

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET NO. UG-060031
)	
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)	ORDER NO. 01
COMPANY,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	
For Less Than Required Notice in)	ORDER GRANTING LESS THAN
Connection with Contract)	REQUIRED NOTICE
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On January 6, 2006, Northwest Natural Gas Company, (NW Natural or the Company) filed with the Commission a contract with customer Exterior Wood, Inc., to resolve a dispute over charges for incremental costs associated with the customer electing to take sales service beginning in October 2005. This contract sets billing rates for the remainder of the customer’s 2005/2006 term of service and it supersedes the contract with customer in Docket No. UG-051745, which set interim billing rates.

- 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 January 11, 2006, as authorized in WAC 480-80-143. However, since this matter is being taken before the Commission on that date, the earliest date it could become effective is January 12, 2006. The Company requests less than required notice in order for certain customers to make timely decisions on sales options under the agreements.

- 3 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 January 12, 2006.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 4 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, 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.*
- 5 (2) NW Natural is a gas company and is a public service company subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- 6 (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.
- 7 (4) Staff has reviewed the request in Docket UG-060031 and recommended the less than required notice request of NW Natural be granted.
- 8 (5) This matter was brought before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on January 11, 2006.
- 9 (6) After examination of the proposed contract filed by NW Natural on January 6, 2006, and giving consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the Commission finds the proposed contract should become effective January 12, 2006.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10 (1) The request sought by Northwest Natural Gas Company for less than required notice is granted.

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 this 11th day of January, 2006.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CAROLE J. WASHBURN, Secretary