

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION,

Complainant,

v.

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, d/b/a NW NATURAL,

Respondent.

DOCKET UG-181053

ORDER 05

GRANTING MOTION TO MODIFY
PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
**(Settlement and Evidentiary Hearing
rescheduled for August 14, 2019)**

MEMORANDUM

- 1 **NATURE OF PROCEEDING.** On December 31, 2018, Northwest Natural Gas Company, d/b/a NW Natural, (NW Natural or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) revisions to its currently effective Tariff WN U-6, Natural Gas Service. The purpose of the Company's filing is to increase rates and charges for natural gas service provided to customers in the state of Washington.
- 2 The Commission convened a prehearing conference on January 24, 2019. During the prehearing conference, the parties proposed a procedural schedule. On January 25, 2019, the Commission entered Order 03 adopting the procedural schedule proposed by the parties.
- 3 **MOTION.** On May 15, 2019, NW Natural filed an unopposed motion to modify the procedural schedule (Motion), explaining that NW Natural, Commission staff, the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers, and The Energy Project (collectively, Settling Parties) have reached a partial, multi-party settlement in principle.
- 4 According to NW Natural, the settlement in principle addresses all but one issue presented in the case. NW Natural states that Public Counsel has informed the Settling Parties that it may join the settlement agreement but does not yet have approval to do so. While the Settling Parties have also reached a partial, multi-party settlement in principle on the issue of decoupling, the issue remains contested by Public Counsel and will be litigated and presented to the Commission for resolution.

DISCUSSION

- 5 Under WAC 480-07-375(1)(b), parties may file procedural motions requesting that the Commission modify the procedural schedule in a proceeding. NW Natural states that it has conferred with the other parties in this docket and that all parties support the Motion.
- 6 Because all parties support NW Natural's Motion, and to aid in timely resolution of this proceeding, the Commission grants NW Natural's Motion and modifies the procedural schedule as indicated in Appendix A to this order.¹
- 7 **NOTICE OF HEARING.** The evidentiary hearing previously set for August 14-15, 2019, is now styled Settlement and Evidentiary Hearing and is rescheduled for only **August 14, 2019, at 9:00 a.m., in the Commission's Hearing Room, 621 Woodland Park Loop SE, Lacey, Washington.**

ORDER

- 8 THE COMMISSION ORDERS THAT Northwest Natural Gas Company, d/b/a NW Natural's Motion for Motion to Modify Procedural Schedule is GRANTED.

Dated at Olympia, Washington, and effective May 16, 2019.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

NELLI DOROSHKIN
Administrative Law Judge

¹ Appendix A reflects only modifications to the procedural schedule; events that have not been modified are not included in the revised procedural schedule.

**APPENDIX A
REVISIONS TO PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
DOCKET UG-181053**

EVENT	PRIOR DEADLINE OR DATE	REVISED DEADLINE OR DATE
File Settlement Agreements: (1) multiparty partial settlement, and (2) multiparty decoupling settlement	New Event	Thursday, May 23, 2019
File Testimony in Support of Settlements ²	New Event	Thursday, June 6, 2019
Staff, Public Counsel and Intervenor Response Testimony and Exhibits ³	Monday, June 10, 2019	Event Cancelled
NW Natural Circulates Joint Issues Matrix	Thursday, June 13, 2019	Event Cancelled
Settlement Conference	Thursday, June 20, 2019	Event Cancelled
File Testimony and Exhibits in Opposition to Settlement ⁴	New Event	Thursday, July 3, 2019
Settling Parties File Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits ⁵	New Event	Thursday, July 18, 2019

² Response time to data requests relating to this testimony will be 7 business days.

³ Response time to data requests relating to this testimony will be 7 business days.

⁴ Response time to data requests relating to this testimony will be 5 business days.

⁵ Response time to data requests relating to this testimony will be 5 business days.

Company Rebuttal Testimony and Exhibits; Staff, Public Counsel and Intervenor Cross- Answering Testimony and Exhibits ⁶	Monday, July 22, 2019	Monday, July 22, 2019
NW Natural Files Joint Issues Matrix	Friday, July 26, 2019	Event Cancelled
Settlement and Evidentiary Hearing (previously, Evidentiary Hearing)	Wednesday & Thursday, August 14- 15, 2019	Wednesday, August 14, 2019
Post-Hearing Briefs	New Event	Thursday, September 12, 2019
Initial Post-Hearing Briefs and Updated Joint Issues Matrix	Thursday, September 26, 2019	Event Cancelled
Simultaneous Reply Briefs	Thursday, October 10, 2019	Event Cancelled
Rate Effective Date	New Event	November 1, 2019

⁶ Response time to data requests relating to this testimony will be 5 business days.