

MINUTES

Thursday, January 26, 2023
9:30 A.M.

PRESENT: David Danner, Chairman
Milt Doumit, Commissioner
Ann Rendahl, Commissioner

The virtual meeting of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission was called to order on Thursday, January 26, 2023 by Chairman Danner. Neiri Carrasco, Director, Regulatory Services, indicated there are no changes to the agenda.

E)1. Consent
00:00 mp4

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 Doumit seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0).

UTILITIES:

- A)1. 4:14 mp4 Docket Number U-220963; Utilities General; Establish regulatory fees for regulated electric, natural gas, water, community solar and telecommunications companies. Regulatory Fees

Appearances: Amy Andrews, staff;

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved in Docket No. U-220963 to enter an order in this docket, setting utility regulatory fees associated with the 2022 annual reports as follows: increase electric, natural gas, and water utility regulatory fees for gross intrastate revenues in excess of \$50,000 from .02 of a percent to .04 of a percent, no later than February 28, 2023.

Additionally, Commission staff (Staff) recommends the Commission, on its own motion as allowed under WAC 480-07-370(3)(a), authorize water companies to establish deferral accounts to track the difference between regulatory fees currently recovered in rates and any approved increased fee amounts for a period of up to three years, for those companies that did not file an individual petition prior to January 31, 2023.

Commissioner Doumit seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

A)2. 13:54 mp4 Docket Number UE-220407; Puget Sound Energy; Petition for a deferred accounting treatment for the Company's increased costs associated with the updated Commission regulatory fee approved in Senate Bill 5634 (2022). SB 5634 increased the fee from 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent of intrastate gross operating revenues in excess of \$50,000. Petition for Accounting Order

Appearances: Natalie Roberts, staff; Susan Free, Puget Sound Energy;

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved to:

- (1) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220407 and UG-220408 granting, the Petitions filed by Puget Sound Energy, as revised on December 20, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees. With interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (2) Issue an order in Docket UG-220423 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Northwest Natural Gas Company d/b/a NW Natural on June 9, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (3) Issue an order in Docket UG-220597 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Pacific Light and Gas Company as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (4) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220892 and UG-220893 granting, the Petitions filed by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, as revised January 4, 2023, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (5) Issue an order in Docket UG-220912 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.

Commissioner Doumit seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

A)3. 13:54 mp4 Docket Number UE-220597; Pacific Power & Light Company; Petition for a deferred accounting treatment for the Company's increased costs associated with the updated Commission regulatory fee approved in Senate Bill 5634 (2022). SB 5634 increased the fee from 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent of intrastate gross operating revenues in excess of \$50,000. Petition for Accounting Order

Appearances: Natalie Roberts, staff; Matt McVee, PacifiCorp

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved to:

- (1) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220407 and UG-220408 granting, the Petitions filed by Puget Sound Energy, as revised on December 20, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees.
- (2) Issue an order in Docket UG-220423 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Northwest Natural Gas Company d/b/a NW Natural on June 9, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (3) Issue an order in Docket UG-220597 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Pacific Light and Gas Company as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (4) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220892 and UG-220893 granting, the Petitions filed by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, as revised January 4, 2023, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (5) Issue an order in Docket UG-220912 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.

Commissioner Doumit seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

A)4. 13:54 mp4 Docket Number UE-220892; Avista Corporation ; Petition for a deferred accounting treatment for the Company's increased costs associated with the updated Commission regulatory fee approved in Senate Bill 5634 (2022). SB 5634 increased the fee from 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent of intrastate gross operating revenues in excess of \$50,000. Petition for Accounting Order

Appearances: Natalie Roberts, staff; Liz Andrews, Avista Corporation

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved to:

- (1) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220407 and UG-220408 granting, the Petitions filed by Puget Sound Energy, as revised on December 20, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting

treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees.

- (2) Issue an order in Docket UG-220423 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Northwest Natural Gas Company d/b/a NW Natural on June 9, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (3) Issue an order in Docket UG-220597 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Pacific Light and Gas Company as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (4) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220892 and UG-220893 granting, the Petitions filed by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, as revised January 4, 2023, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (5) Issue an order in Docket UG-220912 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.

Commissioner Doumit seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

A)5. 13:54 mp4 Docket Number UG-220408; Puget Sound Energy; Petition for a deferred accounting treatment for the Company's increased costs associated with the updated Commission regulatory fee approved in Senate Bill 5634 (2022). SB 5634 increased the fee from 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent of intrastate gross operating revenues in excess of \$50,000. Petition for Accounting Order

Appearances: Natalie Roberts, staff; Susan Free, Puget Sound Energy

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved to:

- (1) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220407 and UG-220408 granting, the Petitions filed by Puget Sound Energy, as revised on December 20, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees.
- (2) Issue an order in Docket UG-220423 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Northwest Natural Gas Company d/b/a NW Natural on June 9, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (3) Issue an order in Docket UG-220597 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Pacific Light and Gas Company as revised on December 12, 2022,

authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.

- (4) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220892 and UG-220893 granting, the Petitions filed by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, as revised January 4, 2023, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (5) Issue an order in Docket UG-220912 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.

Commissioner Doumit seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

A)6. 13:54 mp4 Docket Number UG-220423; Northwest Natural Gas Company; Petition for a deferred accounting treatment for the Company's increased costs associated with the updated Commission regulatory fee approved in Senate Bill 5634 (2022). SB 5634 increased the fee from 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent of intrastate gross operating revenues in excess of \$50,000. Petition for Accounting Order

Appearances: Natalie Roberts, staff; Kyle Walker, Northwest Natural Gas Company

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved to:

- (1) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220407 and UG-220408 granting, the Petitions filed by Puget Sound Energy, as revised on December 20, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees.
- (2) Issue an order in Docket UG-220423 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Northwest Natural Gas Company d/b/a NW Natural on June 9, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (3) Issue an order in Docket UG-220597 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Pacific Light and Gas Company as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (4) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220892 and UG-220893 granting, the Petitions filed by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, as revised January 4, 2023, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (5) Issue an order in Docket UG-220912 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the

Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.

Commissioner _____ seconded the motion. The motion carried (:)

A)7. 13:545 mp4 Docket Number UG-220893; Avista Corporation; Petition for a deferred accounting treatment for the Company's increased costs associated with the updated Commission regulatory fee approved in Senate Bill 5634 (2022). SB 5634 increased the fee from 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent of intrastate gross operating revenues in excess of \$50,000. Petition for Accounting Order

Appearances: Natalie Roberts, staff; Liz Andrews, Avista Corporation

Disposition: Commissioner Rehdahl moved to:

- (1) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220407 and UG-220408 granting, the Petitions filed by Puget Sound Energy, as revised on December 20, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees.
- (2) Issue an order in Docket UG-220423 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Northwest Natural Gas Company d/b/a NW Natural on June 9, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (3) Issue an order in Docket UG-220597 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Pacific Light and Gas Company as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (4) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220892 and UG-220893 granting, the Petitions filed by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, as revised January 4, 2023, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (5) Issue an order in Docket UG-220912 granting, subject to the condition within the order, the Petition filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.

Commissioner Doumit seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

A)8. 13:54 mp4 Docket Number UG-220912; Cascade Natural Gas Corporation; Petition for a deferred accounting treatment for the Company's increased costs associated with the updated Commission regulatory fee approved in Senate Bill 5634 (2022). SB 5634 increased the fee from 0.2 percent to 0.4 percent of intrastate gross operating revenues in excess of \$50,000. Petition for Accounting Order

Appearances: Natalie Roberts, staff; Lori Blattner, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation

Disposition: Commissioner Rendahl moved to:

- (1) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220407 and UG-220408 granting, the Petitions filed by Puget Sound Energy, as revised on December 20, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (2) Issue an order in Docket UG-220423 granting the Petition filed by Northwest Natural Gas Company d/b/a NW Natural on June 9, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (3) Issue an order in Docket UG-220597 granting the Petition filed by Pacific Light and Gas Company as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (4) Issue an order in Dockets UE-220892 and UG-220893 granting, the Petitions filed by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities, as revised January 4, 2023, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.
- (5) Issue an order in Docket UG-220912 granting the Petition filed by Cascade Natural Gas Corporation, as revised on December 12, 2022, authorizing deferred accounting treatment for the increase in expenses associated with the Commission's new regulatory fees, with interest accruing at the actual cost of debt updated semi-annually.

Commissioner Doumit seconded the motion. The motion carried (3:0)

A)9. 37:46 mp4 Docket Number UW-220964; Blue Rock Water Company LLC; Tariff revisions adding Schedule 5.1, which provides for a facilities charge in the amount of \$6,500. The charge will apply only to future connections company-wide except for the Lowper Water System in Clallam County, and the Suddenview system in Snohomish County. The Company provides water service to approximately 900 customers on 21 systems in multiple counties in western Washington and one system in Lincoln County. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Mike Young, staff; Sara Dorland, Blue Rock Water Company LLC; Steven Meredith, Consumer; Lars Larson, Consumer; Donna Parsons, Consumer

Disposition: Commissioner's took no action allowing tariff pages filed by Blue Rock Water Company, LLC, on December 23, 2022, to become effective February 1, 2023, by operation of law.

TRANSPORTATION:

B)1. 1:03:51 mp4 Docket Number TG-220857; Murrey's Disposal Company, Inc. ; General rate increase request that, as filed, will generate approximately \$2,841,000 (5.6 percent) additional annual revenue for the collection of garbage, recycling, and yard waste services. The Company provides regulated solid waste collection service to approximately 63,000 residential and 2,200 commercial customers in Pierce County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on January 1, 2019. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Mike Young, staff; Joe Wonderlick, Murrey's Disposal Company, Inc.; Carol Newell, Consumer;

Disposition: Commissioner's took no action allowing tariff pages filed by Murrey's Disposal Company, Inc., on November 17, 2022, and revised on January 18, 2023, to become effective February 1, 2023, by operation of law.

OTHER: No Other items for this agenda.

RECESSED: No Recessed items for this agenda.

Chairman Danner recessed the open meeting at 9:34 a.m.

Chairman Danner reconvened the meeting at 9:38 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 10:53 a.m.

Attested by _____
Amanda Maxwell, Executive Director