

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET NO. UG-030693
TRANSPORTATION	)	
COMMISSION,	)	ORDER NO. 01
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
CASCADE NATURAL GAS	)	
COMPANY,	)	
	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
Respondent.	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS
.....		

**BACKGROUND**

- 1     On May 23, 2003, Cascade Natural Gas, (CNG or Company) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-3, designated as First Revision Sheet No. 700. The stated effective date is June 15, 2003. The revisions are substantial increases in rates for the menu items of service.
- 2     The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by CNG. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and CNG has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings if necessary to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 3     (1)    The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public

service companies, including gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW; and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*

- 4 (2) CNG is a gas company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 5 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on June 11, 2003.
- 6 (4) The tariff revisions filed by CNG on May 23, 2003 would increase charges and rates for service provided by CNG, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) CNG has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable.
- 8 (6) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate CNG's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of CNG's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of CNG's operations.
- 9 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130 (2), CNG bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.
- 10 (8) CNG may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

**ORDER**

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The tariff revision(s) filed on May 23, 2003 suspended.
- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 13 (3) Cascade Natural Gas must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 14 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Cascade Natural Gas's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 15 (5) Cascade Natural Gas shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 11th day of June, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner