you, to public  10 counsel, by February 18.  11 And then I know you and Mel were going to  12 talk about when you would submit those documents to the  13 commission to be admitted into the record. Did you have  14 a conversation about that, or do you want to wait until  15 the hearing on the 11th?  16 TAD ROBINSON O'NEILL: I had some preliminary  17 conversations. There are several hundred comments that  18 have been filed, and because of the -- kind of the  19 extreme nature of the case where there was a public  20 comment -- I mean, open meeting, and then an  21 adjudication, and now a settlement, they're kind of  22 stretched out over time.  23 And so when I spoke with my staff, they were  24 hoping to have a couple of weeks to de-duplicate or  25 consolidate comments that -- multiple comments from the</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 160</p> <p>1 same person.  2 So it's a little bit more involved than  3 typical. So we were going to request two weeks from the  4 18th in order to accomplish that and get all of those  5 compiled into an exhibit and filed.  6 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. I think that  7 would be fine.  8 And I am seeing Judge Fukano. I know you are  9 listening in. Is that feasible in the timeline for the  10 case for those two additional -- two additional weeks  11 after the 18th to admit those into the record?  12 Sorry to put you on the spot.  13 JUDGE FUKANO: Oh, that's no problem at all,  14 Commissioner. Based on the current procedural schedule,  15 I believe two weeks from the 18th would still be before  16 the submission of final briefing in this matter. So  17 that, I believe, would be reasonable.  18 TAD ROBINSON O'NEILL: And we are -- that is  19 a factor. And we would want to make sure that all of the  20 parties have the opportunity to see the filed exhibit.  21 We'll try to beat the two weeks. It's just  22 complicated, because the period won't close until the  23 18th, and if this case proceeds in the same way, we're  24 going to get additional comments between now and then.  25 So I think that's why we're asking for that deadline.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 162</p> <p>1 And we are happy to receive as many comments as you want  2 to send.  3 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Thank you very  4 much, Tad Robinson O'Neill. I'm glad we got that worked  5 out.  6 I do see someone else has put their name in  7 the chat and wishes to speak. Craig Turrentine, are you  8 available?  9 CRAIG TURRENTINE: Can you hear me okay?  10 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I can. Please go  11 ahead.  12  13 COMMENTS BY CRAIG TURRENTINE  14 CRAIG TURRENTINE: Perfect. Thank you so  15 much. I'm kind of late in getting into this, the  16 meeting. I apologize.  17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: (Inaudible).  18 CRAIG TURRENTINE: -- question that I may have  19 missed the answer.  20 So the UTC, what role are you playing in  21 this?  22 Are you representing the -- us as the  23 consumer, or were you hired by Cascadia to get  24 involved?  25 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: The commission is a</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 161</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So that would be March  2 4?  3 TAD ROBINSON O'NEILL: That's correct.  4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. So we'll set  5 March 4 for the date that the comments need to be  6 submitted.  7 And at the hearing on February 11, if it  8 looks like it's even more complicated than that, we can  9 continue to discuss that at the hearing.  10 TAD ROBINSON O'NEILL: We will do that.  11 LILY TODD: This is Lily. I tend to send one  12 comment per e-mail. Am I understanding you want  13 everything in one e-mail, or...?  14 TAD ROBINSON O'NEILL: You guys should send  15 your comments however you want as many times as you want.  16 We will deal with it.  17 And it's really just to consolidate them so  18 there aren't duplicates between us and the commission,  19 and that the comments are kind of organized.  20 So however you want to submit comments,  21 please do it, and we will fix it on our end.  22 LILY TODD: Thank you.  23 TAD ROBINSON O'NEILL: And that's true for  24 everybody. And the e-mail addresses and phone numbers  25 are on the screen now for those of you who have Zoom.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 163</p> <p>1 state agency that regulates private utilities such as  2 Cascadia Water. The commission staff, they're part of --  3 the commission staff is a party in this case. The  4 commissioners can't talk to those commission staff  5 members involved. They are a party just like all the  6 other parties.  7 There are other commission staff that work  8 with the commissioners and the ALJ.  9 We sit as judges in this case like in a court  10 of law, and evaluate the hearing, you know, the evidence  11 and the testimony from -- that's already been filed and  12 the testimony we've heard today and last night.  