

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT**

**PUBLIC MEETING DATE: September 5, 2006**

**REGULAR** \_\_\_\_\_ **CONSENT**  X  **EFFECTIVE DATE**  September 10, 2006

**DATE:** August 17, 2006

**TO:** Public Utility Commission

**FROM:** Lynn Kittilson

**THROUGH:** Lee Sparling, Ed Busch and Bonnie Tatom

**SUBJECT:** CASCADE NATURAL GAS: (Advice No. O06-08-01) Revises the Oregon Low-Income Bill Assistance Program.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

I recommend the Commission allow the tariff revisions proposed in Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's (Cascade or company) Advice No. O06-08-01 to become effective on September 10, 2006.

**DISCUSSION:**

On August 11, 2006, Cascade filed tariff revisions in Advice No. O06-08-01. The purpose of the filing is to revise Schedule No. 32, Oregon Low-Income Bill Assistance Program, to provide for reimbursement to the Community Action Agencies (Agencies) for their costs of program administration and delivery. The filing requests the tariff revisions go into effect on September 10, 2006.

Cascade's filing adds a provision to Schedule 32 that will reimburse the Agencies for costs incurred by them in the administration and delivery of Cascade's bill payment assistance program to the company's Oregon customers. Total program administration and delivery costs may not exceed 20 percent of the bill payment assistance funds applied to customers' accounts. Cascade's proposed level of program administration and delivery costs is similar to the levels included in NW Natural's and Avista Utilities' low-income bill assistance programs.

I have reviewed Cascade's filing and believe the proposed tariff revisions are reasonable.

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**PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

The tariff revisions proposed in Cascade's Advice No. O06-08-01 be allowed to go into effect on September 10, 2006.