

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS, d/b/a  
NW NATURAL,

Respondent.

DOCKET UG-181053

NOTICE OF PREHEARING  
CONFERENCE  
**(Set for January 25, 2019,  
at 1:30 p.m.)**

- 1 On December 31, 2018, Northwest Natural Gas, d/b/a NW Natural (NW Natural or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-6, Natural Gas Service. The purpose of the Company’s filing is to increase rates and charges for natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington. Specifically, NW Natural requests authority to increase revenues from base rates by \$8.3 million, an approximate 12.6 percent increase to overall base rates, proposed to be effective February 1, 2019.
- 2 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter under RCW Title 80, and has legal authority to regulate natural gas companies. The statutes that apply to this matter include RCW 80.01, RCW 80.04, and RCW 80.28 relating to rates, including but not limited to RCW 80.01.040, RCW 80.04.020, RCW 80.28.020. The rules that apply to this matter include those within WAC 480-80, and WAC 480-90, relating to natural gas companies.
- 3 The Commission will hear this matter under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), particularly Part IV of RCW 34.05, relating to adjudications. The provisions of the APA that relate to this proceeding include, but are not limited to, RCW 34.05.413, RCW 34.05.422, RCW 34.05.431, RCW 34.05.440, RCW 34.05.449, and RCW 34.05.452. The Commission will also follow its procedural rules in WAC 480-07 in this proceeding.
- 4 The Commission finds there is good cause to hear this matter on shortened notice. *See* WAC 480-07-440(1)(a) and RCW 34.05.434.

5 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE That it will hold a prehearing conference in this matter at 1:30 p.m., on January 25, 2019, in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.**

6 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider requests for intervention, resolve scheduling matters, including establishing dates for distributing evidence, to identify the issues in the proceeding, and determine other matters to assist the Commission in resolving the matter, as listed in WAC 480-07-430.

7 Persons who wish to intervene should file a petition to intervene in writing at least three business days before the date of the prehearing conference. *See* WAC 480-07-355(a). The Commission will consider oral petitions to intervene during the conference, but strongly prefers written petitions to intervene. Party representatives must file a notice of appearance with the Commission no later than the business day before the conference. *See* WAC 480-07-345(2). Any party or witness in need of an interpreter or other assistance should fill out the form attached to this notice and return it to the Commission. The Commission will set the time and place for any evidentiary hearings at the prehearing conference, on the record of a later conference or hearing session, or by later written notice.

8 **THE COMMISSION GIVES NOTICE that any party who fails to attend or participate in the prehearing conference set by this Notice, or any other stage of this proceeding, may be held in default under RCW 34.05.440 and WAC 480-07-450.**

9 The names and mailing addresses of all known parties and their known representatives are as follows:

Complainant:	Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission 1300 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW Olympia, WA 98504 (360) 664-1160
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Representative: Jennifer Cameron-Rulkowski  
Office of the Attorney General  
Utilities and Transportation Division  
1400 S. Evergreen Park Dr. SW  
P.O. Box 40128  
Olympia, WA 98504-0128  
(360) 664-1186  
[Jennifer.cameron-rulkowski@utc.wa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.cameron-rulkowski@utc.wa.gov)

Respondent: Northwest Natural Gas d/b/a NW Natural  
Zachary D. Kravitz  
Director, Rates and Regulatory Affairs  
220 NW Second Ave.  
Portland, OR 97209-3991  
(503) 220-2379  
[zdk@nwnatural.com](mailto:zdk@nwnatural.com)  
[efiling@nwnatural.com](mailto:efiling@nwnatural.com)

Representative: Lisa Rackner  
Jocelyn Pease  
McDowell Rackner & Gibson PC  
419 SW 11<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97205  
(503) 595-3925  
[lisa@mrg-law.com](mailto:lisa@mrg-law.com)

Public Counsel: Lisa W. Gafken  
Nina M. Suetake  
Assistant Attorneys General  
Washington Attorney General's Office  
Public Counsel Unit  
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- 10 The Commissioners of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission and Administrative Law Judges Rayne Pearson and Nelli Doroshkin, from the Commission's Administrative Law Division, will preside during this proceeding.
- 11 The Attorney General has designated Lisa W. Gafken and Nina M. Suetake of the Office of the Public Counsel to represent the public. You may use the Commission's address, shown below, for contacting Public Counsel, or you may contact Public Counsel directly by writing or calling the address or telephone number listed below.
- 12 The Commission will give parties notice of any other procedural phase of the proceeding in writing or on the record, as appropriate during this proceeding.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective January 11, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON  
Executive Director and Secretary

Inquiries may be addressed to:

Executive Director and Secretary  
Washington State Utilities and  
Transportation Commission  
Richard Hemstad Building  
1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.  
P.O. Box 47250  
Olympia, WA 98504-7250  
(360) 664-1160

- or - Public Counsel Unit  
Office of the Attorney General  
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000  
Seattle, WA 98104-3188  
(206) 464-7744

**NOTICE**

Hearing facilities are accessible to persons with disabilities. Smoking is prohibited. If limited English-speaking, hearing-impaired parties or witnesses are involved in a hearing and need an interpreter, a qualified interpreter will be appointed at no cost to the party or witness.

If you need an interpreter, or have other special needs, please fill out this form and return it to Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission, Attention: Mark L. Johnson, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW, P. O. Box 47250, Olympia, WA 98504-7250. (PLEASE SUPPLY ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION)

Docket : \_\_\_\_\_

Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Hearing Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Language: \_\_\_\_\_

Hearing Impaired (Yes) \_\_\_\_\_ (No) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you need a certified sign language interpreter:

Visual \_\_\_\_\_ Tactile \_\_\_\_\_

Other type of assistance needed: \_\_\_\_\_

English-speaking person who can be contacted if there are questions:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No.: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_