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1 BEFORE THE WASHINGTON

2 UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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4 WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND )DOCKET UG-181053

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, )

5 )

Complainant, )

6 )

vs. )

7 )

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS, d/b/a )

8 NW NATURAL, )

)

9 )

Respondent. )

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PREHEARING CONFERENCE - VOLUME I

12

Pages 1-11

13

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES RAYNE PEARSON AND

14 NELLI DOROSHKIN

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16 January 24, 2019

17 1:30 p.m.

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Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

19 1300 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest

Olympia, Washington 98504

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REPORTED BY: TAYLER GARLINGHOUSE, CCR 3358

21

Buell Realtime Reporting, LLC

22 1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 1840

Seattle, Washington 98101

23 (206) 287-9066 | Seattle

(360) 534-9066 | Olympia

24 (800) 846-6989 | National

25 www.buellrealtime.com

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S

2 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES:

3 RAYNE PEARSON

NELLI DOROSHKIN

4 Washington Utilities and

Transportation Commission

5 1300 South Evergreen Park Drive SW

Olympia, Washington 98504

6 (360) 664-1160

7

FOR COMMISSION STAFF:

8

JENNIFER CAMERON-RULKOWSKI

9 Office of the Attorney General

Utilities and Transportation Division

10 1400 S. Evergreen Park Drive SW

PO Box 40128

11 Olympia, Washington 98504

(360) 664-1186

12 jennifer.cameron-rulkowski@utc.wa.gov

13

FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL:

14

NINA SUETAKE

15 Assistant Attorney General

Washington Attorney General's Office

16 Public Counsel Unit

800 - 5th Avenue, Suite 2000

17 Seattle, Washington 98104

(206) 464-6595

18 ninas@atg.wa.gov

19

FOR NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS:

20

LISA RACKNER

21 McDowell Rackner & Gibson PC

419 SW 11th Avenue, Suite 400

22 Portland, Oregon 97205

(503) 595-3925

23 lisa@mrg-law.com

24

25

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1 A P P E A R A N C E S (Cont.)

2

FOR THE ENERGY PROJECT:

3 (Via bridge line)

4 SIMON FFITCH

Attorney at Law

5 321 High School Road NE

Suite D3, Box No. 383

6 Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110

(206) 669-8197

7 simon@ffitchlaw.com

8

FOR AWEC:

9 (Via bridge line)

10 TOMMY A. BROOKS

Cable Huston LLP

11 1001 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 2000

Portland, Oregon 97204

12 (503) 224-3092

tbrooks@cablehuston.com

13

14 ALSO PRESENT:

15 ERIC NELSEN

Northwest Natural Inside Counsel

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1 OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON; JANUARY 24, 2019

2 1:30 P.M.

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4 P R O C E E D I N G S

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6 JUDGE DOROSHKIN: Let's be on the record.

7 Good afternoon. This is a prehearing conference in

8 Docket 181053 regarding a general rate case filed by

9 Northwest Natural Gas.

10 My name is Nelli Doroshkin, co-presiding is

11 Rayne Pearson. We are administrative law judges with

12 the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission,

13 and we'll be presiding in this matter along with the

14 Commissioners.

15 In this prehearing conference, we'll address

16 petitions to intervene, discovery, service list, filing

17 and service requirements, and the procedural schedule in

18 this case. After this hearing, we'll issue an order on

19 these topics.

20 So to begin, we'll take appearances and then

21 address petitions for intervention.

22 We will begin with Northwest Natural.

23 MS. RACKNER: Yes, I'm Lisa -- Lisa Rackner

24 for Northwest Natural. I'm also here with Eric Nelsen,

25 who is inside counsel for Northwest Natural.

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1 JUDGE DOROSHKIN: Staff?

2 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Jennifer

3 Cameron-Rulkowski, Assistant Attorney General, appearing

4 on behalf of Staff. And my full appearance is on file.

5 JUDGE DOROSHKIN: Public Counsel?

6 MS. SUETAKE: Nina Suetake on behalf of

7 Public Counsel.

8 JUDGE DOROSHKIN: The Alliance of Western

9 Energy Consumers or AWEC?

10 MR. BROOKS: This is Tommy Brooks from Cable

11 Huston on behalf of AWEC.

12 JUDGE DOROSHKIN: And then The Energy

13 Project?

14 MR. FFITCH: Good afternoon, Your Honors.

15 Simon ffitch, Attorney, appearing on behalf of The

16 Energy Project. And my information is contained in the

17 notice of appearance and petition to intervene.

18 JUDGE DOROSHKIN: Okay. So that brings us

19 to the petitions for intervention unless there are any

20 other parties, but I don't believe there are.

21 So are there any petitions for intervention

22 other than the ones that have been filed in writing?

23 Hearing none, we will proceed.

24 We have reviewed the petitions to intervene

25 of AWEC and The Energy Project. There were no written

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1 objections filed to these petitions. Are there any

2 objections that anyone would like to present here?

3 Hearing no objections, the petitions to intervene are

4 granted.

5 Regarding a protective order, one has been

6 issued in this docket.

