

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE**

DATE: December 7, 2020

TO: John Crider

FROM: Michelle Scala

SUBJECT: **Northwest Natural Gas Company:** 2021 Tariff has been updated. Northwest Natural’s Compliance filing at Advice No. 20-18 for Interest Accrued on Customer Deposits and Late Payment Charge.

On November 24, 2020, Northwest Natural (“NW Natural” or “Company”) proposed revisions to the following tariff sheet, P.U.C. OR. No. 25.

<u>Oregon PUC Sheet No.</u>	<u>Canceling Oregon PUC Sheet No.</u>
6 th Revision Sheet No. C-1	5 th Revision Sheet No. C-1

Rebecca Brown, Regulatory Consultant at NW Natural requests to replace Oregon PUC Tariff No. 25, the 5th Revision Tariff Sheet C-1 with the 6th Revision Tariff Sheet C-1.

In compliance with Commission Order No. 20-437 in Docket No. UM 779, Public Utility Commission of Oregon Determination of Late-Payment Rate and Interest Accrued on Customer Deposits, NW Natural has made the tariff changes to reflect the late payment rate of 2.0 percent which utilities are allowed to collect on late payments.

The annual interest rate for customer deposits is addressed in the Company’s Oregon PUC Tariff No. 25, General Rules and Regulations, Sheet RR-6, Rule 6, Deposits and other Security: General. The relevant section states:

“The Company may require a deposit or other security from a Customer or Applicant...Deposits will accrue interest at a rate prescribed by order of the Commission.

The language in NW Natural’s Rule 6 is such that it references the Commission’s authority in establishing the interest rate for customer deposits and obliges the Company to the most current rate without a direct reference to a specific order.

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Staff's review included verifying the following requirements for compliance with Commission Order No. 20-437:

- The late payment fee of 2.0% of unpaid balance, effective for service on and after January 1, 2021.
- The interest rate of 0.1% on customer deposits held during January 1 through December 31, 2021.
- Attachments: NW Natural's Tariff Sheets for Late Payment charge and interest rate.

Staff verified NW Natural's Advice No. 20-18 and found that the new rates have been properly applied and the Company is in full compliance with the Commission order.

Cc: Diane Davis

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY

P.U.C. Or. 25

Sixth Revision of Sheet C-1
 Cancels Fifth Revision of Sheet C-1

**SCHEDULE C
 MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES AND CREDITS**

APPLICABLE:

To all Customers served by the Company under the Tariff of which this Schedule is a part.

PURPOSE:

To describe and summarize the charges and credits that may apply to Customers in addition to the rates established in the Rate Schedule or Service Agreement under which Customer receives service. See the DESCRIPTION OF CHARGES provision of this Schedule for specific terms and conditions.

SUMMARY OF CHARGES and CREDITS:

Late Payment Charge	2.0% of unpaid balance per payment period, but no less than \$3.00	(R)
Charge for Payment Not Honored (per incident)		\$ 15.00
Service Reconnection Charges		
Scheduled 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri. (except Holidays)		\$ 30.00
Scheduled after 5:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.		\$ 80.00
Same Day after 5:00 p.m. Mon-Fri, or on Saturday or on a Holiday		\$100.00
Service Reconnection Charges – Curtailment Order		
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri. (except Holidays)		\$ 150.00
After 5:00 p.m. Mon.-Fri. and on weekends or Holidays		\$ 600.00
Inaccessible Meter Charge – Installation of Shut-off Valve		\$ 250.00
Field Visit Charge		\$ 20.00
Meter Interference	Actual costs of damages, repairs and any additional or unusual costs or services directly related to the meter interference, plus the amount of unbilled gas determined to have been lost, plus applicable Service Reconnection Charges.	
Unauthorized Use – failure to comply with Curtailment Order		\$ 10.00 per therm
CSR Assisted Automated Payment Charge		\$ 2.50 per check
Summary Billing Charge		
One-time time set up fee, per account		\$ 5.00
Per account billed per month		\$ 1.00

(continue to Sheet C-1.1)

Issued November 25, 2020
 NWN OPUC Advice No. 20-18

Effective with service on
 and after January 1, 2021

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY

P.U.C. Or. 25

First Revision of Sheet RR-6
Cancels Original Sheet RR-6

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

(continued)

Rule 6. Deposits and other Security: General.

The Company may require a deposit or other security from a Customer or Applicant for reasons set forth in **Rule 2** and for other reasons as set forth in this **Rule 6, Rule 6A, Rule 6B, or Rule 6C**. The requirements for a Residential Customer or Applicant are set forth in **Rule 6A**. The requirements for a Non-Residential Customer or Applicant are set forth in **Rule 6B** and **Rule 6C**. For builders, contractors, property developers, and property managers, when a deposit or other security is required the provisions applicable to Non-Residential service shall apply.

Where a deposit or deposit installment amount is billed and due and payable along with a Customer's bill for regular monthly gas usage, the amount paid by Customer shall first be applied toward payment of the amount due for the deposit, as set forth in **Rule 7**.

In the event an Applicant pays a deposit, in full or in part, as a condition of service activation and the check or draft for payment is returned or not honored by the respective financial institution, the deposit will be deemed unpaid and Customer status is not met for such Applicant. The Company will attempt telephone notice to the Applicant of the failed payment, and the Applicant will have one business day in which to make a valid payment. If a valid payment is not received and the gas service is active, service may be disconnected without further notice.

In the event a Customer pays a deposit or additional deposit amount, with a check or draft for payment that is returned or not honored by the respective financial institution, the Company may disconnect service for nonpayment of the deposit as set forth in **Rule 11**.

In the event a Customer concurrently terminates service at a current address and applies for service at a new address within the Company's service area, any deposit held by the Company for service at the current service address, plus accrued interest, will be applied to the new service address. Nothing precludes the Company from requiring an additional deposit under the terms set forth in **Rule 6A, Rule 6B, or Rule 6C**. If such Customer notified the Company of the change of address subsequent to the issuance of the closing bill for service at the terminated service address, then the Customer may be required to pay a new deposit as required by these rules.

Deposits will accrue interest at a rate prescribed by order of the Commission. Interest shall be computed from the date the deposit is paid (if paid in installments, from the date of the first payment) to the date of refund or application of the entire deposit amount to the Customer's account, or if applicable, to the end of any one Year period. Interest will be prorated on deposits held by the Company for less than a full Year.

The Company will review default deposit amounts with any change in billing rates. The default deposit amounts may be revised if a change in customer rates results in an increase or decrease of \$10.00 or more to the average Residential Customer's monthly bill, or \$25.00 or more to the average Schedule 3 small Commercial Customer's monthly bill.

(continue to Sheet RR-6.1)

Issued March 9, 2015
NWN OPUC Advice No. 15-02

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Issued by: **NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY**

d.b.a. NW Natural
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