

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

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND	)	DOCKET NO. UG-031885
TRANSPORTATION	)	
COMMISSION,	)	ORDER NO. 01
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	
	)	
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS	)	
COMPANY,	)	COMPLAINT AND ORDER
	)	SUSPENDING TARIFF
Respondent.	)	REVISIONS
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

1 On November 19, 2003, Northwest Natural Gas Company, (NW Natural or Company) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-6, designated as Proposed Revision Sheet Numbers:

Rate Summary Page 1	Summary of Monthly Sales Service Billing Rates
Rate Summary Page 2	Summary of Monthly Transportation Service Billing Rates
Third Revision of Sheet v	Tariff Index
Second Revision of Sheet vi	Tariff Index
Third Revision of Sheet vii	Tariff Index
Fifth Revision of Sheet ix	Tariff Index
Second Revision of Sheet 00.6	General Rules and Regulations
First Revision of Sheet 00.7	General Rules and Regulations
Original Sheet 00.8	General Rules and Regulations
Second Revision of Sheet 15.1	General Rules and Regulations
First Revision of Sheet 17.1	General Rules and Regulations
First Revision of Sheet 20.1	General Rules and Regulations
Fourth Revision of Sheet C.1	Miscellaneous Charges
Schedule C	

Third Revision of Sheet C.3 Schedule C	Miscellaneous Charges
First Revision of Sheet E.5 Schedule E	Distribution Facilities Extensions For Applicant-Requested Services and Mains
First Revision of Sheet P.3 Schedule P	Determination of Company's Purchased Gas Cost Adjustments and Weighted Average Cost of Gas
Second Revision of Sheet T.1 Schedule T	Customer-Owned Natural Gas Transportation Service
Second Revision of Sheet T.2 Schedule T	Customer-Owned Natural Gas Transportation Service
Eleventh Revision of Sheet 101.1 Schedule 1	General Sales Service
Original Sheet 101.2 Schedule 1	General Sales Service
Eleventh Revision of Sheet 102.1 Schedule 2	Residential Sales Service
Original Sheet 102.2 Schedule 2	Residential Sales Service
Eleventh Revision of Sheet 103.1 Schedule 3	Basic Firm Sales and Transportation Service Non-Residential
Original Sheet 103.2 Schedule 3	Basic Firm Sales and Transportation Service Non-Residential
Original Sheet 103.3 Schedule 3	Basic Firm Sales and Transportation Service Non-Residential
Original Sheet 103.4 Schedule 3	Basic Firm Sales and Transportation Service Non-Residential
Second Revision of Sheet 110.1 Schedule 10	Charges for Special Metering Equipment, Rental Meters and Metering Services
Original Sheet 110.2 Schedule 10	Charges for Special Metering Equipment, Rental Meters and Metering Services
Eleventh Revision of Sheet 119.1 Schedule 19	Gas Light Service – FROZEN
Tenth Revision of Sheet 122.1 Schedule 22	Dual Fuel Sales Service – FROZEN

Eleventh Revision of Sheet 124.1 Schedule 24	Residential Sales Service – All Gas
Original Sheet 124.2 Schedule 24	Residential Sales Service – All Gas
Eleventh Revision of Sheet 127.1 Schedule 27	Residential Heating Dry-Out Service
Original Sheet 131.1 Schedule 31	Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Original Sheet 131.2 Schedule 31	Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Original Sheet 131.3 Schedule 31	Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Original Sheet 131.4 Schedule 31	Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Original Sheet 131.5 Schedule 31	Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Original Sheet 132.1 Schedule 32	Large Volume Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Original Sheet 132.2 Schedule 32	Large Volume Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Original Sheet 132.3 Schedule 32	Large Volume Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Original Sheet 132.4 Schedule 32	Large Volume Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Original Sheet 132.5 Schedule 32	Large Volume Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service
Original Sheet 133.1 Schedule 33	High Volume Non-Residential Firm and Interruptible Transportation Service
Original Sheet 133.2 Schedule 33	High Volume Non-Residential Firm and Interruptible Transportation Service
Eleventh Revision of Sheet 154.1 Schedule 54	Emergency Sales Service
Original Sheet 200.1 Schedule 200	Summary of Adjustments
Eighth Revision of Sheet 201.1 Schedule 201	Temporary (Technical) Adjustments to Rates

Original Sheet 201.2 Schedule 201	Temporary (Technical) Adjustments to Rates
Second Revision of Sheet 205.1 Schedule 205	Temporary Rate Adjustment Open-Access Transportation Firm and Interruptible Schedules
Second Revision of Sheet 206.1 Schedule 206	Temporary Rate Adjustment Open-Access Transportation Special Contracts and Incentive Rates
Second Revision of Sheet 207.1 Schedule 207	General Rate Adjustment
Second Revision of Sheet 207.2 Schedule 207	General Rate Adjustment
Fourth Revision of Sheet 208.1 Schedule 208	Temporary Rate Adjustment
Third Revision of Sheet 215.1 Schedule 215	Adjustment to Rates Energy Conservation Programs
Original Sheet 220.1 Schedule 220	Distribution Margin Normalization (Experimental)
Original Sheet 220.2 Schedule 220	Distribution Margin Normalization (Experimental)
Original Sheet 220.3 Schedule 220	Distribution Margin Normalization (Experimental)

- 2 The filing would increase charges and rates for service provided by NW Natural. 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 and reasonable, the Commission suspends the tariff filing and will hold public hearings if necessary to determine whether the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.

### FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3 (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, and transfers of public service companies, including natural gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW; and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*

- 4 (2) NW Natural is a natural gas company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 5 (3) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 10, 2003.
- 6 (4) The tariff revisions filed by NW Natural on November 19, 2003, would increase charges and rates for service provided by NW Natural, and might injuriously affect the rights and interest of the public.
- 7 (5) NW Natural has not yet demonstrated that the tariff revisions would result in rates that are fair, just and reasonable.
- 8 (6) 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.
- 9 (7) As required by RCW 80.04.130 (2), NW Natural bears the burden of proof to show that the proposed increases are fair, just and reasonable.
- 10 (8) NW Natural may be required to pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to such an investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

**ORDER**

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 11 (1) The tariff revisions filed on November 19, 2003, are suspended.
- 12 (2) The Commission will hold hearings at such times and places as may be required.
- 13 (3) Northwest Natural Gas Company must not change or alter the tariffs filed in this docket during the suspension period, unless authorized by the Commission.
- 14 (4) The Commission will institute an investigation of Northwest Natural Gas Company's books, accounts, practices, activities, property and operations as described above.
- 15 (5) Northwest Natural Gas Company shall pay the expenses reasonably attributable and allocable to the Commission's investigation to the extent the requirements for such payment are in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 80.20 RCW.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 10th day of December, 2003.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARILYN SHOWALTER, Chairwoman

RICHARD HEMSTAD, Commissioner

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner