

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND)	DOCKET UG-111233
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	NOTICE OF PREHEARING
)	CONFERENCE
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)	(Set for August 22, 2011,
COMPANY,)	at 1:30 p.m.)
)	
Respondent.)	
)	
.....)	

1 On July 7, 2011, Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a revision to its Tariff WN U-6. NW Natural filed a revised Schedule P “Determination of Company’s Purchased Gas Cost Adjustments and Weighted Costs of Gas,” with a stated effective date of August 6, 2011. The filed revisions to Schedule P, if allowed to become effective, would change the definition of gas commodity costs to include the costs of gas reserves acquired through a joint venture with Encana Oil and Gas (USA) Inc. (Encana). NW Natural requests that the Commission make an express finding that the company’s decision to enter into the transaction with Encana was prudent, allow the company to recover in rates the associated costs, and approve the revisions to Schedule P. The Commission suspended operation of the tariff on July 28, 2011.

2 **STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter under RCW Title 80, and has legal authority to regulate rates, services, and practices of gas utilities. 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, RCW 80.28.030, RCW 80.28.070, RCW

80.28.090, and RCW 80.28.100. The rules that apply to this matter include those within WAC 480-07 and WAC 480-90.

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 GIVES NOTICE That it will hold a prehearing conference in this matter at 1:30 p.m., on August 22, 2011, in the Commission's Hearing Room, Second Floor, Richard Hemstad Building, 1300 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W., Olympia, Washington.**

5 The purpose of the prehearing conference is to consider requests for intervention, resolve scheduling matters including establishing dates for distributing evidence and workpapers, 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.

6 **INTERVENTION:** 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.

7 **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.**

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

Complainant: Washington 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

Representative: Sally Brown
Senior Assistant Attorney General
1400 S. Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 40128
Olympia, WA 98504-0128
(360) 664-1193
sbrown@utc.wa.gov

Respondent: Northwest Natural Gas Company
Onita R. King
Tariffs and Regulatory Compliance
220 NW Second Avenue
Portland, OR 97209
(503) 721-2452
ork@nwnatural.com

Representative: Lisa Rackner
McDowell Rackner & Gibson PC
419 Southwest 11th Avenue, Suite 400
Portland, OR 97205-2605
(503) 595-3925
lisa@mcd-law.com

Public Counsel: Simon J. ffitch
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
Public Counsel Section
800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000
Seattle, WA 98104-3188
(206) 389-2055
simonf@atg.wa.gov

- 9 Administrative Law Judge Dennis J. Moss, from the Commission's Administrative Law Division, will preside during this proceeding.
- 10 The Attorney General has designated Simon J. ffitch 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.
- 11 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 August 2, 2011.

WASHINGTON STATE UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER
Executive Director and Secretary

Inquiries may be addressed to:

Executive 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 Section
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: David W. Danner, 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.: (____) _____