

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UG-111233
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	
Complainant,)	ORDER 06
)	
v.)	
)	GRANTING MOTION TO
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)	WITHDRAW TARIFF FILING
COMPANY,)	
)	
Respondent.)	
.....)	

SUMMARY

1 **PROCEEDING.** On July 7, 2011, Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a revision to its Tariff WN U-6. The Company filed a revised Schedule P “Determination of Company’s Purchased Gas Cost Adjustments and Weighted Costs of Gas,” with a stated effective date of August 6, 2011.¹ The filed revisions, if allowed to become effective, would change the definition of gas commodity costs recovered via the Company’s PGA to include the costs of developing gas reserves NW Natural acquired through a joint venture with Encana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc. (Encana). NW Natural requests an express finding that the Company’s decision to enter into the transaction with Encana was prudent, authorization to recover in rates the associated costs (including rate base treatment for the initial \$251 million fixed cost investment), and approval of the proposed revisions to Schedule P.

2 The parties, on April 24, 2012, filed a Settlement Stipulation supported as required by the Commission’s rules.² The Commission elected to resolve this matter on the basis

¹ NW Natural and Staff requested and were granted three extensions of time to file their settlement. On the third occasion, we required them to waive the suspension date for 30 days. Hence, the suspension date now is July 6, 2012.

² WAC 480-07-730 (“Parties who file a full settlement should file supporting evidence at the same time . . . or within a reasonable time following filing of the settlement agreement.”); WAC

of the prefiled record of evidence, without conducting a live hearing, and gave notice of this process determination on May 10, 2012. The Commission approved and adopted the Settlement Stipulation, and granted NW Natural leave to withdraw its tariff filing in Order 05, entered on May 25, 2012. NW Natural filed its Motion to Withdraw Tariff Filing on May 30, 2012.

- 3 NW Natural's Motion to Withdraw Tariff Filing complies with the terms of the Settlement Stipulation and the requirements of Order 05. The Commission determines that it should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT:

- 4 (1) NW Natural's Motion to Withdraw Tariff Filing is granted. Upon entry of this Order, the Company's tariff filing made July 7, 2011, is considered to be withdrawn and this Docket UG-111233 is closed.
- 5 (2) The Commission retains jurisdiction to enforce the terms of this Order.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective June 12, 2012.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DENNIS J. MOSS
Administrative Law Judge