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November 9, 2023

Oregon Public Utility Commission
Attn: Filing Center
201 High Street S.E., Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-3398

Re: UM 1980 - Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's Application for Reauthorization for Deferred Accounting for Public Purpose Charge Expenditures

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation ("Cascade" or "Company") files the attached Application for Reauthorization to Defer Credits and Debits Associated with its Public Purpose Charge as established in the Company's tariff Schedule 31.

If there are any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at (208) 377-6015.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lori A. Blattner

Lori A. Blattner
Director, Regulatory Affairs
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
8113 W. Grandridge Blvd.
Kennewick, WA 99336-7166
lori.blattner@intgas.com

Attachments

1 **BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**
2 **OF OREGON**
3 **UM 1980**
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7 In the Matter of
8 Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
9 For Deferred Accounting of Expenses
10 And Credits Related to its
11 Public Purpose Charge
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APPLICATION FOR
REAUTHORIZATION FOR
DEFERRED ACCOUNTING

16 In accordance with ORS 757.259, ORS 757.262, and OAR 860-027-0300, Cascade Natural Gas
17 Corporation (“Cascade” or the “Company”) files this application (“Application”) with the Public Utility
18 Commission of Oregon (“Commission”) for an order reauthorizing the Company to record and defer the
19 under-and over-collections associated with the Company’s Schedule 31, Public Purpose Charge (“PPC”)
20 for the twelve-month period beginning January 1, 2024, and ending December 31, 2024.

21 **I. INTRODUCTION**

22 In May 2006, in accordance with the terms established in Commission Order No. 06-191 issued
23 in Docket UG-167, the Company began charging the Schedule 31, PPC. The PPC adds a charge equal to a
24 set percentage of a customer’s total monthly natural gas bill. This charge funds the Company’s energy
25 efficiency programs that are administered by the Energy Trust of Oregon (“Energy Trust”) as well as the
26 Company’s low-income weatherization and low-income bill pay assistance programs that are
27 administered by the Company and the Community Action Agencies (“CAAs”). Schedule 31 establishes
28 the parameters for the PPC, including the amount charged and the percentage of monthly collections
29 that fund the energy efficiency, low-income weatherization, and low-income bill assistance programs.

30 The PPC charge percentages are determined by taking the annual budget for each program
31 supported by the charge then dividing the amount by expected annual revenues. The Company has

1 historically adjusted the annual budgets needed in a preceding calendar year by any carryover of
2 funding, whether that carryover is positive or negative.

3 II. COMMUNICATIONS

4 Cascade hereby waives service by means of others than service by electronic mail. Consistent
5 with that waiver, communications regarding this Application should be addressed to both of the
6 following:

7	Lori A. Blattner	Department of Regulatory Affairs
8	Cascade Natural Gas Corporation	Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
9	8113 W. Grandridge Blvd	8113 W. Grandridge Blvd
10	Kennewick, WA 99336	Kennewick, WA 99336
11	Email: lori.blattner@intgas.com	Email: CNGCregulatory@cngc.com
12		

13 III. DEFERRED ACCOUNTING RULE REQUIREMENTS

14 The following information is provided pursuant to the requirements set forth in OAR 860-027-
15 0300(3).

16 A. Description of Utility Expense – OAR 860-027-0300(3)(a)

17 In this application, Cascade is requesting to defer the over- or under-collections of the Schedule
18 31, PPC.

19 B. Reasons for Deferral – OAR 860-027-0300(3)(b)

20 The Company's initial filing in Docket UM 1980 was in response to the Commission's ruling made
21 on April 10, 2018, on PacifiCorp's (d.b.a. Pacific Power's) Advice No. 18-001 wherein the Commission
22 determined that residual credits or debits associated with Pacific Power's pass through balancing account
23 for their Multnomah County Business Income Tax (MCBIT) collections must be tracked in a deferral
24 account in order for the debit or credit to be passed on to customers in a later period without violating the
25 prohibition against retroactive ratemaking. The Company has historically treated its PPC collection account
26 as a balancing account, passing on any over- or under-collection to customers through a revised PPC rate.
27 Since this is no longer allowed, the Company is filing this application to reauthorize deferred accounting

1 treatment for PPC debits and credits. The Commission initially authorized deferral treatment of the
2 Company's PPC funding per Order No. 19-100 on March 21, 2019. The deferral may be reauthorized under
3 ORS 759.259(2)(e) to minimize the frequency of rate changes or the fluctuation of rate levels or to match
4 appropriately the costs borne by and benefits received by ratepayers.

5 **C. Proposed Accounting - OAR 860-027-0300(3)(c)**

6 Cascade proposes to account for balancing PPC debit and credits in the deferral sub-account
7 242.9. In the absence of deferred accounting, the Company would record PPC program expenses in the
8 appropriate sub-account for FERC Account 908.

9 **D. Estimate of Amounts - OAR 860-027-0300(3)(d)**

10 The Company is not able to estimate the amount that may be deferred and considered a
11 carryover balance at the end of 12-months since most of these funds are passed through to other third
12 parties who manage the spending of these dollars.

13 **E. Notice – OAR 860-27-0300(6)**

14 The Notice of Application and a Certificate of Service are provided as an attachment to this
15 application.

16 **F. A Description and Explanation of Entries in the Deferred Account – OAR 860-027-300(4)(a)**

17 In this application, Cascade is requesting to defer the over- or under-collections of the Schedule
18 31, PPC. The PPC debits and credits derive from the Company's conservation and low-income programs.
19 This includes payments by the Company to Energy Trust for its administration of energy efficiency
20 programs as well as the Company's low-income weatherization and low-income bill pay assistance
21 programs that are administered by the Company and the CAAs.

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1 **G. The Reason for Continuation of Deferred Accounting – OAR 860-027-0300(4)(b)**

2 The continuation of deferred debits and credits associated with the Company’s Public Purpose
3 Charge is justified as these allocations are continuing in nature and were previously approved by the
4 Commission per Docket No. UM 1980, Order No. 23-111 on March 23, 2023.

5 **H. The Applicable Interest Rates**

6 The deferred balance will accrue interest at the Company’s authorized rate of return per UG
7 309. The amortized balance will accrue interest at the modified blended treasury rate per Commission
8 Staff’s calculation in Dockets UM 1147 and UG 221.

9 **IV. CONCLUSION**

10 Cascade requests that in accordance with ORS 757.259, the Commission reauthorize the
11 Company to defer the debits and credits described in this Application.

12 DATED: November 9, 2023

13 Sincerely,

14
15 */s/Lori A. Blattner*

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17 _____
18 Lori A. Blattner
19 Director, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
20 8113 W. Grandridge Blvd
21 Kennewick, WA 99336
22 lori.blattner@intgas.com

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

November 9, 2023

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REAUTHORIZATION FOR DEFERRED ACCOUNTING FOR CASCADE'S PUBLIC PURPOSE CHARGE

To All Parties Who Are Participating in UG-390:

Please be advised that today, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation ("Cascade" or the "Company") filed an application for authorization to defer debits and credits associated with its Public Purpose Charge. Copies of the Company's application are available for inspection at the Company's main office.

Parties who would like additional information or would like a copy of the filing, or notice of the time and place of any hearing, if scheduled, should contact the Company or the Public Utility Commission of Oregon as follows:

Cascade Natural Gas
Attn: Lori Blattner
8113 W Grandridge Blvd
Kennewick, WA 99336
208-377-6015
CNGCregulatory@cngc.com

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Attn: Filing Center
201 High Street SE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97308-1088
503-378-6678

Any person may submit to the Commission written comments on the application no sooner than 25 days from the date of this notice.

The Company's application will not authorize a change in rates but will permit the Commission to consider allowing such deferred amount in rates in a subsequent proceeding.

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served by electronic mail the foregoing NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REAUTHORIZATION FOR DEFERRED ACCOUNTING FOR CASCADE'S PUBLIC PURPOSE CHARGE upon all parties of record in UG 390, which was the Company's most recent general rate case.

Oregon Citizens' Utility Board dockets@oregoncub.org	Michael Goetz Oregon Citizens' Utility Board mike@oregoncub.org
Tommy A Brooks Cable Huston LLP tbrooks@cablehuston.com	Chad M Stokes Cable Huston LLP cstokes@cablehuston.com
Jocelyn C Pease McDowell, Rackner & Gibson PC jocelyn@mrg-law.com	Edward Finklea Alliance of Western Energy Consumers efinklea@awec.solutions
Stephanie S Andrus PUC Staff – Dept of Justice Stephanie.andrus@state.or.us	Lisa F Rackner McDowell, Rackner & Gibson PC dockets@mrg-law.com
William Gehrke Oregon Citizens' Utility Board will@oregoncub.com	

Dated this 9th day of November 2023.

 /s/ Jacob Betterbed
Jacob Betterbed
Regulatory Analyst I
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8113 W Grandridge Blvd
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jacob.betterbed@cngc.com