

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UG-080546
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	NOTICE OF PREHEARING
)	CONFERENCE
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)	(Set for Thursday, April 24, 2008,
COMPANY,)	at 1:30 p.m.)
)	
Respondent.)	
.....)	

1 NW Natural Gas Company (NW Natural) on March 28, 2008, filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-6, designed to effect a general rate increase for gas service. NW Natural requests an increase in annual revenues from Washington operations of \$4,342,063, resulting in a proposed increase in rates of 4.75 percent. NW Natural requested the early entry of a complaint and order suspending the proposed tariffs and waived any objection to the process by which the suspension order might be entered. The Commission suspended operation of the tariffs by Order 01 entered in this docket on April 3, 2008.

2 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter under RCW Title 80, and has legal authority to regulate the rates, services, and practices of natural gas companies. The statutes that apply to this matter include RCW 80.01, RCW 80.04, and RCW 80.28, including but not limited to RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04.020, RCW 80.28.030, RCW 80.28.070, RCW 80.28.090, and RCW 80.28.100. The rules that apply to this matter include those within WAC 480-90, relating to gas companies.

3 The Commission will hear this matter under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), particularly Part IV of RCW 34.05 relating to adjudications. The provisions of the APA that relate to this proceeding include, but are not limited to RCW 34.05.413, RCW 34.05.422, RCW 34.05.431, RCW 34.05.434, RCW 34.05.440,

RCW 34.05.449, and RCW 34.05.452. The Commission will also follow its procedural rules in WAC 480-07 in this proceeding.

4 The Commissioners of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and Administrative Law Judge Adam E. Torem, from the Commission's Administrative Law Division, will preside during this proceeding.

5 The Commission finds there is good cause to hear this matter on shortened notice. *See WAC 480-07-440(1)(a).*

6 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That the Commission will hold a prehearing conference in this matter at 1:30 p.m., on April 24, 2008, First Floor, Room 108, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.**

7 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider requests for intervention, resolve scheduling matters including establishing dates for distributing evidence and workpapers, to identify the issues in the proceeding, and determine other matters to assist the Commission in resolving the matter, as listed in WAC 480-07-430. **Parties are encouraged to consult informally prior to the prehearing conference to develop a proposed procedural schedule for the Commission's consideration.**¹

8 **INTERVENTION:** Persons who wish to intervene should file a petition to intervene in writing at least three business days before the date of the prehearing conference. *See WAC 480-07-355(a).* The Commission will consider oral petitions to intervene during the conference, but strongly prefers written petitions to intervene. Party representatives must file a notice of appearance with the Commission no later than the business day before the conference. *See WAC 480-07-345(2).* If any party or witness needs an interpreter or other assistance, they should fill out the form attached to this notice and return it to the Commission. The Commission will set the time and place for any evidentiary hearings at the prehearing conference, on the record of a later conference or hearing session, or by later written notice.

9 The Attorney General has designated Simon J. ffitich of the Public Counsel Section of the Office of Attorney General to represent members of the public. You may use the Commission's address, shown below, for contacting Public Counsel, or you may

¹ The Commissioners estimate that the evidentiary hearing in this matter can be accomplished in two days. The Commission will set aside two days for hearing within the period of January 5 – 7, 2009.

contact Public Counsel directly by writing or calling the address or telephone number listed below.

10 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that any party who fails to attend or participate in the prehearing conference set by this Notice, or any other stage of this proceeding, may be held in default under RCW 34.05.440. The Commission specifically invokes the sanction provisions of WAC 480-07-450 which allow the Commission to seek penalties for a party in default.**

11 The names and mailing addresses of all known parties and their known representatives are as follows:

Complainant: Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
Richard Hemstad Building
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160

Representatives: Sally Brown
Greg Trautman
Jennifer Cameron-Rulkowski
Assistant Attorneys General
1400 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 40128
Olympia, WA 98504-0128
(360) 664-1193 sbrown@utc.wa.gov
(360) 664-1187 gtrautma@utc.wa.gov
(360) 664-1186 jcameron@utc.wa.gov

Respondent: NW Natural Gas Company
2200 NW Second Avenue
Portland, OR 97209

Representative: James M. Van Nostrand
Perkins Coie, LLP
1120 NW Couch Street, 10th Floor
Portland, OR 97209-4128
(503) 727-2162
jvannostrand@perkinscoie.com

Public Counsel Simon J. ffitch
Office of the Attorney General
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104-3188
(206) 389-2055
simonf@atg.wa.gov

- 12 The Commission will give parties notice of any other procedural phase of the proceeding in writing or on the record, as appropriate during this proceeding.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective April 7, 2008.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary

Inquiries may be addressed to:

Executive Secretary
Washington State Utilities and
Transportation Commission
Richard Hemstad Building
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, WA 98504-7250
(360) 664-1160

- or - Public Counsel Section
Office of the Attorney General
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104-3188
(206) 464-7744

NOTICE

Hearing facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Smoking is prohibited. If limited English-speaking, hearing-impaired parties or witnesses are involved in a hearing and need an interpreter, a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to the party or witness.

If you need an interpreter, or have other special needs, please fill out this form and return it to Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission, Attention: Carole J. Washburn, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, P. O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250. (PLEASE SUPPLY ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION)

Docket : _____

Case Name: _____

Hearing Date: _____ Hearing Location: _____

Primary
Language: _____

Hearing Impaired (Yes) _____ (No) _____

Do you need a certified sign language interpreter:

Visual _____ Tactile _____

Other type of assistance needed: _____

English-speaking person who can be contacted if there are questions:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No.: (____) _____