



AGENDA FOR STAKEHOLDER MEETING May 25, 2000

Gas and Electric Rulemaking Proceedings, WAC Chapters 480-90 and 48-100 Docket Nos. UG-990294 and UE-990473

- **Introductory Remarks**
- **Agenda Review**
- **Order of Discussion**

Stakeholders identified 13 rules they regard as higher priority for discussion. Twelve of these are in the Consumer Rules and one is in the Meter/Standard Rules. After we quickly work through the General Rules and Accounting Rules (a/k/a Financial Records and Reporting), we'll take up the Meter Standard Rules and start there with the priority issue—Gas Meter Identification—then take up the rest of the set, again briefly. All of this is estimated to require approximately 95 minutes and thus will run until about 11:00 or a little after. I've blocked out the final hour before lunch for the Customer Notice rule that several stakeholders identified as their highest priority among all the rules. Then, after lunch, we'll focus on the rest of the Consumer Rules in an order that reflects the Stakeholder priority statements. We'll provide an opportunity for discussion related to all remaining consumer rules after the priority rules discussion.

- **General Rules** **5 minutes**
 - 011
 - xx1
 - 016
 - xx2
 - xx3
 - 021 (gas)
 - 021 (electric)
 - 026
 - 061
 - 066
- **Accounting Rules** **45 minutes**
 - 031
 - xx8
 - 032
 - 036
 - 043
 - 181
 - xx9

RMS

- **Meter/Standard Rules** **45 minutes**
 - **Gas Meter Identification (141)/Electric Meter Identification (131)**
- 480-90 (GAS)**
 - **101**
 - **126**
 - **131**
 - **136**
 - **146**
 - **151**
 - **166**
 - **171**
 - **176**
- 480-100 (ELECTRIC)**
 - **086**
 - **121**
 - **126**
 - **136**
 - **176**
 - **181**
- **Customer Notice (XX7)** **60 minutes**
- **LUNCH (approximately 12:00-1:00)**
- **Consumer Rules (priority)** **120 minutes**
 - **Deposit Requirements (051)**
 - **Discontinuance/Disconnection of Service (071)**
 - **Refusal of Service/Prior Obligation (056)**
 - **Customer Proprietary Information (XX6)**
 - **Payment Arrangements (072)**
 - **Payment Locations (211)**
 - **Reconnecting Service After Disconnection (XX4)**
 - **Billing Requirements (101)**
 - **Service Responsibility (076)**
 - **Information to Customers (041)**
 - **Complaint Meter Test (161/171)**
- **Consumer Rules (other)**
 - **081**
 - **086**
 - **091**
 - **096**
- **Closing Remarks**

Energy Companies 1999 Filings and Customer Notice

	Avista	CNG	NWNG	PSE	PacifiCorp
Number of '99 filings	33	16	7	64	10
Number of filings when notice was <u>not</u> required:	24	14	6	45	7
Number of filings when notice was required:					
After UTC action notice:	7	2	1	19	2
Prior 30 day notice:	2 ¹	0	0	0	1 ²

Detail on filings where companies noticed customers:

Avista: 4 - tax increase

2 - non-recurring charge change (gas/elec)

1 - PGA

2 - general rate case (gas/elec)

CNG: 1 - tax increase

1 - PGA

NWNG: 1 - PGA

PSE: 14 - tax increase

2 - conservation filings (gas/elec)

1 - non-recurring charge change

1 - PGA

1 - street lighting

¹Avista's rate cases - gas/elec. Under staff's proposal, the company may notice customers during the suspension period. If the rate case is presented in an informal process, such as the open meeting, the company would need to pre-notice and give customers 30 days notice.

²Same as the comments for Avista

What's a PGA?

PGA stands for "purchased gas adjustment." It is a method designed to pass the actual costs of gas to customers. To serve customer needs, utilities are constantly going to the market to buy gas. Each year, gas utilities make the best possible projection of the cost of gas supplies for the coming year. The actual costs are deferred for a year, and then spread to customers over the next year. If actual costs were lower than projected, customers see a lower rate. If costs were higher, rates go up.

When a company request a PGA, Commission staff investigate to ensure that the requested rates appropriately recover the cost of gas. The Commission will only allow the actual cost of gas to be passed along to customers. The Commission has the authority to set final rates that may vary from the company's original request depending on the results of the staff investigation.

