

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UG-080546
TRANSPORTATION)	
COMMISSION,)	
)	ORDER 01
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	
)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)	SUSPENDING TARIFF
COMPANY,)	REVISIONS
)	
Respondent.)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 28, 2008, Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-6, designated as listed in the appendix attached to this Order. The stated effective date is May 1, 2008. The purpose of the filing is to increase rates and charges for its natural gas service to customers in Washington.
- 2 In this filing, NW Natural would increase charges and rates for service by \$4,342,063, or approximately 4.75 percent. Because those increases might injuriously affect the rights and interests of the public and NW Natural has not demonstrated that the increases would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings, if necessary, to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 3 NW Natural requested expedited entry of a Commission complaint and order suspending the tariff pages filed on March 28, 2008, and waives its right to have this filing considered at a Commission open meeting.
- 4 This proceeding meets the criteria in WAC 480-07-400(2)(b), and discovery will be conducted pursuant to the Commission’s discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies. RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.
- 6 (2) NW Natural is a gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) The tariff revisions NW Natural filed on March 28, 2008, would increase charges and rates for service provided by NW Natural, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 8 (4) NW Natural has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 9 (5) In order to carry out the duties imposed upon the Commission by law, and as authorized in RCW 80.04.130, the Commission believes it is necessary to investigate NW Natural's books, accounts, practices and activities; to make a valuation or appraisal of NW Natural's property; and to investigate and appraise various phases of NW Natural's operations.
- 10 (6) As required by RCW 80.04.130(4), NW Natural bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just, reasonable and sufficient.
- 11 (7) NW Natural may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation, consistent with RCW 80.20.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) The tariff revisions Northwest Natural Gas Company filed on March 28, 2008, are suspended.

- 13 (2) Discovery in this proceeding will be conducted pursuant to the Commission's
discovery rules in WAC 480-07-400 – 425.
- 14 (3) The Commission will hold public hearings at such times and places as may be
required.
- 15 (4) Northwest Natural Gas Company must not change or alter the tariffs filed in
this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the
Commission.
- 16 (5) The Commission will institute an investigation of Northwest Natural Gas
Company's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as
described above.
- 17 (6) Northwest Natural Gas Company shall pay the expenses reasonably
attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation, consistent with
RCW 80.20.
- 18 (7) Northwest Natural Gas Company must supply a notice to all affected
customers in the form and manner specified in WAC 480-90-195.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective April 3, 2008.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK H. SIDRAN, Chairman

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

Appendix

WN U-6:

5 th Revised	Sheet vi	Tariff Index (continued)
8 th Revised	Sheet vii	Tariff Index (continued)
5 th Revised	Sheet 00.6	General Rules and Regulations (continued)
3 rd Revised	Sheet 00.7	General Rules and Regulations (continued)
1 st Revised	Sheet 00.8	General Rules and Regulations (continued)
16 th Revised	Sheet 101.1	Rate Schedule 1 – General Sales Service (continued)
16 th Revised	Sheet 102.1	Rate Schedule 2 – Residential Sales Service (continued)
4 th Revised	Sheet 103.3	Rate Schedule 3 – Basic Firm Sales Service – Non-Residential (continued)
16 th Revised	Sheet 119.1	Rate Schedule 19 – Gas Light Service – Frozen
16 th Revised	Sheet 121.1	Schedule 21 – Firm Service High Load Factor – Frozen
17 th Revised	Sheet 127.1	Rate Schedule 27 – Residential Heating Dry-Out Service
3 rd Revised	Sheet 141.9	Rate Schedule 41 – Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service (continued)
Original	Sheet 141.10	Rate Schedule 41 – Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service (continued)
3 rd Revised	Sheet 142.10	Rate Schedule 42 – Large Volume Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service (continued)
3 rd Revised	Sheet 142.11	Rate Schedule 42 – Large Volume Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service (continued)
Original	Sheet 142.12	Rate Schedule 42 – Large Volume Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service (continued)
Original	Sheet 142.13	Rate Schedule 42 – Large Volume Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service (continued)
3 rd Revised	Sheet 143.6	Rate Schedule 43 – High Volume Non-Residential Firm and Interruptible Transportation Service (continued)

4 th Revised	Sheet 200.1	Schedule 200 – Summary of Adjustments
1 st Revised	Sheet 200.2	Schedule 200 – Summary of Adjustments (continued)
4 th Revised	Sheet 207.1	Schedule 207 – General Rate Adjustment
4 th Revised	Sheet 207.2	Schedule 207 – General Rate Adjustment (continued)
Original	Sheet 230.1	Schedule 230 - Partial Decoupling Mechanism (Pilot)
Original	Sheet 230.2	Schedule 230 - Partial Decoupling Mechanism (Pilot) (continued)
Original	Sheet 230.3	Schedule 230 - Partial Decoupling Mechanism (Pilot) (continued)
Original	Sheet 240.1	Schedule 240 – Weather Adjusted Rate Mechanism (WARM Program)
Original	Sheet 240.2	Schedule 240 – Weather Adjusted Rate Mechanism (WARM Program) (continued)
Original	Sheet 240.3	Schedule 240 – Weather Adjusted Rate mechanism (WARM Program) (continued)
Original	Sheet 240.4	Schedule 240 – Weather Adjusted Rate Mechanism (WARM Program) (continued)