



NW Natural UG 490 Energy Justice Issues Public Workshop Agenda

Thursday, April 25, 2024

10:00-1:00 pm PDT

[Link to Teams Meeting](#)

Call-In: 503-446-4951 – Conference ID: 875 664 569#

Meeting ID: 222 887 846 403 – Passcode: zuEpbR

Docket No. UG 490

Energy Justice Issues Public Workshop

Summary

The goal of this workshop is to provide a dedicated forum to improve procedural equity in NW Natural’s 2024 General Rate Case (Docket No. UG 490). This is intended as a public and accessible space to ask questions, raise concerns and provide dialogue on high priority issues impacting Environmental Justice communities. The workshop structure is aimed at reducing barriers to participation and promoting engagement by including brief overviews of key topics in the rate case and a facilitated discussion between participants regardless of whether or not someone has formally intervened in the docket.

Staff has heard feedback from community and utility partners on some adjustments to our procedural equity workshops and hopes to reflect them here. Specifically, we plan to:

1. Provide additional time and space following the workshop for participating EJ communities and organizations to reflect on the information shared before requesting written comments or issue-specific input that is not proffered at the meeting.
2. Host the meeting in two parts, one to be recorded and transcribed for the record and the second to be off the record with commitments from the Company to engage in productive dialogue on how its proposal might be more responsive to equity and energy justice concerns.

These adjustments were made to ensure that the discussion and engagement between EJ communities, the Company, and other participating stakeholders is meaningful and bidirectional. The information shared in this public workshop will help inform the UG 490 process going forward, including but not limited to settlement discussions and testimony. This is intended to ensure that EJ perspectives are part of decision-making and that historically underrepresented voices have an opportunity to contribute in a space that includes barriers to participation.

Staff looks to provide a limited overview of opening testimony positions identified by the Company, Staff and intervenors, as well as frame the following topics from a customer experience perspective that will

allow public participants and advocates to weigh in on potential solutions. While we have identified a number of topics from opening testimony and community input, we welcome discussion on other issues related to EJ communities.

As we continue to host EJ-focused workshops such as this, Staff is working to identify a process that can thoughtfully elevate underrepresented voices in regulatory decision-making. We have heard, that even with these workshops, barriers remain high and the resource burden for many communities to engage in dockets as robust and complex as general rate cases is often too much. We appreciate these insights and will look for opportunities to adjust our strategy as we remain committed to advancing procedural equity in our processes and encourage continued feedback on how to improve.

Please note that this workshop is open to the public and participants need not be a party to the case.

Agenda

PART ONE (recorded)

- 10:05-10:20am Staff Introduction
 - Brief overview of the purpose and format of Workshop
 - NW Natural's cost drivers
- 10:20 – 11:30am Staff Facilitated Topic Exploration
 - Each focus area in the Staff facilitated topic discussions will include:*
 - *Staff Overview*
 - *Community/Advocate Participant Led Dialogue*
 - *Additional Q&A*
 - *NW Natural confirms issues and questions to be addressed post-recording*
 - 10:20 – 10:45am Weatherization and Energy Efficiency
 - 10:45 – 11:10am Bill Discount and Cost-Recovery Mechanism
 - 11:10 – 11:30am EJ Priority Inputs Impacting Residential Rates
 - Basic Charge (15 min)
 - Line Extension Allowance (15 min)
 - ROE & Rate Spread (15 min)
 - Additional Q&A (10 min)

PART TWO (not recorded)

- 11:30 – 12:30pm Open dialogue on questions, concerns, and potential resolutions
 - Suggested time allocation*
 - 11:30 – 11:50am Weatherization and Energy Efficiency
 - 11:50 – 12:10pm Bill Discount & cost recovery
 - 12:10 – 12:30pm EJ Priority Inputs Impacting Residential Rates
- 12:30-12:45am Opportunity to revisit issues or address additional topics and proposals.
- 12:45-1:00pm Next Steps

If you have any questions, please contact:

/s/ Michelle Scala

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