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April 27, 2018

NWN Advice No. WUTC 18-02 / UG

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Steven King, Executive Director and Secretary
 Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission
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 State Of WASH.
 UTIL. AND TRANSP.
 COMMISSION

Re: Advanced Automated Meter Reading (AAMR) and Charges for Special Metering Equipment, Rental Meters, and Metering Services

Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural (“NW Natural” or the “Company”), files herewith the following revisions to its Tariff WN U-6 stated to become effective with service on and after June 1, 2018:

PROPOSED REVISION	CANCELS REVISION	TITLE
Third Revision of Sheet 10.1	Second Revision of Sheet 10.1	General Rules and Regulations Rule 10 Gas Delivery and Measurement
Second Revision of Sheet 14.1	First Revision of Sheet 14.1	General Rules and Regulations Rule 14 Service Interruptions
Fourth Revision of Sheet 110.1	Third Revision of Sheet 110.1	Rate Schedule 10 Charges for Special Metering Equipment, Rental Meters and Metering Services
Second Revision of Sheet 110.2	First Revision of Sheet 110.2	Rate Schedule 10 Charges for Special Metering Equipment, Rental Meters, and Metering Services (continued)
Fifth Revision of Sheet 141.1	Fourth Revision of Sheet 141.1	Rate Schedule 41 Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Seventh Revision of Sheet 141.2	Sixth Revision of Sheet 141.2	Rate Schedule 41 Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service (continued)
Third Revision of Sheet 141.6	Second Revision of Sheet 141.6	Rate Schedule 41 Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service (continued)
Fifth Revision of Sheet 142.1	Fourth Revision of Sheet 142.1	Rate Schedule 42 Large Volume Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Seventh Revision of Sheet 142.2	Sixth Revision of Sheet 142.2	Rate Schedule 42 Large Volume Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Fifth Revision of Sheet 143.1	Fourth Revision of Sheet 143.1	Rate Schedule 43 High Volume Non-Residential Firm and Interruptible Transportation Service
Sixth Revision of Sheet 143.2	Fifth Revision of Sheet 143.2	Rate Schedule 43 High Volume Non-Residential Firm and Interruptible Transportation Service
Seventh Revision of Sheet T-1	Sixth Revision of Sheet T.1	Schedule T Customer-Owned Natural Gas Transportation Service

The first purpose of this filing is to revise the tariff to reflect changes to the operation of Advanced Automated Meter Reading (AAMR) devices for all customers required to have an AAMR device under Rate Schedule 41, Rate Schedule 42, and Rate Schedule 43. As a result of a 2012 FCC ruling, telecom utilities are planning to convert from analog technology to a digital infrastructure. Once these conversions occur, NW Natural will no longer be able to obtain usage data from existing analog phone lines and therefore is converting all AAMR devices to wireless technology. The wireless technology will no longer require a customer to provide telephone service to the AAMR device; however, customers will be required to provide continuous electric power for the AAMR device. As the installation of an AAMR device with wireless technology takes longer to complete than an analog AAMR, the Company is proposing a requirement for customers to activate electric power 45 days prior to the effective date of service.

The second purpose of this filing is to update the rates on Schedule 10 for optional meter rental and special metering equipment. For a charge, a customer may request additional meters and/or an AAMR device when the rate schedule does not require an AAMR device. The AAMR installation charge and monthly charge have been revised to reflect the cost of wireless technology. Currently there are six optional AAMR devices in Washington. Of the six devices, two customers requested the device while the other devices remain in place due to the requirement under a previous rate schedule. Additionally the meter rental charges have been reviewed and updated to reflect actual costs. In an effort to increase transparency and simplify meter charges, the monthly charge for diaphragm meters has been changed to a set rate for each meter type instead of a formula.

The third purpose of this filing is to terminate the telemetry equipment charge in Schedule 10 while the Company reserves the ability to install telemetry equipment on the customer site for operational purposes.

The final purpose of this filing is a housekeeping edit to correct references from AMR to AAMR. Automated Meter Reading (AMR) refers to the type of automated meter reading applicable to cycle-billed customers while AAMR devices are applicable to non-residential month-end billed customers.

The Company respectfully requests that the tariff sheet filed herein be approved to become effective with service on and after June 1, 2018.

As required by WAC 480-80-103(4)(a), I certify that I have authority to issue tariff revisions on behalf of NW Natural.

A copy of the filing is available for public inspection in the Company's main office in Portland, Oregon and on its website at www.nwnatural.com.

Please address correspondence on this matter to me with copies to the following:

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Please call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gail Hammer

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Attachments:

NEW-NW-Naturals-WUTC-Advice-18-02-Wireless-AAMR-Sheet-10.1-04-27-2018
NEW-NW-Naturals-WUTC-Advice-18-02-Wireless-AAMR-Sheet-14.1-04-27-2018
NEW-NW-Naturals-WUTC-Advice-18-02-Wireless-AAMR-Sheet-110.1-04-27-2018
NEW-NW-Naturals-WUTC-Advice-18-02-Wireless-AAMR-Sheet-110.2-04-27-2018
NEW-NW-Naturals-WUTC-Advice-18-02-Wireless-AAMR-Sheet-141.1-04-27-2018
NEW-NW-Naturals-WUTC-Advice-18-02-Wireless-AAMR-Sheet-141.2-04-27-2018
NEW-NW-Naturals-WUTC-Advice-18-02-Wireless-AAMR-Sheet-141.6-04-27-2018
NEW-NW-Naturals-WUTC-Advice-18-02-Wireless-AAMR-Sheet-142.1-04-27-2018
NEW-NW-Naturals-WUTC-Advice-18-02-Wireless-AAMR-Sheet-142.2-04-27-2018
NEW-NW-Naturals-WUTC-Advice-18-02-Wireless-AAMR-Sheet-143.1-04-27-2018
NEW-NW-Naturals-WUTC-Advice-18-02-Wireless-AAMR-Sheet-143.2-04-27-2018
NEW-NW-Naturals-WUTC-Advice-18-02-Wireless-AAMR-Sheet-T.1-04-27-2018