

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

In the Matter of the Request of	)	DOCKET UG-090684
	)	
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS	)	ORDER 01
COMPANY,	)	
	)	
Petitioner,	)	
	)	ORDER GRANTING LESS THAN
For Less Than Statutory Notice in	)	STATUTORY NOTICE; ALLOWING
Connection with Tariff Revisions	)	TARIFF REVISIONS
.....	)	

**BACKGROUND**

- 1 On May 5, 2009, Northwest Natural Gas Company, (NW Natural or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) tariff revisions incorporating a refund of the gas commodity cost deferred balance for all sale schedules as set forth in Tariff WN U-6, designated as:
  - Tariff Index
  - Schedule No. 203A, Purchased Gas Adjustment Credit
  - Schedule P, Determination of Company’s Purchased Gas Cost Adjustments and Weighted Average Cost of Gas
  
- 2 RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121 require thirty days’ notice to customers prior to the effective date of the tariff. The tariff sheet bears an effective date of June 5, 2009. This date recognizes the required thirty days’ statutory notice. The Company requests, however, less than statutory notice as permitted by WAC 480-80-122, and that the revision becomes effective June 1, 2009. NW Natural requests less than statutory notice because the Company believes that reducing the rate is appropriate due to changing conditions since the Company’s 2008 Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) filing.
  
- 3 Higher natural gas volumes due to colder weather have helped to reduce the outstanding deferral balances at a faster rate than originally anticipated and natural gas prices have recently fallen to lower levels than anticipated.
  
- 4 Since the proposed tariff revision appears to be fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, and less than statutory notice is consistent with the public interest, it is appropriate that the Commission grant NW Natural’s request with an effective date of June 1, 2009.

**FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.*
- 6 (2) NW Natural is a gas company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 7 (3) NW Natural is subject to RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121, which require gas companies to file changes in any rate or charges with thirty days' notice. For good cause shown, however, the Commission may allow changes without requiring thirty days' notice by order specifying the changes to be made and the time when it shall take effect. *RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-122.*
- 8 (4) Staff has reviewed NW Natural's request in Docket NW Natural and recommends the Commission grant the Company's request for less than statutory notice.
- 9 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on May 28, 2009.
- 10 (6) After reviewing NW Natural's proposed tariff revision filed on May 5, 2009, and giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds the proposed tariff revision should become effective June 1, 2009.

**ORDER**

**THE COMMISSION ORDERS:**

- 11 (1) Northwest Natural Gas Company's request for less than statutory notice is granted.

- 12 (2) The tariff revisions Northwest Gas Company filed on May 5, 2009, will be effective on June 1, 2009.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 28, 2009.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner