

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 1722

In the Matter of

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF  
OREGON,

Investigation into Recovery of Safety  
Costs by Natural Gas Utilities.

RULING

**DISPOSITION: SCHEDULE MODIFIED**

This ruling provides additional information to the parties on the Commission's goals for the remainder of this proceeding, and also modifies the procedural schedule.

Based on the Commission's review of the testimony filed to date, the Commission believes the parties are sufficiently close to agreeing on a suitable program, and thus modifies the schedule for this proceeding. The Commission supports the basic points outlined in the most recent rounds of testimony, namely, establishing guidelines to assist the development and review of a safety investment recovery mechanism and requiring local distribution companies to file annual safety plans for Commission acknowledgement.

Consequently, the Commission has decided to cancel the April 29, 2016 workshop and vacate the schedule in this proceeding. The Commission requests that the parties undertake further settlement discussions with the goal of producing a complete proposal with guidelines for the establishment of safety investment recovery mechanisms, the detailed contents of an annual safety plan, a step-by-step process for review and acknowledgment of annual safety plans, and any other salient feature of the overall program. If the parties are unable to agree on a single proposal, then the Commission will solicit additional testimony that summarizes each party's position on the relevant guideline and design issues.

Staff is directed to file a status report on May 16, 2016 providing an update on the parties' negotiations. After reviewing the report, I will consult with the Commissioners and either schedule a prehearing conference or issue another ruling setting additional deadlines, if needed. Alternatively, any party may request a prehearing conference at any time by contacting AHD.

Dated this 15th day of April, 2016, at Salem, Oregon.



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Sarah Rowe  
Administrative Law Judge