

Docket No. UG-200568 - Vol. II

WUTC v. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

January 26, 2021



206.287.9066 | 800.846.6989

1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1840, Seattle, Washington 98101

www.buellrealtime.com

email: info@buellrealtime.com



BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)DOCKET UG-200568
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)

)
Complainant,)

vs.)

)
CASCADE NATURAL GAS)
CORPORATION,)

)
Respondent.)

VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING, VOLUME II

Pages 19-26

January 26, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop Southeast
Lacey, Washington 98503

REPORTED BY: TAYLER GARLINGHOUSE, CCR 3358

Buell Realtime Reporting, LLC
1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1840
Seattle, Washington 98101
(206) 287-9066 | Seattle
(360) 534-9066 | Olympia
(800) 846-6989 | National
www.buellrealtime.com

LACEY, WASHINGTON; JANUARY 26, 2021
6:00 P.M.

--o0o--

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIR DANNER: Let's be on the record.
Today is January 26th, 2021, and this is a public
comment hearing in the matter of Docket UG-200568 and
that is Cascade Natural Gas, a general rate case.

What I'd like to do now is turn to John Cupp
and ask John, if you could give a little background on
this case for the record, and then I will note the folks
from Public Counsel and the Commission who are here with
me.

First of all, let me also check that
Commissioner Ann Rendahl and Commissioner Jay Balasbas
are here tonight; is that correct?

COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: This is Commissioner
Balasbas, I am here.

CHAIR DANNER: Thank you, sir.

COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And this is
Commissioner Rendahl, I am also here.

CHAIR DANNER: All right. Great.

So, John, I'm going to turn it over to you,
then. If you can give us a little rundown, background

A P P E A R A N C E S
COMMISSIONERS:
DAVE DANNER, Chair
ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner
JAY BALASBAS, Commissioner

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:
JOHN CUPP, UTC Staff
ANN PAISNER, Public Counsel

(All participants appeared via Teams)

* * * * *

on the case, please.

MR. CUPP: Yes, thank you, Chair Danner.

My name is John Cupp. I'm the public
involvement representative for the Utilities and
Transportation Commission. I'll kind of be the
moderator this evening, and I kind of want to explain
how this hearing will proceed.

Little background on the case, Cascade
Natural Gas filed a request last June to increase its
overall revenue by \$13.8 million or 5.3 percent. The
Company seeks to increase its overall rate of return to
7.54 percent and its return on equity to 10.3 percent.

If the Company's request is allowed as
filed, the average customer using 56 therms per month
will see a monthly increase of \$2.68. Excuse me, \$2.86,
I'm sorry.

The UTC will hold an evidentiary hearing on
February 24th and 25th of this year, and any changes to
rates will go into effect no later than May 21st, 2021.

So tonight you will have the opportunity to
provide your comments to the Commissioners pertaining to
this rate case.

Should I go on with this part, Chair Danner,
since we don't seem to have anyone?

CHAIR DANNER: I don't know if that's

1 necessary.
 2 Let me ask again if there's anyone who is
 3 joining us tonight who is a customer of Cascade Natural
 4 Gas who would like to speak to this matter, would you
 5 please let us know by unmuting your mic and introducing
 6 yourself.
 7 All right. I am hearing nobody, so,
 8 Mr. Cupp, I think that you are completed, and thank
 9 you -- you're complete. Thank you very much for those
 10 comments.
 11 MR. CUPP: Thank you.
 12 CHAIR DANNER: So we make this opportunity
 13 available for customers to give us their thoughts about
 14 the rate increase that has been requested by Cascade
 15 Natural Gas. No customers have availed themselves of
 16 this opportunity tonight, so we will adjourn shortly. I
 17 just want to make sure that there aren't any loose ends,
 18 and what I'm thinking about is for Lisa Gafken, the
 19 Public Counsel, or Ann Paisner, is there a good
 20 deadline, what is an appropriate deadline for us for
 21 accepting public comments in this case?
 22 MS. PAISNER: Good evening. This is Ann
 23 Paisner. I'm an assistant attorney general in the
 24 Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Attorney
 25 General's Office. My understanding is that typically

1 and I predict we will get some written comments, but in
 2 the meantime, we have provided this opportunity. So
 3 thank you all for being here, and I think without
 4 further ado, we can adjourn. All right. Thank you
 5 all.
 6 (Adjourned at 6:07 p.m.)
 7
 8
 9
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14
 15
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25

