Rates and Regulatory Affairs Facsimile: 503.721.2532



November 7, 2005

NWN Advice No. OPUC 05-15

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Public Utility Commission of Oregon 550 Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 215 P.O. Box 2148 Salem, Oregon 97308-2148

Attn: Filing Center

Re: UG 169 Compliance Filing: Rate Schedule 32A "Addendum to Rate

Schedule 32 Regarding Gas Supply Costs for Sales Service During Interim

Period"

Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural ("NW Natural" or the "Company"), files herewith the following tariff sheets to become effective on November 7, 2005 pursuant to Commission Order in Docket UG 169:

Seventh Revision of Sheet iv, Tariff Index;

Second Revision of Sheet T-2,

Schedule T.

"Customer-Owned Natural Gas Transportation Service (continued);"

Original Sheet 32A-1 through Original Sheet 32A-11, Schedule 32A.

"Addendum to Rate Schedule 32 Regarding Gas Supply Costs for Sales Service During Interim Period."

Copies of this letter and the filing made herewith are available in the Company's main and district offices in Oregon.

Public Utility Commission of Oregon NWN Advice No. OPUC 05-15 November 7, 2005; Page 2

Please address correspondence on this matter to the following:

Kelley Miller
Staff Assistant
Rates & Regulatory Affairs
220 NW Second Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97209
Telecopier: (503) 721-2532

Telephone: (503) 226-4211, ext. 3589 E-mail: kelley.miller@nwnatural.com

Please call if you have questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Onita King

Onita King, Manager Tariffs & Regulatory Compliance

ORK/cmt enclosures

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY

P.U.C. Or. 24

Seventh Revision of Sheet iv Cancels Sixth Revision of Sheet iv

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NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY

P.U.C. Or. 24

Second Revision of Sheet T-2 Cancels First Revision of Sheet T-2

SCHEDULE T CUSTOMER-OWNED NATURAL GAS TRANSPORTATION SERVICE (continued)

PREREQUISITES TO SERVICE:

Customers must first meet all of the terms and conditions of their existing Service Agreement.

Customers must have the capability to receive notices via automatic electronic means acceptable by the Company. Customers must provide active and continuous telephone service to all meters to be used for billing purposes. The Company may require the installation of telemetry equipment at the Customer's Premise, subject to charges set forth in **SCHEDULE 15**.

Customers must have secured the purchase and delivery of gas supplies from an Authorized Supplier/Agent) of their choosing.

SERVICE ELECTION:

A Sales Service Customer that has met all of the terms and conditions of Customer's existing Service Agreement may elect to transfer from Sales Service to Transportation Service by giving not less than one (1) billing months advance written notice to Company. Customer's notice shall specify the exact date that the Transportation Service election is to be effective.

A Transportation Service Customer that has met all of the terms and conditions of Customer's existing Service Agreement may elect to transfer to Sales Service provided that: (a) the Company determines, in its sole judgment, that adequate supply and capacity exists to accommodate Customer's transfer request; and (b) the Customer will pay the Company for any incremental gas supply costs incurred by the Company to accommodate such Customer's change in service.

Limited Exception for Transfers from Transportation Service to Sales Service. Customers that submitted an election to take Sales Service between August 1, 2005 and October 27, 2005 will have a one-time opportunity to withdraw all or a portion of such election by submitting a Withdrawal of Election form to Company no later than 5:00 p.m. on October 27, 2005 for an effective date of November 1, 2005. A Customer that desires an effective date of either November 15, 2005 or December 1, 2005 must submit a Withdrawal of Election form to Company no later than 5:00 p.m. on November 10, 2005. Except for the minimum term of service requirements set forth in the Term of Service section of this Schedule, Customers that elect to withdraw their Sales Service election and return to Transportation Service will be required to fulfill all of the terms and conditions of their Transportation Service rate schedule or special contract.

(continue to Sheet T-3)

Issued November 7, 2005 NWN Advice No. OPUC 05-15 Effective with service on and after November 7, 2005

(C)

P.U.C. Or. 24 Original Sheet 32A-1

RATE SCHEDULE 32A ADDENDUM TO RATE SCHEDULE 32 REGARDING GAS SUPPLY COSTS FOR SALES SERVICE DURING INTERIM PERIOD

AGREEMENT

between

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY

 	_ [Customer]

and

Regarding Gas Supply Costs for Sales Service During Interim Period

Company ("NW Natural" or the "Company") and ______ ("Customer"). NW Natural

This Agreement is entered into effective as of October 1, 2005, between Northwest Natural Gas

and Customer may be referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as "Parties."					
RECITALS					
A. Customer receives Transportation Service from NW Natural under the Company's					
Schedule 32, "Large Volume Non-Residential Sales and Transportation Service" or a special contract					
[INSERT CONTRACT NAME]. Between August 1, 2005 and October 31, 2005, Customer exercised its					
"Service Election" option under the Company's Schedule T provisions to receive Sales Service from NW					
Natural, effective with first deliveries of sales service on or after October 1, 2005.					
(continue to Sheet 32A-2)					

