

ISSUED: July 8, 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 ADOPT SCHEDULE GRANTED

On July 7, 2011, Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon, Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural, the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon, and Northwest Industrial Gas Users, filed a motion for the adoption of an agreed-upon procedural schedule to resolve a dispute with NW Natural's 2011 Spring Earnings Review. The motion is filed under OAR 860-022-0070(6), which establishes the process for resolving disputed issues that arise during review of a gas utility's spring earnings review. That rule provides:

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

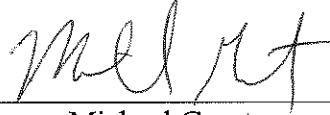
The moving parties explain that a settlement conference was conducted, and that all participating parties determined that a stipulated agreement was not possible. The parties agreed the matter should be presented to the Commission for resolution. Rather than presenting one round of comments anticipated by OAR 860-022-0070(6), the parties concluded that the Commission would benefit by two rounds of comments, and request the following schedule be adopted:

EVENT	DATE
Position Statements/Opening Comments	July 20, 2011
Reply Comments	August 1, 2011

Finally, the moving parties state that an electronic copy of the motion was sent to all parties on the UM 903 service list, and that no party opposed the request.

The motion to adopt the procedural schedule set forth above is granted.

Dated at Salem, Oregon, this 8th day of July, 2011.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Michael Grant", written over a horizontal line.

Michael Grant
Chief Administrative Law Judge