

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

In the Matter of the Petition of	)	DOCKET UG-061670
	)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS	)	ORDER 01
CORPORATION,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING
Seeking Temporary Exemption from	)	TEMPORARY
the Provisions of WAC 480-90-238(4)	)	EXEMPTION FROM
Relating to Least Cost Planning	)	WAC 480-90-238(4)
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On October 26, 2006, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade) filed a petition requesting temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4).
- 2 WAC 480-90-238, requires gas companies to file an Integrated Resource Plan every two years.
- 3 Cascade stated a delay from December 15, 2006 to April 15, 2007, in the filing of an Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) would better serve the Company and its stakeholders. The following circumstances are only specific to Cascade which makes this request as a temporary exemption from the rule. Cascade makes this request to allow for additional time to analyze and incorporate the results of the Conservation Potential Study being developed by a third party. The temporary delay will also allow for greater public involvement and should result in a more robust IRP.
- 4 Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommended granting Cascade’s request for temporary exemption from the rule, subject to the following condition(s):
  - The Company’s draft 2006 IRP will be filed by February 15, 2007;
  - IRP Comments from parties will be due by March 15, 2007;
  - The Company’s final 2006 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) will be filed by April 15, 2007;
  - The requested temporary exemption is applicable only to the 2006 IRP;
  - All interested stakeholders and participants will be notified of the change in the filing date of the IRP.

**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 rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including gas companies. RCW 80.01.040, Chapter 80.04 RCW, Chapter 80.28 RCW, Chapter 80.08 RCW and Chapter 80.12 RCW.
- 6 (2) Cascade is engaged in the business of providing gas services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission under the provisions of Chapter 80.28 RCW.
- 7 (3) Cascade is subject to the provisions of WAC 480-93-238, requiring gas companies to file an Integrated Resource Plan every two years.
- 8 (4) WAC 480-90-008 provides that the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in Chapter 480-90 WAC, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes.
- 9 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 29, 2006.
- 10 (6) After review of the petition filed in Docket UG-061670 by Cascade on October 26, 2006, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is reasonable and should be granted.

**ORDER**

- 11 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation is granted a temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4), until April 15, 2007.
- 12 (2) This temporary exemption is subject to the following conditions:
- The Company's draft 2006 IRP will be filed by February 15, 2007;
  - IRP Comments from parties will be due by March 15, 2007;
  - The Company's final 2006 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) will be filed by April 15, 2007;

- The requested temporary exemption is applicable only to the 2006 IRP;
- All interested stakeholders and participants will be notified of the change in the filing date of the IRP.

13 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective November 29, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK. J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner