

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of

CASCADE NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION's

2026-2027 Biennial Acquisition Target
Under RCW 80.28.380

DOCKET UG-250878
ORDER 01

ACCEPTING 2026-2027 BIENNIAL
ACQUISITION TARGET, SUBJECT
TO CONDITIONS

BACKGROUND

- 1 November 14, 2025, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) its 2026-2027 Biennial Conservation Plan (BCP or Plan) identifying a 2026-2027 biennial acquisition target of 1,042,648 therms.
- 2 Pursuant to RCW 80.28.380, gas companies must establish an acquisition target every two years and must demonstrate that the target will result in the acquisition of all resources identified as available and cost-effective.
- 3 Commission staff (Staff) and the Company negotiated a set of conditions that the Company agrees to adhere to throughout the biennium. These are included in Attachment A to this Order.
- 4 Staff filed responsive comments on the Plan on December 19, 2025.¹ Those comments detailed the Company's expected gas savings in the 2026-2027 biennium, some of the programs the Company will run to achieve those savings, and an analysis of the Plan.
- 5 Staff recommends the Commission issue an order accepting the Company's two-year conservation target of 1,042,648 therms; and subject to the conditions set out in detail in Attachment A to Staff's memo. In summary, the conditions require the Company to:
- Retain sole responsibility for complying with RCW 80.28.380.
 - Follow the Conservation Potential Assessment (CPA) provisions.

¹ *In re Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's 2026-2027 Washington Energy Efficiency Biennial Conservation Plan*, Docket UG-250878, Commission Staff's Comments regarding Gas Utilities' 2026-2027 Biennial Conservation Plans (Dec. 19, 2025).

- Follow the provisions for acquiring, planning, and reporting all conservation resources.
- Continue to use its advisory group, including notifying and consulting with the group in a variety of circumstances.
- Provide Annual Budgets in a detailed format including energy savings and a reasonable allocation towards pilot programs, research, and data collection.
- Maintain and provide specific program details in its conservation tariffs and notify Advisory Group of filings.
- Follow approved strategies for selecting and evaluating energy conservation savings.
- Follow program design principles.
- Use the Utility Cost Test.
- File recovery through a Gas Conservation Service Rider.
- Demonstrate progress towards equitable distribution of nonenergy benefits.
- Consult with the Advisory Group to determine implementation of RCWs 80.28.260(2) and 80.28.300.
- Work to ensure that the most recent and accurate assumptions and inputs are included in its 2027 CPA and that any remaining adjustments made to the CPA for purposes of target-setting are made prior to PSE requesting CPA approval by the Commission.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

6 We agree with Staff’s recommendation and accept the Company’s BCP subject to certain conditions. We accept the Company’s calculation of its two-year conservation target of 1,042,648 therms; subject to the conditions attached to and incorporated into this Order as Attachment A.

7 The Company, in collaboration with Staff and advisory groups, developed a BCP using methodologies consistent with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council’s most recent final Power Plan, which proposed appropriate program changes. The Plan also complies with the statutory requirement to “demonstrate that the target will result in the acquisition of all resources identified as available and cost-effective.”²

8 We agree with Staff that the public interest requires imposing additional conditions to accept the Company’s 2026-2027 BCP. The gas plans filed by the utilities, coupled with

² RCW 80.28.380(1).

the proposed conditions, will serve to demonstrate that the gas conservation target will result in the acquisition of all resources identified by the utility as available and cost-effective as required by RCW 80.28.380.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property, and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies.
- 10 (2) Cascade is an electric company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 11 (3) RCW 80.28.380 requires gas companies to establish an acquisition target every two years and demonstrate that the target will result in the acquisition of all resources identified as available and cost-effective.
- 12 (4) On November 14, 2025, Cascade filed its 2026-2027 BCP identifying 2026-2027 biennial acquisition target.
- 13 (5) This matter came before the Commission at a specially scheduled recessed meeting on January 14, 2026.
- 14 (6) Cascade's calculation of its 2026-2027 biennial acquisition target of 1,042,648 therms is consistent with RCW 80.28.380.
- 15 (7) It is in the public interest to accept Cascade's biennial acquisition target, as authorized by RCW 80.28.380, subject to the conditions proposed by Staff, as set out in Attachment A to this Order.
- 16 (8) The Commission should accept Cascade's calculation of its two-year acquisition target of 1,042,648 therms.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 17 (1) The Commission accepts Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's two-year acquisition target of 1,042,648 therms.
- 18 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter for purposes of effectuating this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective January 14, 2026.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

BRIAN J. RYBARIK, Chair

ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner

MILTON H. DOUMIT, Commissioner