## BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of	)	DOCKET NO. UG-011607
	)	
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS	)	
COMPANY	)	
	)	THIRD SUPPLEMENTAL
	)	ORDER GRANTING
	)	CONTINUANCE OF
for an Order Approving a Corporate	)	<b>EVIDENTIARY HEARINGS</b>
Reorganization to Create a Holding	)	
Company, Northwest Natural Holdco, in	)	NOTICE OF PREHEARING
	)	CONFERENCE
Connection with the Acquisition of	)	(April 30, 2002)
Portland General Electric Company by	)	` <b>1</b>
Northwest Natural Holdco.	)	
	)	
	,	

- BACKGROUND. On December 4, 2001, Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural or Applicant) filed an Application for an Order approving a corporate reorganization to create a holding company, Northwest Natural Holdco, in connection with the acquisition of Portland General Electric Company by Northwest Natural Holdco. The Commission convened a prehearing conference in this docket at Olympia, Washington on January 24, 2002, before Administrative Law Judge Karen M. Caillé. Among other things, the Commission set a procedural schedule for this proceeding, including dates for filing testimony and dates for the evidentiary hearings. The latter are currently scheduled for June 4-6, 2002.
- MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE. On March 21, 2002, NW Natural filed a Motion for Continuance of the evidentiary hearings from June 4-6, 2002 to October 2-4, 2002. The motion cites an extension of the Oregon hearings from April 24, 2002, to August 28-29, 2002, as the basis for requesting the extension in the Washington proceeding. In addition, Applicant provides the following information pursuant to WAC 480-09-440(4):
  - Applicant has not previously requested a continuance in this proceeding.
  - Applicant has discussed the request with other parties, and no party opposes the request for a continuance.
  - The requested continuance is necessary to allow Applicant and the parties sufficient time to conduct discovery and thoroughly review the issues associated with the Application.

- At the time the Application was filed, Applicant sought an expeditious schedule that would correspond with the schedule adopted in the Oregon proceeding (Docket UM 1045) and result in a Commission decision by mid-May 2002. In response, the Commission adopted an accelerated schedule that allowed the Washington proceeding to lag slightly behind the schedule adopted in Oregon.
- With the delay in the Oregon schedule, such an accelerated schedule is not necessary for the Washington proceeding. Delaying the Washington hearings to early October would allow this proceeding to continue to follow the Oregon proceedings, and thus allow this proceeding to be informed by the investigation being conducted by the Oregon Commission on the overall transaction.
- Applicant believes the additional time made available by this continuance is necessary to address issues related to the Enron bankruptcy.
- COMMISSION DECISION. The Commission finds good cause shown, and that is consistent with the public interest to grant the Motion for Continuance. The Commission cancels the hearings scheduled for June 4-6, 2002, and suspends the remainder of the schedule memorialized in the February 8, 2002, Prehearing Conference Order. Because the parties are unable to reach agreement on a new schedule, the Commission sets a prehearing conference to establish a new schedule and hearing dates.
- NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That a prehearing conference will be held on Tuesday, April 30, 2002, at 10:00 a.m., in Room 206, Chandler Plaza Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington. The purpose of the prehearing conference is to establish a new schedule for this proceeding.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective this 12th day of April, 2002.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

KAREN M. CAILLÉ Administrative Law Judge