13 And we'll have a hearing on February 11.  14 We'll review all of it, we'll read the briefs, and we'll  15 make a decision.  16 And so the commissioners are not hired by the  17 company. We are independent. We are appointed by the  18 governor, and then confirmed by the Senate for six-year  19 terms. And we have an obligation to make sure we review  20 everything in the record and provide fair, safe,  21 equitable, reliable, and fair rates for customers. And  22 that is our mission.  23 CRAIG TURRENTINE: Okay. Thank you so much  24 for that explanation. I understand.  25 And just for involvement purposes, and -- you</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 164</p> <p>1 know, I'm from Sequim. And so (inaudible) members  2 involved, like our mayor and our governor involved with  3 this? Do they know about this?  4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I don't know. And  5 that is a political process. We make the decision based  6 on the evidence in the record, not based on politics.  7 CRAIG TURRENTINE: Right. I understand.  8 Okay. Okay.  9 So I guess my question still stands. So the  10 decision stops with the UTC; is that correct?  11 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes. And then someone  12 asked if there's an availability to appeal.  13 CRAIG TURRENTINE: I heard that.  14 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And I think you'd need  15 to consult with an attorney.  16 But there is -- for those parties involved in  17 the case, there is the right to appeal under the State  18 Administrative Procedure Act. And again, you can talk to  19 our commission staff and public counsel, and they can  20 provide more information on that.  21 CRAIG TURRENTINE: Okay. Perfect. Thank you  22 so much.  23 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Hope that  24 helps.  25 CRAIG TURRENTINE: It does.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 166</p> <p>1 One last call here.  2 Well, I really appreciate all of you being  3 here today, and calling in and appearing on Zoom and  4 providing your comments for the commission so we can  5 include it in the record.  6 At this point, I'm prepared to adjourn the  7 hearing, as I'm not seeing anybody else who wishes to  8 speak.  9 So hearing nothing, I really appreciate  10 everyone for your time today. And this concludes the  11 public hearing in this case. We're adjourned. Thank  12 you.  13 (Proceedings concluded at 3:58 p.m.)  14  15  16  17  18  19  20  21  22  23  24  25</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 165</p> <p>1 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Is there anyone else  2 who wishes to speak or has a procedural question that I  3 can answer?  4 TIM BONE: This is Tim Bone again. I have a  5 quick question. Can you hear me?  6 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Yes. I can.  7 TIM BONE: So at the end of this whole  8 process, you've heard everything. There's documents a  9 mile high. Get to the end. Is it the case that you will  10 say -- UTC will say, Look, 97 isn't going to cut it; it  11 should be 35 percent or 21 percent or whatever, 15  12 percent or something, and then that's what the rate is  13 and Cascadia goes along with that?  14 Or at some point there's going to be a number  15 which is the percentage of increase. Do you get to  16 decide what that is and then that's it, or what?  17 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: So yes. We decide the  18 case. We decide whether to accept the settlement or some  19 other proposal that other parties have put in the case.  20 And as I just mentioned, that decision can be  21 appealed. The company could appeal. The other parties  22 in the case could appeal.  23 TIM BONE: Okay. Thank you.  24 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Okay. Anybody else  25 who has comments for the commission today?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 167</p> <p>1  2  3 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER)  4 STATE OF WASHINGTON )  5 ) ss  6 COUNTY OF KING )  7  8 I, Elizabeth Patterson Harvey, a Certified  9 Court Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter  10 within and for the State of Washington, do hereby  11 certify under penalty of perjury that the foregoing legal  12 recordings were transcribed under my direction; that I  13 received the electronic recording in the proprietary  14 format; that I am not a relative or employee of any  15 attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor  16 financially interested in its outcome.  17 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my  18 hand this 30th day of January, 2025.  19  20  21  22  23  24  25</p> <div data-bbox="906 1564 1312 1701" data-label="Text"> <p>  /s/ Elizabeth Patterson Harvey, CCR 2731</p>  </div>

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