

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON STATE
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION,

For An Accounting Order Authorizing
Deferred Accounting Treatment of Certain
Costs Associated with Environmental
Remediation.

DOCKET UG-110199

ORDER 02

ORDER GRANTING NORTHWEST
NATURAL'S MOTION TO
AMEND ORDER 01

BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 26, 2011, Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition seeking an Accounting Order (Petition) under WAC 480-07-370(1)(b) authorizing NW Natural to defer treatment of expenses related to environmental remediation costs of the following sites along the Willamette River: Gasco, Wacker a/k/a Siltronic, Portland Harbor, Tar Deposit, and Central Gas Holdings.
- 2 On June 30, 2011, the Commission granted NW Natural's Petition subject to a number of conditions, including a requirement that the Company report its deferred expenses and balances semi-annually.
- 3 On May 4, 2018, NW Natural filed with the Commission a Motion requesting to reduce its reporting requirement to once per year. The Company will continue to include its deferred expenses and balances, but additionally proposes to provide a summary of the status of each remediation project in its future annual reports.
- 4 Commission staff (Staff) fully supports NW Natural's motion to amend the frequency of its reporting because a single annual report is sufficient for compliance purposes. Furthermore, Staff notes that the Company has also agreed to provide a narrative summary along with a timeline summarizing the status of each environmental remediation project.

DISCUSSION

5 We grant NW Natural's Motion to amend Order 01 to modify the reporting requirements related to the Company's environmental remediation deferral project. NW Natural's proposed modifications to Order 01 are both reasonable and consistent with the Commission's objectives underlying that order. As Staff notes, the Company's current reporting lacks both a narrative summary and timeline of the remediation project's progress to date. In addition to providing deferral amounts and balances on an annual basis, the revised reports will include this supplementary information, which will assist Staff in monitoring the Company's compliance with its remediation obligations.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS that Order 01 is amended as follows:

- 6 (1) Northwest Natural Gas Corporation will file annual reports for the environmental remediation of the Willamette River Sites on March 1 of each year.
- 7 (2) In its annual report, Northwest Natural Gas Corporation will include the amount of expenses deferred in the period and the balance to date, along with a summary of the status of remediation.
- 8 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Northwest Natural to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 31, 2018.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MARK L. JOHNSON, Executive Director and Secretary