

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UG 435

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL

Request for a General Rate Revision.

PROCEDURAL CONFERENCE
MEMORANDUM

On January 19, 2022, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon conducted a procedural conference in this docket. Representatives appeared on behalf of Commission Staff, Alliance of Western Energy Consumers, Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board, and the Small Business Utility Advocates.

At the conference, the ALJ sought input from the parties on the potential for consolidating docket UG 411, regarding NW Natural's proposed renewable natural gas (RNG) recovery mechanism with this general rate case. No party objected to consolidating these dockets. The Commission has previously consolidated dockets where doing so was efficient and logical and would clarify and simplify resolution of issues. Here, I find that consolidation will promote efficiency, therefore, pursuant to OAR 860-001-0600, docket UG 411 is consolidated with docket UG 435.

The parties submitted a proposed procedural schedule prior to the procedural conference. At the conference, the parties also addressed additional revisions to the proposed schedule, including the addition of a public comment hearing date and a deadline for the company to file opening testimony on the RNG recovery mechanism. The procedural schedule, as proposed by the parties and revised at the conference, is adopted as set forth below.

Any filings submitted in this proceeding are due by 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.

Event	Date
Settlement Conference on Cost of Capital ¹	January 21, 2022 (1:00 p.m.)
Workshop (TSA Security Directive 2 – Downing Testimony)	February 1, 2022 (2:00 p.m.)
Settlement Conference	February 4, 2022
Update on Settlement Conference	February 11, 2022

¹ Staff Workshop/Settlement conference dates are included in the schedule for the parties' convenience. The parties do not need Commission approval to reschedule Staff workshops or settlement conferences.

Deadline to file Petitions to Intervene ²	February 17, 2022
NW Natural Opening Testimony on Schedule 198 Renewable Natural Gas Recovery Mechanism	February 18, 2022
Deadline to file Proposed Budgets for Intervenor Funding	March 2, 2022
Public Comment Hearing	March 10, 2022 (6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.)
Party Workshop	March 11, 2022
Staff and Intervenors file Opening Testimony	April 22, 2022
Settlement Conference	April 27, 2022
Settlement Conference	May 4, 2022
Update on Settlement Conferences	May 11, 2022
NW Natural Reply Testimony ³	June 6, 2022
Settlement Conference	June 15, 2022
Settlement Conference	June 16, 2022
Update on Settlement Conferences	June 17, 2022
Staff and Intervenors Rebuttal and Cross Answering Testimony	June 30, 2022
NW Natural Surrebuttal Testimony	July 20, 2022
Prehearing Brief and Cross-Examination Statement all parties)	July 28, 2022
Hearing	August 2, 2022
Simultaneous Opening Briefs	August 15, 2022
Simultaneous Closing Briefs	August 22, 2022
Oral Argument	August 25, 2022
Target Commission Order date	October 20, 2022
Effective Date	November 1, 2022

Parties are reminded that attorneys not licensed in Oregon wanting to appear before the Commission in this docket must file an application for admission to appear pro hac vice.⁴

Dated this 25th day of January, 2022, at Salem, Oregon.



Sarah Spruce
Administrative Law Judge

Attachment: Notice of Contested Case Rights and Procedures

² The schedule includes a requested date for petitions to intervene, but by statute, a person may petition to intervene at any time before the close of the record. See ORS 756.525.

³ The parties agreed that after NW Natural files its reply testimony, responses to data requests will be provided within five business days.

⁴ See UTCR 3.170, OAR 860-001-0320.

NOTICE OF CONTESTED CASE RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES

Oregon law requires state agencies to provide parties written notice of contested case rights and procedures. Under ORS 183.413, you are entitled to be informed of the following:

Hearing: The time and place of any hearing held in these proceedings will be noticed separately. The Commission will hold the hearing under its general authority set forth in ORS 756.040 and use procedures set forth in ORS 756.518 through 756.610 and OAR Chapter 860, Division 001. Copies of these statutes and rules may be accessed via the Commission's website at <https://www.oregon.gov/puc/Pages/default.aspx>. The Commission will hear issues as identified by the parties.

Right to Attorney: As a party to these proceedings, you may be represented by counsel. Should you desire counsel but cannot afford one, legal aid may be able to assist you; parties are ordinarily represented by counsel. The Commission Staff, if participating as a party in the case, will be represented by the Department of Justice. Generally, once a hearing has begun, you will not be allowed to postpone the hearing to obtain counsel.

Notice to Active Duty Servicemembers: Active Duty Servicemembers have a right to stay these proceedings under the federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. For more information contact the Oregon State Bar at 800-452-8260, the Oregon Military Department at 503-584-3571 or the nearest United States Armed Forces Legal Assistance Office through <http://legalassistance.law.af.mil>. The Oregon Military Department does not have a toll free telephone number.

Administrative Law Judge: The Commission has delegated the authority to preside over hearings to Administrative Law Judges (ALJs). The scope of an ALJ's authority is defined in OAR 860-001-0090. The ALJs make evidentiary and other procedural rulings, analyze the contested issues, and present legal and policy recommendations to the Commission.

Hearing Rights: You have the right to respond to all issues identified and present evidence and witnesses on those issues. *See* OAR 860-001-0450 through OAR 860-001-0490. You may obtain discovery from other parties through depositions, subpoenas, and data requests. *See* ORS 756.538 and 756.543; OAR 860-001-0500 through 860-001-0540.

Evidence: Evidence is generally admissible if it is of a type relied upon by reasonable persons in the conduct of their serious affairs. *See* OAR 860-001-0450. Objections to the admissibility of evidence must be made at the time the evidence is offered. Objections are generally made on grounds that the evidence is unreliable, irrelevant, repetitious, or because its probative value is outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or undue delay. The order of presenting evidence is determined by the ALJ. The burden of presenting evidence to support an allegation rests with the person raising the allegation. Generally, once a hearing is completed, the ALJ will not allow the introduction of additional evidence without good cause.

Notice of Contested Case Rights and Procedures continued

Record: The hearing will be recorded, either by a court reporter or by audio digital recording, to preserve the testimony and other evidence presented. Parties may contact the court reporter about ordering a transcript or request, if available, a copy of the audio recording from the Commission for a fee set forth in OAR 860-001-0060. The hearing record will be made part of the evidentiary record that serves as the basis for the Commission's decision and, if necessary, the record on any judicial appeal.

Final Order and Appeal: After the hearing, the ALJ will prepare a draft order resolving all issues and present it to the Commission. The draft order is not open to party comment. The Commission will make the final decision in the case and may adopt, modify, or reject the ALJ's recommendation. If you disagree with the Commission's decision, you may request reconsideration of the final order within 60 days from the date of service of the order. *See* ORS 756.561 and OAR 860-001-0720. You may also file a petition for review with the Court of Appeals within 60 days from the date of service of the order. *See* ORS 756.610.