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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**  
**OF OREGON**

DR 23

In the Matter of the Petition of Northwest Natural )  
Gas Company for a Declaratory Ruling Pursuant )  
to ORS 756.450 Regarding Whether Joint Bypass ) ORDER  
to Two or More Industrial Customers Violates )  
ORS 758.400 *et seq.* )

**DISPOSITION: RECONSIDERATION GRANTED**

On June 9, 2000, the Commission issued Order No. 00-306 in this docket concluding that an assumed set of facts presented by Northwest Natural Gas Company (NNG) does not constitute a violation of ORS 758.450(2). On August 7, 2000, NNG filed an Application for Reconsideration and a request for oral argument before the Commission. PUC Staff filed a response supporting reconsideration but opposing the request for oral argument. Oremet-Wah Chang and Northwest Industrial Gas Users filed a response opposing the application.

**Discussion**

NNG alleges many flaws in our order. Given the importance of the issues in this case, we conclude that it is appropriate to grant reconsideration to allow NNG an opportunity to more fully delineate its positions and to allow the other participants to respond. We direct our Administrative Hearings Division to develop a procedure to explore these matters.

We will not, however, grant NNG's request for oral argument at this time. The issues involved in this case are legal issues which we feel can best be developed through written submissions. We will, however, review our decision on this matter if it appears that oral argument might help us in deciding the case.

**ORDER**

IT IS ORDERED that the application for reconsideration of Order No. 00-306 by Northwest Natural Gas Company is granted. NNG's request for oral argument is denied.

Made, entered, and effective \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Ron Eachus**  
Chairman

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**Roger Hamilton**  
Commissioner

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**Joan H. Smith**  
Commissioner

A party may request rehearing or reconsideration of this order pursuant to ORS 756.561. A request for rehearing or reconsideration must be filed with the Commission within 60 days of the date of service of this order. The request must comply with the requirements in OAR 860-014-0095. A copy of any such request must also be served on each party to the proceeding as provided by OAR 860-013-0070(2). A party may appeal this order to a court pursuant to applicable law.