

ITEM NO. CA4

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: September 12, 2017

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE September 13, 2017

DATE: September 5, 2017

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Scott Gibbens 

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer  and Marc Hellman 

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS: (Docket No. ADV 613/Advice No. 17-13)
Revisions to Schedule T Customer-Owned Natural Gas Transportation
Service.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (Commission) approve the housekeeping Advice No. 17-13 filed by Northwest Natural Gas Company, doing business as NW Natural (NW Natural or Company), and allow it to take effect on September 13, 2017.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should allow NW Natural's proposed revisions to Schedule T "Customer-Owned Natural Gas Transportation Service."

Applicable Rule or Law

Under ORS 757.205(1):

Every public utility shall file with the Public Utility Commission . . . schedules which shall be open to public inspection, showing all rates, tolls and charges which it has established and which are in force at the time for any service performed by it within the state, or for any service in connection therewith or performed by any public utility controlled or operated by it.

Tariff revisions or corrections may be made by filing revised sheets with the information required by the Commission's administrative rules, including OAR 860-022-0005 and OAR 860-022-0025. OAR 860-022-0025(2) specifically requires that each energy utility that seeks to change its existing tariffs or schedules include in its filing a statement plainly indicating the increase, decrease, or other change made with the filing, the number of customers affected by the proposed change and the resulting change in annual revenue, and the reasons or grounds relied upon in support of the proposed change.

Filings that make any change in rates, tolls, charges, rules, or regulations must be filed with the Commission at least 30 days before the effective date of the change. ORS 757.220; OAR 860-022-0015.

Analysis

Staff reviewed this filing and has determined that it is a straightforward housekeeping filing that clarifies information in NW Natural's Sheet T-1 and T-4.

The changes to Sheet T-1 clarify when the authorized supplier/agent form must be received by the Company following a Customer's election for Transportation Service. The issue stemmed from a difference in the timing requirements which occur if the election is made within the election window or if it is made out-of-cycle. This distinction was not clear in the existing language, but is now clarified through the proposed revisions in this tariff filing.

The revision to Sheet T-4 provides a better explanation of the calculation methodology of imbalance charges for customers choosing Option 1.

Additional information requests were not made in this filing, however, Staff did correspond informally with the Company to clear up a few questions.

Conclusion

Staff supports the revisions filed by NW Natural as appropriate for Sheet T-1 and T-4. Due to their housekeeping nature, none of the proposed revisions affect customers' rates or tariff eligibilities. Staff reviewed the proposed schedule changes to ensure that they were consistent with the rates approved by the Commission. Staff also reviewed the entire tariff file to ensure no other schedules are affected by the changes proposed

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in this filing. Therefore, Staff recommends the Commission approve the tariff changes as filed, allowing the housekeeping revisions to go into effect.

The Company was provided a draft copy of this memo and has no concerns.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve NW Natural's Advice No.17-13 and allow it to go into effect on September 13, 2017.

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