

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In re Commission Investigation of the  
Pipeline System of Northwest Natural Gas  
Company

DOCKET PG-060208

ORDER 01

ORDER ACCEPTING  
AGREEMENT AND CLOSING  
INVESTIGATION

- 1 This docket involves an inspection by the Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) of the natural gas pipeline system owned and operated by Northwest Natural Gas Company (Company) in Clark County, Washington. The Commission Staff conducted the inspection. As a result of the inspection, Commission Staff believes the appropriate way to address certain issues in this docket is through an agreement under which the Company agrees to take specific steps to improve its system, operating policies and procedures, and record keeping.
- 2 On August 8, 2007, the Commission Staff and the Company filed an agreement consisting of three documents: a “Stipulated Agreement to Close Docket;” (Agreement) Appendix A (“Staff Report of Probable Violations” (September 22, 2006)); and Appendix B (“Company Response to Staff Report” (November 3, 2006)).
- 3 The Agreement states it is not effective until approved by the Commission. The effective date of the Agreement is the date the Commission enters an order accepting the Agreement.
- 4 The Commission has reviewed the Agreement and determined it provides an appropriate basis for concluding this docket. The Agreement is consistent with the public interest, supported by the record in this proceeding and consistent with state law. *See WAC 480-07-750(1)*. In this Order, the Commission accepts the Agreement, and closes the investigation.

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 5 (1) Northwest Natural Gas Company operates a gas pipeline distribution system serving the public in Clark County, Washington.
- 6 (2) The Commission Staff conducted an inspection of the Company’s gas distribution system, which is summarized in a report attached as Appendix A to the Agreement. The Company responded to Staff’s inspection report in a letter attached as Appendix B to the Agreement.

- 7 (3) The Commission Staff and the Company have entered into the Agreement as an appropriate resolution of the issues raised by the inspection in this docket.
- 8 (4) The Commission has reviewed the Agreement and appendices attached to the Agreement.
- 9 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on August 15, 2007.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 10 (1) The Commission has jurisdiction under RCW 80.28 to regulate the safety of the gas plant owned and operated by Northwest Natural Gas Company in Clark County, Washington.
- 11 (2) The Agreement entered into between the Company and the Commission Staff represents an appropriate resolution of the issues raised by the inspection in this docket. The Agreement is lawful, in the public interest, and supported by the record in this proceeding under WAC 480-07-750(1). The Agreement should be accepted, and the investigation in this docket closed.
- 12 (3) The Agreement will become effective on the service date of this Order.

**ORDER**

- 13 **THE COMMISSION ORDERS** That the Agreement between Northwest Natural Gas Company and Commission Staff filed on August 8, 2007, is accepted, and the investigation in this docket is closed. The Commission retains jurisdiction to effectuate the terms of this Order, including enforcement of the Agreement, if necessary.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective August 15, 2007.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN  
Executive Secretary