



250 SW Taylor Street
Portland, OR 97204

503-226-4211
nwnatural.com

March 22, 2021

NWN WUTC Advice No. 21-02

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Mark L. Johnson, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, Washington 98503

Re: Schedule K – COVID-19 Assistance Program

Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural (NW Natural or Company), files herewith the following revisions to its Tariff WN U-6, stated to become effective April 23, 2021.

Received
Records Management
03/22/21 15:32
State Of WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Original Sheet K.1	Schedule K	COVID-19 Assistance Program (CAP)
Original Sheet K.2	Schedule K	COVID-19 Assistance Program (CAP)
Thirteenth Revision of Sheet viii	Index	Tariff Index

Purpose

The purpose of this filing is to add Schedule K – COVID-19 Assistance Program (CAP) to NW Natural’s tariff. Schedule K complies with Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) Order 02 in docket U-200281. Order 02, Appendix A, in docket U-200281 – Response to COVID-19 Pandemic, states that each Utility shall establish a temporary COVID-19 assistance program, funded by at least one percent of each utility’s Washington retail revenues as a one-time funding amount.

Background

On February 17, 2021, the Commission issued Order 02, docket U-200281 extending the disconnection moratorium until July 31, 2021. The Order also adopted the recommendation in the Second Revised Term Sheet (Term Sheet) attached to the Order. Section D of the Term Sheet directs the utilities to provide eligible residential customers earning up to 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level bill and arrearage assistance up to \$2,500 annually.

The CAP will be funded through one percent of NW Natural’s Washington retail revenues as a one-time funding amount. NW Natural designed its CAP with input from the GREAT Advisory Group during regular meetings during 2020 and 2021. The Advisory Group was able to comment and provide input into the CAP.

Proposed CAP for Residential Customers

NW Natural proposes to identify customers with past-due balances who have received energy assistance since January 1, 2019. The Company will automatically apply CAP funds to those accounts to bring them current (not to exceed \$2,500) via auto-enrollment in the CAP. Customers who have not received energy assistance since January 1, 2019 are still able to apply for energy assistance at their local agency to determine income eligibility and may receive CAP funds directly

from NW Natural. CAP funds can be applied to quotes for reconnection after a disconnection for non-payment or to an arrearage balance on an active account.

For those customers who receive CAP funds, NW Natural will send each customer a letter informing them of the CAP being applied to their account, providing references for other available energy assistance and asking customers to contact the Company with any questions.

Further details are provided in the proposed tariff, Schedule K.

Conclusion

NW Natural respectfully requests that the Commission approve this tariff change to become effective April 23, 2021.

In accordance with WAC 480-90-193 and WAC 480-90-195(3), copies of this letter and the attached filing are available in the Company's main office in Portland, Oregon, and on its website at www.nwnatural.com.

As requested by WAC 480-80-103(4)(a) and WAC 480-80-104(8), I certify that I have authority to issue tariff revisions on behalf of NW Natural.

Please address correspondence on this matter to me with copies to the following:

eFiling
NW Natural
250 SW Taylor Street
Portland, Oregon 97204
Fax: (503) 220-2579
Telephone: (503) 610-7330
eFiling@nwnatural.com

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Rebecca T. Brown

Rebecca T. Brown
Regulatory Consultant
NW Natural
250 SW Taylor Street
Portland, Oregon 97204
503-610-7326
rebecca.brown@nwnatural.com

Attachments:

NEW-NWN-WUTC-Advice-21-02-Trf-Sheet-K-1-03-22-2021
NEW-NWN-WUTC-Advice-21-02-Trf-Sheet-K-2-03-22-2021
NEW-NWN-WUTC-Advice-21-02-Trf-Sheet-viii-03-22-2021