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
APPEARANCES

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)

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

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
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
Let me ask again if there's anyone who is joining us tonight who is a customer of Cascade Natural Gas who would like to speak to this matter, would you please let us know by unmuting your mic and introducing yourself.

All right. I am hearing nobody, so, Mr. Cupp, I think that you are completed, and thank you -- you're complete. Thank you very much for those comments.

MR. CUPP: Thank you.

CHAIR DANNER: So we make this opportunity available for customers to give us their thoughts about the rate increase that has been requested by Cascade Natural Gas. No customers have availed themselves of this opportunity tonight, so we will adjourn shortly. I just want to make sure that there aren't any loose ends, and what I'm thinking about is for Lisa Gafken, the Public Counsel, or Ann Paisner, is there a good deadline, what is an appropriate deadline for us for accepting public comments in this case?

MS. PAISNER: Good evening. This is Ann Paisner. I'm an assistant attorney general in the Public Counsel Unit of the Washington State Attorney General's Office. My understanding is that typically
the record remains open through the date of the hearing
which is February 24th and 25th, and I believe at that
time during the hearing we request an exhibit number so
that we could submit anything that's submitted on the
record. And I can provide more information tonight to
be on the record for that purpose as well.

CHAIR DANNER: All right. I don't know that
that's necessary. Thank you. I don't know if that's
necessary because we don't have anyone here except for
parties, the Staff, the Company, and Public Counsel, but
it does sound like we can -- we can determine that date
at the hearing in February.

MS. PAISNER: That's my understanding
CHAIR DANNER: Yeah, all right. That's --
that's good.

So let me turn to my colleagues. Is there
anything else this evening -- we don't have any public
comment, is there any other business we need to attend
to in this case?

COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: I don't believe so.
We have the hearing scheduled, and we will take any
written comment after the hearing. So I think we are --
there's nothing more for us tonight.

CHAIR DANNER: Yeah, I think that's right.
I want to thank everybody for being here in attendance,
and I predict we will get some written comments, but in the meantime, we have provided this opportunity. So thank you all for being here, and I think without further ado, we can adjourned. All right. Thank you all.

(Adjourned at 6:07 p.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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Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358