

ITEM NO. CA2


**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: December 1, 2015**

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE December 8, 2015

DATE: November 5, 2015

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM:  Lisa Gorsuch

THROUGH:  Jason Eisdorfer and  Aster Adams

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST NATURAL: (Docket No. ADV 128/Advice No. 15-15)
Revises Schedule C, to reflect current business practices with regard to
the Company's service reconnection charges provision.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Northwest Natural's (NWN or Company) Docket No. ADV 128/Advice No. 15-15 be approved and the associated tariff sheet revisions be allowed to go into effect on December 8, 2015.

ISSUE:

NWN filed Docket No. ADV 128/Advice No. 15-15 on November 4, 2015, proposing to revise Schedule C, Miscellaneous Charges and Credits, to remove language that is not consistent with the Company's current business practices associated with application of service reconnection charges.

APPLICABLE STATUTES AND RULES:

Under ORS 757.205(1), a public utility must file schedules showing all rates, tolls and charges for service that have been established and are in force at the time. Tariff revisions or corrections may be made by filing revised sheets with the information required under the Commission's administrative rules, including OAR 860-022-0005 and OAR 860-022-0025. Filings that make any change in rates, tolls, charges, rules or regulations must be filed with the Commission at least 30 days before the effective date of the changes. Under OAR 860-022-0020, a utility may make an application for a tariff or rate schedule to be effective on less than statutory notice. Additional process is required when a new rate or an increase in rates or schedules is proposed.

DISCUSSION:

NWN's Schedule C, Miscellaneous Charges and Credits, describes and summarizes the charges and credits that may apply to customers in addition to the rates established in the Rate Schedule or Service Agreement under which the customer receives service.

Currently Schedule C states with regard to service reconnection charges, in the third paragraph of Sheet C-2:

*A charge will be assessed to restore service to a Customer following Disconnection of Service under Rule 11, or any other applicable Rule or Schedule of this Tariff, or where service is disconnected **for more than one Billing Month** and Customer subsequently requests service be restored at the same address within twelve (12) Billing Months of the date of Disconnection of Service, ("Temporary Disconnection").*

NWN proposes to remove language regarding the length of time a customer is disconnected associated with when the customer requests that service be reconnected for the service reconnection charge to be applicable. Removing the following language will update the Company's tariff to be consistent with its current business practices:

...for more than one Billing Month

Inclusion of the above language in NWN's Schedule C potentially misleads customers to believe that disconnection and reconnection occurring in less than one Billing Month would NOT result in a service reconnection charge, which is not correct.

Staff supports the tariff revision as filed by NWN, which will result in the Second Revision of Sheet C-2, Schedule C, Miscellaneous Charges and Credits. This filing provides clarity and is housekeeping in nature, without rate impact or changes to the Company's current business practices.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

NWN's Docket No. ADV 128/Advice No. 15-15 be allowed to go into effect December 8, 2015.