Effective with service on

and after November 7, 2005

Issued November 7, 2005

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RATE SCHEDULE 32A
ADDENDUM TO RATE SCHEDULE 32
REGARDING GAS SUPPLY COSTS FOR SALES SERVICE

DURING INTERIM PERIOD

(continued)

B. A dispute exists between NW Natural and Customer regarding the commodity rate to be

charged for natural gas supplies (the "Commodity Rate") provided by NW Natural to Customer for Sales

Service, pursuant to such Service Election.

C. NW Natural and Customer have reached agreement on proposed terms for determining

billing rates for natural gas supplies provided by NW Natural to Customer for Sales Service during the

period beginning October 1, 2005, and ending March 31, 2006 ("Interim Period"), pursuant to such Service

Election.

D. NW Natural and Customer wish to submit this Agreement to the Public Utility

Commission of Oregon ("the Commission") for approval as the basis for determining, inter alia, billing rates

for natural gas supplies provided by NW Natural to Customer for Sales Service during the Interim Period.

AGREEMENT

1. <u>Incremental Cost Determination</u>.

a. <u>Petition for Declaratory Order</u>. NW Natural intends to, and Customer acknowledges that NW

Natural will, file a petition for declaratory order with the Commission pursuant to ORS 756.450 seeking a

determination ("Incremental Cost Determination") regarding the meaning of "incremental gas supply cost"

as that term is used in the Service Election provisions of NW Natural's

(continue to Sheet 32A-3)

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Schedule T. Customer's acknowledgment and this Agreement do not constitute agreement, understanding, waiver or stipulation by any of the Parties that such proceeding is relevant, necessary, applicable, or appropriate to the resolution of the dispute.

- b. <u>Schedule</u>. NW Natural will request that the Commission adopt a schedule in the Incremental Cost Determination proceeding which provides for a final order by the Commission to be issued no later than March 31, 2006.
- c. <u>Participation by Customer</u>. This Agreement does not bind Customer to participate in any proceeding filed by NW Natural, or to take any particular position in such proceeding. Customer reserves its right to argue that such proceeding is neither relevant, necessary, applicable or appropriate as the means of resolving the dispute.
 - 2. Sales Service During Interim Period.
- a. Subject to Section 2(d) below and the other applicable provisions of the Company's General Rules and Regulations with respect to terms of service, NW Natural will provide Sales Service to Customer during the Interim Period, provided such Customer does not de-select sales service on or before 5:00 p.m. November 10, 2005.
- b. Customer will continue to take Sales Service from NW Natural through the end of the Interim Period (March 31, 2006), unless such customer has either: (a) de-selected sales service effective November 1, 2005, or (b) de-selected sales service effective either November 15, 2005 or December 1, 2005.

(continue to Sheet 32A-4)

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(continued)

c. On or before November 30, 2005, NW Natural will file proposed revisions to the

Company's Schedule T with the Commission. Such proposed revisions will permit customers taking

Sales Service to withdraw their Sales Service election effective after March 31, 2006 upon fifteen (15) days'

written notice, notwithstanding any other provisions of NW Natural's Schedule T or its General Rules and

Regulations. Upon approval of such tariff revision, Customer may cease taking Sales Service from NW

Natural effective after March 31, 2006, in accordance with the notice requirements of such revised tariffs. It

is a condition of this Agreement that the Commission approve that proposed revision.

d. <u>Customer Creditworthiness</u>. In accordance with the Company's General Rules

and Regulations, Customer may be required to establish or re-establish credit in light of the change in

(1) conditions of service and (2) the basis upon which credit was originally established. Any additional

deposit or other security required of Customer shall be in accordance with the Company's General Rules

and Regulations.

3. Interim Billing Rate. During the Interim Period, NW Natural shall bill Customer for natural

gas supplies provided to Customer for Sales Service at the rate of \$10.00 per decatherm as the

"Commodity Rate" for delivery at Citygate ("Interim Billing Rate"); however, for deliveries during the month of

November, 2005, the Interim Billing Rate, shall be \$9.00 per decatherm. (NW Natural's standard terms

and conditions shall apply for delivery from Citygate to Customer's delivery point.) Customer shall pay

such bills during the Interim Period, notwithstanding any Related Claims (as defined in Section 8) that

Customer may have with respect to the amounts due under such bills.

