



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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Sent Via Email

May 19, 2025

Pat Darras
VP, Engineering & Ops Services
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
400 North 4th Street
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

RE: 2025 Natural Gas Standard Records and Field Inspection – Cascade Natural Gas Corporation – Bremerton, WA District (Insp. No. 8998)

Dear Mr. Darras:

Staff from the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (staff) conducted a Standard Records and Field Inspection of Cascade Natural Gas Corporation's (CNGC) Bremerton, WA District from April 8, 2025, to April 24, 2025. This inspection included a records review and inspection of pipeline facilities.

Our inspection indicates two probable violations as noted in the enclosed report.

Your response needed

Please review the attached report and respond in writing by June 20, 2025. The response should include how and when you plan to bring the probable violations into full compliance.

What happens after you respond to this letter?

The attached report presents staff's decision on probable violations and does not constitute a finding of violation by the commission at this time.

After you respond in writing to this letter, there are several possible actions the commission, in its discretion, may take with respect to this matter. For example, the commission may:

- Issue an administrative penalty under [RCW 81.04.405](#); or
- Issue a complaint under [RCW 81.88.040](#), seeking monetary penalties, changes in the company's practices, or other relief authorized by law, and justified by the circumstances. Any pipeline company that violates any pipeline safety provision of any commission order, or any rule in this chapter including those rules adopted by reference, or chapter [81.88](#) RCW is subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$272,926 for each violation for

Cascade Natural Gas Corporation
2025 Natural Gas Standard Comprehensive Inspection, Bremerton District
Insp. No. 8998
5/19/2025
Page 2

each day that the violation persists. The maximum civil penalty for a related series of violations is \$2,729,245; or

- Consider the matter resolved without further commission action.

We have not yet decided whether to pursue a penalty or complaint in this matter. Should the commission decide to assess a penalty or initiate a complaint, your company will have an opportunity to respond and formally present its position.

If you have any questions or if we may be of any assistance, please contact Dave Cullom at (360) 489-8684. Please refer to the subject matter described above in any future correspondence pertaining to this inspection.

Sincerely,

Scott Rukke
Director, Pipeline Safety

Enclosure

cc: Colby Lundstrom, Manager, Compliance and Operations Programs, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, CNGC
Josh Sanders, Dir, Ops Policy & Procedures, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, CNGC
Mike Schoepp, Dir, Operations Services, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, CNGC
Ryan Privratsky, Dir, System Integrity, Integrity Management, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, CNGC

UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
2025 Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Inspection
Cascade Natural Gas Corporation – Bremerton, WA

The following probable violations of WAC 480-93 were noted as a result of the 2025 inspection of the Cascade Natural Gas Corporation – Bremerton, WA District (Insp. No. 8998). The inspection included a random selection of records, operation and maintenance (O&M), emergency response, inventory, and field inspection of the pipeline facilities.

PROBABLE VIOLATIONS

1. **WAC 480-93-186 Leak evaluation**

(3) The gas pipeline company must check the perimeter of the leak area with a combustible gas indicator. The gas pipeline company must perform a follow-up inspection on all leak repairs with residual gas remaining in the ground as soon as practical, but not later than thirty days following the repair.

Finding(s):

629 Highlands, Bremerton had a missed leak survey follow-up after residual gas was remaining on 5/12/2022. The follow up occurred on 1/20/2023.

2. **WAC 480-93-186 Leak evaluation**

(3) The gas pipeline company must check the perimeter of the leak area with a combustible gas indicator. The gas pipeline company must perform a follow-up inspection on all leak repairs with residual gas remaining in the ground as soon as practical, but not later than thirty days following the repair.

Finding(s):

1140 Marine Drive, Bremerton had a missed leak survey follow-up after residual gas was remaining on 7/14/2023. The follow up occurred on 9/12/2023.