



October 8, 1992

RECEIVED

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Advice No. 398-F488

STATE OF WASH  
UTIL. & TRANSP  
COMMISSION

Mr. Paul Curl  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Chandler Plaza Building  
P. O. Box 47250  
1300 S Evergreen Park Dr SW  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

Dear Mr. Curl:

Regarding Docket No. UG-920840, as required by WAC 480-80-125(1), please find enclosed a copy of the Company's "Important Notice."

This notice has accompanied, as a separate document, regular bills distributed to Washington Natural Gas Company's customers starting September 28, 1992, and it will continue for a full 21 cycles of activity.

Additionally, on September 28, 1992, a copy of the notice was provided to the media in our service areas.

By this letter, the Company states that it is complying with the mailing and delivery requirements of WAC 480-80-125(1).

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ritchie Campbell".

RITCHIE A. CAMPBELL  
Director  
Rates and Special Studies

Enclosures

RC/dli

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

### **Washington Natural Gas Company Is Requesting A Rate Increase**

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#### **Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Docket No. UG-920840**

Washington Natural Gas Company has asked the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission for permission to raise its rates by about \$41,421,000 a year, or about 12.98 percent, as compared to present levels. Because the Company has not filed for a general rate increase since 1984, most of this request is to take into account the impact of past inflation on current operations. Additionally, some of the request includes amounts to cover two mandated programs (safety and environmental) and a natural gas vehicular fuel program. A summary of the increases asked, and the kinds of service affected, appears on the reverse side of this notice. The Commission has suspended the increase and has ordered its staff to investigate the Company's request.

Formal hearings will be held for the Company, Commission staff, and others to give evidence about the proposal. The Commission has ordered the Company to send you this notice to tell you:

1. One or more hearing sessions will be held just to hear members of the public who want to testify, in addition to hearings for technical or expert evidence.
2. If you ask, the Commission will send you a notice of the time and place for hearings when they are scheduled so you can attend. To get notices or for more information, call the Secretary of the Commission in Olympia at 1-800-562-6150 or write to:

Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
Chandler Plaza Building  
P.O. Box 47250  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250

If you write, include your name and mailing address, the name of the Company (Washington Natural Gas Company), and Docket No. UG-920840.

3. A lawyer will be appointed to represent the public. You can reach this "public counsel" by calling or writing the Commission at the address shown above or directly by writing or calling:

Public Counsel Section  
Office of the Attorney General  
900 Fourth Avenue, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98164-1012  
(206) 464-6907

(Over)

4. The rates shown here are only a request by the Company. After the hearings are over, the Commission will consider the evidence. It can deny all of the request, grant all of it, or grant some of it. The Commission also has the authority to set rates that are different from the Company's request—higher or lower—for each kind of gas service.

Donald H. Gessel  
Senior Vice President

SUMMARY OF REQUESTED RATE INCREASE		
Type of Service	Requested Increase in Cents/Therm	Typical Inc. in Average Monthly (Dollars)
Residential Sales Service	9.261¢/Therm	\$ 7.58
Commercial & Industrial (Firm Sales)	4.614¢/Therm	\$ 18.89
Commercial & Industrial (Interruptible Sales)	(0.361¢)/Therm	\$ (43.58)
Transportation	0.481¢/Therm	\$ 1,234.88
Rentals	N/A	\$ 1.08

*NOTE: The amounts shown here are averages. It is not possible to set out every service or every variation in this brief notice.*

#### Rate Design

The request also includes two measures to encourage conservation: 1) The residential price per therm would remain level no matter how much gas is used (currently, prices decline with increased usage); 2) Prices during the seven-month period from October through April would be about 10 cents a therm more than in the balance of the year (currently, there is seasonal fluctuation).

Prices for residential water and furnace heating would be the same whether or not a customer has gas water heating in addition to gas space heating.

Washington Natural Gas also proposes a weather-normalization adjustment during the seven-month heating season to moderate the impact of weather extremes upon customers' bills and the Company's revenues. This approach would allow the utility to adjust its customers' bills upward or downward to reflect normal weather conditions.

If you want to know how the Company's proposal will affect you if the Commission adopts it totally, or if you would like more information about this rate filing, call Ritchie A. Campbell at (206) 224-2421, or write:

Washington Natural Gas Company  
ATTN: Director, Rates and Special Studies  
P.O. Box 1869  
Seattle, WA 98111

Washington  
Natural Gas



A Washington Energy Company

September 28, 1992

Andy Ludlum  
Vice President  
TV/Radio News  
KIRO TV & Radio  
2807 3rd Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98121

SAMPLE

Dear Mr. Ludlum:

On July 27, 1992, Washington Natural Gas announced in a news release that it filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission for a general rate increase.

Starting today, the attached notice will be sent to all Washington Natural Gas customers. The Washington Administrative Code 480-80-125 also requires that this notice be sent to local media, which is the purpose of this mailing.

If you have any questions, please call me at (206) 382-7849.

Sincerely,

Dorothy C. Bracken  
Supervisor-News Bureau

DRAFT - Media for Bill Insert About General Rate Filing ( per  
WAC)

Newspaper

Mindy Chambers  
City Editor  
The Olympian  
P.O. Box 407  
Olympia, WA 98507

Radio & TV

Andy Ludlum  
Vice President  
TV/Radio News  
KIRO TV & Radio  
2807 3rd Avenue  
Seattle, WA 98121

Michael Hallinan  
Metro Editor  
The Herald  
P.O. Box 930  
Everett, WA 98206

Dave Boardman  
City Editor  
The Seattle Times  
P.O. Box 70  
Seattle, WA 98111

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The Chronicle  
321 N. Pearl  
Centralia, WA 98531

Caroline Ullmann  
Metro Editor  
Morning News Tribune  
P.O. Box 11000  
Tacoma, WA 98411