(continue to Sheet 32A-5)

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(continued)

4. <u>Incurred Gas Cost</u>.

a. Calculation of "Incurred Gas Cost". NW Natural shall calculate the actual costs it

incurs on a monthly basis in accordance with the provisions of this Section 4 in providing natural gas supplies to

Customer for Sales Service from October 1, 2005, through March 31, 2006 ("Incurred Gas Cost").

b. This Agreement is silent with regard to Incurred or actual Gas Costs for October 1

through October 31, 2005. For information purposes only, NW Natural will calculate the Incurred Gas Cost for

October 2005 as set forth in Section 4(a) above, notwithstanding that the Parties other than NW Natural may not

agree with this calculation.

c. November 1, 2005 – March 31, 2006. For the period after October 31 2005,

NW Natural will use its reasonable best efforts to acquire natural gas supplies for Customer at the lowest

reasonable cost (taking into account normal business exigencies and practices, and competing constraints of

reliability and cost). In calculating the Incurred Gas Cost for this period on a monthly basis, the Company shall

include the impact of the actions taken by NW Natural set forth in the following paragraphs to reduce the Incurred

Gas Cost ("Cost Reduction Measures"):

(i) To meet Customer's expected demand for natural gas supplies and the aggregate demand

of other customers similarly situated, NW Natural has acquired 5,000 decatherms per day of commodity gas at a

price equal to: (a) for gas deliveries at the Citygate during November 2005 - \$8.95/decatherm; (b) for gas

deliveries at the Citygate for December through

March 2006 – \$10.02/decatherm. The cost of these new gas supplies are not reflected in retail rates and have

not been otherwise charged to the company's core customers.

(continue to Sheet 32A-6)

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RATE SCHEDULE 32A ADDENDUM TO RATE SCHEDULE 32

REGARDING GAS SUPPLY COSTS FOR SALES SERVICE

DURING INTERIM PERIOD

(continued)

(ii) NW Natural has available to it approximately five thousand (5,000) decatherms per day of

interstate gas storage capacity. The cost of this gas storage capacity is not reflected in retail rates or otherwise

charged to the Company's core customers.

(iii) During the Interim Period, NW Natural will in good faith deploy these new gas supplies and

this additional gas storage capacity (at no charge for the storage service) on behalf of Customer to assist in

securing natural gas supplies for Customer, at the lowest monthly reasonable cost.

5. <u>Balancing Account</u>. Each month during the Interim Period, the difference between the Interim

Billing Rate and Incurred Gas Cost for natural gas supplied provided to Customer for Sales Service shall be

recorded in an account ("Balancing Account"). Amounts in the Balancing Account shall bear a carrying charge at

an annual rate of five percent (5%). NW Natural shall advise Customer no less often than once per month of the

amount in Customer's Balancing Account.

6. Interim Bills.

a. April 30, 2006. If the Commission has not issued an Incremental Cost Determination

on or before April 30, 2006, NW Natural shall issue an invoice or refund notice to Customer for one-third (1/3) of

the amount in the Balancing Account as of March 31, 2006. Such invoice or refund notice shall be issued on or

about April 30, 2006.

b. May 31, 2006. If the Commission has not issued an Incremental Cost Determination

on or before May 31, 2006, NW Natural shall issue an invoice or refund notice to Customer for the remaining

amount in the Balancing Account as of March 31, 2006. Such invoice or refund notice shall be issued on or

about May 31, 2006.

(continue to Sheet 32A-7)

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(continued)

c. Payment of Invoiced Amounts. Customer shall pay and NW Natural shall refund

such amounts within ninety (90) days of the invoice or refund date, notwithstanding any Related Claims or

appeals of the Incremental Cost Determination that Customer may have with respect to the amounts due

under such invoices. Amounts not paid by either Party within thirty (30) days of the due date shall bear a

carrying charge at an interest rate of one point seven percent (1.7%) per payment period.

7. <u>True-Up Rate</u>.

a. Within ten (10) days of the Commission's issuance of a final order in the

Incremental Cost Determination proceeding (without regard to whether judicial review is sought with

respect to such order), NW Natural shall calculate the commodity rate as the "Commodity Rate"

component for delivery at Citygate ("True-Up Rate") to be charged to Customer for natural gas supplies

provided to Customer for Sales Service during the Interim Period. In calculating the True-Up Rate, the

following shall apply:

(i) The True-Up Rate shall reflect the Commission's findings in such final

order in the Incremental Cost Determination proceeding. Unless inconsistent with such findings,

the True-Up Rate shall reflect the impact of Cost Reduction Measures.

