

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

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET UG-140181
)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS)	ORDER 01
CORPORATION,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
Seeking Temporary Exemption from)	
the Provisions of WAC 480-90-238(4))	ORDER GRANTING
Relating to the Timing of Integrated)	TEMPORARY
Resource Plan Filings)	EXEMPTION FROM RULE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On February 5, 2014, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting a temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4). The petition requests a one-time extension of the filing date for only the 2014 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) from December 15, 2014, to March 15, 2015. WAC 480-90-238(4) requires natural gas companies to submit an IRP within two years of the date of its previous filing.
- 2 In its petition, the Company explains that it intends to reconfigure its resource optimization model, SENDOUT, which prompted Cascade to modify its schedule for modeling efforts underway to prepare the 2014 IRP. Cascade plans to conduct its analysis at the city-gate level, instead of the zonal level, as has been done for the last several IRPs.
- 3 The Company initially requested a one-time extension of the filing date to December 11, 2015, to accommodate the reconfiguration and maintain Cascade’s sequential development of IRPs in Oregon and Washington. After discussion with Commission Staff, Cascade revised the requested filing date to March 15, 2015, and plans to conduct a joint IRP development process with Washington and Oregon stakeholders.
- 4 Commission Staff has reviewed the request and solicited feedback from staff at the Oregon Public Utilities Commission and Cascade’s IRP Technical Advisory Group. Commission Staff believes that the reconfiguration will enable more detailed analysis. Further, granting the temporary exemption enables the Company to more accurately

evaluate supply shortfalls and lowest reasonable cost resource alternatives, and more appropriately serves the public interest.

- 5 Commission Staff recommends granting Cascade's request for a temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4), thereby allowing the Company to file its 2014 IRP by March 15, 2015. The following IRP will be due December 15, 2016.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6 (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, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.
- 7 (2) Cascade is engaged in the business of providing natural gas services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 8 (3) Cascade is subject to WAC 480-90-238(4), which requires natural gas companies to submit an IRP within two years after the date on which the previous plan was filed with the Commission.
- 9 (4) Under WAC 480-90-008, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-90, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. See also WAC 480-07-110.
- 10 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on February 27, 2014.
- 11 (6) After reviewing Cascade's petition filed in Docket UG-140181 on February 5, 2014, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is reasonable, in the public interest, and therefore should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's request for a temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-238(4) is granted, allowing Cascade Natural Gas Corporation to file its 2014 Integrated Resource Plan on or before March 15, 2015.
- 13 (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 February 27, 2014.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN KING, Executive Director and Secretary