

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

**WUTC v. Cascade Natural Gas Corp.  
Docket UG-170929  
Public Counsel  
UG-170929**

**Request No. 84**

Date prepared: 12/22/2017

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**PC-84 Re: Other Gas Supply Expenses.**

Refer to the response to PC-28 and PC-2. The attachment to PC-2 shows expenses in Account 813 – Other Gas Supply, declining in 2017 (through October) as compared to the amount recorded in this account during the test year. The response to PC-28 indicates that during the test year, Account 813 included “\$128K related to gas market data subscription fees paid in 2016.”

- a. Please indicate if the \$128,000 recorded during the test year related to gas market data subscription fees are costs that are anticipated to occur on an annual basis? If yes, please indicate why the costs in Account 813 are so much lower in 2015 and 2017 year to date as compared to the test year.
- b. Please provide a copy of any written contracts or agreements with the vendor associated with the \$128K referenced in the response.
- c. Please provide a copy of all invoices received by the Company for the \$128K of gas market data subscription fees paid in 2016.
- d. Please provide a copy of all invoices received by the Company from the vendor to which the \$128K was paid during 2015 through 2017 year to date. Please exclude the invoices already being provided in response to subpart (c), above.
- e. Please identify what contract needed to be renegotiated to “remain in compliance with the current vendor to continue using them as a resource for market intelligence and price discovery....”
- f. What changes needed to be made at the Company to “remain in compliance”?
- g. Please explain how the Company was out of compliance with the current vendor?

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**Response:**

- A. Yes, annual costs will run an estimated \$75K. The 2015 invoice was not paid until January 2016, making 2016 costs higher. The Platts invoice for 2017 expensed in November 2017. See attachment PC-84.xlsx
- B. See attachment Platts Master Service Agreement.pdf
- C. See attachments PC84a.pdf – PC84d.pdf, PC84g.pdf – PC84i.pdf, and PC84k.pdf
- D. See attachments PC84e.pdf – PC84f.pdf, PC84j.pdf, and PC84l.pdf,
- E. Platts Master Service Agreement
- F. Platts required the completion of a user audit, and an updated, executed master service agreement service attachment.
- G. In late 2015, Platt's learned through meetings with personnel at MDU subsidiaries that subsidiaries Willison Basin Pipeline and Prairie Lands were extracting market data from both the Gas Daily and Inside FERC Platts reports and using the information within various workflow processes with MDU Resources. Unfortunately, pricing within the Gas Daily (or any Platts Publication) can't be extracted or used in any type of workflow process without proper licensing. In order to use Platts pricing subscribers are required to have a Market Data License. MDUR, who holds the subscription for all subsidiaries, erroneously assumed the corporation had a Market Data license with the subscriptions.