

[Service Date May 16, 2005]

May 16, 2005

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO FILE WRITTEN COMMENTS
(By Friday, June 10, 2005)**

Re: Rulemaking to Review Natural Gas Decoupling
Docket No. UG-050369

The Commission Staff held a workshop on May 12, 2005, to discuss decoupling gas utilities' recovery of fixed costs from commodity sales volumes. Based on the workshop discussion, staff requests comments from stakeholders on the following topics to help guide the rulemaking:

1. Responses to the decoupling model that Cascade Natural Gas outlined in its presentation at the May 12, 2005, workshop and in its accompanying white paper. Please specifically address which elements of Cascade's proposal you or your organization support or oppose and explain why.
2. Any specific changes to the Cascade methodology that would make it work better in terms of your organization's interests and objectives.
3. Any general or specific comments on the combined decoupling and weather adjustment mechanism that Northwest Natural Gas briefly summarized at the May 12, 2005, workshop and is currently using in Oregon. In particular, staff is interested in any comments comparing the Northwest Natural mechanism with the Cascade proposal.
4. Any decoupling model that you or your organization believes should be considered as an alternative to the Cascade and Northwest Natural models. Please explain why you believe such an alternative model would be preferable in general, or with specific reference to the objectives of your organization.

5. Identify and rank the interests and/or objectives that need to be addressed and satisfied before you or your organization could support a natural gas decoupling methodology. Please state with respect to each interest or objective whether it is “must have,” “would like to have,” or “would be nice to have.”

In addition to addressing the foregoing, please offer any other comments or suggestions you consider relevant to advancement of our discussion of gas decoupling mechanisms.

A copy of the presentation made by Cascade Natural Gas at the May 12, 2005, workshop and other documents associated with this rulemaking may be viewed on the WUTC website (<http://www.wutc.wa.gov/050369>). To access those documents, at the bottom of the page, click on “Documents” for a list of all documents currently in the record for this docket.

WRITTEN COMMENTS

Written comments to the questions should be filed with the Commission no later than **Friday, June 10, 2005**. The Commission requests that comments be provided in electronic format to enhance public access, for ease of providing comments, to reduce the need for paper copies, and to facilitate quotations from the comments. Comments may be submitted by electronic mail to the Commission’s Records Center at records@wutc.wa.gov. Please include:

- The docket number of this proceeding (UG-050369)
- The commenting party’s name
- The title and date of the comment or comments

An alternative method for submitting comments may be by mailing or delivering an electronic copy on a 3 ½ inch, IBM-formatted, high-density disk, in Adobe Acrobat .pdf format or in Microsoft Word 97 or later. Include all of the information requested above. The Commission will post on the Commission’s web site all comments that are provided in electronic format. The web site is located at <http://www.wutc.wa.gov/050369>.

If you are unable to file your comments electronically or to submit them on a disk, the Commission will always accept a paper document. Questions may be addressed to Roger Braden by e-mail at rbraden@wutc.wa.gov or by calling (360) 664-1312 or Mike Parvinen by e-mail at mparvine@wutc.wa.gov or by calling (360) 664-1315.

Your participation is welcomed via written comments. Opportunity for further comment is anticipated. Information about the schedule and other aspects of the rulemaking, including comments, will be posted on the Commission's web site as it becomes available. If you wish to receive further information on this rulemaking you may (1) call the Commission's Records Center at (360) 664-1234, (2) e-mail the Commission at records@wutc.wa.gov, or (3) mail written comments to the address below. When contacting the Commission, please refer to Docket No. UG-050369 to ensure that you are placed on the appropriate service list. The Commission's mailing address is:

Secretary
Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission
1300 South Evergreen Park Drive S.W.
P.O. Box 47250
Olympia, Washington 98504-7250

Sincerely,

CAROLE J. WASHBURN
Executive Secretary