

August 5, 2008

Ms. Vikie Bailey-Goggins Oregon Public Utility Commission 550 Capitol Street NE #215 Salem, OR 97308-2148

Dear Ms. Bailey-Goggins:

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation files the enclosed Application for Reauthorization of the Deferred Accounting Treatment of Intervenor Funding Grants. Initial authorization was approved in Docket UM 1336, Order No. 07-397, with an effective date of September 13, 2007.

Should you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact Katherine Barnard at (206) 381-6824.

Sincerely,

Sr. Vice President

Regulatory & Gas Supply

**Enclosures** 

1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON				
2	DOCKET NO. 1336				
3					
4	4				
5	CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION  for Reauthorization to Defer Expenses for				
6					
7	Intervenor Funding Grants				
8	8				
9	In accordance with ORS 757.259 and OAR 860-027-0300, Cascade Natural Gas				
10	Corporation (or the "Company") applies to the Public Utility Commission of Oregon				
11	("Commission") for an accounting order reauthorizing the Company to record and defer, on an				
12	ongoing basis, the cost of intervenor funding grants provided to qualifying organizations				
13	pursuant to the provisions of ORS 757.259 (3), as amended by Or Laws 2003, ch 234				
14	("Intervenor Funding Grants). The Company respectfully requests that the deferral commence a				
15	of the date of this filing, for later amortization in rates.				
16	In support of this Application, Casacade states:				
17	7 1. CASCADE NATURAL GAS CORPORATION				
18	8 Cascade Natural Gas Corporation is a public utility engage	d in the distribution of			
19	9 natural gas in the states of Oregon and Washington and is subject t	o the jurisdiction of the			
20	O Commission with regard to its rates, service and accounting practic	ces.			
21	1 2. <b>STATUTORY AUTHORITY</b>				
22	This Application is filed pursuant to ORS 757.259, which e	empowers the			
23	Commission to authorize the deferral of expenses or revenues of a	public utility for later			
24	4 incorporation in rates.				
25					
26	6				
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1	3.	COMMUNICATIONS		
2		Communications regarding this Application should be addressed to:		
3		Jon Stoltz		
4		Sr. Vice President, Regulatory & Gas Supply Cascade Natural Gas Corporation		
5		222 Fairview Avenue North Seattle, WA 98109		
6		Telephone: (206) 381-6824 Facsimile: (206) 654-4039		
7		E-mail: jstoltz@cngc.com		
8	4.	BASIS FOR APPLICATION		
9		Statutory Authority		
10		On June 6, 2003, the Governor signed Or Laws 2003, ch 234 (the "Intervenor		
11	Funding Act") into law. Section 2 of the intervenor Funding Act authorizes the			
12	Comn	Commission to approve written agreements for intervenor funding grants between		
13	electri	electric and natural gas utilities and qualifying organizations representing broad customer		
14	intere	interests. Such grants would be used by these qualifying organizations when		
15	partici	pating in certain types of regulatory proceedings before the Commission. Section		
16	2 of th	ne intervenor funding act also authorizes the Commission to establish rules with		
17	respec	t to funding agreements for determining which organizations are eligible for		
18	financ	ial assistance, the amount of assistance that may be provided, the manner in which		
19		ance will be distributed, and other necessary administrative matters.		
20				
21		Moreover, Section 2 of the Intervenor Funding Act provides:		
22		"The commission shall allow a public utility that		
23		provides financial assistance under this section to recover		
24		the amounts so provided in rates. The commission shall allow a public utility to defer inclusion of those amounts in		
25		rates as provided in ORS 757.259 if the public utility so elects."		
26		CICCIS.		
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1	ORS 757.259(3), as amended by section 3 of the Intervenor Funding Act,
2	provides:
3	"Upon request of the public utility, the commission
4	by order shall allow deferral of amounts provided as financial assistance under an agreement entered into under
5	section 2 of this 2003 Act for later incorporation in rates."
6	Additionally, the Company notes that deferred amounts under ORS 757.259(3)
7	are not subject to the percentage of gross revenues limitation on amortization or other
8	provisions of subsections (5), (6), (7), and (8) of the amended section.
9	Commission Approval of the Intervenor Funding Agreement
10	On December 19, 2007, the Commission issued Order No. 07-564, which
11	approved amendments to the original Intervenor Funding Agreement previously
12	approved in Order No. 03-338. The parties to this amended Intervenor Funding
13	Agreement are Portland General Electric Company, PacifiCorp, Cascade Natural Gas
14	Corporation, Avista Corporation, Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities (ICNU),
15	Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB), and Northwest Industrial Gas Uses (NWIGU).
16	The Intervenor Funding Agreement sets forth the amount of funding to be contributed by
17	each utility and the procedures for budget submittals by intervenors, Commission
18	approval of budgets, and the payment of grants by utilities. In its subsequent Order No.
19	08-006, the Commission directed the utilities to pay to CUB the amounts made available
20	for the CUB Fund Grants as defined and provided for in the Intervenor Funding
21	Agreement (\$30,000 for Cascade). Express Commission approval for payment was
22	necessitated by Section 7.1 of the Intervenor Funding Agreement, which provides that
23	"upon request by CUB, the Commission will direct the Participating Public Utilities to
24	pay the amounts made available for CUB Fund Grants"
25	

