

ISSUED: August 10, 2011

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 903

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL

2011 Spring Earnings Review.

RULING

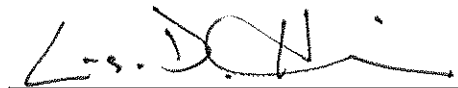
DISPOSITION: MOTION TO MODIFY PROCEDURAL
SCHEDULE ADOPTED

On August 9, 2011, Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Staff) filed a motion to modify the procedural schedule in this docket. On behalf of all parties,¹ Staff proposes moving the deadline for reply comments and responses to the bench request from August 12, 2011 to August 19, 2011.

Staff explains that the issues presented in the August 3, 2011 bench request are complex, so the parties need additional time to prepare responses. In addition, Staff recently discovered what Staff believes to be a calculation error in Northwest Natural Gas Company's (NW Natural) earnings calculations. Staff and NW Natural seek additional time to address this issue.

Staff's motion is granted. Reply comments and responses to the bench request are due **August 19, 2011**.

Dated at Salem, Oregon, this 10th day of August, 2011.



Lisa D. Hardie
Administrative Law Judge

¹ Docket UM 903 is not a typical single-issue docket, but a broad docket involving all Commission-regulated natural gas utilities and interested parties. It remains open from year-to-year to address annual spring earnings reviews. For purposes of clarification, I understand "parties" in this instance to refer to the active parties in this dispute: NW Natural, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon, the Northwest Industrial Gas Users, and Commission Staff. These parties have filed (or have adopted) opening comments addressing NW Natural's 2010 spring earnings review. The Commission anticipates receiving reply comments from these same parties.