

Docket Nos. UG-200994, UG-200995, UG-200996, UG-210085 (Consolidated) - Vol. II

WUTC v. Northwest Natural Gas Company

August 19, 2021



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BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND) DOCKET UG-200994

TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,)

Complainant,)

vs.)

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)

COMPANY,)

Respondent.) *CAPTION CONTINUED*

PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING, VOLUME II

PAGES 19-25

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

COMMISSION CHAIR DAVE DANNER

COMMISSIONER ANN RENDAHL

COMMISSIONER JAY BALASBAS

August 19, 2021

Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

621 Woodland Square Loop SE

Lacey, Washington 98503

TRANSCRIBED BY: MARJORIE JACKSON, CET

1 In the Matter of the Petition)DOCKET UG-200995
of NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)
2 COMPANY)
For Approval of Depreciation)
3 and Amortization of Rates)
for Investment in Certain)
4 Software)

5 In the Matter of the Petition)DOCKET UG-200996
of NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)
6 COMPANY)
For an Accounting Order)
7 Authorizing Deferred)
Accounting Treatment of)
8 Certain Start-up Costs)
Associated with a Major)
9 Information Technology and)
Services Project)

10 In the Matter of the Petition)DOCKET UG-200185
11 of NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)
COMPANY)
12 For an Accounting Order)
Authorizing Deferred)
13 Accounting Treatment of)
Conservation Potential)
14 Assessment Costs)

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A P P E A R A N C E S

COMMISSIONERS:

DAVE DANNER, Chair
ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner
JAY BALASBAS, Commissioner

FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL:

LISA GAFKEN
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ALSO PRESENT:

ANDREW ROBERTS
BRIDGIT FEESER
ZACH KRAVITZ
NATASHA SIORES
ERIC NELSEN

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2 August 19, 2021

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4 CHAIR DANNER: Just, basically, let me open this up.
5 This is the public comment hearing for Northwest Natural
6 Gases General Rate case, and this is Docket
7 No. UG-200994, and today is August 19, 2021. I'm Dave
8 Danner. I'm Chair of the Commission. I'm joined by my
9 colleagues, Commissioner Ann Rendahl and Commissioner
10 Jay Balasbas.

11 Ordinarily, I will turn this over to Andrew Roberts,
12 who will give us a summary of this case and then we will
13 take comment. Before I do that, we might be able to
14 dispense with those preliminaries if, in fact, there is
15 no one on the line wishing to testify.

16 Is there anyone on the line wishing to provide public
17 comment to the Commission tonight?

18 (No audible response)

19 CHAIR DANNER: So I am not hearing anyone, so no one
20 has signed in in advance, and we're not aware of anyone
21 on the line.

22 Commissioners, is it your desire that we go through
23 the script or is it enough that we just leave the
24 meeting open, maybe recess for a few minutes and see if
25 anybody wants to get on the line?

1 I see Lisa Gafken. Do you wish to make a suggestion?

2 MS. GAFKEN: Good evening, Chair Danner. I think I'm
3 going to suggest where it seems that you were going,
4 that we -- yeah, it may be difficult for folks to be
5 very prompt at the start of the public comment hearing.
6 So my preference would be to leave the public comment
7 open -- hearing open for a reasonable amount of time to
8 allow people to hopefully show up.

9 CHAIR DANNER: All right. And let me turn to my
10 colleagues and commissioners. Would you be okay if we
11 were to recess this meeting until 6:15 to see if anybody
12 else or see if anybody at all wishes to testify? If
13 not, we will then close the meeting. Does that sound
14 like a suggestion?

15 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: Chair Danner, that works for
16 me. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: Yes, that also works for me.

18 CHAIR DANNER: All right. Then we will be in recess
19 until 6:15, and at that time if we have any members of
20 the public wishing to comment, we will take their
21 comment then.

22 So we are in recess.

23 (Recess taken)

24 CHAIR DANNER: All right. It is 6:15 and we'll go
25 back on the record. Commissioner Rendahl, Commissioner

1 Balasbas, are you back?

2 COMMISSIONER BALASBAS: This is Commissioner Balasbas.
3 I am here.

4 COMMISSIONER RENDAHL: And this is Commissioner
5 Rendahl. I am also here.

6 CHAIR DANNER: All right. So let me ask again if
7 there is anybody on the line who wishes to comment to
8 the Commission this evening on the Northwest Natural Gas
9 General Rate case.

10 (No audible response)

11 CHAIR DANNER: And I am not hearing anyone, so we have
12 provided an opportunity for the public to provide
13 comments. We have no oral comments to receive tonight.
14 We will be receiving written comments for several weeks
15 to come. And I think without further ado, we can close
16 the hearing unless there's objections by my colleagues
17 or public counsel.

18 (No audible response)

19 CHAIR DANNER: And I am hearing none, so at this time
20 point we will adjourn the public comment hearing, and
21 thank you, everyone, for being here.

22 (Hearing is adjourned)

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STATE OF WASHINGTON)
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COUNTY OF KING)

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 8th day of September, 2021.

Marjorie Jackson



Marjorie Jackson, CET