



Oregon

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Public Utility Commission

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November 22, 2013

Via Electronic Filing

OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
ATTENTION: FILING CENTER
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**RE: Docket No. UM 1654 – In the Matter of
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL,
Investigation of Interstate Storage and Optimization Sharing.**

Enclosed for electronic filing in the above-captioned docket is the Public Utility Commission Staff Supplemental Reply Testimony.

/s/ Kay Barnes

Kay Barnes

Filing on Behalf of Public Utility Commission Staff

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c: UM 1654 Service List (parties)

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UM 1654

**STAFF SUPPLEMENTAL
REPLY TESTIMONY OF**

**ERIK COLVILLE
DEBORAH GARCIA**

**In the Matter of
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY, dba
NW NATURAL,
Investigation of Interstate Storage and Optimization
Sharing.**

November 22, 2013

CASE: UM 1654
WITNESS: ERIK COLVILLE

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF
OREGON**

STAFF EXHIBIT 200

Supplemental Testimony

November 22, 2013

1 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, OCCUPATION, AND BUSINESS**
2 **ADDRESS.**

3 A. My name is Erik Colville. I am a Senior Utility Analyst for the Public Utility
4 Commission of Oregon. My business address is 3930 Fairview Industrial
5 Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97301-1088.

6 **Q. ARE YOU THE SAME ERIK COLVILLE WHO FILED STAFF/100**
7 **TESTIMONY?**

8 A. Yes, I am.

9 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY.**

10 A. My supplemental testimony responds to the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon
11 (CUB) interstate/intrastate storage and storage optimization
12 recommendations in CUB/100 Jenks-McGovern. Because I believe that
13 CUB's recommendations are based upon an incorrect understanding of the
14 issues, I conclude that there is no justification for changing the existing
15 interstate/intrastate storage and storage optimization activities or sharing.

16
17 However, I do recommend for the annual purchased gas adjustment (PGA)
18 that NWN:

19 1. Itemize (volume, cost, and parties) all physical gas sales from Mist and
20 associated replacement gas purchases to identify those for covering
21 financial transactions, and

22

1 2. Exclude any differential cost or revenue resulting from such sale/purchase
2 from rates such that those costs or revenues are entirely the responsibility
3 of NWN shareholders.

4 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE CUB'S TESTIMONY.**

5 A. CUB divides its testimony into three distinct parts: Interstate/Intrastate
6 Storage; Storage Optimization; and Reporting Optimization Income in the
7 Results of Operations. See CUB/100 Jenks-McGovern/3.

8 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE CUB'S INTERSTATE/INTRASTATE STORAGE**
9 **TESTIMONY.**

10 A. CUB states that because of their evident value over the past decade arbitrary
11 allocations of interstate/intrastate storage costs and revenues should be
12 avoided and, thus, changes to the programs are required at this time to
13 ensure that sharing is based on careful analysis of the cost, risk and benefit to
14 both customers and shareholders. See CUB/100 Jenks-McGovern/9.

15
16 CUB has two recommendations for interstate/intrastate storage (CUB/100
17 Jenks-McGovern/11-12):

18 1. NWN should be required to model interstate/intrastate storage in its cost
19 of service model (marginal cost analysis) to identify the share of system
20 costs that should be allocated to storage if it were treated like all other
21 services that share in the common investment.

22

1 2. Continue the current 20 percent/80 percent sharing mechanism on a
2 temporary basis, but only until the next rate case when this issue can be
3 reexamined with the assistance of the new cost of service study giving
4 parties a real basis to use in making future recommendations. CUB states
5 that this recommendation is contingent upon the Commission's granting its
6 first recommendation.

7 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE CUB'S TESTIMONY RELATED TO STORAGE**
8 **OPTIMIZATION.**

9 A. CUB states that Mist Optimization is an activity that involves trading gas that
10 is stored at Mist in order to take advantage of intertemporal price spreads.
11 CUB further states the only gas that NWN owns and has the legal right to
12 trade is the gas that it stores for the purpose of serving retail load. See
13 CUB/100 Jenks-McGovern/19. CUB argues that NWN's representation of
14 retail customer owned Mist as a storage optimization facility is inaccurate and,
15 therefore, misappropriates returns. CUB asserts that what is being optimized
16 at Mist is retail customers' gas, not the storage capacity, and, therefore, retail
17 customers should be compensated according to a Commission-approved
18 structure that recognizes full leveraging of retail customer assets, not
19 shareholder storage capacity. See CUB/100 Jenks-McGovern/14-15.

20
21 CUB notes that currently the optimization revenues that are developed from
22 customer-owned assets are shared with retail customers, where customers
23 receive 67 percent and NWN receives 33 percent. While this may have been

1 a reasonable incentive before third-party optimization became an established
2 and routine part of NWN's business, CUB believes that it is no longer
3 reasonable and should be adjusted. See CUB/100 Jenks-McGovern/19-20.

4
5 CUB recommends a 90-10 sharing mechanism with customers receiving 90
6 percent of the revenues. CUB believes that the Commission could decide to
7 phase in the sharing percentage at 90-10 sharing, by first moving it to 80-20
8 today and then moving it to 90-10 in the next rate case. See CUB/100 Jenks-
9 McGovern/26-27.

10 **Q. PLEASE DISCUSS CUB'S TESTIMONY REGARDING REPORTING**
11 **OPTIMIZATION INCOME IN THE RESULTS OF OPERATIONS.**

12 A. I do not address this issue in my testimony. Reporting optimization income in
13 the Results of Operations is addressed in Staff/300 Garcia testimony.

14 **Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH CUB'S INTERSTATE/INTRASTATE STORAGE**
15 **AND STORAGE OPTIMIZATION TESTIMONY?**

16 A. No.

17 **Q. WHY DO YOU NOT AGREE WITH CUB'S VIEWS, RECOMMENDATIONS**
18 **AND CONCLUSIONS ON THIS ISSUE?**

19 A. The primary reason I do not agree with CUB's views, recommendations, and
20 conclusions on this issue is that NWN's interstate/intrastate storage and
21 storage optimization activities are beyond the normal course of a local
22 distribution company (LDC) business model, or what would be expected of an
23 LDC to serve core utility customers. See Staff/100 Colville/14. NWN's

1 interstate/intrastate storage and storage optimization activities were borne
2 from innovative application of well understood commodity trading methods to
3 create revenue for customers and shareholders from underutilized, or
4 unutilized assets. As new opportunities arise or existing opportunities wane
5 NWN continues to seek ways to create revenue for customers and
6 shareholders. Although customers would benefit from changing the sharing
7 percentages in the short term, it would do so at the expense of NWN
8 shareholders while not rewarding the continuing risk to shareholders.
9 Ultimately, customers will lose if NWN's incentive to innovate and create
10 additional revenue is reduced.

11
12 A secondary reason I do not agree with CUB's views, recommendations, and
13 conclusions is that there is no justification for changing the
14 interstate/intrastate storage and storage optimization activities or sharing. As I
15 stated in my reply testimony (Staff/100 Colville/17) while there are many
16 possible justifications for changing the sharing percentages I would look for
17 significant changes in business conditions and risks since the sharing
18 percentages were established. Examples of condition changes include, but
19 are not limited to, changed activity risk, increased expectations of an LDC to
20 serve core utility customers, decreased activity complexity, increased core
21 utility customer participation in activities, or "gaming" of the sharing process
22 would provide justification. I am not aware of any changes in business
23 conditions and risks associated with this activity. In short, the current sharing

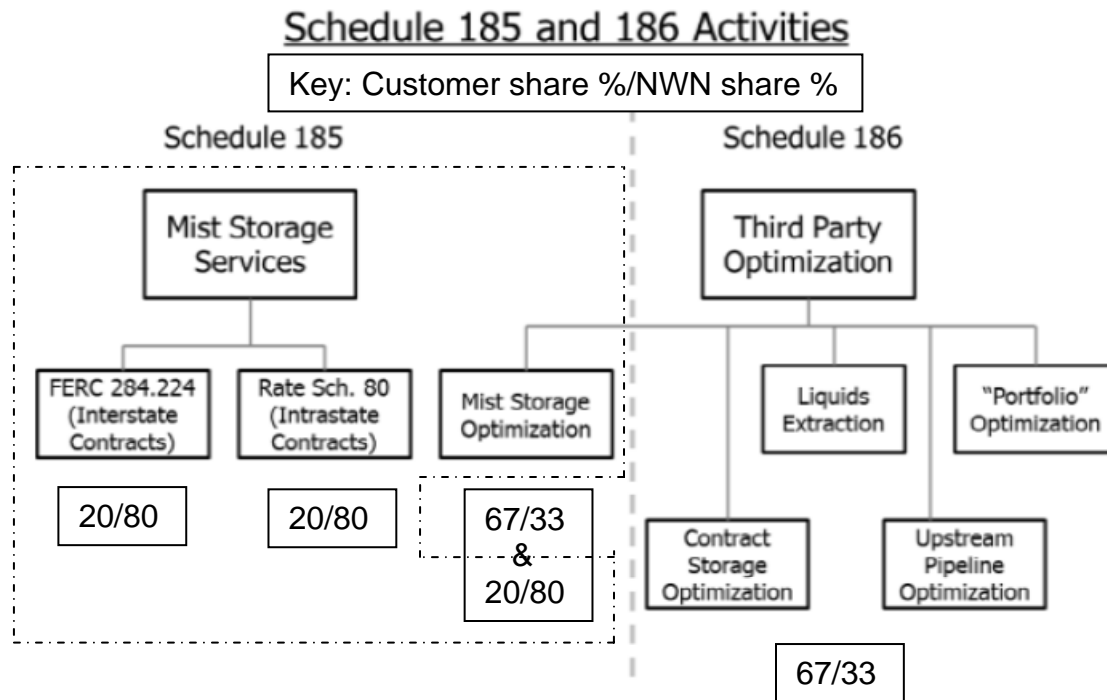
1 arrangements work well to benefit core utility customers and NWN, and I do
2 not see any reason to change them.

3 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE CUB'S INTERSTATE/INTRASTATE STORAGE**
4 **VIEW AS PRESENTED IN CUB/100 TESTIMONY.**

5 A. CUB argues that interstate/intrastate storage sharing should be based upon
6 careful analysis of the cost, risk and benefit to both customers and
7 shareholders. See CUB/100 Jenks-McGovern/9. In order to find an equitable
8 arrangement, CUB recommends that interstate/intrastate storage be modeled
9 (a cost of service model) to identify the share of system costs that should be
10 allocated to storage if it were treated like all other services that share in the
11 common investment. See CUB/100 Jenks-McGovern/12.

12 **Q. PLEASE PUT CUB'S INTERSTATE/INTRASTATE STORAGE**
13 **RECOMMENDATIONS INTO THE CONTEXT OF SCHEDULES 185 AND**
14 **186, THE TARIFFS AT ISSUE IN THIS DOCKET.**

15 A. Schedule 185 and 186 optimization activities that use the core utility customer
16 assets include, but may not be limited to: Mist Storage Optimization; Liquids
17 Extraction Optimization; Portfolio Optimization; Contract Storage
18 Optimization; and Upstream Pipeline Optimization. The current sharing
19 percentages are also shown in the figure. CUB's interstate/intrastate storage
20 issue is referring to the Schedule 185 Mist Storage Services activities titled:
21 FERC 284.224; Rate Schedule 80; and a portion of the Mist Storage
22 Optimization. These activities are contained within the dashed lines in the
23 figure below (base figure from NWN/100 White/11).



1

2 **Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH CUB'S INTERSTATE/INTRASTATE STORAGE**
3 **VIEW?**

4 A. No. The interstate/intrastate storage and storage optimization activities are
5 potentially risky, and are beyond the normal course of an LDC business
6 model, or what would be expected of an LDC to serve core utility customers.
7 See Staff/100 Colville/14. As a result, the sharing percentage proposed by
8 CUB should not be based upon use of customer assets (share of system
9 costs, the result of a cost of service study), but rather upon risk. The matter of
10 risk is addressed in Staff/100 Colville/12-14.

11 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR CONCLUSION ABOUT CUB'S**
12 **INTERSTATE/INTRASTATE STORAGE ISSUE?**

13 A. CUB's interstate/intrastate storage recommendation and conclusion is based
14 upon an incorrect understanding of the issue. As a result, there is no

1 justification for changing the interstate/intrastate storage activities or sharing. I
2 recommend the sharing percentage for the Schedule 185 Mist Storage
3 Services activities titled: FERC 284.224; Rate Schedule 80; and a portion of
4 the Mist Storage Optimization remain at 20 percent to customers and 80
5 percent to NWN for revenue derived from use of core utility customer assets
6 in these activities.

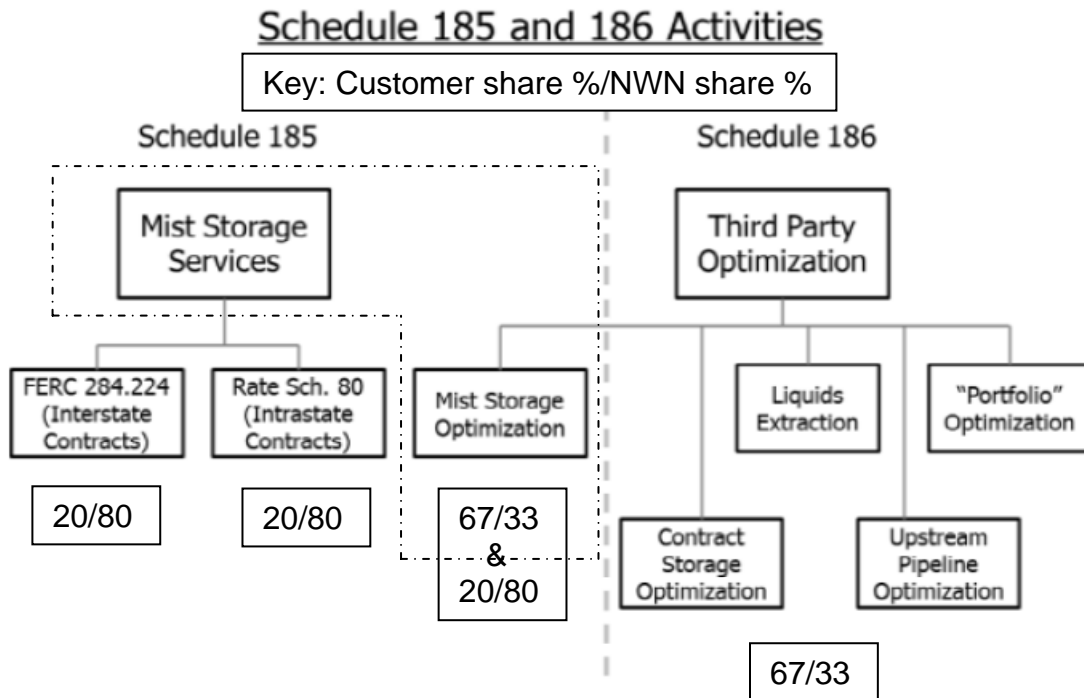
7 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE CUB'S STORAGE OPTIMIZATION VIEW**
8 **PRESENTED IN CUB/100 TESTIMONY.**

9 A. CUB states that Mist Optimization is an activity that involves trading gas that
10 is stored at Mist in order to take advantage of intertemporal price spreads.
11 CUB further states that the only gas NWN owns and has the legal right to
12 trade is the gas that it stores for the purpose of serving retail load. See
13 CUB/100 Jenks-McGovern/19. In addition, CUB states that LDCs are
14 expected to manage retail customer owned resources for the benefit of retail
15 customers, which means that considering the costs and benefits of all
16 available opportunities for retail customer-owned resources. See CUB/100
17 Jenks-McGovern/20.

18 **Q. PLEASE PUT CUB'S STORAGE OPTIMIZATION ISSUE INTO THE**
19 **CONTEXT OF SCHEDULES 185 AND 186, THE TARIFFS AT ISSUE IN**
20 **THIS DOCKET.**

21 A. CUB's storage optimization issue refers to the portion of Mist Storage
22 Optimization in the Schedule 185 Mist Storage Services not already included
23 in CUB's interstate/intrastate storage issue. These activities are contained

1 within the dashed lines in the figure below (base figure from NWN/100
2 White/11).



3

4 **Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH CUB'S STORAGE OPTIMIZATION VIEW?**

5 A. No. There are two reasons that I do not agree. First, I disagree with the view
6 that LDCs are expected to manage retail customer owned resources
7 considering the costs and benefits of all available opportunities for retail
8 customer-owned resources. To the contrary, as demonstrated in my reply
9 testimony, an LDC does not have an unlimited obligation to optimize the use
10 of core utility customer assets. See Staff/100 Colville/9-10. Based upon the
11 storage optimization activity descriptions in my reply testimony, I concluded
12 that the Schedule 185 and 186 activities are potentially risky and are beyond
13 the normal course of an LDC business model, or what would be expected of
14 an LDC to serve core utility customers. See Staff/100 Colville/14.

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Q. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT NWN COULD SELL PHYSICAL GAS STORED IN MIST TO COVER A FINANCIAL TRANSACTION?

20

21

A. Yes, it appears possible.

1 **Q. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT CUSTOMERS COULD INCUR ADDITIONAL COST**
2 **SHOULD NWN SELL PHYSICAL GAS STORED IN MIST TO COVER A**
3 **FINANCIAL TRANSACTION?**

4 A. Yes, it appears possible. If NWN were to sell physical gas stored in Mist to
5 cover a financial transaction and then purchase replacement gas for injection
6 into Mist at a higher cost than the stored gas, customers could incur
7 additional cost. I recognize the situation of selling gas to cover a financial
8 transaction could also present a benefit to customers if replacement gas for
9 injection is purchased at lower cost than the stored gas.

10 **Q. DO YOU HAVE A RECOMMENDATION TO ENSURE THAT CUSTOMERS**
11 **DO NOT INCUR ADDITIONAL COSTS FROM THESE ACTIVITIES?**

12 A. Yes. Each year in the PGA, NWN quantifies actual storage gas injections and
13 withdrawals. As part of that quantification in the PGA, I recommend NWN:

14 1. Itemize (volume, cost, and parties) all physical gas sales from Mist and
15 associated replacement gas purchases to identify those for covering
16 financial transactions, and

17
18 2. Exclude any differential cost or revenue resulting from such sale/purchase
19 from rates such that those costs or revenues are entirely the responsibility
20 of NWN shareholders.

21
22 Implementing these recommendations would ensure that customers do not
23 incur additional cost.

1 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR CONCLUSION RELATED TO CUB'S STORAGE**
2 **OPTIMIZATION ISSUE?**

3 A. My conclusion is that CUB's storage optimization recommendation and
4 conclusion are based upon an incorrect understanding of the issue. I
5 recommend that the sharing percentage for the portion of Mist Storage
6 Optimization in the Schedule 185 Mist Storage Services (refer to the figure
7 above), not already included in CUB's interstate/intrastate storage issue,
8 remain at 67 percent for customers and 33 percent for NWN for revenue
9 derived from use of core utility customer assets in these optimization
10 activities. I further recommend that in the annual PGA NWN:

11 1. Itemize (volume, cost, and parties) all physical gas sales from Mist and
12 associated replacement gas purchases to identify those for covering
13 financial transactions, and

14
15 2. Exclude any differential cost or revenue resulting from such sale/purchase
16 from rates such that those costs or revenues are entirely the responsibility
17 of NWN shareholders.

18 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

19 A. Yes

20

CASE: UM 1654
WITNESS: DEBORAH GARCIA

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF
OREGON**

STAFF EXHIBIT 300

Supplemental Testimony

November 22, 2013

1 **Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME, OCCUPATION, AND BUSINESS**
2 **ADDRESS.**

3 A. My name is Deborah Garcia. I am a Senior Revenue Requirement Analyst
4 employed by the Public Utility Commission of Oregon. My business address is
5 3930 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, Oregon 97301-1088.

6 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND WORK**
7 **EXPERIENCE.**

8 A. My Witness Qualification Statement is found in Exhibit Staff/301.

9 **Q. DID YOU PREPARE AN EXHIBIT FOR THIS DOCKET?**

10 A. Yes. I prepared Exhibit Staff/301, consisting of 1 page.

11 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

12 A. The purpose of my testimony is to respond to the testimony filed by the
13 Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon (CUB), (CUB/100, Jenks-McGovern),
14 regarding whether or not Northwest Natural (NWN or Company) should include
15 all income earned from the optimization of ratepayer-owned assets in its
16 Results of Operations report (ROO) that is filed annually with the Public Utility
17 Commission of Oregon (Commission).

18 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE SPECIFIC OPTIMIZATION ACTIVITY INCOME**
19 **THAT CUB CONTENDS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN NWN'S ROO.**

20 A. NWN describes two types of optimization activity. First, the optimization of
21 ratepayer-owned assets which the Company can do itself, where the savings
22 are passed through to customers through the normal Purchased Gas Cost
23 Adjustment sharing mechanism. Second, the optimization of ratepayer-owned

1 assets which result from a third party optimization agreement that the
2 Company has entered into and refers to as an “Asset Management Agreement
3 (AMA) structure.” (NWN/100, White/7at 4-9). It is this second type of
4 optimization activity that CUB is referring to, and for purposes of this testimony,
5 I call “AMA Optimization”.

6 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE CUB’S POSITION REGARDING THIS ISSUE.**

7 A. CUB’s position is that all income earned using ratepayer-owned assets is utility
8 income, regardless of whether that income came from retail ratepayers or from
9 arbitrage. (CUB/100, Jenks-McGovern/27 at 6-8.)

10 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE YOUR POSITION REGARDING THIS ISSUE.**

11 A. I agree with CUB that all income earned using ratepayer-owned assets is utility
12 income. All income earned by NWN that results from activities made possible
13 by the optimization of ratepayer-owned assets should be included in its ROO
14 as utility income, subject to the Spring Earnings Review.

15 **Q. WHAT WOULD BE THE IMPACT OF INCLUDING THIS INCOME IN THE**
16 **ROO?**

17 The inclusion of this income could impact such things as earnings tests under
18 deferred accounting, sharing mechanisms based upon earnings, and the
19 Spring Earnings Review, which is conducted pursuant to OAR 860-022-0075
20 and Commission Order No. 08-504 (UM 1286).

21 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE SPRING EARNINGS REVIEW?**

22 A. The Spring Earnings Review (Earnings Review) is used to determine if NWN
23 has earnings in excess of a modified (higher) return on equity that must be

1 shared with ratepayers. This modified return on equity is established by the
2 Commission pursuant to OAR 860-022-0070(5)(c)).¹ The purpose of the
3 review is to ensure that it is reasonable for ratepayers to assume any of the
4 differential between gas costs in rates and gas costs experienced (WACOG
5 Sharing) that is part of the subsequent annual Purchased Gas Adjustment
6 (PGA) mechanism (OAR 860-022-0070(4)).

7 **Q. DOES A PAST COMMISSION DECISION SUPPORT THE INCLUSION OF**
8 **EARNED INCOME FROM A SHARING MECHANISM IN THE ROO THAT**
9 **IS SUBJECT TO THE EARNINGS REVIEW?**

10 A. Yes. In Order No. 08-504, Docket UM 1286, the Commission determined that
11 retained income (positive or negative) resulting from WACOG Sharing should
12 be included in a utility's Results of Operation for the purposes of the Earnings
13 Review.²

14 **Q. IN THE EXAMPLE YOU CITE ABOVE, THE UTILITY IS EXPECTED TO**
15 **INCLUDE BOTH POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE RETAINED INCOME IN ITS**
16 **ROO. DO YOU AGREE THAT THIS STANDARD SHOULD APPLY TO**
17 **RETAINED INCOME RESULTING FROM AMA OPTIMIZATION**
18 **ACTIVITIES?**

19 A. No. The sharing related to AMA Optimization has been constructed to account
20 for the Company's assumption of risk. This construct allocates a share of

¹ See Order No. 08-504 at 17 which outlines the calculation of a utility's modified return on equity based on the WACOG Sharing election made by the utility.

² See Order 09-180 in DR 43 which confirms the Commission decision.

1 earnings (after costs) to NWN to account for risk (customers are held
2 harmless), and should flow through to the ROO related to the Earnings Review.

3 **Q. COULD THE INCLUSION OF NWN'S AMA OPTIMIZATION ACTIVITY**
4 **INCOME INTO ITS ROO EFFECTIVELY REDUCE THE SHARING**
5 **PERCENTAGE ALLOCATED TO NWN?**

6 A. Yes. For example, in the Earnings Review, for years in which the Company's
7 earnings exceed the modified authorized ROE, a portion of the overearnings
8 returned to customers could be attributable to the Company's AMA
9 Optimization income and, therefore, indirectly result in an effective lower
10 sharing percentage allocated to the Company.

11 **Q. PLEASE PROVIDE AN EXAMPLE OF AN EXTREME WAY IN WHICH THE**
12 **SHARING PERCENTAGE COULD BE LOWERED IN THE EARNINGS**
13 **REVIEW.**

14 A. Even if we do not take into account the higher modified ROE that is established
15 in the Earnings Review as the threshold that NWN must exceed before
16 overearnings must be shared with customers, and we assume that the
17 overearnings that must be shared equaled NWN's share of the AMA
18 Optimization income, column E, line 2 in the table in Staff Exhibit/302 illustrates
19 that NWN would still retain approximately 39 percent of the AMA Optimization
20 income.

21 **Q. IS IT LIKELY THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF A REDUCED SHARING**
22 **PERCENTAGE DUE TO SHARING OF OVEREARNINGS IN THE SPRING**

1 **EARNINGS REVIEW ACT AS A DISINCENTIVE FOR NWN TO CONTINUE**
2 **AMA OPTIMIZATION ACTIVITIES?**

3 A. No. In the years that this mechanism has been in place, NWN has
4 successfully earned a significant amount of income. As illustrated in Staff
5 Exhibit/302, the lowest NWN's AMA Optimization percentage could be is 39
6 percent, which far exceeds the sharing allocation of other sharing mechanisms
7 such as the WACOG Sharing mechanism.

8 **Q. IS IT LIKELY THAT THE INCLUSION IN THE ROO WOULD CREATE A**
9 **DISINCENTIVE TO CONTINUE AMA OPTIMIZATION BASED UPON THE**
10 **POSSIBLE CHANGE TO AN EARNINGS TEST FOR ANY OTHER**
11 **REASON?**

12 A. No. As stated above, NWN has earned a significant amount of income every
13 year since AMA Optimization has been in place. There is no reason to believe
14 the Company will not continue such a successful program.

15 **Q. NWN DIFFERENTIATES BETWEEN OPTIMIZATION SHARING**
16 **MECHANISMS THAT RELY UPON RATEPAYER-OWNED ASSETS BY**
17 **ASSERTING THAT AMA OPTIMIZATION ACTIVITIES ARE PART OF ITS**
18 **NONUTILITY STORAGE BUSINESS. DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS**
19 **CHARACTERIZATION?**

20 A. No. Although NWN may account for the proceeds of AMA Optimization that
21 rely upon ratepayer-assets under its nonutility business umbrella, the manner
22 in which the utility accounts for revenues is not controlling for regulation. For
23 regulatory purposes, these earned revenues should be included in regulated

1 utility revenues because they are made possible by the use of regulated
2 assets.

3 **Q. HOW DO YOU RECONCILE YOUR CONCLUSION WITH NWN'S**
4 **ASSERTION THAT SHAREHOLDERS ASSUME ALL OF THE RISKS**
5 **ASSOCIATED WITH THE AMA OPTIMIZATION ACTIVITIES?**

6 A. NWN has the expertise and resources, which are paid for by rate payers, to
7 appropriately assess the risks associated with being a regulated natural gas
8 local distribution company (LDC). As explained by the Company witness
9 Friedman (NWN/200, Friedman/6-7), the contract between NWN and Tenaska
10 was vetted by NWN's risk experts to mitigate unnecessary and extraordinary
11 risks. In the years since these mechanisms have been in place, even if some
12 transactions may have resulted in losses, Staff is not aware of any year in
13 which the Company has not profited in aggregate from AMA Optimization
14 transactions. Furthermore, the Company justifies a lower level of sharing with
15 rate payers, for the use of rate payer assets, by the Company's assumption of
16 risk. See NWN/100, White/3.

17 **Q. DOES YOUR POSITION CONFLICT WITH STAFF WITNESS COLVILLE'S**
18 **ASSERTION THAT AMA OPTIMIZATION MECHANISMS RISE ABOVE**
19 **THE LEVEL OF WHAT WOULD BE EXPECTED OF AN LDC TO SERVE**
20 **CORE UTILITY CUSTOMERS?**

21 A. No. Regardless of whether or not AMA Optimization activities are over and
22 above the level of what could reasonably be expected to serve core utility
23 customers, the income resulting from the use of regulated assets must be

1 properly reported for regulatory purposes. The utility should not be able to
2 artificially reduce earnings by avoiding the proper reporting of earned income
3 that results from the use of assets paid for by rate payers.

4 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE POTENTIAL OUTCOME ON CUSTOMER**
5 **RATES IF THIS AMA OPTIMIZATION INCOME IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE**
6 **RESULTS OF OPERATION REPORTS AND SUBJECT TO THE SPRING**
7 **EARNINGS REVIEW?**

8 A. Customer rates could be higher than they should be because NWN could
9 potentially earn in excess of its established modified return on equity without
10 appropriately sharing those overearnings with customers.

