

[Service Date April 18, 2012]

April 18, 2012

**NOTICE GRANTING THIRD REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
(Staff Answering Testimony and Exhibits Now Due by April 24, 2012)
And
NOTICE CANCELLING HEARING
(Set for May 8 and 9, 2012)**

RE: *Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v. Northwest Natural Gas Company*, Docket UG-111233

TO ALL PARTIES:

On December 23, 2011, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) entered Order 04 – Prehearing Conference Order in the above matter. Order 04, among other things, adopted a procedural schedule agreed to by the parties.

On March 15, 2012, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a request to extend the filing deadline for Staff's answering testimony and exhibits to April 3, 2012. Staff indicated that the parties remained optimistic that they would reach a unanimous settlement agreement in this case and anticipated filing testimony, a settlement agreement, and narrative in support in the near term.

On March 28, 2012, Staff filed a second request to extend the filing deadline for filing Staff's answering testimony and exhibits from April 3, 2012, to April 17, 2012. Staff indicated the parties' continued optimism that they would reach a unanimous settlement in this case.

On April 17, 2012, Staff filed a third request to extend the filing deadline for Staff's answering testimony and exhibits from April 17, 2012, to April 24, 2012. Staff states that the parties do not object to the additional requested extension.

Under these circumstances and considering in addition the Commission's many other obligations in the near term, it is necessary to reschedule the planned hearing date for presentation of the promised settlement agreement and supporting evidence. Staff has informally notified the Commission that the Company agrees to waive the statutory

suspension period if, and as, necessary to accommodate the Commission's administrative need for time to prepare and enter an order.

The Commission finds that Staff has demonstrated good cause to extend the filing deadline and grants the request.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That the third request for an extension of time filed by Commission Staff is granted and that the deadline for staff answering testimony and exhibits is now extended from April 17, 2012, to April 24, 2012.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN That the prehearing conference scheduled for May 4, 2012, and the evidentiary hearings scheduled for May 8 and 9, 2012, are cancelled. The Commission has tentatively reserved May 29, 2012, for a hearing on a parties' proposed settlement agreement if a settlement is reached.

Sincerely,

DENNIS J. MOSS
Administrative Law Judge