

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of)	DOCKET PG-150468
)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS)	ORDER 01
CORPORATION,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
Seeking Authorization to Operate a)	ORDER GRANTING PETITION
Facility with a Maximum Allowable)	
Operating Pressure Greater Than 500)	
PSIG Pursuant to WAC 480-93-020)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 20, 2015, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (CNGC or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting Commission approval to operate a pipeline at greater than 500 pounds per square inch gauge (psig).

- 2 A gas pipeline company must have permission from the Commission to operate a pipeline at greater than 500 psig within five hundred feet of certain buildings described in WAC 480-93-020.

- 3 Northwest Pipeline (NWP) and CNGC currently share a site approximately 1000 feet southwest of the intersection of SR 542 and Britton Road in Whatcom County, WA. This facility is a gate station where CNGC receives natural gas from NWP for its distribution customers. Currently, NWP operates and is responsible for pressure control and regulation at this site. Its current maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) is 960 psig.

- 4 CNGC proposes to install new pressure regulator facilities within the existing CNGC/NWP gated facilities in Whatcom County, WA. This would allow CNGC to take over this responsibility from NWP. The operating pressure would be above 500 psig (MAOP 960 psig).

- 5 The Commission has adopted the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 49, Part 192 and Washington Administrative Code 480-93 as the minimum standards for gas pipeline

construction. The location proposed for the gate station is in an area predominantly classified as a Class 1 location based on population density (least populated).

- 6 The proposed gate station will operate at no greater than 18.33 percent of the specified minimum yield strength (SMYS). This makes it a low stress pipeline.
- 7 The Company has chosen a location for the proposed gate station that presents the least impact on the surrounding communities. It is next to the existing interstate transmission gate station in a rural area. At the proposed location the following structures were in existence or under construction and located within 500 feet of the proposed site:
- existing metering building owned by NWP (60 feet)
 - shed located at 1405 Mt. Baker Highway (SR 542) (165 feet)
 - barn located at 1405 Mt. Baker Highway (SR 542) (220 feet)
 - single family residence 1405 Mt. Baker Highway (SR 542) (440 feet)
 - commercial building 4215 Britton Road (485 feet)
 - commercial building 4215 Britton Road (485 feet)
 - garage 4192 Britton Road (435 feet)
- 8 Commission Staff reviewed the request and recommended the Commission grant the petition subject to the following condition(s):
- (a) Prior to Commission approval, the Company will contact each building owner located within 500 feet of the proposed construction site and make them aware of the proposed gate station through their Public Awareness Program. Records of this contact, with content, will be provided to the Commission prior to the hearing date.
 - (b) CNGC will perform 100 percent NDT inspection of all regulated gate station piping welds.
 - (c) All buried piping will be electrically inspected and coating defects repaired prior to backfilling. Coating defects shall be repaired in accordance with CNGC's Operating Standards.
 - (d) The minimum test pressure for the gate station inlet piping will be 1440 psig. The test will be for a minimum of 8 hours without pressure loss unless the loss can be

justified by a corresponding change in temperature. If CNGC identifies any leaks, the test will be stopped, the leaks repaired, and the test started over. CNGC will conduct a 1 hour leak test at 100 psig prior to conducting the full pressure test.

- (e) CNGC will imbed the pipe in an essentially rock free material such as sand to protect the pipe and coating. Rock shield may be used where the use of sand is impractical or prohibited.
- (f) Cathodic protection of any buried steel pipeline facilities will be implemented within 90 days of the completion of construction.
- (g) CNGC will provide telephonic or electronic (email) notification to Commission Staff at least two weeks prior to starting on site construction.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to adopt and enforce rules for gas pipeline safety.
- 10 (2) CNGC is a gas pipeline company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 11 (3) In WAC 480-93, the Commission has adopted minimum standards for gas pipeline construction. Pursuant to these standards, gas pipelines are designed to withstand higher pressure than the maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) prescribed by these rules. The gas pipeline safety rules specify that pipelines operated at pressures producing a hoop stress of no greater than 20 percent of the SMYS of the pipe are considered low stress pipelines.
- 12 (4) CNGC is proposing to construct, operate and maintain a gate station at the existing NWP gate station located approximately 1000 feet southwest of the intersection of SR 542 and Britton Road in Whatcom County, WA. A review of CNGC's proposed gate station construction plans indicate that it meets or exceeds all of the pertinent requirements of the Code of Federal Regulation, Title 49, Part 192 and 480-93 of the Washington Administrative Code. The selected location of the gate station has the least impact on the surrounding community. The gate station is necessary to allow CNGC to assume pressure regulation responsibilities

and ensure adequate natural gas supply to CNGC's distribution system serving the growing communities around Bellingham, WA.

13 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 28, 2015.

14 (6) After reviewing CNGC's petition and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds it is consistent with the public interest to conditionally grant CNGC's request to operate at greater than 500 psig.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

15 (1) Effective date of this Order, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's petition for authorization to operate a pipeline at greater than 500 pounds per square inch gauge is granted.

16 (2) This authorization is conditioned on Cascade Natural Gas Corporation agreeing to the conditions set forth in paragraph 8 of this Order.

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

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 28, 2015.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

ANN RENDAHL, Commissioner