

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 1722, UG 286

In the Matters of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF  
OREGON,  
Investigation into Recovery of Safety  
Costs by Natural Gas Utilities (UM 1722)

and

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS  
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL,  
Request to Continue Schedule 177, the  
System Integrity Program Recovery  
Mechanism. (UG 286).

PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
MEMORANDUM

On September 30, 2015, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon held a prehearing conference in this docket. Representatives appeared on behalf of Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural; Avista Corporation, dba Avista Utilities (Avista); Cascade Natural Gas Corporation (Cascade); Northwest Industrial Gas Users (NWIGU); Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB); and Commission Staff.

NW Natural, Avista, and Cascade are hereinafter collectively referred to as the local distribution companies (LDCs).

**Procedural Schedule**

At the prehearing conference, I adopted the parties' proposed schedule that included two rounds of testimony and a proposed Commission Workshop. Following discussion with the Commissioners, I modify that schedule as follows.

First, I confirm the Commission Workshop and schedule it for the morning of March 30, 2016. Second, I add a third round of simultaneous testimony to follow the Commission Workshop. This additional round will allow the parties the opportunity to address any new issues raised at the workshop.

I ask the parties to consult with each other to select a date for the third round of testimony, and to determine any new dates required for prehearing briefs, cross-examination statements, hearing, and post-hearing briefs. The Commissioners are all available to hearing the month of May 2016.

Parties should report to me agreed-upon dates by October 15, 2015.

Accordingly, the schedule, as revised, is as follows:

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
LDCs Opening Testimony	December 1, 2015
Proposed Budgets for Intervenor Funding	December 23, 2015
Staff and Intervenor Opening Testimony	January 28, 2016
Settlement Conference <sup>1</sup>	February 4, 2016
All Parties Reply Testimony	March 9, 2016
Commissioner Workshop	March 30, 2016 (morning)
All Parties Prehearing Briefs	TBD
Cross Examination Statements	TBD
Hearing	TBD
All Parties Reply Briefs	TBD

Dated this 9th day of October, 2015, at Salem, Oregon.



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Sarah Rowe  
Administrative Law Judge

<sup>1</sup> The settlement conference date is included for the parties' convenience and may be changed without consulting the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ).