

November 15, 2024

NWN WUTC Advice No. 24-15

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Jeff Killip, Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
621 Woodland Square Loop SE
Lacey, Washington 98503

Re: Schedule 231 – Residential Bill Discount Program Annual Cost Recovery Update

Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural (NW Natural or Company), herewith files the following revisions to its Tariff WN U-6, stated to become effective January 1, 2025.

First Revision of Sheet 231.1	Schedule 231	Temporary Adjustments to Rates for Residential Bill Discount Program
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Purpose

The purpose of this filing is to revise Schedule 231 to reflect adjustments to rates for the 2025 forecasted costs of the residential bill discount program and a true-up of costs from 2024. In addition, NW Natural plans to move future annual updates of these costs to coincide with the Company's Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) filing; to enable this, the enclosed rates have been designed to recover costs through October 31, 2025. The Company would next update Schedule 231 in a filing on or around September 15, 2025, with an effective date of November 1, 2025, which would be coincident with the PGA rate update.

The adjustments proposed in this filing are requested to become effective January 1, 2025, coincident with the requested effective date of the Company's update to Schedule 308 that is separately being filed as NW Natural's WUTC Advice No. 24-16.

Background

NW Natural began offering its residential bill discount program on January 1, 2024, in alignment with RCW 80.28.068 and as outlined in the Company's tariff Schedule L. The bill discount program provides bill discounts of up to 80% for income-qualified residential customers.

Through September 2024, the bill discount program has 7,322 participants, with nearly \$900,000 in total discounts applied.

Proposed Changes

The proposed Schedule 231 updates reflecting the 2025 forecast and true-up for 2024 costs will increase the Company's annual Washington revenues by \$695,702, or about 0.57%. The average residential Schedule 2 customer using 57 therms would see an increase of \$0.43 per month, and the average Schedule 3 commercial customer using 254 therms would see a bill increase of \$1.71 per month. The bill impact for customers on other residential rate schedules is shown on page 2 of Exhibit A.

The proposed rate change will affect all of NW Natural's Washington sales and transportation service customers. NW Natural currently serves approximately 90,256 residential customers and 7,326 commercial, and 72 industrial customers in the Company's Washington service territory.

Conclusion

NW Natural respectfully requests an effective date of January 1, 2025.

NW Natural will provide notice to customers in a manner consistent with WAC 480-90-194(3). This notice will include the impact of both the proposed rate changes in this filing as well as the impact of the proposed update to Schedule 308 that has been separately filed in NW Natural's WUTC Advice No. 24-16. The combined notice is intended to reduce confusion for customers since both rate changes are requested to become effective January 1, 2025. A copy of this notice is included with this filing.

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), I certify that I have authority to issue tariff revisions on behalf of NW Natural.

For the purposes of establishing a service list for this docket, and for any questions, please address correspondence on this matter to me with copies to the following:

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Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Kyle Walker

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Attachments:

NEW-NWN-WUTC-Advice-24-15-Trf-Sheet-231-1-11-15-24
NEW-NWN-WUTC-Advice-24-15-Exh-A-11-15-24
NEW-NWN-WUTC-Advice-24-15-Exh-A-WP-11-15-24