

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	
	)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS	)	
CORPORATION	)	DOCKET NO. UG-010475
	)	
For a Petition for Approval to Operate	)	
with a Maximum Allowable Operating	)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
pressure Between 251 psig and 499	)	
psig Within 100 Feet of a Proscribed	)	
Area (WAC 480-93-030)	)	
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1        On April 6, 2001, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade), filed a Petition with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) requesting written authorization to permit the installation of a natural gas facility having a maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) of 305 psig within 100 feet of 17 residences. WAC 480-93-030 prohibits the operation of a facility having a MAOP between 251 psig and 499 psig within 100 feet of a proscribed area, unless the Commission has approved it. A proscribed area includes buildings intended for human occupancy. WAC 480-93-030 (1).
  
- 2        This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting on July 25, 2001. The Commissioners, having been fully advised in the matter, and having determined the following order to be consistent with the public interest, enter the following order and related provisions.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 3        (1)     Boise Cascade requests natural gas service from Cascade to its facility at the Satsop Development Park in Gray’s Harbor County, Washington. The proposed pipeline is a 4-inch steel wrapped distribution pipeline that begins at Cascade’s existing 8-inch Grays Harbor High Pressure steel-wrapped pipeline, 3 miles north of the city of Satsop, and continues south approximately 6.5 miles to a new customer station at the Satsop Development Park. The route follows East Satsop Road and Keys Road, staying in the road rights-of-way for most of the route. The route crosses Burlington Northern Railroad, State Highway 12, and the Chehalis River. The 4-inch pipeline would operate at 305 psig and will be located within 100 feet of 17 residences along the route.
  
- 4        (2)     The Commission is authorized to approve operation of a pipeline within proscribed areas as stated in WAC 480-93-030.

- 5 (3) The proposed pipeline will allow Cascade to distribute gas to prospective customers in Satsop and along the route.
- 6 (4) The City of Satsop and the Boise Cascade facility are not currently served by a natural gas distribution system.
- 7 (5) The pipeline will have an outside diameter of 4.5 inches, a wall thickness of 0.188 inches, an American Petroleum Institute (API) specification of API 5L Grade X-42, a specified minimum yield strength (SMYS) of 42 ksi, and will be operated at 8.7% of SMYS. This is well below 20% of SMYS that would require Cascade to nondestructively test 90 to 100 percent of the welds in Class 4 locations 192.241(b), 192.243 (3). This engineering margin of safety provides reasonable assurance of safe operations.
- 8 (6) Cascade has agreed to nondestructively test the pipeline with nitrogen at 750 psi for 24 hours. Cascade has also agreed to radio-graphically inspect all welds that are within 100 feet of a building intended for human occupancy, and all pipeline tie-in welds that cannot be pressure tested to verify the quality of the welds.
- 9 (7) Cascade has determined that this pipeline is located in a class four location that is not a business district. Cascade has agreed to conduct a leakage survey once each calendar year with intervals not to exceed 15 months. This exceeds the requirements of the federal code 49 CFR 192.723 (2), which requires a leakage survey be conducted outside of business districts as frequently as necessary, but at intervals not exceeding five years.

### CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 10 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission has jurisdiction over the subject matter of, and all parties to, these proceedings.
- 11 (2) Cascade Natural Gas Corporation is a public service company as defined in RCW 80.04.010.
- 12 (3) Cascade Natural Gas Corporation filed a petition to request an exemption from WAC 480-93-030 to permit the installation of a high-pressure 305-psig 4 inch steel, wrapped pipeline within proscribed areas.
- 13 (4) Cascade's proposal for an exemption from WAC 480-93-030 is consistent with the public interest.
- 14 (5) The Commission should grant the exemption from WAC 480-93-030.

**ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- 15 (1) The petition filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation is granted.
- 16 (2) The finished pipeline must be leak surveyed once each calendar year, with intervals not to exceed 15 months between surveys.
- 17 (3) Cascade must nondestructively leak test the pipeline with nitrogen gas to a pressure of 750 psig for 24 hours to establish the maximum allowable operating pressure.
- 18 (4) Cascade must radio-graphically examine all butt-welds that are within 100 feet of residences and at all tie-ins that cannot be pressure tested.
- 19 (5) Cascade must gain prior approval from the Commission to operate the pipeline at a pressure higher than 305 psig.
- 20 (6) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to effect the provisions of this order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington and effective this 25th day of July, 2001.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner