**ENTERED** 

SEP 16 2015

## 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). **ORDER** 

DISPOSITION: RATE SCHEDULES SUSPENDED FOR ADDITIONAL PERIOD OF TIME

On October 21, 2014, Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural, filed revised rate schedules in Advice No.14-23 to be effective on March 1, 2015. On February 26, 2015, NW Natural filed a supplement extending the effective date to April 1, 2015. The terms of the proposed schedules were set forth in the Staff Report for the March 24, 2015 Public Meeting.

At the March 24, 2015 Public Meeting, we found good and sufficient cause existed to investigate the propriety and reasonableness of the rates under ORS 757.210 and 757.215 and to open a generic investigation to examine the recovery of safety costs by natural gas utilities. These decisions are memorialized in Order No. 15-093.

We will not have an opportunity to complete our investigation in these cases prior to the expiration of the initial suspension period. Accordingly, the suspension should be extended for an additional period not exceeding three months beyond the last day of the initial suspension period per ORS 757.215(1).

## **ORDER**

IT IS ORDERED that Advice No. 14-23 filed by Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural, on October 21, 2014, and as supplemented on February 26, 2015, is suspended for an additional period of not more than three months beyond the last day of the initial suspension period.

Made, entered and effective SEP 16 2015

COMMISSIONER ACKERMAN WAS UNAVAILABLE FOR SIGNATURE

Susan K. Ackerman Chair

Stephen M. Bloom Commissioner