

**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

NOTICE OF PREHEARING  
CONFERENCE AND  
MEMORANDUM

A hearing and Commission Examination are scheduled in this docket for August 23 and 24, 2012. A telephone prehearing conference has been scheduled for August 10, 2012, to discuss hearing procedures and the format for the Commission Examination.<sup>1</sup>

**Commission Examination**

A date for Commission Examination has been included in the procedural schedules of certain Commission dockets over the past several years. To date, however, no examination has actually taken place. The Commissioners have indicated an interest in keeping the examination on the schedule in this docket. Because it may take place, the procedures for the Commission Examination will be discussed during the prehearing conference.

The Commission Examination is intended to allow the Commissioners to ask questions of lawyers or party witnesses on the record. During the conference, I will propose some details for the Commission Examination for discussion. In developing procedures for this event, the goal would be to give the Commissioners a meaningful opportunity to ask the questions they consider important to their own decision-making, while ensuring that the rights of the parties are protected.

Because of the Commissioners' availability, the Commission Examination is scheduled for the afternoon of August 23, 2012.

**Prehearing Schedule**

I also adopt the following prehearing schedule, with new deadlines in italics. This schedule requires the parties to prefile with the Commission any (as-yet-unfiled) exhibits they intend to introduce during the hearing as evidence.

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<sup>1</sup> A separate Notice of Telephone Prehearing Conference with specifics will follow this memorandum.

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Deadline for NW Natural's Surrebuttal Testimony	August 9, 2012
Deadline for Prehearing Briefs, <i>Cross-Examination Statements<sup>2</sup> and Hearing Exhibits</i>	August 16, 2012
Hearing (a.m., tentative) Commission Examination (p.m., tentative)	August 23, 2012
Continuation of Hearing	August 24, 2012
Simultaneous Post-Hearing Briefs	September 12, 2012
Simultaneous Post-Hearing Reply Briefs	September 19, 2012
Target Date for Commission Decision	October 22, 2012

Dated this 1st day of August, 2012, at Salem, Oregon.




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Lisa D. Hardie  
Administrative Law Judge

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<sup>2</sup> Cross-examination statements should identify the witness to be examined, the subject matter of the proposed cross-examination, and the anticipated time needed for cross-examination.