BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of)	DOCKET UG-111521
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY,))	ORDER 01
)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
For an Order Establishing Compliance)	
with the Provisions of RCW 80.08.040,)	
with Respect to its Proposal to Issue and)	ORDER ESTABLISHING
Sell up to \$75,00,000 Principal Amount)	COMPLIANCE WITH
of Medium-Term Notes.)	RCW 80.08.040, SECURITIES
)	

BACKGROUND

- On August 22, 2011, Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a statement of a planned securities issuance and application for an order affirming compliance with RCW 80.08.040. In its application, NW Natural proposes to issue and sell up to \$75,000,000 principal amount of its Medium-Term Notes, Series B ("Notes"). These Notes will be issued under a universal shelf registration ("Shelf Registration") filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The application is filed pursuant to RCW 80.08.040.
- According to NW Natural's application and supporting documents, the proceeds of the financing are for one or more of the purposes allowed by RCW 80.08.030. The application states that the Company will issue the notes at maturities up to 30 years at current market rates in either public or private offerings. Finally, the application contains a statement by an officer with respect to the reasons why the transaction is in the public interest.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including natural gas companies.

RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.

- 4 (2) NW Natural is engaged in the business of providing natural gas service within the state of Washington. As a public service company, it is subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 5 (3) The application NW Natural filed meets the requirements of *RCW* 80.08 which concern the issuance of securities by public service companies.
- 6 (4) The information NW Natural filed in this docket contains: (a) a certification by an authorized officer that the proceeds will be used for one or more purposes allowed by RCW 80.08.030; (b) a description of the proposed issuance, including the terms of financing, and (c) a statement as to why the proposal to issue and sell up to \$75,000,000 principal amount of its Medium-Term Notes, Series B ("Notes") is in the public interest. *See WAC 480-90-242*.
- 7 (5) After reviewing the information and application NW Natural filed in Docket UG-111521 on August 22, 2011, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that NW Natural is in compliance with RCW 80.08.040.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 8 (1) Northwest Natural Gas Company has complied with the requirements of RCW 80.08.040 with respect to the proposals in its application to issue and sell up to \$75,000,000 principal amount of its Medium-Term Notes, Series B ("Notes").
- 9 (2) Northwest Natural Gas Company is directed to file a Report of Securities Issued as required by *WAC 480-90-262*. Northwest Natural Gas Company is also required to file verified copies of any agreement entered into in connection with any transaction pursuant to this Order. Finally, Northwest Natural Gas Company shall file a verified statement setting forth in reasonable detail the disposition of the proceeds of each offering made pursuant to this Order.

10 (3) This Order shall in no way affect the authority of the Commission over rates, services, accounts, valuations, estimates, or determination of costs, or any matters that may come before it. Nor shall anything in this Order be construed as an agreement to any estimate or determination of costs, or any valuation of property claimed or asserted.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective September 1, 2011.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary