

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET NO. PG-051042
)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS)	ORDER NO. 01
CORPORATION,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
Seeking Approval to Operate a)	
Facility with a Maximum Allowable)	
Operating Pressure of Five Hundred)	
psig within 100 feet of a building)	
Pursuant to WAC 480-93-020)	ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 15, 2005, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (CNG), filed with the Washington and Utilities Commission (Commission) a petition requesting Commission approval to operate a natural gas service and pressure regulating station, operating at 500 pounds per square inch gauge (psig) at 9790 Padilla Heights Road, in Anacortes, Washington in Skagit County.
- 2 Pursuant to WAC 480-93-230, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in chapter 480-93, consistent with the standards and according to the procedures set forth in WAC 480-07-110. The Commission considered the petition at its regularly scheduled open meeting on July 29, 2005.
- 3 Pursuant to WAC 480-93-020 (1). Each operator must submit a written request and receive commission approval prior to:
 - (b) Operating any gas pipeline facility at greater than two hundred fifty psig, up to and including five hundred psig, that is operated within one hundred feet of either of the following:

(i) A building that is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission, and that is not owned and used by the petitioning operator in its gas operations; or

(ii) A high occupancy structure or area that is in existence or under construction prior to the date authorization for construction is filed with the commission; or

4 In accordance with WAC 480-93-020(b), CNG requests approval to operate a pipeline facility at 500 psig within 100 feet of a building located at 9790 Padilla Heights Road, in Anacortes, Washington. The new service will supply natural gas to a work-shop. CNG proposes to tap its 500 psig, 16 inch March Point Transmission Line and install a three quarter inch steel service 15 feet to a pressure regulating station. Pressure at the regulating station will be reduced to 60 psig, and a five eights inch service line will be extended an additional 25 feet to serve the work shop.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate public service companies, including every person or corporation transporting natural gas by pipeline, or having for one or more of its principal purposes the construction, maintenance or operation of pipelines for transporting natural gas. *RCW 80.28.210.*

6 (2) CNG is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under the provisions of RCW 80.28.210 and chapter 480-93 WAC.

7 (3) CNG has considered future development in accordance with WAC 480-93-020(2). There is a two and one half acre parcel next to the work

shop acreage that may request gas in the future and would be served from the same pressure regulating station serving the work shop.

- 8 (4) CNG has considered alternate routes in accordance with WAC 480-93-020(2). The work shop is on private property; the only alternate route would require installation of approximately 675 feet of two inch distribution main on private property.
- 9 (5) CNG has provided maps, records, and construction specifications to Commission staff for review.
- 10 (6) Pipelines are designed to withstand higher pressures than the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP), which limits the operating pressure. Natural gas pipeline safety rules specify that pipelines in a highly populated area be operated at pressures producing a hoop stress of no greater than 40% of specified minimum yield strength (SMYS) of the pipe. The proposed 15 feet of three quarter inch 500 psig steel service will operate at 9.3 percent of the SMYS. The pressure regulating station is designed to operate at a MAOP of 60 psig. CNG's standard design includes installation of a shut-off device in the pressure regulating station that will rupture and stop the flow of gas between 50 and 60 psig. These measures will provide for a higher margin of safety.
- 11 (7) No reduction to public safety is anticipated by granting this request.
- 12 (8) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled open meeting on July 29, 2005.
- 13 (9) After examining the petition and giving consideration to all relevant matters, and for good cause shown, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to grant CNG's request to operate a facility with a MAOP of five hundred psig within 100 feet of a building, subject to the following condition(s):

- (a) The operating pressure of the pipeline shall not exceed 500 psig without prior Commission approval;
- (b) CNG will conduct an annual leak survey at intervals not exceeding 15 months, but at least once each calendar year.
- (c) CNG will provide barricades to protect the pressure regulating station per CNG's operations and maintenance standards.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 1) After the effective date of this Order, the petition of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation for approval to operate a facility with a Maximum Allowable Pressure of up to and including 500 psig within 100 feet of a building, in accordance with WAC 480-93-020 is granted subject to the conditions listed in paragraph 12 of this Order.
- 15 2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 29th day of July, 2005.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary