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November 16, 2022

Oregon Public Utility Commission  
201 High Street SE, Suite 100  
Salem, OR 97301-3398

Attn: Records Center

Re: RG-6 Cascade Natural Gas Corporation Oregon Low-Income Bill Assistance Program  
(OLIBA) Annual Report Program Year 2021-2022

In compliance with the terms established in Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's (Company) Tariff Schedule 32, "Oregon Low Income Bill Assistance Program", the Company herewith files its OLIBA Annual Report for the 2021-2022 program year.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dan Tillis at [dan.tillis@mdu.com](mailto:dan.tillis@mdu.com) or 208.898.7175.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Lori A. Blattner*

Lori A. Blattner  
Director, Regulatory Affairs  
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation  
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Attachment

*In the Community to Serve®*

**CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION**  
**Oregon Low Income Bill Assistance Program Annual Report**  
**2021-2022 Program Year**

**History**

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's (Cascade's or the Company's) Oregon Low Income Bill Assistance (OLIBA) program was first implemented in May 2006 with the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (OPUC) approval of the Company's Schedule 31, "Public Purposes Funding" (now called the "Public Purpose Charge").

The Oregon Low-Income Bill Assistance (OLIBA) program was designed to supplement the Federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by providing additional financial assistance to income-eligible households in Cascade's service territory. When the Public Purpose Charge was established, 0.29 percent of Oregon residential and commercial gross billing revenues were dedicated to the program. The percentage is updated annually to meet the requirements of programs funded by the Public Purpose Charge. At the beginning of this program year, the program had a budget increase of \$181,693 that was collected from customers at a rate of 0.227% of all core customers' billing revenues.

**Program Results**

Since the inception of the program in May 2006, a total of 3,493 energy assistance pledges have been provided totaling \$984,460 in direct payments to residential customers. During the 2021-2022 Program Year, the Community Action agencies (CAAs or Agencies) in Cascade's service territory distributed \$104,345 of OLIBA funds to 317 households.

**2021-2022 Program Year Results**

The 2021-2022 Program Year marks the 16th full year of the OLIBA program. Public Purpose Charge collections for OLIBA funding this Program Year totaled \$162,064. With a carryover balance of \$-45,954, total program funding was \$116,110. Which \$32,364 was used to pay Agencies' costs for program administration, and \$104,345 was credited to 317 customers at an average pledge of \$329.16. Pledge spending was allowed to exceed the funding level by \$49,205 in response to the needs of our customers during the COVID-19 pandemic and because the account is a deferral account which provides a simple method of recovery.

*The report continues on the next page.*

Table 1 below provides statistics on the program's performance on a month by month basis.

<b>2021-2022 OLIBA</b>					
<b>Q4 2021</b>	<b>Recipients</b>	<b>Dollars Distributed</b>	<b>Payments to Agencies</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Average Pledge</b>
Oct	21	\$ 4,890.00	\$ 993.40	\$ 5,883.40	\$ 232.86
Nov	30	\$ 7,640.00	\$ 978.00	\$ 8,618.00	\$ 254.67
Dec	40	\$ 9,873.00	\$ 3,528.00	\$ 13,401.00	\$ 246.83
<b>Q4</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>\$ 22,403.00</b>	<b>\$ 5,499.40</b>	<b>\$ 27,902.40</b>	<b>\$ 246.19</b>
<b>Q1 2022</b>					
Jan	47	\$ 13,552.00	\$ 1,974.60	\$ 15,526.60	\$ 288.34
Feb	46	\$ 16,790.00	\$ 2,710.40	\$ 19,500.40	\$ 365.00
March	32	\$ 12,530.00	\$ 3,398.00	\$ 15,928.00	\$ 391.56
<b>Q1</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>\$ 42,872.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,083.00</b>	<b>\$ 50,955.00</b>	<b>\$ 342.98</b>
<b>Q2 2022</b>					
April	30	\$ 12,085.00	\$ 4,980.00	\$ 17,065.00	\$ 402.83
May	20	\$ 7,200.00	\$ 2,417.00	\$ 9,617.00	\$ 360.00
June	23	\$ 8,680.00	\$ 1,440.00	\$ 10,120.00	\$ 377.39
<b>Q2</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>\$ 27,965.00</b>	<b>\$ 8,837.00</b>	<b>\$ 36,802.00</b>	<b>\$ 383.08</b>
<b>Q3 2022</b>					
July	11	\$ 5,060.00	\$ 1,736.00	\$ 6,796.00	\$ 460.00
Aug	8	\$ 3,485.00	\$ 6,512.00	\$ 9,997.00	\$ 435.63
Sept	9	\$ 2,560.00	\$ 1,697.00	\$ 4,257.00	\$ 284.44
<b>Q3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>\$ 11,105.00</b>	<b>\$ 9,945.00</b>	<b>\$ 21,050.00</b>	<b>\$ 396.61</b>
<b>Season Totals</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>\$ 104,345.00</b>	<b>\$ 32,364.40</b>	<b>\$ 136,709.40</b>	<b>\$ 329.16</b>
<i>Does not include refunds/adjustments</i>					

The report continues on the next page.

Table 2 below summarizes the results for the life of the OLIBA program as well as for the 2021-2022 Program Year. Additional historical Program Year summaries can be found in annual reports for prior Program Years filed in RG-6.

<b>2021-2022 OLIBA</b>		
<b>Table 2</b>		
	Program Life	2021-2022
No. Customers Served	3493	317
Average Pledge	\$ 279.52	\$ 329.16
Revenues:		
Balance from Prior Year	\$ (45,953.48)	\$ (45,953)
Program Year Revenues	\$ 1,106,987.00	\$ 162,064
Accrued Interest	\$ 42,332.00	\$ -
Total Available Funds	\$ 1,149,318	\$ 116,111
Payments to Agencies:		
To Customers*	\$ 984,460.00	\$ 104,345
To Agencies	\$ 187,157.00	\$ 32,364
Total Payments	\$ 1,171,616	\$ 136,709
Ending Balance in OLIBA Account		
% Available Funds Used		
Payments to Customers	-86%	-90%
Payments to Agencies	16%	28%
Total	-69%	-62%
*Does not include refunds/adjustments		

**OLIBA Funding to Agencies**

The full fund balance is available to all Agencies at the first of each month to use as need demands. Because the fund is deferred, all pledges submitted for qualifying customers will be honored and the collection rate will be adjusted at the end of the program year should spending exceed the available funding level.

**Payment Process**

Cascade uses a cashless voucher payment system where OLIBA allocations to Agencies and grants made to customers are made without a transfer of actual cash between the Company and Agencies. This process has proven to be efficient for all participants. Cascade believes that this process ensures customers receive their assistance payments in a timely manner.

**Agency Coordination**

The Company believes the program is working well. We coordinate with the Agencies via teleconference to ensure that any new issues needing consideration or resolution are given a proper forum. Issues we discuss include timely processing of customer pledges, adherence to program guidelines, OLIBA funding, and reaching applicable customers. We will create a formal advisory group in the next program year with our various low-income partners from Community Action, OPUC staff, CUB, CAPO, and others.