

JOHN R. KROGER  
Attorney General



MARY H. WILLIAMS  
Deputy Attorney General

**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**  
GENERAL COUNSEL DIVISION

July 20, 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](mailto: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 Suspend 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/#2927066  
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 SUSPEND PROCEDURAL  
8 SCHEDULE**

9 Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Staff) moves the Administrative Law  
10 Judge (ALJ) to suspend the procedural schedule established on July 8, 2011, for resolving a  
11 disputed issue in NW Natural's 2011 Spring Earnings Review. Northwest Natural Gas Company  
(NW Natural), the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB), and Northwest Industrial Gas Users  
(NWIUGU) support this motion.

12 OAR 860-022-0070(6) establishes the process for resolving disputed issues that arise  
13 during review of a gas utility's 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  
August 31, including amortization of credit amounts in the deferred account, if  
any, resulting from the earnings review.

19 On July 8, 2011, Administrative Law Judge Mike Grant (ALJ Grant) allowed the  
20 motion of Staff, NW Natural, CUB, and NWIGU to establish a procedural schedule that  
21 allowed parties to file simultaneous position statements/opening comments on July 20,  
22 2011, and reply comments on August 1, 2011, regarding a disputed issue arising during  
23 NW Natural's 2011 Spring Earnings Review.

24 Since July 8, 2011, the parties have identified additional issues that may have to  
25 be presented to the Commission for resolution. These parties do not have time to address  
26 these additional issues in the position statements/opening comments currently due on July

1 20, 2011. Accordingly, Staff asks the ALJ to suspend the procedural schedule to allow  
2 parties opportunity to confer regarding an alternate procedural schedule. The parties  
3 intend to confer regarding the appropriate process in this docket on July 21, 2011. The  
4 parties intend to submit an agreed-upon procedural schedule to the ALJ for approval no  
5 later than July 22, 2011.

6  
7 DATED this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011.

8 Respectfully submitted,

9 JOHN R. KROGER  
10 Attorney General

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13 Stephanie S. Andrus, #92512  
14 Senior Assistant Attorney General  
15 Of Attorneys for Staff of the Public Utility  
16 Commission of Oregon  
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of July 2011, I served the foregoing Motion to Suspend 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 20, 2011

  
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 Stephanie Andrus, OSB #925123  
 Senior Assistant Attorney General