

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: June 7, 2016

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE July 1, 2016

DATE: May 24, 2016

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: Erik Colville *EC*

THROUGH: Jason Eisdorfer *J* and Michael Dougherty *M*

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST NATURAL: (Docket No. ADV 291/Advice No. 16-05)
Revisions to Tariff P.U.C. Or. 25 Related to Service to Compressed
Natural Gas Vehicle Fueling Equipment and Non-Automated Meter
Reading Meters.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Commission approve Northwest Natural Gas Company's (NWN) Advice No. 16-05, and the tariff sheet revisions and additions be allowed to go into effect on and after July 1, 2016.

DISCUSSION:

Issue

Whether to approve NWN's Advice No. 16-05 proposing to revise Tariff P.U.C. Or. 25 related to service to compressed natural gas vehicle fueling equipment and non-automated meter reading (non-AMR) meters.

Rule

Under ORS 757.205(1), 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. Tariff revisions or corrections may be made by filing revised sheets with the information required under the Commission's administrative rules, including OAR 860-022-0005 and OAR 860-022-0025. 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.

Analysis

NWN filed Docket No. ADV 291/Advice No. 16-05 on May 3, 2016, proposing to revise Tariff P.U.C. Or. 25 related to service to compressed natural gas vehicle fueling equipment and non-automated meter reading (non-AMR) meters.

The first purpose of this filing is to propose revisions to various sections of NWN's Tariff Schedules to add clarifying wording regarding the requirements and conditions for providing service to compressed natural gas (CNG) vehicle fueling equipment installed for use by residential and non-residential customers. CNG service wording was added to the tariff effective January 14, 2015, as a result of NWN Advice No. 14-21. Since the 2015 changes went into effect, NWN identified some aspects of CNG service that required further clarification, as well as some aspects where the January 2015 changes were no longer feasible. These revisions are briefly summarized as follows:

- Clarification was added to address vehicle fueling equipment compliance with the National Fire Protection Association and permitting of vehicle fueling equipment on Sheet RR-18 of NWN's Tariff.
- Clarification was added regarding the requirement to separately meter vehicle fueling equipment to ensure proper billing and reporting on Sheet C-4, Sheet 2-2, Sheet 3-3, Sheet 31-9, Sheet 32-10, and Sheet 33-7 of NWN's Tariff.
- NWN states that it has learned that there are many different Gasoline Gallon Equivalent (GGE) calculations in use by various taxing authorities. NWN states that it is not comfortable selecting one method for purposes of complying with the Tariff. As such, NWN is proposing to modify the language printed on customer bills regarding GGE metering and reporting as described on Sheet 2-2, Sheet 3-3, Sheet 31-9, Sheet 32-10, and Sheet 33-7 of NWN's Tariff.

The second purpose of this filing is to propose revisions NWN's Tariff Schedules to add clarifying wording regarding seasonal or temporary service for Non-Automated Meter Reading (AMR) meters. The Tariff currently does not address re-installing a Non-AMR meter if a Customer chooses to close an account with a Non-AMR meter on a seasonal or temporary basis instead of keeping the account open and continuing to pay the minimum bill obligations under the Rate Schedule.

Conclusion

Staff investigated the proposed revisions and additions to Tariff P.U.C. Or. 25. Staff finds that the revisions and additions appear to address the unique code and inspection requirements for CNG fueling equipment, and clearly express the terms and conditions that apply to providing this service. In addition, Staff finds that the revisions related to non-AMR meters appear appropriate. As a result, Staff recommends approval of the May 3, 2016, filing by NWN. NWN requests that the revisions be approved to become effective on and after July 1, 2016.

CUB has not indicated its support for or resistance to approval of this filing.

PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

Northwest Natural's Advice No. 16-05 be approved and the tariff sheet revisions be allowed to go into effect on and after July 1, 2016.