

250 SW Taylor Street Portland, OR 97204 503-226-4211 nwnatural.com

August 21, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Public Utility Commission of Oregon Attn: PUC Filing Center 201 High Street SE, Suite 101 Post Office Box 1088 Salem, OR 97308-1088

Re: UG 486 – NW Natural's OPUC Advice No. 23-19 Annual Purchased Gas Cost and Technical Adjustments - Notice of Publication and Tear Sheets

Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural (NW Natural or the Company), files herewith as required by OAR 860-022-0017(4), a declaration attesting that notice has been given of the above referenced filing, dated July 31, 2023. Affidavits and declarations of publication, and tear sheets from the major newspapers¹ in the Company's Oregon service territory are attached hereto.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (503) 610-7074.

Respectfully,

/s/ Natasha Siores

Natasha Siores Senior Manager, Regulatory Compliance

Attachments

cc: Melissa Nottingham, OPUC Consumer Services

¹ *The Oregonian* (Portland); *Statesman Journal* (Salem); *The Register-Guard* (Eugene); and *The World* (Coos Bay).

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UG 486

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY dba NW Natural

DECLARATION OF ERICA LEE-PELLA

Annual Purchased Gas and Technical Rate Adjustments Filing

I, Erica Lee-Pella, declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Oregon:

- 1. My name is Erica Lee-Pella. I am employed by Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural (NW Natural or Company), as a Rates and Regulatory Specialist. My business address is 250 SW Taylor Street, Portland, Oregon, 97204.
- 2. I do hereby attest notice has been given that NW Natural has filed for a rate change in NW Natural's OPUC Advice Filing No. 23-19 / UG 486, dated July 31, 2023.
- 3. Attached to this declaration are the tear sheets of the notice as published by the four major newspapers in the Company's Oregon service territory, with accompanying Affidavits or Declaration of Publication from each said notice, titled "NW Natural Files New Rates in Oregon," being duly published in *The Oregonian* (4.92" column wide by 14" column tall, one-half vertical), *The Register-Guard* (4.91" column wide by 10" column tall), and the *Statesman Journal* (4.92" column wide by 10.7" column tall, modular size) on August 11, 2023, and in *The World* (4.93" column wide by 10.5" column tall, one-fourth page) on August 15, 2023.

I hereby declare that the above statements are true to the best of my knowledge and belief, and that I understand it is made for use as evidence before the Public Utility Commission of Oregon and is subject to penalty for perjury.

Signed this 21st day of August 2023 in Troutdale, Oregon.

/s/ Erica Lee-Pella Erica Lee-Pella Rates & Regulatory Specialist NW Natural 250 SW Taylor Street Portland, Oregon 97204-3038 Telephone: (503) 610-7330 Email: erica.lee-pella@nwnatural.com



The Oregonian LEGAL AFFIDAVIT

AD#: 0010716670

State of Oregon,) ss

County of Multnomah)

Kate O'Neill being duly sworn, deposes that he/she is principal clerk of Oregonian Media Group; that The Oregonian is a public newspaper published in the city of Portland, with general circulation in Oregon, and this notice is an accurate and true copy of this notice as printed in said newspaper, was printed and published in the regular edition and issue of said newspaper on the following date(s):

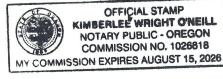
The Oregonian 08/11/2023

ate One

Principal Clerk of the Publisher

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 11th day of August 2023

Notary Public



NW NATURAL FILES NEW RATES IN OREGON

On July 31, NW Natural filed its initial request with the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (OPUC) to reflect gas purchases and other miscellaneous adjustments to rates for the upcoming year that begins November 1. NW Natural will update this filing in mid-September as part of the regulatory process; it is likely that rates will be higher or lower depending on changes in the market price of natural gas and other factors. These costs are updated in similar filings every year.

HOW MUCH WILL MY BILL CHANGE?

If the rate changes are approved as initially filed, residential rates will decrease by about \$7.26 a month for customers using an average of 56 therms per month. Small-commercial rates will decrease by about \$21.56. Large industrial firm rates will decrease by \$1,520.39, and large industrial intercurvible rates will increase by \$5,650.19. The rate

amounts for large industrial customers do not include pipeline demand charges.

