

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

CASCADE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION,

Respondent.

DOCKET UG-220198

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL
PREHEARING CONFERENCE
**(Set for Monday, June 6, 2022,
at 9:30 a.m.)**

- 1 On March 24, 2022, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-3 in Docket UG-220198 that would: (1) set the amortization rate for an historical level of protected Excess Deferred Income Tax prospectively, as though it was a test year component in the Company’s last general rate case in Docket UG-200568, which would reduce the revenue requirement by \$5,958; (2) establish a deferred balance to reflect the over-refund to customers of approximately \$3.3 million, which the Company seeks to begin recovering on November 1, 2022, coincident with its annual Purchase Gas Adjustment filings; (3) reverse the current deferred protected Average Rate Assumption Method component and record it in the proper current federal income tax account; and (4) file an adjustment to its rate Schedule 581 to set the amortization to match the 2020 test year using the accepted volumes and the conversion factor included in Docket UG-210755 at the conclusion of the Company’s general rate case in that docket. After the compliance filing is accepted, Cascade stated that it intends to “eliminate the rate schedule 581 credit rate and roll the amortization rate into base rates.”¹ The Company proposes a May 1, 2022, effective date for these tariff revisions.
- 2 On April 18, 2022, the Commission entered Order 01, Complaint and Order Suspending Tariff Revisions.

¹ Cascade Cover Letter, Docket UG-220198.

3 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter under Title 80 RCW, and has legal authority to regulate natural gas companies. The statutes that apply to this matter include Chapters 80.01 RCW, 80.04 RCW, and 80.28 RCW relating to rates, including but not limited to RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04.020, and RCW 80.28.020. The rules that apply to this matter include those within Chapters WAC 480-80 and WAC 480-90, relating to natural gas companies.

4 The Commission will hear this matter under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), particularly Part IV of Chapter 34.05 RCW relating to adjudications. The provisions of the APA that relate to this proceeding include, but are not limited to RCW 34.05.413, RCW 34.05.422, RCW 34.05.431, RCW 34.05.440, RCW 34.05.449, and RCW 34.05.452. The Commission will also follow its procedural rules in WAC 480-07 in this proceeding.

5 The Commission finds there is good cause to hear this matter on shortened notice. *See* WAC 480-07-440(1)(a) and RCW 34.05.434.

6 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That it will hold a virtual prehearing conference in this matter at 9:30 a.m. on June 6, 2022. To participate in the prehearing conference by telephone, please call (253) 372-2181 and enter the conference ID: 876 5848 5796#, Passcode: 997413#. To participate via Zoom, please use the following link: [Click here to join the meeting](#).**

7 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider requests for intervention, resolve scheduling matters including establishing dates for distributing evidence, identify the issues in the proceeding, and determine other matters to assist the Commission in resolving the matter, as listed in WAC 480-07-430.

8 **INTERVENTION:** Persons seeking to intervene in the proceeding must file written petitions to intervene at least three business days before the date of the prehearing conference. *See* WAC 480-07-355(a). Party representatives must file a notice of appearance with the Commission no later than the business day before the conference. *See* WAC 480-07-345(2). Any party or witness in need of an interpreter or other assistance should fill out the form attached to this Notice and return it to the Commission. The Commission will set the time and place for the evidentiary hearings at the prehearing conference or by later written notice.

9 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That any party who fails to attend or participate in the prehearing conference set by this Notice, or any other stage of this proceeding, may be held in default under RCW 34.05.440 and WAC 480-07-450.**

10 The names and mailing addresses of all known parties and their known representatives are as follows:

Complainant: Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Representative: Nash Callaghan
Office of the Attorney General
Utilities and Transportation Division
P.O. Box 40128
Olympia, WA 98504-0128
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Respondent: Lori Blattner
Director or Regulatory Affairs
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Representative: Donna Barnett
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- 11 The Commissioners of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, Administrative Law Judge Rayne Pearson, and Administrative Law Judge Samantha Doyle, from the Commission's Administrative Law Division, will preside during this proceeding.²
- 12 The Attorney General has designated Ann Paisner, Lisa W. Gafken, and Nina Suetake from the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Attorney General's Office (Public Counsel) to represent the public. You may use the Commission's address, shown below, for contacting Public Counsel, or you may contact Public Counsel directly by writing or calling the address or telephone number listed below.
- 13 The Commission will give parties notice of any other procedural phase of the proceeding in writing or on the record, as appropriate during this proceeding.

² Judge Pearson can be reached by email at rayne.pearson@utc.wa.gov or by phone at (360) 664-1136. Judge Doyle can be reached by email at samantha.doyle@utc.wa.gov or by phone at (360) 664-1164.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective May 13, 2022.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary

Inquiries may be addressed to:

Executive Director and Secretary
Washington State Utilities and
Transportation Commission
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160

- or - Public Counsel Unit
Office of the Attorney General
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104-3188
(206) 464-7744

NOTICE

Hearing facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Smoking is prohibited. If limited English-speaking, hearing-impaired parties or witnesses are involved in a hearing and need an interpreter, a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to the party or witness.

If you need an interpreter, or have other special needs, please fill out and return this form to:

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
Attention: Amanda Maxwell
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

(PLEASE SUPPLY ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION)

Docket: _____

Case Name: _____

Hearing Date: _____ Hearing Location: _____

Primary Language: _____

Hearing Impaired: (Yes) _____ (No) _____

Do you need a certified sign language interpreter:

Visual _____ Tactile _____

Other type of assistance needed: _____

English-speaking person who can be contacted if there are questions:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone (_____) _____