

June 6, 2008

NOTICE OF COMMUNICATION

RE: *WUTC v. NW Natural Gas Company – General Rate Case*
Docket UG-080546

TO ALL PARTIES:

On June 2, 2008, all three commissioners of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) received a form letter and supporting documents about NW Natural Gas Company's views on the future of the energy industry and the need for new natural gas infrastructure projects. The materials included an "Up Close" company newsletter focusing on NW Natural's strategic issues and two joint press releases from the American Gas Association and the Natural Resources Defense Council advocating for energy efficiency programs in combating global warming. The packets also included handwritten cover notes to each commissioner from Mark S. Dodson, Chief Executive Officer of NW Natural Gas Company, explaining that he would be presenting these issues at the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) meeting in Portland, Oregon, in July 2008.

Only Commissioner Patrick Oshie actually received and briefly reviewed the materials before he recognized the potential *ex parte* nature of the communication. The packets for Chairman Sidran and Commissioner Jones were not delivered to them.

Given NW Natural's pending rate case before the Commission, recognizing the spirit of openness expected in any adjudication, and as required by RCW 34.05.455(5) and WAC 480-07-310(4), the Commission is placing the attached mailings in the record of this case. Any party may file a statement, as they may consider necessary, within 10 days after the date of this Notice. These materials and any rebuttal statements will not be considered evidence in this docket unless a party files a motion to admit any portion and that portion is admitted pursuant to RCW 34.05.452.

Sincerely,

ADAM E. TOREM
Administrative Law Judge