

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

UM 1283

In the Matter of

MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC.

Application for Authorization to Acquire
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

**MOTION TO SUSPEND PROCEDURAL
SCHEDULE**

MOTION

MDU Resources Group, Inc. ("MDU Resources") respectfully moves the Commission for an order suspending the current procedural schedule in this docket and requiring MDU Resources to file either a motion to revise the procedural schedule or a status report no later than April 3, 2007. Commission Staff, Citizens' Utility Board, NWIGU, NW Energy Coalition, and Community Action Directors of Oregon all support this motion.

BACKGROUND

Since the first settlement conference in this docket on February 16, 2007, the parties have been actively engaged in settlement discussions. The parties have met in person and via telephone conferences and have exchanged written settlement proposals. Another in-person meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 23, 2007. MDU Resources believes that the parties are making progress towards at least a partial, if not also a comprehensive settlement.

Staff and intervenor response testimony is currently due to be filed on March 22, 2007. The parties have agreed in principle that the procedural schedule should be revised to allow the settlement discussions to progress to a certain point before that response testimony is filed, as that will most likely limit the issues as to which Staff and the intervenors are required to file testimony. At this time, the parties do not have new dates to propose for a revised schedule;

however, the parties have agreed in principle that Staff and the intervenors should have approximately two and one-half to three weeks to file testimony following the date on which the parties either have (1) reached agreement on the final terms of a comprehensive or partial settlement or (2) failed to reach any such agreement. Corresponding adjustments would be requested for the remainder of the schedule.

Since Staff and intervenor response testimony is currently due to be filed on March 22, 2007, the parties have agreed to ask the Commission at this time to suspend the procedural schedule, pending further progress in settlement negotiations.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, MDU Resources requests that the Commission suspend the current procedural schedule in this docket. MDU Resources also requests that the Commission require MDU Resources to file either a motion to revise the procedural schedule or a status report no later than April 3, 2007.

DATED: March 21, 2007.

PERKINS COIE LLP

By



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this day served the Motion to Suspend Procedural Schedule by causing a copy to be sent by electronic and U.S. Mail to:

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DATED: March 21, 2007.

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