(ii) The True-Up Rate for any service in any month shall not exceed the

Maximum Rate as the "Commodity Rate" for delivery at Citygate as set forth below:

October 2005 - \$11.80

November 2005 - \$9.95

December 2005 through March 2006 - \$11.02

(continue to Sheet 32A-8)

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(continued)

b. If the True-Up Rate is determined after the Customer has paid Interim Bills under

Section 6 of this Agreement, NW Natural shall calculate a reconciliation of any amounts paid by Customer

pursuant to Interim Bills issued under Section 6 of this Agreement with the amounts that should have been

billed to Customer using the True-Up Rate.

c. In the event the Interim Billing Rate exceeds the True-Up Rate or the

reconciliation under Section 7(b) shows an over-collection by NW Natural, the Company shall immediately

credit Customer's current bill in the amount of any over-collection, and shall reimburse Customer for any

over-collected amount not used after ninety (90) days. In the event the True-Up Rate exceeds the Interim

Billing Rate or the reconciliation under Section 7(b) shows an under-collection by NW Natural, the

Company shall issue an invoice to Customer in the amount of any under-collection. Customer shall pay

such invoiced amount within ninety (90) days, notwithstanding any Related Claims that Customer may

have with respect to such invoiced amounts. Amounts not paid by either Party within thirty (30) days of

the due date shall bear a carrying charge at an interest rate of one point seven percent (1.7%) per

payment period.

d. <u>Record-Keeping.</u> NW Natural will maintain all records necessary for supporting

the calculations of the Incurred Gas Costs and True-Up Rate by Customer regardless of whether NW

Natural or Customer prevails in the Parties' disputes.

(continue to Sheet 32A-9)

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(continued)

8. Related Claims.

a. Customer may have related claims ("Related Claims") against NW Natural

regarding the charges for natural gas supplied by NW Natural to Customer for Sales Service during the

Interim Period. Nothing in this Agreement affects Customer's rights to pursue such Related Claims and to

seek refunds, whether by an administrative or judicial recourse.

b. "Related Claims" shall not include claims related to the prudence of the

Company's actions in securing natural gas supplies for Customer during the Interim Period. Customer

waives the right to make any claim with respect to the prudence of the Company's actions in incurring

Incurred Gas Costs, excluding the period from October 1, 2005 through and including October 31, 2005, in

accordance with Section 4 of this Agreement, so long as the Company has acted in good faith and

reasonably.

9. The Parties agree that this Agreement is in the public interest and results in a billing rate

for a natural gas supply costs for Sales Service to Customer during the Interim Period that is reasonable.

10. The Parties agree that this Agreement represents a compromise in the positions of the

Parties. As such, conduct, statements, and documents disclosed in the negotiation of this Agreement

shall not be admissible as evidence in this or any other proceeding.

11. The Parties agree to support this Agreement in any proceeding before the Commission

with respect to such Agreement and any appeal therefrom, provide witnesses to sponsor this Agreement

at any hearing convened by the Commission with respect to such Agreement, and recommend that the

Commission issue an order or approve a tariff adopting the terms of this Agreement.

(continue to Sheet 32A-10)

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- 12. If this Agreement is challenged by any other party in a proceeding before the Commission with respect to such Agreement, each Party reserves the right to cross-examine witnesses and put on such case as it deems appropriate to respond fully to the issues presented, including the right to raise issues that are incorporated in the settlements embodied in this Agreement. Notwithstanding this reservation of rights, the Parties agree that they will support the Commission's adoption of the terms of this Agreement in an order or tariff.
- 13. The Parties have negotiated this Agreement as an integrated document. If the Commission rejects all or any material portion of this Agreement or imposes additional material conditions in approving this Agreement, either Party disadvantaged by such action shall have the rights provided in OAR 860-014-0085 and shall be entitled to seek reconsideration or appeal of the Commission's Order.
- 14. By entering into this Agreement, neither Party shall be deemed to have approved, admitted, or consented to the facts, principles, methods, or theories employed by the other Party in arriving at the terms of this Agreement. Neither Party shall be deemed to have agreed that any provision of this Agreement is appropriate for resolving issues in any other proceeding.
- 15. This Agreement may be executed in counterparts and each signed counterpart shall constitute an original document.
- 16. This Agreement shall be governed by Oregon law without regard to principals of conflicts of laws.

(continue to Sheet 32A-11)

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P.U.C. Or. 24 Original Sheet 32A-11

RATE SCHEDULE 32A ADDENDUM TO RATE SCHEDULE 32 REGARDING GAS SUPPLY COSTS FOR SALES SERVICE DURING INTERIM PERIOD (continued)

This Agreement is entered into by each Party on the date entered below such Party's signature.

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY	
	[Customer]
D	
By	Ву
Date	lts
	Date

Issued November 7, 2005 NWN Advice No. OPUC 05-15