

JOHN R. KROGER
Attorney General



MARY H. WILLIAMS
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DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
GENERAL COUNSEL DIVISION

July 7, 2011

Attention: Filing Center
Public Utility Commission of Oregon
550 Capitol Street NE, #215
PO Box 2148
Salem, OR 97308-2148
puc.filingcenter@state.or.us

Re: *In the Matter of Northwest Natural Gas Company dba NW Natural 2011 Spring Earnings Review.*
PUC Docket No.: UM 903
DOJ File No.: 860135-GB0058-98

Enclosed are an original and one copy of Motion to Adopt Procedural Schedule in the above-captioned matter for filing with the PUC for today.

Sincerely,

Stephanie S. Andrus
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Business Activities Section

SSA:mme/#2890912
c: UM 903 Service List

1 **BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**
2 **OF OREGON**

3 **UM 903**

4 In the Matter of
5 Northwest Natural Gas Company dba NW
6 Natural
7 2011 Spring Earnings Review

**MOTION TO ADOPT PROCEDURAL
SCHEDULE**

8 Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Staff), NW Natural, the Citizens'
9 Utility Board of Oregon (CUB), and Northwest Industrial Gas Users (NWIGU) move the
10 Administrative Hearings Division to adopt an agreed-upon procedural schedule for resolving a
11 disputed issue in NW Natural's 2011 Spring Earnings Review. OAR 860-022-0070(6)
12 establishes the process for resolving disputed issues that arise during review of a gas utility's
13 spring earnings review filing as follows:

14 [I]f issues are unresolved among all parties, a settlement conference including all
15 parties will be conducted. By August 1, the parties will file position statements
16 with the Commission on unresolved issues, if needed. The Commission will issue
17 its decision on unresolved issues, if any, by August 15. Unless otherwise directed
18 by the Commission, each LDC will file its annual gas cost tracking filing by
19 August 31, including amortization of credit amounts in the deferred account, if
20 any, resulting from the earnings review.

21 On June 23, 2011, NW Natural, NWIGU, CUB, and Staff met to discuss a Staff-
22 proposed adjustment to NW Natural's 2011 earnings. At that time, these parties agreed
23 to convene a settlement conference (as required by OAR 860-022-0070(6)), on July 6,
24 2011. CUB, NWIGU, Staff, and NW Natural met by telephone on July 6, 2011, and
25 determined a stipulated agreement was not possible. These parties agreed the matter
26 should be presented to the Commission in two rounds of simultaneous comments.

OAR 860-022-0070(6) specifies that if parties cannot resolve any disputed issue
by agreement, the parties are to file position statements with the Commission no later
than August 1, 2011, and that the Commission is to decide the disputed issue by August

1 15, 2011. CUB, NWIGU, Staff, and NW Natural believe the Commission will benefit if
2 the parties have opportunity to respond to the position statements. Accordingly, these
3 parties jointly ask the Administrative Hearings Division to adopt a procedural schedule
4 for NW Natural's 2011 Spring Earnings Review that calls for Position
5 Statements/Opening Comments on July 20, 2011, and Reply Comments on August 1,
6 2011.

7 An electronic draft of this motion was forwarded to all parties of Docket No. UM 903 at
8 approximately 2:30 p.m. on July 6, 2011, with a request to contact counsel for Staff by 10 a.m.
9 on Thursday, July 7, 2011, with any objection. No party to Docket No. UM 903 notified Staff
10 counsel of an objection.

11
12 DATED this 7th day of July 2011.

13 Respectfully submitted,

14 JOHN R. KROGER
15 Attorney General

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17 _____
18 Stephanie S. Andrus, #92512
19 Senior Assistant Attorney General
20 Of Attorneys for Staff of the Public Utility
21 Commission of Oregon

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 7th day of July 2011, I served the foregoing Motion to Adopt Procedural Schedule upon the persons named on the service list, by mailing a full, true and correct copy thereof and to such persons waiving such service by mail who were served at their e-mail address as listed on the service list.

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DATED: July 7, 2011

Stephanie Andrus, OSB #925123
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