

**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

PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
MEMORANDUM

On August 10, 2012, the Commission held a prehearing conference in this docket. Representatives appeared on behalf of Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural; the Commission Staff; NW Energy Coalition; Northwest Industrial Gas Users; the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon; and Portland General Electric Company.

**Commission Examination Cancelled**

I circulated an e-mail yesterday afternoon advising the parties that the Commissioners have decided to cancel the Commission Examination in this docket. The Commission would prefer to schedule oral argument instead, given the issues that remain in dispute. The Commissioners will schedule the oral argument sometime around October 11, 2012. The Administrative Hearings Division will contact the parties to find a workable date.

Although the Commission Examination is cancelled, one or more Commissioners may attend the hearing to observe cross-examination, and it is possible that Commissioners may have questions for the witnesses. I am scheduling the hearing for Thursday, August 23, 2012 only, with the assumption that a two-day hearing will no longer be necessary.<sup>1</sup>

**Schedule**

Parties have asked whether, with the cancellation of the Commission Examination, prehearing briefs are still necessary. The Commission is still interested in receiving prehearing briefs. The deadline for prehearing briefs, however, will be moved to Monday, August 20, 2012.

The remaining procedural schedule, updated to reflect the cancellation of the Commission Examination and changes adopted at the prehearing conference, is as follows:

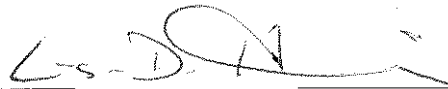
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<sup>1</sup> The Commission will notice the entire day as a public meeting to allow Commissioners to attend the hearing.

<b>EVENT</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Deadline for Hearing Exhibits	August 16, 2012
<i>Deadline for Informal Exchange of Cross-Examination Statements.</i> <sup>2</sup>	<i>August 17, 2012</i>
<i>Deadline for Prehearing Briefs and Cross-Examination Statements</i> <sup>3</sup>	<i>August 20, 2012</i>
<i>Hearing</i>	<i>August 23, 2012, 9:30 a.m.</i>
Simultaneous Post-Hearing Briefs	September 12, 2012
Simultaneous Post-Hearing Reply Briefs	September 19, 2012

The schedule for resolution of NW Natural's pending motion to strike was also discussed during the prehearing conference. NW Natural filed its reply on Monday, August 13, 2012. I will issue a ruling on the motion this week.

Dated this 15th day of August, 2012, at Salem, Oregon.



Lisa D. Hardie  
Administrative Law Judge

<sup>2</sup> The parties agreed to exchange cross-examination statements via email on Friday, August 17, 2012, with the understanding that cross-examination statements are not due at the Commission until Monday, August 20, 2012. Parties should use their best efforts to exchange accurate cross-examination statements on August 17, and should be over- rather than under-inclusive.

<sup>3</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.