

MINUTES

Thursday, October 29, 2020

9:30 A.M.

PRESENT: David Danner, Chairman
Jay Balasbas, Commissioner
Ann Rendahl, Commissioner

The virtual regular meeting of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission was called to order on Thursday, October 29, 2020 by Chairman Danner. Mark Vasconi, Director, Regulatory Services, indicated that Item B2, TV-200809, Household Goods General, moved to Consent Agenda.

E)1. Consent
00:00 mp3

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved to approve the consent agenda and directs the Secretary to sign orders and/or letters necessary to affect each action. Commissioner Balasbas seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0).

UTILITIES:

- A)1. 40:29 mp3 Docket Number UG-200717; Avista Corporation; Revises Tariff WN U-29, Annual Purchased Gas Cost Adjustment (PGA), to reflect changes in the estimated cost of natural gas cost for the forthcoming year (Schedule 150) and to revise the amortization rate for the deferral balance (Schedule 155). The revised rates represent an overall revenue reduction of \$0.2 million (or 0.1 percent). An average residential customer using 66 therms per month would see a bill decrease of \$0.08. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Elizabeth O'Connell, staff; Patrick Ehrbar and Jody Morehouse, Avista Corporation; Richard Lorenz, AWEC

The Commissioner's took no action, thereby allowing the tariff sheets filed by Avista Corporation to become effective November 1, 2020, by operation of law.

- A)2. 40:29 mp3 Docket Number UG-200799; Northwest Natural Gas Company; Revises Tariff WN-U-6, annual Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA), to reflect the projected cost of natural gas for the upcoming year (Schedule 203), and the amortization rate for the deferral balance (Schedule 201). This filing also updates

language in Schedule P to clarify that future costs associated with renewable natural gas will be included in the Company's PGA mechanism. The revised rates increase annual revenue by \$3.1 million (or 4.8 percent). An average residential customer using 57 therms per month, would see a bill increase of \$2.01. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Elizabeth O'Connell, staff; ?? and Randy Freedman, Northwest Natural Gas Company

The Commissioner's took no action, thereby allowing the tariff sheets filed by Northwest Natural Gas Company, to become effective November 1, 2020, by operation of law.

- A)3. 40:29 mp3 Docket Number UG-200807; Cascade Natural Gas Corporation; Revises Tariff WN U-3, Schedule 590 and 595, Purchased Gas Adjustment and Temporary Technical Adjustment, passing through changes in gas cost for the coming year and revising the amortization rate for the deferral balance. The Company proposes to collect the deferral balance over two years. The revised rates increase annual revenue by \$2.7 million (or 1.04 percent). An average residential customer using 56 therms per month would see an increase of \$0.58 per month. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Elizabeth O'Connell, staff; Mike Parvinen, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

The Commissioner's took no action, thereby allowing the tariff sheets filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, to become effective November 1, 2020, by operation of law.

- A)4. 40:29 mp3 Docket Number UG-200832; Puget Sound Energy; Revises Tariff WN U-2, annual Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA), to reflect the projected cost of natural gas for the upcoming year (Schedule 101), and the amortization rate for the deferral balance (Schedule 106). The revised rates represent an overall revenue increase of \$70.0 million (or 7.7 percent). An average residential customer using 64 therms per month would see an increase of \$4.77. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Elizabeth O'Connell, staff; Paul Weatherby, Puget Sound Energy

The Commissioner's took no action, thereby allowing the tariff sheets filed by Puget Sound Energy, to become effective November 1, 2020, by operation of law.

- A)5. 59:26 mp3 Docket Number UE-190663; Avista Corporation; Revises Tariff WN U-28, Schedule 62, establishing a standard power purchasing agreement for small power producers and cogeneration qualifying facilities in accordance with the new Chapter 480-106 WAC and the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act (PURPA). Tariff Revision

Appearances: Deborah Reynolds, staff; Greg Adams, NIPPC and REC; Michael Andrea, Attorney, Avista Corporation; Harry Fukano, Assistant Attorney General Shawn Bonfield, Avista Corporation; Sally Brown, Senior Assistant Attorney General

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved that the commission approve the Standard offer Power Purchase Agreement contact submitted by Avista Corporation, d/b/a Avista Utilities on October 26, 2020, with the condition that Section 4.2 reads, "Except as otherwise provided in this Section 4.2 or in Section 13, in the event that the seller fails to achieve the commercial operation date, by the scheduled commercial operation date, and such failure is not caused by Avista or an event of Force Majeure. Such failure shall constitute an event of default and Avista may give seller written notice to seller of a default in accordance with Section 30." And also to strike the last sentence in Section 13.6 that reads, "In addition Force Majeure shall not apply to a failure to achieve the commercial operation date of the facility within three years of the effective date as required in Section 4.2 of this agreement." Commissioner Danner seconded the motion. Commissioner Balasbas dissented. The motion carried (2:1)

- A)6. 02:29 mp3 Docket Number UW-200767; Water of Bethel LLC; General rate increase that, as originally filed, would have generated an increase of \$33,443, or 45.9 percent in additional annual revenue. Staff's proposed additional annual revenue is an increase of \$8,015, or 10 percent. Water of Bethel LLC's water system provides service to approximately 215 customers on one water system located near Spanaway in Pierce County. The company's last general rate increase became effective April 1, 2002. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Scott Sevall, staff; Cole Loncar, Water of Bethel, LLC; Nina Suetake, Assistant Attorney General, Public Counsel

The Commissioner's took no action, allowing the tariff revisions filed by Water of Bethel, LLC, on August 28, 2020, and revised on October 20, 2020, to go into effect November 1, 2020.

TRANSPORTATION:

- B)1. 11:47 mp3 Docket Number TG-180782; Freedom 2000, LLC; Review of compliance filing by Freedom 2000, LLC, dba Cando Recycling in response to

Order 01, issued in Docket TG-180782 on November 30, 2018. The company provides solid waste and recycling service in Point Roberts, Whatcom County. The company's last general rate increase became effective January 1, 2020. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Greg Hammond and Mike Young, staff; Jeff Hegedus, Whatcom County Health Department; Louise Cassidy, customer; Alison Calder, customer; Sally Brown, Senior Assistant Attorney General; Linda Hughes, Freedom 2000, LLC

The Commissioner's took no action, thereby allowing the tariff revisions filed by Freedom 2000, LLC, on August 27, 2020, and revised on October 21, 2020, to take effect January 1, 2021, by operation of law.

B)2. Docket Number TV-200809; Household Goods General; Proposed revision to Tariff 15-C to clarify rules around alternative pickup and delivery and video estimates, and to correct a tariff rate error. Staff Investigation

Appearances: Greg Hammond, staff

This item was verbally moved to the Consent Agenda, by Mark Vasconi, Director, Regulatory Services.

OTHER: No Other items for this agenda.

RECESSED: No Recessed items for this agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Attested by _____
Mark L. Johnson, Executive Director