BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,
Complainant,
vs.
CASCADe NATURAL GAS CORPORATION,
Respondent.

VIRTUAL PREHEARING CONFERENCE, VOLUME II
Pages 17-29
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES SAMANTHA DOYLE and RAYNE PEARSON

June 6, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop Southeast
Lacey, Washington 98503

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LACEY, WASHINGTON; JUNE 6, 2022
9:30 A.M.

JUDGE DOYLE: Let's be on the record. Good morning. We're here today for a prehearing conference in Docket UG-220198, which is captioned in -- as The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission versus Cascade Natural Gas Corporation.

Today is Monday, June 6th, 2022, and the time is approximately 9:30 a.m.

My name is Samantha Doyle. I use she/her and they/them pronouns. And with me is Rayne Pearson, who uses she/her pronouns. We are administrative law judges with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, and we will be co-presiding in this matter, along with the Commissioners.

Let's start by taking appearances and addressing AWEC's petition for intervention.

For appearances, let's begin with Cascade.

Please state your first name, and feel free to provide your pronouns, if you'd like.

MS. BARNETT: Thank you, Judge Doyle. Donna Barnett. I use she/her pronouns. And I'm with Perkins Coie.
Coe, representing Cascade.

MR. CALLAGHAN: Thank you, Your Honor. Nash Callaghan, appearing on behalf of Commission Staff. My pronouns are he/him.

JUDGE DOYLE: Thank you.

And for Public Counsel?

MS. PAISNER: Good morning. This is Ann Paisner, with the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington Attorney General's Office. And my pronouns are she/her.

JUDGE DOYLE: Thank you.

And for the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers, or AWEC?

MR. STOKES: Good morning. Chad Stokes, from the Cable Huston law firm, on behalf of the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers. And I use he/him.

Thank you.

JUDGE DOYLE: Thank you.

That brings us to petitions for intervention. Are there any petitions for intervention other than AWEC's petition, which is filed in this docket?

Okay. Hearing none, let's proceed.

We've reviewed AWEC's petition, and there are no written objections to it that have been made.

Does anyone wish to object orally?

MR. CALLAGHAN: No objections from Staff, Your Honor.

JUDGE DOYLE: Okay. Hearing none, AWEC's petition to intervene is granted.

And if the parties select the later dates, rebuttal testimony will be due October 20th.

JUDGE PEARSON: Sorry, Judge Doyle. This is Judge Pearson. I just wanted to clarify one thing.

When we had initially set those dates aside, we were anticipating the parties asking two days, but it looks like, from Staff's email this morning, that they only anticipate one day.

MR. CALLAGHAN: That's just from Staff, Your Honor, but, yes, Staff only anticipates needing one day for an evidentiary hearing in this case.

JUDGE PEARSON: So when the parties confer, if you all decide -- end up deciding that you need two days, that's why we put those two days back-to-back, or you can pick one of those four days. I just wanted to clarify that. Thank you.

MR. CALLAGHAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

JUDGE DOYLE: Thank you, Judge Pearson.

Okay. Well, with that, we will take a brief recess to allow the parties time to check their calendars and discuss their preferences between the two sets of hearing dates and select the remaining procedural dates as well, including a date for a first settlement conference and a date for a public comment hearing.

Mr. Callaghan, will you please alert us in the chat for this meeting when the parties are ready?

MR. CALLAGHAN: Yes, Your Honor.

staff who should receive electronic courtesy copies of all documents filed in this proceeding, please email that to us as well.

And for data requests, because parties often request that any data requests and responses are shared with every other party, it would make this easier on the parties to include this requirement in the prehearing conference order.

Is there any objection to including that requirement? Okay.

MS. BARNETT: No.

JUDGE DOYLE: Great. Hearing none, we will be including that.

For the procedural schedule, we have two sets of dates the parties can choose from for the evidentiary hearing. Those dates are November 8 and 9th, 2022, or November -- November 17th and 18th, 2022.

If the parties select the earlier hearing dates, rebuttal testimony will be due on October 11th.

JUDGE PEARSON: Sorry, Judge Doyle. This is Judge Pearson. I just wanted to clarify one thing.

When we had initially set those dates aside, we were anticipating the parties asking two days, but it looks like, from Staff's email this morning, that they only anticipate one day.

Mr. Callaghan, can you confirm that that's correct, that the parties only anticipate needing one day?

MR. CALLAGHAN: Thank you, Your Honor.

JUDGE DOYLE: Thank you, Judge Pearson.

Okay. Well, with that, we will take a brief recess to allow the parties time to check their calendars and discuss their preferences between the two sets of hearing dates and select the remaining procedural dates as well, including a date for a first settlement conference and a date for a public comment hearing.

Mr. Callaghan, will you please alert us in the chat for this meeting when the parties are ready?

MR. CALLAGHAN: Yes, Your Honor.
JUDGE DOYLE: Thank you.

JUDGE PEARSON: Okay. So we can be off the record.

(J recess taken from 9:36 a.m. until 9:49 a.m.)

JUDGE DOYLE: Let’s be back on the record.

It’s approximately 9:50.

Okay. And after the parties had an opportunity to look at their calendars and confer, Mr. Callaghan, will you let us know which dates the parties prefer?

MR. CALLAGHAN: Yes, Your Honor. So the parties were able to come to an agreement on Staff’s proposed procedural schedule, with a few changes.

So that would include changing the evidentiary hearing to November 17th. That would also include changing the second settlement conference to September 30th.

And we would also ask that the DR response times be changed after the response testimony is filed.

Originally, in my email, I had included five days, but the parties asked for seven.

And I believe those are all the changes.

Your Honor --

JUDGE DOYLE: I was on mute, yes.

I was pulling up the previous schedule. Can you give me the changed dates one more time? Thank you.

MR. CALLAGHAN: Oh, yes. No problem. So the second settlement conference would be changed to September 30th. We would also include a public comment hearing before the evidentiary hearing to be determined.

Change the evidentiary hearing date to November 17th, and change the due dates for DR responses from five days to seven days after the response testimony is filed.

JUDGE DOYLE: Perfect. Thank you.

All right. Perfect. And with that, I just want to confirm, so with the public comment hearing, WAC 480-07-197 requires the prehearing conference to address the time and location.

So location and amount of customer notice the Company is required to give in advance of the public comment hearing, the Commission now has a Zoom account and can schedule those hearings for the parties when the date has been selected.

So because the date is to be announced, we will note in the prehearing conference that the public comment hearing will be held virtually, via Zoom, before any hearing on the final disposition of the case, and that customers will receive at least 30 days’ notice of those hearing dates, and that the notices will contain information required in WAC 480-90-197.

To address errata sheets, under WAC 480-07-461(b), the deadline for filing errata sheets to exhibits may be established in the order and -- okay. That was -- perfect. Okay. Sorry. I was just double-checking.

Does anyone have an objection to setting a deadline for the week prior to the evidentiary hearing?

MR. CALLAGHAN: No, Your Honor.

JUDGE DOYLE: Okay. So hearing none, we will incorporate that date into the prehearing conference as well.

Is there anything that we need to address before we adjourn today?

MS. PAISNER: Excuse me, Your Honor. I apologize. I just would like to confirm that the rebuttal testimony date is October 20th? I believe that was the later option, if we chose the later hearing dates, but I realized I wasn’t clear on my note.

JUDGE DOYLE: Yes, you’re correct.

October 20th was the later date.

MS. PAISNER: Thanks.

JUDGE DOYLE: Sorry I didn’t clarify that.

Thank you.

Okay. With that, we will issue an order shortly, containing the procedural and other deadlines, our guidelines for disposition of this case.

And with that, we’re adjourned. Thank you, everyone, for coming.

(Adjourned at 9:53 a.m.)
CERTIFICATE

STATE OF WASHINGTON
COUNTY OF THURSTON

I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

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