

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1283

In the Matter of)	
)	
MDU RESOURCES GROUP, INC.,)	RULING
)	
Application for Authorization to Acquire)	
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation.)	

DISPOSITION: MOTION FOR ADDITIONAL PROTECTION
DISMISSED; SCHEDULE SUSPENDED

Motion for Additional Protection

On March 1, 2007, MDU Resources Group, Inc. (MDU Resources) filed a Motion for Additional Protection to protect its electronic financial model used to analyze the proposed acquisition of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade). MDU Resources withdrew that motion and filed a Revised Motion for Additional Protection on March 15, 2007.

MDU Resources avers that only Staff and MDU Resources are parties to this motion, and that the motion “is without prejudice to another party’s right to request this information or to MDU Resources’ right to seek additional protection in such an event.” Revised Motion, 2. MDU Resources further declares that it “is authorized to inform the Commission that Commission Staff does not oppose this motion.” *Id.* at 1.

Because MDU Resources and Staff have agreed on an alternative method for sharing discovery materials, and no other party is involved or prejudiced by the agreement, no ruling is needed. MDU Resources and Staff may proceed as agreed. If a party later objects, the issue will then be considered. MDU Resources’ initial motion raised questions as to whether it complied with public disclosure laws; it is unclear from the facts set forth in the revised motion as to whether the issue still exists.

Without determined advocacy on both sides, it would be unwise to issue a decision on the merits at this time. Without opposition to the proposed treatment of the electronic model, a decision is unnecessary. The motion is dismissed.

Schedule Suspended

On March 21, 2007, MDU Resources moved to suspend the schedule to allow time for negotiations towards a settlement, either global or partial. The company committed to submitting either a motion for a revised schedule or a status report by April 3, 2007. The motion is granted.

Dated at Salem, Oregon, this 22nd day of March, 2007.

Christina M. Hayes
Administrative Law Judge