



STATE OF WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
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December 16, 2013

Jennifer Gross
Tariff and Regulatory Compliance
NW Natural Gas Company
220 NW 2nd Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97209

**Re: NW Natural's 2013 Natural Gas Integrated Resource Plan
Docket UG-120417**

Dear Ms. Gross:

The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) has reviewed the 2013 Natural Gas Integrated Resource Plan (Plan) filed by NW Natural Gas Company (NW Natural or Company) and acknowledges that it meets the requirements of Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 19.280.030 and Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-90-238. This determination is based on the Company's Base Case analysis that results in resource additions shown in Table 1.1 of the Plan.

Please be advised that this finding does not signal pre-approval for ratemaking for any course of action identified in the Plan. At the time of the Commission's review of a NW Natural's general rate case, the Commission will give due weight to the information, analyses and strategies contained in the Plan along with other relevant evidence when determining the prudence of the Company's actions.

Because an integrated resource plan (IRP) cannot determinatively pinpoint the future actions that will minimize a utility's costs and risk, we expect that the Company will update regularly the assumptions that underlie the Plan and adjust its operational strategies accordingly.

The Commission attaches to this letter, specific comments regarding the Company's Plan. Commission Staff will participate in discussions with the Company and other interested persons, and will provide additional detailed comments as the Company develops its next IRP. NW Natural must file its next Natural Gas IRP work plan on or before March 30, 2014, and its next IRP on or before March 31, 2015.

Sincerely,

STEVEN V. KING
Executive Director and Secretary

Attachment