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## Cascade Natural Gas awarded task order by U.S. Department of Energy

**KENNEWICK, WASH. – Jan. 12, 2012** – Cascade Natural Gas and the U.S. Department of Energy announced today that Cascade has been awarded a task order to provide natural gas service to facilities on DOE’s Hanford Site in Richland, including the waste treatment and immobilization plant under construction. Cascade will also assist DOE in preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed natural gas service.

If DOE moves forward with natural gas service, Cascade would construct, own, operate and maintain a natural gas pipeline to deliver natural gas utility service to DOE. The approximately \$35 million project would require Cascade to install about 29 miles of pipeline from a transmission line located north of Pasco to the Hanford site. The pipeline project would require approval by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission.

DOE is building and will be operating the world’s first chemical waste processing facility capable of both separating radioactive liquid waste and turning it into a stable, glass form suitable for permanent, safe disposal.

Using natural gas instead of diesel fuel would be more cost effective, eliminate the need for tanker truck traffic at the site, reduce green house gas emissions and reduce the dependency on foreign oil. Domestic natural gas production and supply is at an all-time high.

“We are extremely excited about partnering with the Department of Energy on this project and the possibility to bring in natural gas, a clean burning, economical fuel source,” said Frank Morehouse, executive vice president and general manager of Cascade Natural Gas.

If the project moves forward, it’s anticipated that construction of the pipeline will begin in 2014 and take six to 12 months to complete. The proposed pipeline installation includes crossing the Columbia River, which would be done by boring the pipeline below the river bed.

DOE’s Hanford Site sits on 586-square-miles and is home to nine former nuclear reactors and their associated processing facilities that were built beginning in 1943. The reactors were used to produce plutonium, a man-made, radioactive, chemical element that was needed for atomic weapons associated with America’s defense program during World War II and throughout the Cold War. Hanford reactors produced plutonium from 1944 until 1987. Today, Hanford workers are involved in an environmental cleanup project of immense proportions necessitated by the processes required to transform raw uranium into plutonium for bombs. These processes generated billions of gallons of liquid waste and millions of tons of solid waste, which must now be cleaned up, removed, or remediated.

*Cascade Natural Gas is a natural gas distribution company serving approximately 260,000 residential, commercial, industrial and transportation customers in 96 communities in Washington and Oregon. Cascade is a subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc., a multidimensional natural resources enterprise traded on the New York Stock Exchange as “MDU.” For more information about MDU Resources, visit the company’s Web site at [www.mdu.com](http://www.mdu.com). For more information about Cascade, visit [www.cngc.com](http://www.cngc.com).*

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