

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: February 8, 2022**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE February 14, 2022

DATE: January 25, 2022

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Curtis Dlouhy

THROUGH: Bryan Conway and Matt Muldoon **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: CASCADE NATURAL GAS:
(Docket No. ADV 1366/Advice No. 022-01-01)
Housekeeping Changes.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Cascade Natural Gas' (Cascade, CNG, or Company) Advice No. 022-01-01 filing to round all rates to the fifth decimal place.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve Cascade's proposed revisions to nine Schedules to round all per-therm rates from six decimal places to five.

Applicable Rule or Law

Under ORS 757.205(1), every public utility shall file with the Public Utility Commission schedules showing all rates, tolls, and charges that it has established and 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 to be fair, just, and reasonable under 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.

Analysis

Background

On January 14, 2022, the Company filed Advice No. 022-01-01, which updates nine tariff sheets:

1. Sheet No. 101.1
2. Sheet No. 104.1
3. Sheet No. 105.1
4. Sheet No. 111.1
5. Sheet No. 163.1
6. Sheet No. 170.1
7. Sheet No. 197.1
8. Sheet No. 198.1
9. Sheet No. 800.1

The purpose of this filing is to amend the tariffs to display per-therm rates with five decimal places instead of six decimal places. The Company states that the point of the revision is to lessen the likelihood of rounding errors from occurring in the Company's Customer Care and Billing System. The Company notes that it consulted with Commission Staff prior to making this change and that the estimated total dollar impact of this change is a \$676 reduction of revenue. The Company further states that the vast majority of customers do not consume enough volumes to see any impacts on their bills.

Staff Review

Staff reviewed the changes to all nine tariff sheets and found that the changes proposed by Cascade to be consistent with the letter attached in its finding. Staff verified that the changes to Cascade's tariff sheets reflect the purpose of the filing and do indeed

represent all rates at the fifth decimal place. All changes from six decimal places to five decimal places were done by truncating the sixth digit. Therefore, even if a customer experienced an impact to their bill from this change, Cascade's method of implementing the change would result in a bill reduction.

Conclusion

Staff verified that the rate change in the nine affected sheets indeed represent all rates to the fifth decimal place as Cascade intended and supports rounding all rates to the fifth decimal place.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve Cascade's Advice No. 022-01-01 filing to round all rates to the fifth decimal place.