1 the record remains open through the date of the hearing
 2 which is February 24th and 25th, and I believe at that
 3 time during the hearing we request an exhibit number so
 4 that we could submit anything that's submitted on the
 5 record. And I can provide more information tonight to
 6 be on the record for that purpose as well.
 7 CHAIR DANNER: All right. I don't know that
 8 that's necessary. Thank you. I don't know if that's
 9 necessary because we don't have anyone here except for
 10 parties, the Staff, the Company, and Public Counsel, but
 11 it does sound like we can -- we can determine that date
 12 at the hearing in February.
 13 MS. PAISNER: That's my understanding
 14 CHAIR DANNER: Yeah, all right. That's --
 15 that's good.
 16 So let me turn to my colleagues. Is there
 17 anything else this evening -- we don't have any public
 18 comment, is there any other business we need to attend
 19 to in this case?
 20 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I don't believe so.
 21 We have the hearing scheduled, and we will take any
 22 written comment after the hearing. So I think we are --
 23 there's nothing more for us tonight.
 24 CHAIR DANNER: Yeah, I think that's right.
 25 I want to thank everybody for being here in attendance,

1 CERTIFICATE
 2
 3 STATE OF WASHINGTON
 4 COUNTY OF THURSTON
 5
 6 I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand
 7 Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby
 8 certify that the foregoing transcript is true and
 9 accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.
 10
 11
 12
 13
 14 
 15 Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358
 16
 17
 18
 19
 20
 21
 22
 23
 24
 25



<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>ability 26:9 accepting 23:21 accurate 26:9 adjourn 23:16 adjourned 25:4,6 ado 25:4 allowed 22:13 Ann 20:3,7 21:16 23:19,22 appeared 20:9 appropriate 23:20 assistant 23:23 attend 24:18 attendance 20:6 24:25 attorney 23:23,24 available 23:13 availed 23:15 Avenue 19:22 average 22:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>background 21:11 21:25 22:8 Balasbas 20:4 21:16,18,19 believe 24:2,20 best 26:9 Buell 19:21 business 24:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>C 20:1 21:4 26:1,1 Cascade 19:7 21:9 22:8 23:3,14 case 21:9,12 22:1,8 22:22 23:21 24:19 CCR 19:20 26:14 Certified 26:6 certify 26:8 Chair 20:3 21:6,20 21:23 22:2,23,25 23:12 24:7,14,24 changes 22:18 check 21:15</p>	<p>colleagues 24:16 comment 19:11 21:8 24:18,22 comments 22:21 23:10,21 25:1 Commission 19:2,4 19:17 21:13 22:5 Commissioner 20:3,4 21:16,16 21:18,18,21,22 24:20 Commissioners 20:2 22:21 Company 22:11 24:10 Company's 22:13 Complainant 19:5 complete 23:9 completed 23:8 CORPORATION 19:8 correct 21:17 Counsel 20:7 21:13 23:19,24 24:10 COUNTY 26:4 Cupp 20:7 21:10 22:2,3 23:8,11 customer 22:14 23:3 customers 23:13,15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>D 21:4 Danner 20:3 21:6 21:20,23 22:2,23 22:25 23:12 24:7 24:14,24 date 24:1,11 DAVE 20:3 deadline 23:20,20 determine 24:11 Docket 19:4 21:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>E 20:1,1,3 21:4,4 26:1,1</p>	<p>effect 22:19 ends 23:17 equity 22:12 evening 22:6 23:22 24:17 everybody 24:25 evidentiary 22:17 Excuse 22:15 exhibit 24:3 explain 22:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>F 26:1 February 22:18 24:2,12 filed 22:9,14 First 21:15 folks 21:12 foregoing 26:8 Fourth 19:22 further 25:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>G 21:4 Gafken 23:18 Garlinghouse 19:20 26:6,14 Gas 19:7 21:9 22:9 23:4,15 general 21:9 23:23 General's 23:25 give 21:11,25 23:13 go 22:19,23 going 21:24 good 23:19,22 24:15 Great 21:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>hearing 19:11 21:8 22:7,17 23:7 24:1 24:3,12,21,22 hold 22:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>II 19:11 increase 22:9,11,15</p>	<p>23:14 information 24:5 introducing 23:5 involvement 22:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <p>January 19:15 21:1 21:7 Jay 20:4 21:16 John 20:7 21:10,11 21:24 22:3 joining 23:3 June 22:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <p>kind 22:5,6 know 22:25 23:5 24:7,8 knowledge 26:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <p>Lacey 19:18 21:1 Let's 21:6 Lisa 23:18 little 21:11,25 22:8 LLC 19:21 Loop 19:18 loose 23:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <p>matter 21:8 23:4 mic 23:5 million 22:10 moderator 22:6 month 22:14 monthly 22:15</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <p>N 20:1 21:4 name 22:3 National 19:24 Natural 19:7 21:9 22:9 23:3,15 necessary 23:1 24:8,9 need 24:18 note 21:12</p>	<p>number 24:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <p>O 21:4 o0o-- 21:3 Office 23:25 Olympia 19:23 open 24:1 opportunity 22:20 23:12,16 25:2 overall 22:10,11</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <p>P 20:1,1 21:4 p.m 19:16 21:2 25:6 Pages 19:12 Paisner 20:7 23:19 23:22,23 24:13 part 22:23 participants 20:9 parties 24:10 percent 22:10,12 22:12 pertaining 22:21 please 22:1 23:5 predict 25:1 proceed 22:7 provide 22:21 24:5 provided 25:2 public 19:11 20:7 21:7,13 22:3 23:19,21,24 24:10 24:17 purpose 24:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>R 20:1 21:4 26:1 rate 21:9 22:11,22 23:14 rates 22:19 Realtime 19:21 record 21:6,12 24:1 24:5,6 remains 24:1</p>
--	--	--	--	--

