

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
COMPANY,

 Petitioner,

Seeking Exemption from the Provisions
of WAC 480-90-264 Requiring Gas
Companies to File the 2016 Affiliated
Interest and Subsidiary Transactions
Report by April 30, 2017

DOCKET UG-170199

ORDER 01

ORDER GRANTING
EXEMPTION FROM RULE;
GRANTING ADDITIONAL TIME
TO FILE THE 2016 AFFILIATED
INTEREST AND SUBSIDIARY
TRANSACTIONS REPORT

BACKGROUND

- 1 On March 27, 2017, Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting an exemption from WAC 480-90-264, which requires gas companies to file their affiliated interest and subsidiary transactions report by April 30 each calendar year. NW Natural requests an extension of time to file its 2016 report due to resource constraints caused by competing deadlines for annual and quarter accounting close processes. The Commission construes the Company's request for an extension until June 1, 2017, as a request for exemption from WAC 480-90-264.

- 2 Pursuant to WAC 480-07-110, the Commission may grant an exemption from its rules if the requested exemption is in the public interest and is consistent with the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. Commission staff reviewed NW Natural's petition for an exemption and recommends granting the request to extend the deadline for the Company's affiliated interest and subsidiary transactions report until June 1, 2017, to ensure the Company has sufficient time and resources to prepare a complete and accurate report.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 3 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property and affiliated interests of public service companies, including gas companies.

- 4 (2) NW Natural is engaged in the business of providing gas services within the state of Washington and is a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 5 (3) NW Natural is subject to WAC 480-90-264, which requires gas companies to file a report of affiliated interest and subsidiary transactions within one hundred twenty days of the end of the utility's fiscal or calendar year.
- 6 (4) Under WAC 480-07-110, the Commission may grant an exemption from the provisions of any rule in WAC 480-90 if consistent with the public interest, the purposes underlying regulation, and applicable statutes.
- 7 (5) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 28, 2017.
- 8 (6) After reviewing NW Natural's petition filed in Docket UG-170199 on March 27, 2017, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that the exemption is in the public interest and should be granted.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 9 (1) Northwest Natural Gas Company's request for an exemption from WAC 480-90-264 is granted.
- 10 (2) Northwest Natural Gas Company must file its 2016 affiliated interest and subsidiary transactions report no later than June 1, 2017.
- 11 (3) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and Northwest Natural Gas Company to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

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 April 28, 2017.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

STEVEN V. KING, Executive Director and Secretary