

**Docket No. UG-200568 - Vol. II**

**WUTC v. Cascade Natural Gas Corporation**

**January 26, 2021**



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND ) DOCKET UG-200568  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, )  
)   
Complainant, )   
)   
vs. )   
)   
CASCADE NATURAL GAS )   
CORPORATION, )   
)   
)   
Respondent. )

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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

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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)

\* \* \* \* \*

1 LACEY, WASHINGTON; JANUARY 26, 2021

2 6:00 P.M.

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4 P R O C E E D I N G S

5  
6 CHAIR DANNER: Let's be on the record.

7 Today is January 26th, 2021, and this is a public  
8 comment hearing in the matter of Docket UG-200568 and  
9 that is Cascade Natural Gas, a general rate case.

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

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

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

20 CHAIR DANNER: Thank you, sir.

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

23 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Great.

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

1 on the case, please.

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

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

8 Little background on the case, Cascade  
9 Natural Gas filed a request last June to increase its  
10 overall revenue by \$13.8 million or 5.3 percent. The  
11 Company seeks to increase its overall rate of return to  
12 7.54 percent and its return on equity to 10.3 percent.

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

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

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

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

25 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 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 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 adjourned. All right. Thank you  
5 all.

6 (Adjourned at 6:07 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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.



*Tayler Garlinghouse*

Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358

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