

**Docket No. UG-181053 - Vol. I**

**Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission v.  
Northwest Natural Gas**

**January 24, 2019**



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON  
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

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WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND ) DOCKET UG-181053  
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, )  
)   
Complainant, )  
)   
vs. )  
)   
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS, d/b/a )  
NW NATURAL, )  
)   
)   
Respondent. )

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PREHEARING CONFERENCE - VOLUME I

Pages 1-11

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES RAYNE PEARSON AND  
NELLI DOROSHKIN

January 24, 2019

1:30 p.m.

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission  
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest  
Olympia, Washington 98504

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

2 ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES:

3 RAYNE PEARSON  
4 NELLI DOROSHKIN  
5 Washington Utilities and  
6 Transportation Commission  
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1                   A P P E A R A N C E S (Cont.)

2  
3           FOR THE ENERGY PROJECT:  
4           (Via bridge line)

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6                   Attorney at Law  
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11                  simon@ffitchlaw.com

12  
13           FOR AWEC:  
14           (Via bridge line)

15                   TOMMY A. BROOKS  
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21           ALSO PRESENT:

22                   ERIC NELSEN  
23                   Northwest Natural Inside Counsel

24                                   \* \* \* \* \*

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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.

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



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.

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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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF WASHINGTON

COUNTY OF THURSTON

I, Tayler Garlinghouse, a Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for the State of Washington, do hereby certify that the foregoing transcript is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, skill and ability.



Tayler Garlinghouse

Tayler Garlinghouse, CCR 3358

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