

1/5/62

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of)	
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY for a)	CAUSE NO. U-9411
Certificate of Public Convenience)	
and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant)	ORDER GRANTING
for Hire in the general area or areas)	APPLICATION
of Bingen and White Salmon, Klickitat)	
and Skamania Counties, Washington.)	
.)	

The Northwest Natural Gas Company, formerly known as the Portland Gas & Coke Company, an Oregon corporation, filed with the Commission on October 31, 1962, an application to amend its present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire to include the towns of Bingen and White Salmon and adjacent areas in Klickitat County as well as an adjoining area in Skamania County, Washington. The company presently holds Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 1 amended, issued July 17, 1956, in Cause No. U-8883.

The Bingen and White Salmon area was certificated to the Columbia Gas Company and denied to the Mt. Adams Gas Company on December 26, 1961, following a consolidated hearing on the applications of both companies. Subsequently, by letter of March 28, 1962, Columbia informed the Commission it had reconsidered its plan to provide gas service in the area and requested that the area be removed from its certificate. Upon receipt of Columbia's letter its certificate was amended to exclude the Bingen and White Salmon area and since April 9, 1962, the area has been unassigned. Following the Commission's denial of its application for certification of the Bingen and White Salmon area, the Mt. Adams Gas Company made no attempt to again file for the area. By letter of October 30, 1962, the Mt. Adams Gas Company informed the Commission it is no longer interested in providing gas service in the area and supports the application of the Northwest Natural Gas Company.

As a result of the 1961 formal hearing on the applications of the Columbia Gas Company and Mt. Adams Gas Company for a gas certificate covering the Bingen and White Salmon area the Commission is quite familiar with the economic feasibility of providing natural gas service in the area. Northwest's application appears to be even more feasible than the proposals of the previous certificate applicants, since the company has a commitment from the El Paso Natural Gas Company, its natural gas supplier, to construct a lateral pipeline from the main pipeline to a point between Bingen and White Salmon. This means the Northwest Natural Gas Company will not have to underwrite the construction of some four miles of transmission line that Columbia Gas Company expected to install. Northwest has also entered into a five year contract with the Bingen Veneer & Plywood Company for a substantial volume of firm gas. The company proposes to make gas service available in the Bingen and White Salmon area at the

same rates presently applicable in its other certificated areas in the state.

Northwest Natural Gas Company has obtained franchises from both Bingen and White Salmon to operate gas distribution systems in those towns. The company has been assured an adequate supply of natural gas from the El Paso Natural Gas Company to serve the area. Financing the necessary gas distribution system will present no problem to the company. Public convenience and necessity require that Northwest Natural Gas Company be certificated to operate a gas plant for hire in the area encompassed by the company's application in this cause.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Northwest Natural Gas Company, formerly known as the Portland Gas & Coke Company, is an Oregon corporation, operates a gas plant for hire in this state and is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
2. Northwest Natural Gas Company (Portland Gas & Coke Company) has heretofore been issued Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire No. 1 amended, in Cause No. U-8883, dated July 17, 1956.
3. Northwest Natural Gas Company has made application that its Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire be amended to encompass the towns of Bingen and White Salmon and adjacent area in Klickitat County as well as adjoining area in Skamania County, Washington.
4. Northwest Natural Gas Company has submitted a study showing it is economically feasible to provide natural gas service in the requested area.
5. Northwest Natural Gas Company has been assured an adequate supply of natural gas for the area it seeks certification.
6. Northwest Natural Gas Company is fully qualified to finance and operate gas facilities in the additional area for which it has applied.
7. The operation of a gas plant for hire in the towns of Bingen and White Salmon and adjacent area is required by public convenience and necessity.
8. The Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire presently held by Northwest Natural Gas Company should be amended to encompass the additional area applied for in this cause.

O R D E R

1. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED That the application of the Northwest Natural Gas Company to amend its present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire to encompass the towns of Bingen and White Salmon and adjacent area in Klickitat County and adjoining area in Skamania County is approved and the company's present Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire be amended to include the area delineated as follows:

All of the incorporated area comprising the cities of White Salmon and Bingen and additional portions of Klickitat County, together with portions of Skamania County described as follows:

Beginning at the northwest corner of Sec. 6, T. 3 N., R. 8 E.W.M.; thence south along the west lines of Secs. 6, 7, 18, 19, 30 and 31, T. 3 N., R. 8 E., to a point where the west line of said Sec. 31 intersects the Oregon-Washington boundary in the Columbia River; thence easterly along said boundary to a point where said boundary intersects the east line of Sec. 33, T. 3 N., R. 11 E., projected; thence north along the east lines of Secs. 33, 28, 21, 16, 9 and 4, T. 3 N., R. 11 E., to the northeast corner of said Sec. 4; thence west along the north lines of Secs. 4, 5 and 6, T. 3 N., R. 11 E., along the north lines of Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, T. 3 N., R. 10 E., along the north lines of Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, T. 3 N., R. 9 E., and along the north lines of Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, T. 3 N., R. 8 E., to the point of beginning,

and as further shown on Appendix A-2, attached hereto and by this reference made a part hereof.

2. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire issued pursuant to Order Paragraph No. 1 above, supersedes and cancels Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Operate a Gas Plant for Hire No. 1 as amended and issued to Northwest Natural Gas Company (Portland Gas & Coke Company) on July 17, 1956, in Cause No. U-8883. Said Certificate of July 17, 1956, should be forthwith returned to this Commission.

3. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That the Certificate issued pursuant to Order Paragraph No. 1 above, is subject to the terms, conditions and provisions of the orders in Cause Nos. U-8826, U-8827 and U-8883, pursuant to which Northwest Natural Gas Company was granted its present Certificate.

4. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED That jurisdiction over this Cause is retained to effectuate the provisions of this order.

U-9411

4.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 5th
day of November, 1962.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

FRANCIS PEARSON, Chairman

PATRICK D. SUTHERLAND, Commissioner

DAYTON A. WITTEN, Commissioner