

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

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE September 13, 2017

DATE: August 31, 2017

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Rose Anderson ^{RA}

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer and Marc Hellman ^{JE} ^A

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST NATURAL: (Docket No. ADV 614/Advice No. 17-14)
Requests housekeeping updates to NW Natural Tariff P.U.C. Or. 25.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural or the Company) be granted Commission approval to revise its Tariff to clarify portions of General Rule 24 "Gas Quality Standards and Determination of Thermal Units" and the associated tariff be allowed to take effect with service on and after September 13, 2017.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve NW Natural's proposal to revise its Tariff to clarify portions of General Rule 24 "Gas Quality Standards and Determination of Thermal Units" effective with service on and after September 13, 2017.

Applicable Law

Under ORS 757.205(1), a public utility must file schedules showing all rates, tolls and charges for service that have been established and are in force at the time. Tariff revisions or corrections may be made by filing revised sheets with the information required under the Commission's administrative rules, including OAR 860-022-0005 and OAR 860-022-0025. 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 changes. ORS 757.220. The Commission reviews tariffs filed under ORS 757.205 and 757.210 to determine whether they are fair, just and reasonable.

Analysis

NW Natural has proposed three changes to its Tariff P.U.C. Or. 25.

1. A typographical error was identified and corrected. This change increases the maximum energy content of gas procured and delivered by the Company from 1115 to 1155 British thermal units per Standard cubic foot (Btu/Scf).
2. The formula used to calculate the billing factor was restated for clarity.
3. A NOAA weather station ID for Newport was updated to match the station currently used by NOAA at that location.

The Company states that these changes will have no impact on customer rates or Company revenues, and that the Company views the changes as housekeeping.

Staff analysis found that the maximum energy content in the Company's current Tariff was filed to reflect the specifications in an internal document, "Gas Quality Specifications for Biomethane and Interconnect Facility Settings" included as an attachment to the Company's Advice No. 13-2.¹ The Company has since corrected a typographical error in its internal documentation and seeks to update its Tariff to reflect the corrected value. The Company has verified with its engineering department that the updated maximum energy content of 1155 Btu/Scf is the appropriate value. The Commission's Safety Division has reviewed the change in maximum energy content and found no safety or quality issue with increasing the maximum energy content of gas procured and delivered by NW Natural to 1155 Btu/Scf.

Staff reviewed the other changes to NW Natural's Tariff and found no issues.

The Company has reviewed this memo and reported no issues or concerns.

Conclusion

The proposed changes to NW Natural's Tariff will increase the Tariff's accuracy and readability and will not cause harm to customers or the public.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve NW Natural's proposal to clarify portions of General Rule 24, and the associated tariff be allowed to take effect with service on and after September 13, 2017.

NWN Advice 17-14

¹ NW Natural's Advice No. 13-2 at 9 (February 13, 2013) and replacement sheets (February 28, 2013).