

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UG 347

In the Matter of

CASCADE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION,

Request for a General Rate Revision.

PREHEARING CONFERENCE
MEMORANDUM

On July 10, 2018, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon held a prehearing conference in this docket. Representatives appeared on behalf of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, the Oregon Public Utility Commission Staff, the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board (CUB), the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers (AWEC), and Hermiston Generating Company, L.P. (Hermiston).

Petitions to Intervene

Prior to the conference, AWEC and Hermiston filed petitions to intervene in this docket. No party attending the conference objected to the petitions. I find that AWEC and Hermiston have sufficient interest in the proceedings to participate and that their participation will not unreasonably broaden the issues, burden the record, or delay the proceedings.¹ The petitions to intervene are therefore granted. In addition, CUB filed its notice of intervention on May 31, 2018, as allowed under ORS 774.180.

Procedural Schedule

The parties agreed to the following procedural schedule, which was adopted:

EVENT	DATE
Pre-hearing conference	July 10, 2018
Petition to Intervene Deadline	July 12, 2018
Proposed Budgets for Intervenor Funding Deadline	August 13, 2018
Reserve for Staff-led Workshop/Introductory of Partial Settlement Conference ²	August 15, 2018
Staff and Intervenors File Opening Testimony	September 27, 2018
Settlement Conferences	October 9, 2018 and October 16, 2018
Cascade Files Reply Testimony	October 30, 2018
Settlement Conferences	November 7, 8, 2018

¹ See OAR 860-001-0300(6).

² Workshop/Settlement conference dates are included in the schedule for the parties' convenience. The parties do not need Commission approval to reschedule workshops or settlement conferences.

Staff and Intervenors File Rebuttal Testimony	November 28, 2018
Cascade Files Surrebuttal Testimony	December 17, 2018
All Parties File Prehearing Briefs ³	January 2, 2019
Hearing (tentative)	January 7, 2019
Cascade Files Opening Post-Hearing Brief	January 21, 2019
Staff and Intervenors File Post-Hearing Reply Briefs	February 4, 2019
Cascade Files Closing Post-Hearing Brief	February 11, 2019
Oral Argument	February 14, 2019
Target Date for Commission Decision	March 21, 2019
Effective Date	April 1, 2019

By statute, a person may petition to intervene at any time before the close of the record.¹ But because it is helpful if parties are identified early in the proceedings, the Commission requests that petitions to intervene be filed by the date identified above.

Parties are reminded that attorneys not licensed in Oregon wanting to appear before the Commission in this docket must file an application for admission to appear pro hac vice.⁴

Dated this 10th day of July, 2018, at Salem, Oregon.

Patrick Power
Administrative Law Judge

Attachment: Notice of Contested Case Rights and Procedures

³ The pre-hearing brief was included in the proposed schedule. However, pre-hearing briefs are no longer to be filed in OPUC proceedings, so this item is removed from the schedule.

⁴ See UTCR 3.170, OAR 860-001-0320.

NOTICE OF CONTESTED CASE RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES

Oregon law requires state agencies to provide parties written notice of contested case rights and procedures. Under ORS 183.413, you are entitled to be informed of the following:

Hearing: The time and place of any hearing held in these proceedings will be noticed separately. The Commission will hold the hearing under its general authority set forth in ORS 756.040 and use procedures set forth in ORS 756.518 through 756.610 and OAR Chapter 860, Division 001. Copies of these statutes and rules may be accessed via the Commission's website at www.puc.state.or.us. The Commission will hear issues as identified by the parties.

Right to Attorney: As a party to these proceedings, you may be represented by counsel. Should you desire counsel but cannot afford one, legal aid may be able to assist you; parties are ordinarily represented by counsel. The Commission Staff, if participating as a party in the case, will be represented by the Department of Justice. Generally, once a hearing has begun, you will not be allowed to postpone the hearing to obtain counsel.

Administrative Law Judge: The Commission has delegated the authority to preside over hearings to Administrative Law Judges (ALJs). The scope of an ALJ's authority is defined in OAR 860-001-0090. The ALJs make evidentiary and other procedural rulings, analyze the contested issues, and present legal and policy recommendations to the Commission.

Hearing Rights: You have the right to respond to all issues identified and present evidence and witnesses on those issues. *See* OAR 860-001-0450 through OAR 860-001-0490. You may obtain discovery from other parties through depositions, subpoenas, and data requests. *See* ORS 756.538 and 756.543; OAR 860-001-0500 through 860-001-0540.

Evidence: Evidence is generally admissible if it is of a type relied upon by reasonable persons in the conduct of their serious affairs. *See* OAR 860-001-0450. Objections to the admissibility of evidence must be made at the time the evidence is offered. Objections are generally made on grounds that the evidence is unreliable, irrelevant, repetitious, or because its probative value is outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or undue delay. The order of presenting evidence is determined by the ALJ. The burden of presenting evidence to support an allegation rests with the person raising the allegation. Generally, once a hearing is completed, the ALJ will not allow the introduction of additional evidence without good cause.

Record: The hearing will be recorded, either by a court reporter or by audio digital recording, to preserve the testimony and other evidence presented. Parties may contact the court reporter about ordering a transcript or request, if available, a copy of the audio recording from the Commission for a fee set forth in OAR 860-001-0060. The hearing record will be made part of the evidentiary record that serves as the basis for the Commission's decision and, if necessary, the record on any judicial appeal.

Final Order and Appeal: After the hearing, the ALJ will prepare a draft order resolving all issues and present it to the Commission. The draft order is not open to party comment. The Commission will make the final decision in the case and may adopt, modify, or reject the ALJ's recommendation. If you disagree with the Commission's decision, you may request reconsideration of the final order within 60 days from the date of service of the order. *See* ORS 756.561 and OAR 860-001-0720. You may also file a petition for review with the Court of Appeals within 60 days from the date of service of the order. *See* ORS 756.610.