WHY THE PRICE CHANGE?

NW Natural files a Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) and other rate adjustments to reflect changes in the expected cost of natural gas for the upcoming winter heating season and account for the differences between the estimated and actual cost of natural gas from the previous year.

If approved as filed, NW Natural's net revenues from Oregon customers will decrease by \$41,993,741 or 4.94%. The revenue decrease is made up of a reduction of \$45,152,890 for forecasted gas and demand costs and an increase of \$3,159,149 for annual adjustments.

While NW Natural is providing information about its proposal and its effect on customers, the calculations and statements are not binding on the OPUC.

HOW CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS FILING?

Copies of the filing are available for inspection at NW Natural's office and **nwnatural.com.** For more information about the filing, or notice of the time and place of any hearing, contact NW Natural or the OPUC as follows:

NW Natural

nwnatural.com 800-422-4012 Mailing address: 250 SW Taylor Street Portland, OR 97204

Public Utility Commission of Oregon

Oregon.gov/PUC 800-522-2404 Mailing address: PO Box 1088 Salem, Oregon 97308-1088



08/23

O10716670-01

DECLARATION OF PUBLICATION

In The Matter Of: NW Natural

Advertisement for - NW Natural This is to certify that the above advertising for NW Natural appeared in

Newspaper name Eugene Register-Guard

On (Dates) 8/11/2023 ,2023

Linda Knoebel

Signature

Please send e tear

Lane County Sheriff's Office urges caution near log in McKenzie River

Charles Gearing

Eugene Register-Guard USA TODAY NETWORK

A log is obstructing the river-right channel of the McKenzie River near McKenzie River Drive and Mill Creek Road, according to the Lane County Sheriff's Office.

The log is difficult to see from upstream, so boaters are being warned to use caution and stay to the left side of the channel.

Striking a log or other large objects while boating in swift water can present numerous hazards for boaters, including capsizing, puncturing or snagging equipment.

For more information on water obstructions and safety tips, visit the Oregon State Marine Board website.

Charles Gearing is a breaking news and public safety reporter for the Eugene Register-Guard. He may be reached at cgearing@gannett.com or (708)262-7626.



The Lane County Sheriff's Office is warning of a log hazard on the McKenzie River near McKenzie River Drive and Mill Creek Road that is difficult to see from upstream. LANE COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

Lawsuit

Continued from Page 1A

at most \$2.5 million according to Pettigrew, as reasons to drop the case.

The remaining plaintiffs blame the fire that killed one person and destroyed 723 structures, including 517 homes, on LEC for not cutting off power following extreme weather warnings on Sept. 7, 2020. They allege EWEB's lines, which were de-electrified, were knocked over by a tree in the windstorm, hit LEC's lines and re-energized, igniting the nearby vegetation.

Plaintiffs blame LEC for failing to shut off power to its lines, EWEB for placing its lines too close to LEC's and not inspecting them immediately after they were downed, and both for not properly maintaining equipment and not managing trees and vegetation around the lines. The utilities deny the plaintiffs' claims.

A 12-person, 6-week, jury trial is scheduled to begin May 7, 2024. The plaintiffs for the first trial are 96 insurers. If the insurers are successful, the court will hold 12 trials on damages for trials for the remaining residents, businesses and insurers which would be spread from Aug. 26, 2024 to October 7, 2025.



A timber cruiser marks trees for removal on Forest Service land in the Holiday Farm Fire burn area along Highway 126. CHRIS PIETSCH/THE REGISTER-GUARD

Alan Torres covers local government for the Regis- isterguard.com or on twitter @alanfryetorres ter-Guard. He can be reached by email at atorres@reg-

Pride

Continued from Page 1A

to direct traffic and assist participants and ensure a safe and enjoyable day for everyone.

EugPRIDE recommends attendees gather at the rally, then make their way to the celebration at Alton Baker Park in whatever way they can for those with mobility concerns, as some parts of the route may not be accessible.

EugPRIDE's Pride in the Park celebration will be held from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. in Alton Baker Park, 100 Day Island Road.

Throughout the park, there will be live entertainment, food and drinks, community partners, local vendors, and family activities. The festival will have two stages: the Main Stage and the Community Stage. The main stage, hosted by Daphne Storm and Diva Simone, events and performances include:

- Soromundi Lesbian Chorus
- Elite Dance Company
- Tinta Turner
- Femme Dagger, Cloud Outloud and
- Early Drag Show
- Eugene Gay Men's Chorus
- BIPOC Drag with Karess Ann
- Comedy Hour with Jen Jay and
- William "Bill" Sullivan Scholarship

- Community stage events and perfor-

- Amiia Nectar
- Maya Vagner
- Just Dance with Kasondra

Admission to the festival is free, but Eugene Pride is asking for donations toward its youth scholarship fund. The William "Bill" Sullivan Scholarship Fund provides tuition money to local queer students pursuing post-secondary education. EugPRIDE aims to raise \$10k annually for the fund.

The WOW Hall, 291 W. Eighth Ave., will host the EugPRIDE Afterparty at 8 p.m. with DJing and a drag show. Admission is \$12 at the door or \$10 in advance.

For more details about EugPRIDE, visit eugenepride.org/.

Miranda Cyr reports on education for ${\it The Register-Guard. You \, can \, contact \, her}$ at mcyr@registerguard.com or find her on Twitter @mirandabcyr

NW NATURAL FILES NEW RATES IN OREGON

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- Slaughter
- Friends
- Presentation
 - Joy Regime
 - Glamazons
 - Club Neveau
- Slutashia

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DJ Fallon Love

Club Neveau

- Jadesong
- Lea Jones
- Sketchy the Clown
- Lisa Forkish
- Poetry with Jalen Thompsen
- Fanny Rugburn's Magic Queendom
- Hannah Sofia
- Verdant

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Newspaper name Salem Statesman Journal

On (Dates) _____August 11, 2023

_Jennifer Gannaway_____

Signature

Please send e tear

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Norwegians brace for more flooding, landslides

Jan M. Olsen ASSOCIATED PRESS

COPENHAGEN, Denmark - Rescuers on Thursday evacuated inundated areas of southeastern Norway, and residents braced for more landslides and flooding as rivers swollen by days of heavy rain carried large amounts of water through the mountainous landscape.

People living near waterways were moved to safety, taking their belongings from their homes and moving their cars to higher ground. Helicopters were on standby to help move people out of remote areas while volunteers assisted in towns like Hønefossen.

The Begna river, which runs through the town, had gone over its banks Thursday, and because of fear of landslides, the municipality announced an evacuation. Some 200 people were taken in buses to a nearby hotel, aided by people from the Red Cross and the civil defense.

"Darn, this is bad. I don't think evervone understands how much water we are talking about. The peak is far from being reached. More is to come when the locks are opened," Tone Velo, a local resident, wrote on Facebook.

Authorities did not provide a nationwide count of evacuees, but Norwegian broadcaster NRK said it was up to at least 4 000

The initial damage estimate was at nearly \$100 million, according to the Norwegian Natural Perils Pool, an insurance regulator.

"We expect far more damage reports in the future," spokeswoman Stine Neverdal said, stressing the figures were preliminary.

Although the rain has mostly stopped, authorities say the flooding is expected to continue until at least Friday. Major roads and train lines were likely to be closed for days.

The catastrophic flooding, among the worst in the Scandinavian country in recent years, was triggered by days of heavy summer rain.

On Wednesday, a dam partially burst after Norway's largest river spilled over and broke through the structure. Downstream communities had been evacuated, and no casualties were reported. Police said the situation at the dam was being continuously assessed but as of Thursday it was no

08/23



The Storelva River flows through **Hoenefoss Center in Norway** Wednesday. Days of heavy rain have brought catastrophic flooding to the Scandinavian country. ANNIKA BYRDE/NTB SCANPIX VIA AP

longer deemed critical.