<p>Rendahl 20:3 21:16,21,22 24:20 REPORTED 19:20 Reporter 26:7 Reporting 19:21 representative 22:4 request 22:9,13 24:3 requested 23:14 Respondent 19:9 return 22:11,12 revenue 22:10 right 21:23 23:7 24:7,14,24 25:4 rundown 21:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <hr/> <p>S 20:1 21:4 scheduled 24:21 Seattle 19:22,23 see 22:15 seeks 22:11 Shorthand 26:6 shortly 23:16 sir 21:20 skill 26:9 sorry 22:16 sound 24:11 Southeast 19:18 speak 23:4 Square 19:18 Staff 20:7 24:10 State 23:24 26:3,7 submit 24:4 submitted 24:4 Suite 19:22 sure 23:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <hr/> <p>T 26:1,1 take 24:21 Taylor 19:20 26:6 26:14 Teams 20:9 thank 21:20 22:2 23:8,9,11 24:8,25</p>	<p>25:3,4 therms 22:14 think 23:8 24:22,24 25:3 thinking 23:18 thoughts 23:13 THURSTON 26:4 time 24:3 Today 21:7 tonight 21:17 22:20 23:3,16 24:5,23 transcript 26:8 Transportation 19:2,4,17 22:5 true 26:8 turn 21:10,24 24:16 typically 23:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <hr/> <p>UG-200568 19:4 21:8 understanding 23:25 24:13 Unit 23:24 unmuting 23:5 UTC 20:7 22:17 Utilities 19:2,4,17 22:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <hr/> <p>VIRTUAL 19:11 VOLUME 19:11 vs 19:6</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <hr/> <p>want 22:6 23:17 24:25 Washington 19:1,4 19:17,18,22 21:1 23:24 26:3,7 Woodland 19:18 written 24:22 25:1 www.buellrealti... 19:25</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">X</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <hr/> <p>Yeah 24:14,24 year 22:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Z</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">0</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">1</p> <hr/> <p>10.3 22:12 13.8 22:10 1325 19:22 1840 19:22 19-26 19:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">2</p> <hr/> <p>2.68 22:15 2.86 22:15 2021 19:15 21:1,7 22:19 206 19:23 21st 22:19 24th 22:18 24:2 25th 22:18 24:2 26 19:15 21:1 26th 21:7 287-9066 19:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">3</p> <hr/> <p>3358 19:20 26:14 360 19:23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <hr/> <p>5.3 22:10 534-9066 19:23 56 22:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">6</p> <hr/> <p>6:00 19:16 21:2 6:07 25:6 621 19:18</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">7</p> <hr/> <p>7.54 22:12</p>	<hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">8</p> <hr/> <p>800 19:24 846-6989 19:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">9</p> <hr/> <p>98101 19:22 98503 19:18</p>
--	---	---	--