11 **Q. HOW ELSE MIGHT CUSTOMER RATES BE IMPACTED?**

12 A. First, an earnings review is necessary prior to amortization of a deferred
13 account balance and the review generally relies in part on one or more of a
14 utility's ROO reports. The results of the earnings review directly impacts the
15 allocation of a deferral balance between what may be collected from customers
16 and what the utility must absorb. If the ROO revenues do not accurately reflect
17 utility income, the earnings review may be inaccurate and customer rates may
18 be higher than they otherwise would be.

19 Second, pursuant to OAR 860-022-0070(1)-(4), the determination of whether or
20 not the inclusion of gas costs into rates that result from the WACOG sharing
21 mechanism are reasonable hinges on whether the utility shares overearnings
22 that result from the Earnings Review. Rates could be higher not only because

1 the customers' full share of excessive earnings are not recovered, but also
2 because they reflect the customer share of higher than expected gas costs.

3 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

4 A. Yes.

CASE: UM 1654
WITNESS: DEBORAH GARCIA

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF
OREGON**

STAFF EXHIBIT 301

Witness Qualifications Statement

November 22, 2013

WITNESS QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT

NAME: DEBORAH A. GARCIA

EMPLOYER: PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON

TITLE: SENIOR REVENUE REQUIREMENT ANALYST

ADDRESS: 3930 FAIRVIEW INDUSTRIAL DR. SE, SALEM, OREGON 97308-1088

EDUCATION:

- o Western Utility Rate School, San Diego, California. (2002)
- o The Center For Public Utilities at New Mexico University and the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners' Annual Regulatory Studies Program. (2000)
- o National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' Annual Regulatory Studies Program at Michigan State University. (2000)
- o Certificate in Mediation Training (1994)
- o College-level coursework in financial accounting, business law, business management, and economics.

WORK EXPERIENCE:

- o Sr. Revenue Requirement Analyst --Public Utility Commission of Oregon Lead accounting witness for revenue requirement in various proceedings. (2007 - present)
- o Utility Analyst -- Public Utility Commission of Oregon Focus on utility policies, natural gas purchased gas adjustment issues, utility territory allocation issues, consumer issues, tariff review, promotional concessions, rate case review & witness, and rulemakings. (2002 - 2007)
- o Research Analyst -- Public Utility Commission of Oregon Focus on SB 1149 implementation, rulemaking, various utility and electric service supplier policies, including certification of electric service suppliers, tariff review, rate case review & witness. (2000 -2002)
- o Compliance Specialist -- Public Utility Commission of Oregon--Handled consumer complaints, liaison between the public, regulated utilities and various Commission staff, reviewed proposed tariffs, administrative rules, and policies with an emphasis on potential impact to consumers. Identified trends, services, and policies where no statute, rule or precedent applied and recommended appropriate action. (1992 - 2000)

CASE: UM 1654
WITNESS: DEBORAH GARCIA

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF
OREGON**

STAFF EXHIBIT 302

**Exhibit in Support
Of Supplemental Testimony**

November 22, 2013

	Total Net AMA Optimization income ¹	Allocation of Net AMA Optimization Income						Allocation of Net AMA Optimization Income after Earnings Sharing (overearnings equal to NWN's share of Net AMA Optimization Income)			
		A		B		C		D		E	
		Interstate Storage Share		Ratepayer Share		Total Allocated Income		Amount to be shared per the results of an Earnings Review		Total Retained AMA Optimization Income after Earnings Sharing	
1	\$ 10,000,000	53%	5,300,000	47%	4,700,000	Total Allocated Income		\$5,791,000			
2	NWN Share	80%	4,240,000	33%	1,551,000	\$ 5,791,000	58%	67% ²	3,879,970	\$ 3,879,970	39%
3	Customer Share	20%	1,060,000	67%	3,149,000	\$ 4,209,000	42%	33% ²	1,911,030	\$ 6,120,030	61%

¹For illustrative purposes only

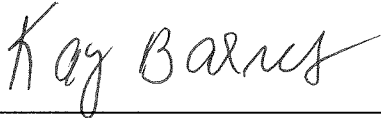
²The earnings sharing allocation percentages related to the Earnings Review are set by the Commission.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

UM 1654

I certify that I have, this day, served the foregoing document upon all parties of record in this proceeding by delivering a copy in person or by mailing a copy properly addressed with first class postage prepaid, or by electronic mail pursuant to OAR 860-001-0180, to the following parties or attorneys of parties.

Dated this 22nd day of November, 2013 at Salem, Oregon



Kay Barnes
Public Utility Commission
3930 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, Oregon 97302
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UM 1654
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