7 Regarding discovery, WAC 480-07-05 -- 405,

8 Section 2, requires parties to serve all data requests

9 upon all parties in this case -- or in a case. Does any

10 party object to the Commission making the exchange of

11 data request responses a requirement for parties in

12 discovery in this case? Okay. Hearing none, we'll

13 incorporate that requirement into the prehearing

14 conference order.

15 Regarding designated persons for service, if

16 any party has not yet designated a lead representative

17 for service, please do so via an email to me and Judge

18 Pearson as soon as possible, preferably by the end of

19 the day today. So our email addresses are

20 nelli.doroshkin@utc.wa.gov, and Judge Pearson's is

21 rayne.pearson@utc.wa.gov.

22 And then we also have support staff who may

23 be added to the service list. So if you would like to

24 add names and email addresses of any other

25 representatives or support staff who should receive

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1 electronic courtesy copies of all the documents filed in

2 this proceeding, please email that to us as well.

3 Regarding electronic filing and electronic

4 service, the Commission requires electronic filing of

5 documents for formal filings. In this proceeding, the

6 Commission will also require the filing of an original

7 and five paper copies for internal distribution. If

8 filings include information designated as confidential,

9 please file the original and five copies of fully

10 unredacted version -- of the fully unredacted version.

11 No paper copy is necessary for any partly redacted or

12 fully redacted version. Please file those versions only

13 in electronic format.

14 Commission's rules provide for electronic

15 service of documents. The Commission will serve the

16 parties electronically and the parties will serve each

17 other electronically. When serving the parties, please

18 also send courtesy copies of the filings to Judge

19 Pearson and me.

20 Finally, we will get to the procedural

21 schedule. So we were given a proposed procedural

22 schedule prior to going on the record in this prehearing

23 conference. Is there a consensus on this proposal?

24 MS. RACKNER: Yes.

25 JUDGE DOROSHKIN: There is? Okay.

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1 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: This is Jennifer

2 Cameron-Rulkowski and my understanding is this is an

3 agreed schedule.

4 JUDGE DOROSHKIN: Okay. Then,

5 Ms. Cameron-Rulkowski, could you please read the

6 proposed schedule into the record?

7 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Certainly, Your

8 Honor. Settlement conference, April 22nd; response

9 testimony, June 10; circulation of joint issues matrix,

10 June 13; settlement conference, June 20th; rebuttal and

11 cross-answering testimony, July 22nd. We have a

12 placeholder for a public comment hearing, date and

13 location to be determined; filing of the joint issues

14 matrix, July 26th; discovery deadline, July twenty --

15 also July 26th; filing of cross-examination exhibits,

16 August 7; evidentiary hearing, August 14 and 15; initial

17 briefs, September 26th; reply briefs, October 10th.

18 And that's the substantive portion of the

19 procedural schedule, and I would be happy to email a

20 copy of this to -- to both of you.

21 JUDGE DOROSHKIN: Okay. Please do so.

22 Regarding the public comment hearing, so WAC

23 480-90-197 requires the prehearing conference order to

24 address the timing, location, and amount of notice to

25 the public or customers of the public comment hearing.

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1 If the date and address of the public comment hearing is

2 not yet determined, as it is not here, the parties will

3 need to submit notice of -- to the Commission of the

4 date, time, and address of the public comment hearing

5 when it is determined.

6 So we will note in the prehearing conference

7 order, unless the parties have any objections, the

8 following; that the public comment hearing will be held

9 before any hearing on the final disposition of the case,

10 that it will be held in Clark County, and that customers

11 will receive at least 30 days' notice of the public

12 comment hearing. And the notice will contain

13 information required under WAC 480-90-197. Are there

14 any objections to those requirements in the prehearing

15 order?

16 Okay. Under WAC 480-07-461(b), the deadline

17 for filing errata sheets to exhibits may be established

18 in the prehearing conference order. Are there any party

19 objections to setting the deadline a week prior to the

20 evidentiary hearing?

21 MS. RACKNER: Nothing.

22 JUDGE DOROSHKIN: Okay. We'll incorporate

23 that into the prehearing conference order as well. So

24 including the errata filing deadline, we will

25 incorporate the parties' proposed schedule into the

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1 prehearing conference order.

2 All right. Is there anything else that we

3 need to address today?

4 MS. CAMERON-RULKOWSKI: Not from Staff, Your

5 Honors.

6 MS. RACKNER: None here.

7 MS. SUETAKE: None from Public Counsel.

8 JUDGE DOROSHKIN: Anything from the

9 representatives on the bridge line?

10 MR. BROOKS: Nothing for AWEC.

11 MR. FFITCH: Nothing for Energy Project.

12 JUDGE DOROSHKIN: Okay. Then we'll issue an

13 order shortly containing the procedural schedule and the

14 other guidelines for the disposition of the case that we

15 discussed here. We are adjourned. Thank you.

16 (Adjourned at 1:40 p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

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3 STATE OF WASHINGTON

4 COUNTY OF THURSTON

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6 I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand

7 Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby

8 certify that the foregoing transcript is true and

9 accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.

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14 Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358

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