

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET NO. UG-051744
)	
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)	ORDER NO. 01
COMPANY,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
For Approval of Contract and Less)	ORDER APPROVING
Than Required Notice in)	CONTRACT AND GRANTING
Connection with SEH America, Inc.)	LESS THAN REQUIRED
Gas Sales Contract)	NOTICE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On November 15, 2005, Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural or the Company) filed with the Commission a special contract regarding interim sales billing rates for natural gas supplies provided to SEH America, Inc. for sales services during the period of October 1, 2005, and ending March 31, 2006.
- 2 WAC 480-80-143 requires thirty days' notice prior to the effective date of the contract. The Company requests an earlier effective date of November 15, 2005, as authorized in WAC 480-80-143, in order to accommodate the deadline for eligible customers to decide if they will withdraw from sales service and return to transportation service on either November 15 or December 1, 2005. The withdrawal deadline is detailed in Schedule T, Service Election, as revised effective November 8, 2005.
- 3 At a special open meeting on November 7, 2005, the Commission approved a tariff filing by NW Natural in Docket UG-051683 that extended the election date for certain transportation customers from November 8, 2005, to November 10, 2005. In that filing the Company filed a proposed sales service contract for approval. The Commission took no action on the proposed contract at that open

meeting but directed the Company to file the signed contracts by November 15, 2005. At that Open Meeting the Commission directed the Commission's Secretary to issue an Order if the contracts were in the exact form as the proposed contract in the initial filing.

- 4 Since the proposed contract appears to be fair, just, and reasonable, and less than required notice is consistent with the public interest, it is appropriate that the Commission grant NW Natural's request with an effective date of November 15, 2005.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, and transfers of public service companies, including gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040; Chapter 80.04 RCW and Chapter 80.28 RCW.*
- 6 (2) NW Natural is a gas company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 7 (3) NW Natural is subject to the provisions of WAC 480-80-143 requiring gas companies to file contracts for any rate or charge with thirty days' notice, however, for good cause shown the Commission may allow changes without requiring thirty days' notice.
- 8 (4) Staff has reviewed the request in Docket UG-051744 and recommended the contract be approved and the less than required notice request of NW Natural be granted.

- 9 (5) After examination of the proposed contract filed by NW Natural on November 15, 2005, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds the proposed contract should become effective November 15, 2005.

O R D E R

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10 (1) The contract filed in this docket on November 15, 2005, shall become effective on November 15, 2005.
- 11 (2) The request sought by Northwest Natural Gas Company for less than required notice is granted.
- 12 (3) Any gas supply costs incurred by the Company to provide the sales service specified in the contract will not adversely affect other customers.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective this fifteenth day of November, 2005.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary