

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 1565

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF  
OREGON

Investigation of Fuel Switching and  
Cross Fuel Energy Efficiency Issues.

PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
MEMORANDUM

On April 23, 2012, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon held a prehearing conference in this docket. Representatives appeared on behalf of Avista Corporation; Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural; Commission Staff; Idaho Power Company; PacifiCorp, dba Pacific Power; Cascade Natural Gas Company; the Energy Trust of Oregon; the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB); and Avista Corporation. The purpose of the conference was to discuss the parties' issues lists, address the need for a protective order, and set a procedural schedule.

**Issues Lists**

On March 28, 2012, CUB and Staff filed proposed issues lists. Staff's list was supported by most parties in the docket. Because the issues on both lists are worded fairly broadly, I asked the parties a number of questions about the scope of the proposed issues. After hearing the comments, I advised the parties that I would revise the issues lists and circulate a single revised list for comment.

**Protective Order/Discovery**

On March 26, 2012, NW Natural moved for a protective order with heightened protection for commercially sensitive information sought by other utilities. During the conference, NW Natural agreed to file a proposed protective order modeled on the modified protective order issued in NW Natural's pending general rate case.<sup>1</sup> NW Natural will file the proposed modified protective order by April 26, 2012. Any objections or proposed changes to NW Natural's proposed order must be filed by May 2, 2012.

In the meantime, a general protective order has been issued in this docket. The temporary suspension of discovery is also lifted.

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<sup>1</sup> See Docket No. UG 221, Order No. 12-058 (Feb 24, 2012) (adopted by agreement of the parties).

## Procedural Schedule

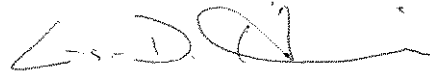
The parties proposed the following procedural schedule, which I took under advisement:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Deadline</b>
Joint opening testimony from Staff and Energy Trust of Oregon (neutral description of current policy and procedures)	May 23, 2012
Opening testimony from Cascade and NW Natural	June 27, 2012
Response testimony from all other parties	August 8, 2012
Reply testimony from Cascade and NW Natural	September 10, 2012
Rebuttal testimony from all other parties	October 11, 2012
Surrebuttal testimony from Cascade and NW Natural	October 29, 2012

The remaining question is whether the issues identified for resolution in this docket should be addressed simultaneously (as contemplated by the proposed schedule) or in phases. Due to the nature of the issues in dispute, this is a question that I will discuss with the Commissioners as soon as possible. Should the Commissioners prefer to resolve the issues in phases, the parties will be invited to consult on an alternative schedule.

Finally, Forefront Economics filed a motion to withdraw as a party to these proceedings on March 22, 2012. I granted the motion at the conference.

Dated this 24th day of April, 2012, at Salem, Oregon.



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Lisa D. Hardie  
Administrative Law Judge