

BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
COMPANY,

Respondent.

DOCKET UG-080546

COMMISSION STAFF'S
RESPONSE TO NW NATURAL
GAS COMPANY'S PETITION FOR
DECLARATORY RULING

1 Staff has reviewed NW Natural Gas Company's Petition for Declaratory Ruling on Final Order in this docket. Staff believes that the Petition should be treated as a Motion to Amend the Commission's Final Order and should be granted.

2 Staff was a party to the Full Settlement Stipulation that was filed on October 21, 2008, in this docket, a settlement of NW Natural's general rate case. As part of that stipulation, NW Natural agreed to rely on the Energy Trust of Oregon (ETO) to deliver the Company's energy efficiency programs in Washington, initially through a one-year pilot program. The Stipulation further provided that after the one-year pilot period, the Company, in consultation with the Energy Efficiency Advisory Group (comprised of interested parties, including Staff), would evaluate the cost-effectiveness of continued use of ETO for delivering the Company's energy efficiency programs. NW Natural asks the Commission to approve language clarifying that the Company may continue to use ETO during the period


in which the cost-effectiveness decision is being made, and in the event ETO is not retained, during the period in which a new program administrator is selected and established.

3 Staff agrees that NW Natural's request is reasonable and consistent with the intent of the Full Settlement Stipulation. Staff agrees that it is in customers' best interests to have ETO continue to deliver energy efficiency programs while the retention decision is being made, to ensure the seamless continuation of these programs. Staff supports granting NW Natural's request, treating the request as a Motion to Amend the Commission's Final Order (Order 04).

DATED this 4th day of March, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,

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