

ITEM NO. CA3

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: July 27, 2021**

REGULAR  CONSENT  EFFECTIVE DATE August 1, 2021

**DATE:** July 15, 2021

**TO:** Public Utility Commission

**FROM:** Kathy Zarate

**THROUGH:** Bryan Conway, John Crider, and Matt Muldoon **SIGNED**

**SUBJECT:** CASCADE NATURAL GAS:  
(Docket No. ADV 1286/Advice No. O21-06-01)  
Requests housekeeping revisions to Schedule 163.6-8 and 199.1 to remove and to add clarifying language.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve Cascade ADV 1286/Advice No. O21-06-01 for service on and after August 1, 2021.

**DISCUSSION:**

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve the Company's housekeeping amendments to its tariffs sheets that reflect Commission-approved changes to the title on Schedule 163 and 199 Sheet 6, 7, 8, and 1, respectively.

Applicable Law

Under ORS 757.205(1):

Every public utility shall file with the Public Utility Commission, within a time to be fixed by the commission, schedules, which shall be open to public inspection, showing all rates, tolls and charges which it has established and which are in force at the time for any service performed

by it within the state, or for any service in connection therewith or performed by any public utility controlled or operated by it.

The Commission may approve tariff changes if they are deemed fair, just, and reasonable. ORS 757.210.

Tariff revisions may be made by filing revised sheets with the information required under the Commission's administrative rules, including OAR 860-022-0025.

OAR 860-022-0025(2) specifically requires that each energy utility changing existing tariffs or schedules must include in its filing a statement plainly indicating the increase, decrease, or other change made with the filing, the number of customers affected by the proposed change and the resulting change in annual revenue; and the reasons or grounds relied upon in support of the proposed change.

Filings that propose any change in rates, tolls, charges, rules, or regulations must be filed with the Commission at least 30 days before the effective date of the change. ORS 757.220; OAR 860-022-0015.

Tariff filings to be effective on less than 30 days following notice of the change may be authorized with a waiver of less than statutory notice pursuant to ORS 757.220 and OAR 860-022-0020.

### Analysis

On July 1, 2021, Cascade Natural Gas (Cascade or the Company) submitted these housekeeping filing revisions to add or remove clarifying language relating to Schedule 163 and 199 Sheet 6, 7, 8, and 1, respectively.

The purpose of this filing is to remove text in the tariff that is a remnant of a prior time when Cascade used to sell nominated gas to its customers. The Company or Cascade no longer offers this service and thus this language needs to be removed.

In this filing, Cascade proposes to change their tariffs as follows:

- In order to remove a service from the tariff that is no longer offered to customers, the Company has revised the First Revision of Sheet No. 163.6 by eliminating the entire paragraph of "Priority of Nominated Gas";
- In order to clarify the language, the Company has changed the Fourth Revision of Sheet No. 163.7 to replace the word "entitlement" with

“curtailment” in the first paragraph, line 6, section “Automatic Assignment of Gas Supply During a Curtailment”.

- In order to align the Company’s entitlement penalties with those of the upstream pipelines, the Company has changed Second Revision of Sheet No. 163.8, lines 4 and 5 from 3 to 5 percent and 5 to 3 percent respectively. The Company states that this change helps to protect core customers from exposure to penalties that may be caused by transportation customers in certain circumstances.<sup>1</sup>
- To reflect the expiration date of the refund as March 31, 2019, the Company has changed the First Revision of Sheet No. 199.1 rates to zero.

### Conclusion

After review, Staff concludes that the revisions filed by Cascade are appropriate. By their housekeeping nature, none of the revisions affect customers’ rates or tariff eligibilities. Staff reviewed the proposed schedule changes to ensure that they were consistent with the rates approved by the Commission. Staff also reviewed the entire tariff file to ensure no other schedules were affected by the recent changes. Staff identified no issues or errors with the filing and recommends the Commission approve the tariff changes as filed, allowing the housekeeping revisions to go into effect for service on and after August 1, 2021. In addition, based on Staff’s review of the Company’s responses to information requests, Staff determined that the public is not harmed by this transaction.

### **PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

Approve Cascade ADV 1286/Advice No. O21-06-01 for service on and after August 1, 2021.

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<sup>1</sup> Cascade IR No. 1.