

September 15, 2023

NWN WUTC Advice No. 23-07 / UG-\_\_\_\_\_

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Kathy Hunter, Acting Executive Director & Secretary  
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
621 Woodland Square Loop SE  
Lacey, WA 98503

Received  
Records Management  
Sep 15, 2023

**Re: Schedule 230: Temporary Adjustments to Rates for Low-Income Programs**

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 with service on and after November 1, 2023, as follows:

Fifteenth Revision of Sheet 230.1	Schedule 230	Temporary Adjustments to Rates for Low-Income Programs
Thirteenth Revision of Sheet 230.2	Schedule 230	Temporary Adjustments to Rates for Low-Income Programs (continued)

**Purpose**

The purpose of this filing is to revise Schedule 230 to reflect adjustments to rates for the effects of applying temporary rate adjustments to amortize balances in the deferred accounts for the collection of 2022 program year costs under Schedule J “Gas Residential Energy Assistance Tariff (GREAT) and Schedule I “Washington Low-Income Energy Efficiency (WA-LIEE) Programs.”

The proposed adjustments are requested to become effective November 1, 2023, coincident with the requested effective date of the Company’s Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) filing, separately submitted as NW Natural’s WUTC Advice No. 23-13.

**Proposed Changes**

The proposed Schedule 230 adjustments are calculated on an equal-percentage-of margin basis, and are shown for each rate schedule on page 1 of the supporting materials to this filing. It should be noted that the proposed Schedule 230 adjustments represent only a portion of the deferred accounts that are proposed to be applied to customer rates effective November 1, 2023 (see NW Natural’s WUTC Advice Nos. 23-03, 23-05, 23-06, 23-08, 23-09, 23-10, 23-11, 23-12, and 23-13). As such, the bill effects stated herein are provided for illustrative purposes only and reflect the effect of removing the current Schedule 230 adjustments and applying the proposed Schedule 230 adjustments to current billing rates.

If there were no other adjustments to rates effective November 1, 2023, the effect of Schedule 230 would be a slight decrease to average monthly bills in the primary rate schedules, residential and commercial Schedule 3, of less than 0.2%. The average Schedule 2 residential customer using 58 therms would see a bill decrease of \$0.03 per month, and the average Schedule 3 commercial

customer using 249 therms would see a bill decrease of \$0.11 per month. The bill impact for customers on the other residential and commercial rate schedules is shown on page 2 of the supporting materials to this filing. If the effects of the temporary rate adjustments were permanent, the rate changes would be a decrease in the Company's revenues from its Washington operations of \$23,193, or 0.02%.

In support of this filing, the Company provides worksheets showing the derivation of the proposed Schedule 230 adjustments to rates, and a worksheet showing deferral account balances as follows:

1. A 12-month amortization of collection balances in account 151822. The balance in 151822 relates to the Schedule J "Gas Residential Energy Assistance" Tariff (GREAT), which is the Company's low-income bill payment assistance program. Account 151824 is the remaining unamortized amount from this schedule from the prior year.
2. A 12-month amortization of collection balances in account 151890. The balance in 151890 relates to the Schedule I "Washington Low Income Energy Efficiency Tariff (WALIEE), which is the Company's low-income energy efficiency program. Account 151892 is the remaining unamortized amount from this schedule from the prior year.

In accordance with WAC 480-90-198 and WAC 480-90-194(5), the Company will provide notice to customers as stated in WAC 480-90-194(3). A copy of this notice is included with the Company's PGA filing, WUTC Advice No. 23-13.

The proposed rate change will affect all of NW Natural's Washington sales service customers. NW Natural currently serves approximately 89,231 residential customers and 7,161 business and industrial customers in the Company's Washington service territory.

### **Conclusion**

The Company respectfully requests that the tariff sheets filed herewith be approved to become effective with service on and after November 1, 2023.

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

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](http://www.nwnatural.com).

Please address correspondence on this matter to Lora Bourdo at [Lora.Bourdo@nwnatural.com](mailto:Lora.Bourdo@nwnatural.com) with copies to the following:

eFiling  
Rates & Regulatory Affairs  
NW Natural  
250 SW Taylor Street  
Portland, Oregon 97204  
Fax: (503) 220-2579  
Telephone: (503) 610-7330  
[eFiling@nwnatural.com](mailto:eFiling@nwnatural.com)

Sincerely,

NW NATURAL

*/s/ Kyle Walker, CPA*

Kyle Walker, CPA  
Rates/Regulatory Senior Manager  
NW Natural  
250 SW Taylor Street  
Portland, OR 97204  
(503) 610-7051  
kyle.walker@nwnatural.com

Attachments:

NEW-NWN-WUTC-Advice-23-07-WA-Low-Income-Trf-Sheet-230-1-09-15-23  
NEW-NWN-WUTC-Advice-23-07-WA-Low-Income-Trf-Sheet-230-2-09-15-23  
NEW-NWN-WUTC-Advice-23-07-WA-Low-Income-Exh-A-09-15-23  
NEW-NWN-WUTC-Advice-23-07-WA-Low-Income-Exh-A-09-15-23-xlsx