There had been fears that a train bridge over the Lagen River would collapse because of the large volume of water. All traffic across the bridge was halted Monday. Railway officials said Thursday that it was now stable.

For the first time in 35 years, the popular Peer Gynt open-air festival will end two days early, on Friday, because of the flooding, according to its chief executive, May Brit Støve. The nineday event features dance, concerts, art exhibitions and more and is held in a picturesque valley near Lillehammer, which hosted the 1994 Winter Olympics.

Storm Hans battered northern Europe starting Monday, causing damage and disruptions in Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia. Ferries were canceled, flights were delayed, roads and streets were flooded, people were injured by falling branches, and thousands remained without electricity. Southeastern Norway was particularly badly affected.

Norway's acting police chief, Håkon Skulstad, said that "the situation is serious and constantly developing."

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DECLARATION OF PUBLICATION

In The Matter Of: NW Natural

Advertisement for - NW Natural This is to certify that the above advertising for NW Natural appeared in

World Newspaper name 0 15 ,2023 On (Dates) **C**1 Signature b

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OFFICIAL STAMP Kari Lynn Sholter NOTARY PUBLIC - OREGON COMMISSION NO. 1009729 ION EXPIRES March 14, 2025 MY COMMISSION EXPIRES

<u>Warmer ocean temperatures increase risk</u> of salmon bycatch in Pacific hake fishery

BY MICHELLE KLAMPE Guest Article

Rates of Chinook salmon bycatch in the Pacific hake fishery rise during years when ocean temperatures are warmer, a signal that climate change and increased frequency of marine heatwaves could lead to higher bycatch rates, new research indicates.

During years when sea surface temperatures were higher, including during a marine heatwave, Chinook salmon were more likely to overlap with the Pacific hake and raise the risk of bycatch as they sought refuge from higher temperatures.

The findings, based on 20 years of bycatch data and ocean temperature records, provide new insight into the ecological mechanisms that underlie bycatch, which is the incidental capture of a non-targeted species, said the study's lead author, Megan Sabal.

"The impact of ocean warming on bycatch has potential cultural, economic and ecological consequences, as the hake and salmon fisheries are each worth millions of dollars and salmon are critical to both Indigenous tribes' cultural heritage and healthy ecosystems," said Sabal, who worked on the project as a postdoctoral scholar at Oregon State University.

Pacific hake, also known as Pacific whiting, is the largest commercial fishery by tonnage on the U.S. West Coast. The rate is low but bycatch remains a concern for the Chinook salmon population, said Michael Banks, a marine fisheries genomics, conservation and behavior professor at Oregon State University and a coauthor of the study.

"The hake fishing industry is very sensitive to the impacts of

bycatch on salmon and has been diligent in reducing it, but changing climate conditions might become an increasing issue," he said.

The research was just published in the journal Fish and Fisheries.

Pacific hake school in midwater depths off the West Coast from southern Baja California to the Gulf of Alaska. Hake is commonly used in surimi, a type of minced fish used to make imitation crab.

Most hake fishing occurs at depths of 200 to 300 meters and Chinook salmon typically occupy more shallow depths. If changing water temperature affects salmon distribution, that could increase salmon bycatch, the researchers noted.

"Developing a mechanistic understanding of how environmental conditions might impact bycatch can help us prepare for the



Warmer temperatures are leading to an increase of salmon bycatch, a research study showed.

Contributed photo

NW NATURAL FILES

future and think about how to adapt current strategies to keep up with a changing world," said co-author Kate Richerson of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Northwest Fisheries Science Center Newport Research Station.

To better understand the impacts of changing ocean conditions, the researchers tapped into 20 years of data

collected through NOAA's At-Sea Hake Observer Program. Observers are placed aboard hake catcherprocessor vessels and motherships that receive catch to process and record information about fishing depth and location, species composition and more.

Sabal and her coauthors modeled observer data and genetic stock identification to

show salmon moving lower into the water column during higher temperatures.

"These behavioral changes can provide important information for researchers and can also inform creative conservation solutions," Sabal said.

The researchers also found that limiting night fishing, a common mitigation strategy

Please see SALMON Page A13

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