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September 12, 2017

NWN WUTC Advice No.17-09 / UG-_____

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Steven V. King, Executive Director & Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
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State Of WASH.
UTIL. AND TRANSP.
COMMISSION

Re: Schedule 230: Temporary Adjustments to Rates for Low-Income Programs

Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural (“NW Natural” or the “Company”) files herewith the following revisions to its Tariff WN U-6, stated to become effective with service on and after November 1, 2017, as follows:

Ninth Revision of Sheet 230.1,
Schedule 230,
“Temporary Adjustments to Rates for Low-Income Programs;” and

Seventh Revision of Sheet 230.2,
Schedule 230,
“Temporary Adjustments to Rates for Low-Income Programs.”

The purpose of this filing is to revise Schedule 230 to reflect adjustments to rates for the effects of applying temporary rate adjustments to amortize balances in the deferred accounts for the collection of 2016 program year costs under Schedule J “Gas Residential Energy Assistance Tariff (GREAT) and Schedule I “Washington Low-Income Energy Efficiency (WA-LIEE) Programs.”

The proposed adjustments are requested to be effective November 1, 2017, coincident with the requested effective date of the Company’s Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) filing, separately submitted as NW Natural’s WUTC Advice No. 17-10.

I. Temporary Rate Adjustments

The proposed Schedule 230 adjustments are calculated on an equal-percentage-of margin basis, and are shown for each rate schedule on page 1 of the supporting materials to this filing. It should be noted that the proposed Schedule 230 adjustments represent only a portion of the deferred accounts that are proposed to be applied to customer rates effective November 1, 2017 (See NW Natural’s WUTC Advice Nos. 17-08 and 17-10). As such, the bill effects stated herein are provided for illustrative purposes only, and reflect the effect of removing the current Schedule 230 adjustments and applying the proposed Schedule 230 adjustments to current billing rates.

If there were no other adjustments to rates effective November 1, 2017, the effect of Schedule 230 would be a decrease to average monthly bills in the primary rate schedules, residential and commercial Schedule 3, of about 0.20%. The average Schedule 2 residential customer using 53 therms would see a bill decrease of \$0.10 per month, and the average Schedule 3 commercial customer using 248 therms would see a bill decrease of \$0.42 per month. The bill impact for customers on the other residential and commercial rate schedules is shown on page 2 of the supporting materials to this filing.

In support of this filing, the Company provides worksheets showing the derivation of the proposed Schedule 230 adjustments to rates, and a worksheet showing deferral account balances as follows:

1. A 12-month amortization of collection balances in account 186234. The balance in 186234 relates to the Schedule J "Gas Residential Energy Assistance" Tariff (GREAT), which is the Company's low-income bill payment assistance program. Account 186235 is the remaining unamortized amount from this schedule from the prior year.
2. A 12-month amortization of collection balances in account 186314. The balance in 186314 relates to the Schedule I "Washington Low Income Energy Efficiency Tariff (WALIEE), which is the Company's low-income energy efficiency program. Account 186315 is the remaining unamortized amount from this schedule from the prior year.

In accordance with WAC 480-90-198, the Company will provide notice to customers as stated in WAC 480-90-194(4). A copy of this notice is included with the Company's annual PGA filing, NW Natural's WUTC Advice No. 17-10.

The proposed rate change will affect all of NW Natural's Washington residential and commercial class sales service customers. NW Natural currently serves approximately 73,656 residential customers and 6,798 business and industrial customers in the Company's Washington service territory.

In addition to the adjustments in this filing, a tariff revision is being made to add Rate Schedule 27 to the list of applicable schedules for the Company's low-income programs as shown on Schedule 230. Rate Schedule 27 was unintentionally left off of the list of schedules and this housekeeping revision ensures the list of customers in Schedule 230 is complete.

The Company respectfully requests that the tariff sheets filed herewith be approved to become effective with service on and after November 1, 2017.

As required by WAC 480-80-103(4)(a), I certify that I have authority to issue tariff revisions on behalf of NW Natural.

Copies of this letter and the attached filing are available in the Company's main office in Portland, Oregon, and on its website at www.nwnatural.com.

Please address correspondence on this matter to Kyle Walker at kyle.walker@nwnatural.com, with copies to the following:

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Sincerely,

NW NATURAL

/s/ Gail Hammer

GAIL A. HAMMER

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Attachments:

UG-___ - NWN's Advice 17-09_WA Low Income_Trif Sheet 230.1 – 09-12-2017

UG-___ - NWN's Advice 17-09_WA Low Income_Trif Sheet 230.2 – 09-12-2017

UG-___ - NWN's Advice 17-09_WA Low Income_Exh A_Supporting Materials Combined – 09-12-2017

UG-___ - NWN's Advice 17-09_WA Low Income_Exh A_Supporting Materials_xlsx – 09-12-2017

UG-___ - NWN's Advice 17-09_WA Low Income_Exh A_Cover Sheet and Table of Contents – 09-12-2017