

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UG 221

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS  
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL,

Request for a General Rate Revision

RULING

DISPOSITION: NW NATURAL WITNESS HART EXCUSED FROM HEARING; INFORMATION REGARDING COMMISSION QUESTIONING PROVIDED; STAFF WITNESS CIMMIYOTTI GRANTED LEAVE TO APPEAR VIA TELEPHONE

**NW Natural Witness Sandra K. Hart Excused from Hearing**

On August 21, 2012, I issued a ruling setting the cross-examination schedule for the August 23, 2012 hearing. In that schedule, I identified a number of NW Natural witnesses who were not designated for cross-examination by any of the parties, but for whom the Commission may have clarifying questions.

I received a telephone call from NW Natural's counsel yesterday raising potential confidentiality and other issues involving the testimony of Sandra K. Hart. The issues may or may not arise depending on the nature of the Commission's questions. Based on my subsequent discussion with the Commissioners, Ms. Hart is excused from tomorrow's hearing. The Commission's questions for Ms. Hart will be addressed after the hearing through a bench request. The remaining witnesses identified in the cross-examination schedule, however, should plan to appear.

**Additional Information Regarding Commission Questioning**

I also made the following clarifications to NW Natural. To the extent NW Natural's witnesses are questioned by the Commission, the Administrative Law Judge has been designated to ask the questions. The hearing has been noticed as a public meeting, however, and one or more of the Commissioners may be present during the hearing.

To the extent that other parties seek to cross-examine NW Natural's witnesses after Commission questioning, any such cross-examination should be brief and limited in scope to the testimony given in response to Commission questioning.

Counsel for NW Natural will have the opportunity to conduct redirect examination for any NW Natural witness that testifies.

**Appearance of Staff Witness Nick Cimmiyotti via Telephone**

I also received a call from Staff counsel yesterday advising that Staff witness Nick Cimmiyotti, who was designated by NW Natural for cross-examination, is on medical leave. Staff stated that Mr. Cimmiyotti would be available by telephone, and that NW Natural did not object to his appearance by phone. Mr. Cimmiyotti is granted leave to appear via telephone.

Dated this 22nd day of August, 2012, at Salem, Oregon.



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Lisa D. Hardie  
Administrative Law Judge