

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

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

Petitioner,

Seeking Temporary Exemption from the
Provisions of WAC 480-90-275 Relating
to Actual Results for Washington
Operations Report

DOCKET UG-220816

ORDER 01

GRANTING TEMPORARY
EXEMPTION FROM RULE

BACKGROUND

- 1 On November 8, 2022, Northwest Natural Gas Company, d/b/a NW Natural (NW Natural or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting an exemption from Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 480-90-275 (Petition).
- 2 WAC 480-90-275 requires natural gas companies to file a report of actual results for Washington operations within 45 days of the end of each quarter. The results of operations report must contain each of the three-monthly balances and the latest 12 months' ending balance for all accounts of the uniform system of accounts. The report must include the average customer count and the total unit sales per customer class for each reported period.
- 3 NW Natural's third quarter report of operations is due on November 14, 2022.
- 4 NW Natural stated the Company has recently installed a new accounting software system (Horizon 1) that has changed many processes and procedures to close the Company's books of record. Therefore, a one-week extension will allow the Company to prepare, review, and submit the Third Quarter 2022 Results of Operations by November 21, 2022.
- 5 Commission staff (Staff) reviewed the request and recommends granting NW Natural's request for temporary exemption, subject to the condition that NW Natural must file its third quarter 2022 results of operations on or before November 21, 2022.

DISCUSSION

6 We grant NW Natural's request for a temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-275 and
require the Company to file its third quarter 2022 results of operations on or by
November 21, 2022. WAC 480-90-008 provides that the Commission may grant an
exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-90 if doing so consistent with the
public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes. Here, we
agree with Staff that NW Natural's request is reasonable to ensure that the Company has
adequate time to prepare, review, and submit the required report because of its new
accounting software program. Accordingly, we find that granting the Company's request
for a temporary exemption is in the public interest and consistent with both the purposes
underlying the rule and applicable statutes.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the
authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities,
transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including
natural gas companies.
- 8 (2) NW Natural is engaged in the business of providing natural gas services within the
state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission
jurisdiction.
- 9 (3) NW Natural is subject to WAC 480-90-275, which requires natural gas companies
to file a report of actual results of operations within 45 days of the end of each
quarter.
- 10 (4) Under WAC 480-90-008, the Commission may grant an exemption from the
provisions of any rule in WAC 480-90 if doing so is consistent with the public
interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes. See also WAC
480-07-110.
- 11 (5) After reviewing the Petition filed in Docket UG-220816 by NW Natural on
November 8, 2022, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the
temporary exemption is in the public interest and is consistent with the purposes
underlying the regulation and applicable statutes and should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 12 (1) After the effective date of this Order, Northwest Natural Gas Company, d/b/a NW Natural is granted a temporary exemption from WAC 480-90-275, Actual results for Washington operations report.
- 13 (2) This temporary exemption is subject to the condition that Northwest Natural Gas Company, d/b/a NW Natural file its Actual results for Washington operations report on or by November 21, 2022.
- 14 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Northwest Natural Gas Company, d/b/a NW Natural to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commission has delegated authority to the Executive Secretary to enter this Order under RCW 80.01.030 and WAC 480-07-904(1) and Order 01 in A-180762.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective November 10, 2022.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

AMANDA MAXWELL
Executive Director and Secretary