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## 5. CASCADE PROPOSAL

In accordance with the statutory authority provided by ORS 757.259(3), as amended, and the Commission's approval of the Intervenor Funding Agreement, Cascade proposes to record and defer, on an ongoing basis, any and all Intervenor Funding Grants as defined and provided for in the Intervenor Funding Agreement, for later incorporation in rates. The Company will record and defer these ongoing costs upon payment of the Intervenor Funding Grants following the Commission's approval of the Intervenor Funding Grant and issuance of an Order directing the Company to make payment, pursuant to the intervenor Funding Agreement.

At the time of consideration for incorporation into rates, Cascade will propose an appropriate amortization period for the Intervenor Funding Grants for the Commission's consideration.

## 6. AMOUNTS SUBJECT TO DEFERRAL

Cascade anticipates that the maximum amounts to be deferred during the 12-month period subsequent to the Application are:

16	<u>Fund</u>	
17	CUB Fund	\$ 30,000
18	Preauthorized Matching Fund	\$ 30,000
19	Issue Fund	\$ 30,000
20	Total	\$ 90,000

For the 12-month period covered by this Application, Cascade expects that the amount subject to this deferral will not exceed \$ 90,000. The Intervenor Funding Agreement permits under certain circumstances for an advance of funds that would otherwise be available in future years for Intervenor Funding Grants from the CUB Fund and the Preauthorized Matching Fund. If an advance is made under the applicable

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1	provision of the Intervenor Funding Agreement, the maximum annual amounts of		
2	Intervenor Funding Grants from the CUB Fund or the Preauthorized Grant Fund could		
3	exceed the level specified in this paragraph in which case the amount deferred under this		
4	Application could exceed \$ 90,000.		
5			
6	7. ACCOUNTING		
7	Cascade proposes to record payment of Intervenor Funding Grants in a sub-		
8	account of Account 186. In the absence of the Commission's approval of this		
9	Application, the company would not incur the cost of Intervenor Funding Grants. Were		
10	such costs incurred, however, they would be recorded in an appropriate sub-account of		
11	FERC Account 401.		
12	WHEREFORE, Cascade respectfully requests that in accordance with ORS 757.259(3),		
13	as amended, the Commission issue an order reauthorizing the Company to record and defer, on		
14	an ongoing basis and commencing as of the date of this filing, Intervenor Funding Grants		
15	incurred by the Company pursuant to the Intervenor Funding Agreement, as described in this		
16	Application.		
17	DATED: August 5, 2008.		
18	$\mathcal{L} = 0$		
19			
20	Jon T. Stoltz Sr. Vice President		
21	Regulatory & Gas Supply Cascade Natural Gas Corporation		
22	222 Fairview Avenue North Seattle, WA 98109		
23	Phone: (206) 381-6823 Facsimile: (206) 654-4039		
24	E-mail: jstoltz@enge.com		
25			
26			

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have this day served the foregoing NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR REAUTHORIZATION TO DEFER EXPENSES FOR INTERVENOR FUNDING GRANTS upon all parties of record in the (UM 1283) proceeding, by emailing an electronic copy to the following parties or attorneys of parties:

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DATED at Seattle, Washington, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2008.

/s/ Curt Lulias

Curt Lulias
Regulatory Affairs
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation