

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

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| WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND |) | |
| TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, |) | DOCKET NO. UG-031885 |
| |) | |
| |) | |
| Complainant, |) | |
| |) | |
| v. |) | NOTICE OF PREHEARING |
| |) | CONFERENCE |
| NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS |) | (Set for January 7, 2004) |
| COMPANY, |) | |
| |) | |
| |) | |
| Respondent. |) | |
| |) | |

- 1 On November 19, 2003, Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural) filed certain tariff revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-6, which would increase charges and rates for service provided by NW Natural by approximately 15 percent in the company's gas service Rate Schedules, and a total revenue increase of \$7,894,393 per year.
- 2 By order of the Commission, the operation of the tariff revisions have been suspended pending hearing or hearings concerning all such changes and the justness and reasonableness thereof.
- 3 Hearing in this matter is being held pursuant to Part IV of chapter 34.05 RCW pertaining to adjudicative proceedings, including but not limited to RCW 34.05.413, RCW 34.05.422, RCW 34.05.431, RCW 34.05.440, RCW 34.05.449, RCW 34.05.452, and RCW 34.05.455. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Title 80 RCW, having legal authority to regulate the rates, services, and practices of natural gas companies. The statutes and rules involved, in addition to those previously cited, include those within chapters 80.04, 80.16, and 80.28 RCW, and chapters 480-09, 480-80 and 480-90 WAC.

4 The ultimate issues include whether the proposed tariff revisions are just, fair, reasonable, sufficient, and in the public interest. The ultimate issues also include whether NW Natural's current rates on file and effect with the Commission are just, fair, reasonable, and sufficient. These issues include consideration of alternative rate design or structure. In accordance with the provisions of RCW 80.04.130 the burden of proof to show that the proposed general tariff revisions are just and reasonable shall be upon the respondent.

5 **NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN That a prehearing conference in this matter will be held at 1:30 p.m., on January 7, 2004, in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.**

6 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to take interventions, establish dates for distribution of the Company's direct evidence and workpapers and other scheduling matters, consider formulating the issues in the proceeding and to determine other matters to aid in its disposition, as specified in WAC 480-09-460.

7 Petitions to intervene should be made in writing prior to the hearing date or made orally at the hearing. Appearances will be taken. If any party or witness needs an interpreter or other assistance, please fill out the form attached to this notice and return it to the Commission. The time and place for the evidentiary hearings will be set at the prehearing conference or by later written notice.

8 **NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT ANY PARTY WHO FAILS TO ATTEND OR PARTICIPATE IN THE HEARING SET BY THIS NOTICE, OR ANY OTHER STAGE OF THIS PROCEEDING, MAY BE HELD IN DEFAULT IN ACCORDANCE WITH RCW 34.05.440. THE PARTIES ARE FURTHER ADVISED THAT THE SANCTION PROVISIONS OF WAC 480-09-700(4) ARE SPECIFICALLY INVOKED.**

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

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

Representative: Greg Trautman
Chris Swanson
Assistant Attorney's General
1400 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P. O. Box 40128
Olympia, WA 98504-0128
(360) 664-1187

Respondent: C. Alex Miller
General Manager, Rates and Regulatory Affairs
NW Natural Gas Company
220 N.W. 2nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97209
(503) 721-2487

Representative: James M. Van Nostrand
Stoel Rives LLP
600 University Street
Suite 3600
Seattle, WA 98101-7665
(206) 386-7665

Public Counsel: Robert Cromwell
Office of Attorney General
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98164-1012
(206) 464-6595

- 10 Karen M. Caillé has been designated as the Administrative Law Judge from the Utilities and Transportation Commission's Administrative Law Division, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington 98504-7250, and will preside at the prehearing conference.
- 11 Notice of any other procedural phase will be given in writing or on the record as the Commission may deem appropriate during the course of this proceeding.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 18th day of December 2003.

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary

Inquires may be addressed to:

Executive Secretary
Washington Utilities and
Transportation Commission
Chandler Plaza 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 Attorney General
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98164-1012
(206) 464-7744

NOTICE

PLEASE NOTE: The hearing facilities are accessible to interested people with disabilities; that smoking is prohibited; and if limited English-speaking or 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.

The information needed to provide an appropriate interpreter or other assistance should be stated below and returned to Washington 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 No.: _____

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.: (____) _____