

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

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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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1 A P P E A R A N C E S
2 COMMISSIONERS:
3 DAVE DANNER, Chair
ANN E. RENDAHL, Commissioner
4 JAY BALASBAS, Commissioner
5
6 FOR PUBLIC COUNSEL:
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10
11 ALSO PRESENT:
12 ANDREW ROBERTS
BRIDGIT FEESER
ZACH KRAVITZ
13 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 CERTIFICATE
 2 STATE OF WASHINGTON)
 3)
 4 COUNTY OF KING)
 5 I, the undersigned, do hereby certify under penalty
 6 of perjury that the foregoing court proceedings or legal
 7 recordings were transcribed under my direction as a certified
 8 transcriptionist; and that the transcript is true and accurate to
 9 the best of my knowledge and ability, including any changes made
 10 by the trial judge reviewing the transcript; that I received the
 11 electronic recording directly from the trial court conducting the
 12 hearing; that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or
 13 counsel employed by the parties hereto, nor financially
 14 interested in its outcome.
 15 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this
 16 8th day of September, 2021.
 17
 18
 19 
 20 Marjorie Jackson, CET
 21



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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