

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UG 435

In the Matters of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS  
COMPANY, dba NW Natural,

Request for a General Rate Revision  
(UE 435),

Advice 20-19, Schedule 198 Renewable  
Natural Gas Recovery Mechanism  
(ADV 1215) (UG 411).

RULING

**DISPOSITION: PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE AMENDED**

In a June 30, 2022 ruling I requested that the parties confer and jointly propose amendments or additions to the procedural schedule to provide the opportunity for objections to the second partial stipulation, replies to any objection, and hearing if requested. This ruling established a deadline of July 6, 2022, to file the jointly or separately proposed schedule amendments. Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural, timely filed a proposed schedule on behalf of NW Natural, the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon; the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board; the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers; and the Coalition of Communities of Color, Climate Solutions, Verde, Columbia Riverkeeper, Oregon Environmental Council, Community Energy Project, and Sierra Club (collectively the Stipulating Parties). The Stipulating Parties proposed the following deadlines: Stipulating Parties' testimony in support of the second partial stipulation due July 7, 2022,<sup>1</sup> Small Business Utility Advocates' (SBUA) objection due July 18, 2022, and Stipulating Parties' reply testimony due July 28, 2022. SBUA filed a letter requesting that the Stipulating Parties' reply testimony instead be due July 26, 2022, to provide time for review prior to the July 28, 2022 deadline for prehearing briefs.

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<sup>1</sup> The Stipulating Parties indicate that their proposed schedule is based on a target deadline for testimony of July 7, 2022, and ten calendar days each for SBUA's objection and the Stipulating Parties' reply testimony. The Stipulating Parties also state that if the testimony is filed any later than July 8, 2022, these deadlines would need to be adjusted. The ten-calendar day period for objections results in the same deadline for testimony filed on either July 7 or July 8, 2022.

With the change requested by SBUA, I find the procedural schedule proposed by the Stipulating Parties to be reasonable. In the event that the Stipulating Parties are unable to meet the July 8, 2022 deadline for joint testimony, I will re-examine the deadlines for objection and reply at that time.

The schedule for the remainder of these proceedings is amended as follows:

| <b>Event</b>   | <b>Date</b>                     |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Stipulating Parties' Joint Testimony in Support of Second Partial Stipulation</b>   | <b>July 8, 2022, 3:00 p.m.</b>  |
| <b>SBUA's Objection to Second Partial Stipulation</b>  | <b>July 18, 2022, 3:00 p.m.</b> |
| NW Natural Surrebuttal Testimony;<br>Stipulating Parties' Reply to Coalition Objection to the Stipulation  | July 20, 2022, 3:00 p.m.        |
| <b>Stipulating Parties' Reply Testimony to SBUA Objection to Second Partial Stipulation</b>  | <b>July 26, 2022, 3:00 p.m.</b> |
| Prehearing Brief (all parties);<br>Cross-Examination Statement (all parties);<br>Request for Cross-Examination on Objection to the Stipulation (all parties) | July 28, 2022, 3:00 p.m.        |
| Hearing  | August 2, 2022                  |
| Simultaneous Opening Briefs  | August 15, 2022,<br>3:00 p.m.   |
| Simultaneous Closing Briefs  | August 22, 2022,<br>3:00 p.m.   |
| Oral Argument  | August 25, 2022                 |
| Target Commission Order date   | October 20, 2022                |
| Effective Date   | November 1, 2022                |

Any cross-examination, briefing, or oral argument regarding the objections to the partial stipulations will occur as part of the hearing, briefing, or oral argument already scheduled in this proceeding.

Please be advised that any filing deadline in the procedural schedule will be set at 3:00 p.m. in order to provide adequate processing time for the Filing Center. Filings submitted after 3:00 p.m. will be considered filed on the following business day.

Dated this 7th day of July, 2022, at Salem, Oregon.



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Sarah Spruce  
Administrative Law Judge