

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: October 22, 2019**

REGULAR CONSENT EFFECTIVE DATE November 1, 2019

DATE: October 10, 2019

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Brian Fjeldheim

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer and Marianne Gardner **SIGNED**

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST NATURAL: (Docket No. ADV 1020/Advice No. 19-17)
Updates Schedule 167, General Adjustments to Rates.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Northwest Natural Gas Company's (NW Natural or Company) Advice No. 19-17, which is the Company's revisions to Schedule 167 – General Adjustment to Rates, be approved for service rendered on and after November 1, 2019.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether the Commission should approve NW Natural's request to update its Schedule 167 - General Adjustments to Rates.

Applicable Rule or Law

ORS 757.205(1) states that a public utility must file schedules showing all rates, tolls, and charges for service that have been established and are in force at the time.

OAR 860-022-0025 requires that new tariff filings include statements showing the new rates, the number of customers affected, the impact on annual revenue, and the reasons supporting the proposed tariff.

Filings that make any change in rates, tolls, charges, rules or regulations must be filed with the Commission at least 30 days before the effective date of the changes.

The Commission reviews tariffs filed under ORS 757.205 and 757.210 to determine whether they are fair, just, and reasonable.

Analysis

Background

NW Natural submitted this advice filing to the Commission on September 23, 2019, pursuant to ORS 757.205 and OAR 860-022-0025, with a requested effective date of November 1, 2019. With its filing, the Company proposes to revise Schedule 167 - General Adjustments to Rates, to reflect the changes in Company rates resulting from the most recent general rate case in Docket No. UG 344. The Company states this filing will have no impact on customer rates and is intended as a housekeeping adjustment to multiple rate schedules included in Schedule 167.

Schedule 167 is a summary of Company general rate changes by Rate Schedule and illustrates the effects of general rate changes approved by the Commission from the Company's latest rate case.

NW Natural's last general rate case was concluded in two phases. The Commission's adoption of the first all party stipulation and partial rejection of the second all party stipulation resulted in a rate increase that went into effect on November 1, 2018.¹ The Commission later adopted the third all party stipulation, resulting in a rate increase that went into effect on April 1, 2019.²

Upon conclusion of each phase of the latest rate case, the Company submitted revised tariff sheets for Commission review and approval. However, upon concluding the second phase of the latest rate case, the Company omitted an updated Schedule 167 in its subsequent compliance filing.

Staff review

Staff reviewed the contents and accuracy of this filing, the Company workpaper used to derive the rate changes in each customer rate class included in Schedule 167, and the current and superseded tariffs previously filed with the Commission. Staff also communicated with NW Natural by phone and email. Because Staff previously reviewed and recommended approval of the various tariffs associated with the rate increases effective November 1, 2018, and April 1, 2019, Staff did not perform additional review of the individual tariffs. Staff's review in this filing was limited solely to verification of the contents of Schedule 167.

¹ See Docket No. UG 344, Commission Order No. 18-419.

² *Id.*, Commission Order No. 19-105.

Docket No. ADV 1020/Advice No. 19-17
October 10, 2019
Page 3

Conclusion

Staff verified the accuracy of the proposed revisions to Schedule 167 and agrees with NW Natural that this filing is a housekeeping item that reflects the cumulative effect of rate changes resulting from the latest rate case in Docket No. UG 344, which were previously approved by the Commission. Staff further agrees with the Company that this filing will have no impact on customer rates.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Approve NW Natural's Advice No. 19-17, which is the Company's revisions to Schedule 167 – General Adjustment to Rates, for service rendered on and after November 1, 2019.

NWN Docket No. ADV 1020/Advice No. 19-17