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Via UTC Web Portal

Amanda Maxwell
Executive Director and Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation
Commission
621 Woodland Sq. Loop SE
P.O. Box 47250
Lacey, Washington 98503

Re: UG-230614; TEP Comments on Revisions to NW Natural Schedule
J – Gas Residential Energy Assistance Tariff (GREAT)

Dear Director Maxwell:

TEP supports the approval of NW Natural's proposed tariff revisions, which allows increased funding for the GREAT energy assistance program.

In May 2023, NW Natural informed the low-income advisory group that it projected to exceed the GREAT budget, and indicated that NW Natural would voluntarily increase the budget to allow customers to continue to access energy assistance. On July 20, 2023, NW Natural informed the advisory group that it was not able to exceed its budget without a change in the tariff, and that the GREAT budget was effectively depleted back in May 2023. TEP then asked NW Natural to increase the GREAT budget, and the following day NW Natural made this filing to request Commission approval, with less than statutory notice, to increase the GREAT budget.

Under the status quo, low-income customers do not have access to the GREAT program for the remainder the current program year, i.e., until October 1, 2023. TEP supports approving the proposed tariff revision with less than statutory notice so that customers can continue accessing the energy assistance this program year.

TEP thanks the Commission for the opportunity to submit these comments.

Amanda Maxwell
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Very truly yours,

/s/Yochanan Zakai
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