

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

In the Matter of the Request of)	DOCKET UG-091128
)	
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS)	ORDER 01
COMPANY,)	
)	
Petitioner,)	
)	ORDER GRANTING LESS THAN
For Less Than Statutory Notice in)	STATUTORY NOTICE; ALLOWING
Connection with Tariff Revisions)	TARIFF REVISIONS
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On July 15, 2009, Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural or Company), filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a revision under Schedule T, Sheet T.6, to increase the company’s involuntary pre-emption of gas from customers to a rate of \$10 per therm. Also, a customer who fails to comply with a pre-emption Order shall pay \$10 per therm for any gas taken. The increases from \$2.00 to \$10.00 per therm are to align overrun charges with pre-emption gas so that it is fair to all parties. Pre-emption gas is the gas owned by transportation customer is taken by NW Natural for a negotiated price to maintain service to other customers with higher service priorities. Overrun gas is the gas used by transpiration customers more than a percentage of transportation customer’s acknowledged confirmation on a specified gas day.
- 2 RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-121 require thirty days’ notice to customers prior to the effective date of the tariff. The tariff sheet bears an effective date of August 15, 2009. This date recognizes the required 30-day statutory notice. The Company requests, however, less than statutory notice as permitted by WAC 480-80-122, and that the revision become effective August 1, 2009. NW Natural requests less than statutory notice because the Company believes that this filing is part of the negotiated result of Docket UG-091027 and should carry the same effective date coincident with the effective date of tariff sheet revisions filed under Docket UG-091027. Docket UG-091027 is a filing to clarify some unclear or incomplete tariff language that the company has experienced over the past years. Also included in Docket UG-091027 was the elimination of Rate Schedule 54 “Emergency Sales Service”. According to data provided by NW Natural, the company has no customer under this Rate Schedule in Washington since 1970’s.

3 Since the proposed tariff revision appears to be fair, just, reasonable and sufficient, and
less than statutory notice is consistent with the public interest, it is appropriate that the
Commission grant NW Natural's request with an effective date of August 1, 2009.

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 the rates,
regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated
interests of public service companies, including gas companies. *RCW 80.01.040,*
RCW 80.04, RCW 80.08, RCW 80.12, RCW 80.16 and RCW 80.28.
- 5 (2) NW Natural is a gas company and a public service company subject to
Commission jurisdiction.
- 6 (3) NW Natural is subject to *RCW 80.28.060* and *WAC 480-80-121*, which require
gas companies to file changes in any rate or charges with thirty days' notice. For
good cause shown, however, the Commission may allow changes without
requiring thirty days notice by order specifying the changes to be made and the
time when it shall take effect. *RCW 80.28.060 and WAC 480-80-122.*
- 7 (4) Staff has reviewed NW Natural's request in Docket UG-091128 and recommends
the Commission grant the Company's request for less than statutory notice.
- 8 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on
July 30, 2009.
- 9 (6) After reviewing NW Natural's proposed tariff revision filed on July 15, 2009, and
giving due consideration to all relevant matters and for good cause shown, the
Commission finds the proposed tariff revision should become effective August 1,
2009.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 10 (1) Northwest Natural Gas Company's request for less than statutory notice is granted.
- 11 (3) The tariff revisions Northwest Gas Company filed on July 15, 2009, will be effective on August 1, 2009.

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

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective July 30, 2009.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Executive Director and Secretary