

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET NO. UG-051574
)	
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation)	ORDER NO. 01
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
For Less Than Statutory Notice in)	ORDER GRANTING LESS THAN
Connection with Tariff Revisions)	STATUTORY NOTICE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 17, 2005, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (the Company or Cascade Natural Gas) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-3, designated as Forty-Second Rev. Sheet No. 500-A. The filing is to make a housekeeping change to correctly reflect the City of Shelton’s change to the B & O tax from 3% to 6% on all gas service revenues effective October 15, 2005. The Company inadvertently left the tax rate for “Gas Service” at the original 3%.

- 2 RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121 require a thirty-day notice prior to the effective date of the tariff. The tariff sheet bears an inserted effective date of November 14, 2005. This date recognizes statutory notice as required. The Company requests, however, less than statutory notice as permitted in WAC 480-80-122, and that the revisions become effective October 27, 2005. Cascade Natural Gas stated the reason(s) for less than statutory notice is to make a housekeeping change to correctly reflect the City of Shelton’s change to the B & O tax from 3% to 6% on all gas service revenues.

- 3 WAC 480-90-194 requires notification to customers or publication of the increase sought in this filing. Granting the Company’s less than statutory notice request also requires an exemption from WAC 480-90-194. For the same reason(s) listed

for seeking less than statutory notice, the Company seeks such an exemption from notice requirements. The Company proposes to notify customers by means of bill inserts to all customers affected by the tariff changes.

- 4 Since the proposed tariff revisions appear to be fair, just, and reasonable, and less than statutory notice is consistent with the public interest, it is appropriate that the Commission grant Cascade Natural Gas's request with an effective date of October 27, 2005.

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, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*
- 6 (2) Cascade Natural Gas is a gas company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 7 (3) Cascade Natural Gas is subject to the provisions of RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121 requiring gas companies to file changes in any rate or charge with thirty days' notice. For good cause shown, however, the Commission may allow changes without requiring thirty days' notice by order specifying the changes to be made and the time when it shall take effect. *WAC 480-80-122.*
- 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) Staff has reviewed the request in Docket UG-051574 and recommended the less than statutory notice request of Cascade Natural Gas be granted. Staff further recommended the Commission grant an exemption to WAC 480-90-194 and require the Company to notify customers by bill inserts to all customers impacted by the tariff change following final disposition of this filing.
- 10 (6) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 26, 2005.
- 11 (7) After examination of the proposed tariff revisions filed by Cascade Natural Gas on October 14, 2005, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds the proposed tariff revisions should become effective October 27, 2005.
- 12 (8) The Commission also finds the Company should be granted an exemption to the customer notice requirements.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The request sought by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation for less than statutory notice is granted.
- 14 (2) After the effective date of this Order, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation is granted an exemption from WAC 480-90-194, Publication of proposed

changes to increase charges or restrict access in service. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation shall notify all customers impacted by the tariff change by means of a bill print message in the first billing after the tariff becomes effective in accordance with WAC 480-90-195.

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 26th day of October, 2005.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary