

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET NO. UG-051596
)	
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)	ORDER NO. 01
COMPANY,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
For Less Than Statutory Notice in)	ORDER GRANTING LESS THAN
Connection with Tariff Revisions)	STATUTORY NOTICE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On October 20, 2005, Northwest Natural Gas Company, (NW Natural or the Company) filed with the Commission revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-6, designated as First Revision of Sheet T-2. On October 21, 2005, NW Natural filed a substitute page to the filing. The purpose of the filing, as revised on October 21, 2005, is to add a limited exception to the minimum term of service for transportation customers who elect to take service as sales customers. Specifically, the limited exception provides that customers that elected to switch from transportation service to sales service during the period between August 1, 2005, and October 27, 2005, will be allowed to return to transportation service on either November 1, November 15 or December 1, 2005, without fulfilling the minimum service election term specified in sales service rate schedules.
- 2 RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121 require a thirty-day notice prior to the effective date of the tariff. The tariff sheets bear an inserted effective date of November 21, 2005. This date recognizes statutory notice as required. The Company requests, however, less than statutory notice as permitted in WAC 480-80-122, and that the revisions become effective October 27, 2005. NW Natural stated the reason(s) for less than statutory notice is due to the expedited need to secure gas supply.

3 WAC 480-90-194 requires notification to customers or publication of the change
in service provisions sought in this filing. Granting the Company's less than
statutory notice request also requires an exemption from WAC 480-90-194. For
the same reason(s) listed for seeking less than statutory notice, the Company
seeks such an exemption from notice requirements. The Company proposes to
notify customers by letter.

4 Since the proposed tariff revisions appear to be fair, just, and reasonable, 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 October 27,
2005.

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
rates, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public
service companies, including gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter
80.04 RCW and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*

6 (2) NW Natural is a gas company and is a public service company subject to
the jurisdiction of the Commission.

7 (3) NW Natural is subject to the provisions of RCW 80.28.060 and
WAC 480-80-121 requiring gas companies to file changes in any rate or
charge 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. *WAC 480-80-122.*

- 8 (4) WAC 480-90-008 provides that the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in Chapter 480-90 WAC, if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes.
- 9 (5) Staff has reviewed the request in Docket UG-051596 and recommended the less than statutory notice request of NW Natural be granted. Staff further recommended the Commission grant an exemption to WAC 480-90-194 and require the Company to notify customers by letter.
- 10 (6) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 26, 2005.
- 11 (7) After examination of the proposed tariff revisions filed by NW Natural on October 21, 2005, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds the proposed tariff revisions should become effective October 27, 2005.
- 12 (8) The Commission also finds the Company should be granted an exemption to the customer notice requirements.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 13 (1) The request sought by Northwest Natural Gas Company for less than statutory notice is granted.
- 14 (2) After the effective date of this Order, Northwest Natural Gas Company is granted an exemption from WAC 480-90-194, Publication of proposed

changes to increase charges or restrict access in service. Northwest Natural Gas Company shall notice customers by letter.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 26th day of October, 2005.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

PATRICK J. OSHIE, Commissioner

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner