

## MINUTES

Thursday, October 26, 2023

9:30 A.M.

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

The regular meeting of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission was called to order on Thursday, October 26, 2023 by Chairman Danner. Neiri Carrasco, Director, Regulatory Services, indicated that item E10, Docket No. TG-230868, Rabanco, Ltd. is changed to a Tariff Revision filing and the Effective Date is changed to October 27, 2023; Item F1, UE-230320 and F2, UG-230323, Puget Sound Energy, were moved to the Consent portion of 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. 07:53 mp4 Docket Number UG-230709; Avista Corporation; Revises Tariff WN U-29, Annual Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) to: 1) pass through the changes in the estimated cost of natural gas for the upcoming year (Schedule 150), and 2) revise the amortization rates(s) to refund or collect the balance of deferred natural gas commodity and demand costs (Schedule 155). The Company is requesting an overall revenue decrease of \$8.1 million, or 3.0 percent, effective November 1, 2023. The impact on a residential customer's monthly bill with an average consumption of 67 therms is a reduction of \$6.76, or 6.98 percent. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Kristen Hillstead, staff; Lori Blattner, Eric Wood, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation; Birud Jhaveri, Brennan Mueller, Puget Sound Energy; Joe Miller, Avista Corporation; Kyle Walker, Gail Hammer, Northwest Natural Gas Company

Disposition: The Commissioners took no action, thereby allowing the tariff sheets filed by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista), Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade), Northwest Natural Gas Company d/b/a NW Natural (NW Natural), and Puget Sound Energy (PSE), in Dockets UG-230709, UG-230745,

UG-230763, and UG-230769, respectively, to become effective November 1, 2023, by operation of law.

- A)2. 07:53 mp4 Docket Number UG-230745; Cascade Natural Gas Corporation; Revises Tariff WN U-3, Annual Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) to: 1) pass through changes in the estimated cost of natural gas for the upcoming year (Schedule 595), and 2) revise the amortization rate(s) to refund or collect the balance of deferred natural gas commodity and demand costs (Schedule 590). The Company is requesting an overall revenue decrease of \$0.7 million, or 0.21 percent, effective November 1, 2023. The impact on a residential customer's monthly bill with an average consumption of 54 therms is a decrease of \$0.15, or 0.2 percent. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Kristen Hillstead, staff; Kristen Hillstead, staff; Lori Blattner, Eric Wood, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation; Birud Jhaveri, Brennan Mueller, Puget Sound Energy; Joe Miller, Avista Corporation; Kyle Walker, Gail Hammer, Northwest Natural Gas Company

Disposition: The Commissioners took no action, thereby allowing the tariff sheets filed by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista), Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade), Northwest Natural Gas Company d/b/a NW Natural (NW Natural), and Puget Sound Energy (PSE), in Dockets UG-230709, UG-230745, UG-230763, and UG-230769, respectively, to become effective November 1, 2023, by operation of law.

- A)3. 07:53 mp4 Docket Number UG-230763; Northwest Natural Gas Company; Revises Tariff WN U-6, Annual Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) to: 1) pass through changes in the estimated cost of natural gas for the upcoming year (Schedule 203), and 2) revise the amortization rate(s) to refund or collect the balance of deferred natural gas commodity and demand costs (Schedule 201). The Company is requesting an overall revenue decrease of \$12.2 million, or 11.98 percent, effective November 1, 2023. The impact on a residential customer's monthly bill with an average consumption of 58 therms is a decrease of \$8.12, or 9.0 percent. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Kristen Hillstead, staff; Kristen Hillstead, staff; Lori Blattner, Eric Wood, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation; Birud Jhaveri, Brennan Mueller, Puget Sound Energy; Joe Miller, Avista Corporation; Kyle Walker, Gail Hammer, Northwest Natural Gas Company

Disposition: The Commissioners took no action, thereby allowing the tariff sheets filed by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista), Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade), Northwest Natural Gas Company d/b/a NW Natural (NW Natural), and Puget Sound Energy (PSE), in Dockets UG-230709, UG-230745, UG-230763, and UG-230769, respectively, to become effective November 1,

2023, by operation of law.

- A)4. 07:53 mp4 Docket Number UG-230769; Puget Sound Energy; Revises Tariff WN U-2, Annual Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) to: 1) pass through changes in the estimated cost of natural gas for the upcoming year (Schedule 101), and 2) revise the amortization rate(s) to refund or collect the balance of deferred natural gas commodity and demand costs (Schedule 106). The Company is requesting an overall revenue decrease of \$309.4 million, or 24.2 percent, effective November 1, 2023. The impact on a residential customer's monthly bill with an average consumption of 64 therms is a decrease of \$24.08, or 24.3 percent. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Kristen Hillstead, staff; Kristen Hillstead, staff; Lori Blattner, Eric Wood, Cascade Natural Gas Corporation; Birud Jhaveri, Brennan Mueller, Puget Sound Energy; Joe Miller, Avista Corporation; Kyle Walker, Gail Hammer, Northwest Natural Gas Company

Disposition: The Commissioners took no action, thereby allowing the tariff sheets filed by Avista Corporation d/b/a Avista Utilities (Avista), Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade), Northwest Natural Gas Company d/b/a NW Natural (NW Natural), and Puget Sound Energy (PSE), in Dockets UG-230709, UG-230745, UG-230763, and UG-230769, respectively, to become effective November 1, 2023, by operation of law.

- A)5. 29:02 mp4 Docket Number UG-230756; Puget Sound Energy; Revises Tariff WN U-2, Schedule 111, to incorporate into rates the Climate Commitment Act allowance costs and auction proceeds deferred between January 1, 2023, and September 30, 2023. A typical residential customer using 64 therms per month would see an increase of \$2.36 per month, or 2.38 percent. Known low-income customers would receive a credit that fully offsets the rate increase. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Chris McGuire, staff; Susan Free, Puget Sound Energy; Lauren McCloy, Northwest Energy Coalition; Chris Clifford, consumer;

Disposition: The Commissioners took no action, thereby allowing the revised tariff sheets, filed by Puget Sound Energy (PSE or Company) on September 15, 2023, as revised on October 12, 2023, in Docket UG-230756, to go into effect on November 1, 2023, by operation of law.

## **TRANSPORTATION:**

- B)1. 54:14 mp4 Docket Number TG-230668; Torre Refuse & Recycling LLC ; General rate increase request that, as originally filed, would have generated

approximately \$1.1 million (18.7 percent) additional annual revenue for the collection of garbage, recycling, and yard waste services. Staff and the company have agreed to a lower additional annual revenue amount of approximately \$1.0 million (17.2 percent) resulting in lower revised rates. The Company provides regulated solid waste collection service to approximately 23,000 customers in Spokane County. The Company's last general rate increase became effective on May 1, 2022. Tariff Revision

Appearances: Benjamin Sharbono, staff; John Lloyd, Torre Refuse & Recycling LLC

Disposition: The Commissioners took no action allowing the Tariff Revisions filed by Torre Refuse & Recycling LLC for Tariff number 4 on August 15, 2023, as revised October 16, 2023, to take effect on November 1, 2023, by operation of law.

**OTHER: No Other items for this agenda.**

**RECESSED: No Recessed items for this agenda.**

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Attested by \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathy Hunter, Acting Executive Director