

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UM 1720

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS  
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL,Investigation into Long-Term Hedging  
Policy.

MODIFIED PROTECTIVE ORDER

DISPOSITION: MOTION FOR MODIFIED PROTECTIVE  
ORDER GRANTED

On February 12, 2016, Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural, filed a motion for a modified protective order. The modified protective order encompasses the terms of the general protective order, but contains additional restrictions for information designated as highly protected information. NW Natural states that all parties to this proceeding support the modified protective order.


NW Natural's motion includes the information required by OAR 860-001-0080(3)(a)(A)-(E) for a modified protective order. In sum, NW Natural states that the modified protective order is needed to protect "trade secret" information that falls within the scope of ORCP 36(C)(7). NW Natural explains that, throughout the docket, the local distribution companies (LDCs) will be disclosing extremely sensitive business information related to their gas purchasing policies and practices. NW Natural states that parties may have a business interest in the LDCs' gas purchasing and hedging strategies. Thus, NW Natural requests that information designated as highly protected have two additional protections that go beyond the general protective order. First, highly protected information will only be distributed to Staff, CUB, and the attorneys for the other parties. Second, to gain access to highly protected information, a person must certify that they have a legitimate and non-competitive need for the information, and not simply a general interest in the information. The highly protected information will also be printed on green paper.

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For good cause shown, the motion is granted. The modified protective order, attached as Appendix A-D is adopted.

Dated this 18 day of February, 2016, at Salem, Oregon.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sarah Rowe  
Administrative Law Judge

A party may appeal this ruling to the Commission under OAR 860-001-0110.

**MODIFIED PROTECTIVE ORDER**  
DOCKET NO. UM 1720

**Scope of this Order:**

1. This order governs the acquisition and use of “Protected Information” and “Highly Protected Information” produced or used by any party to these proceedings.

**Designation of Protected Information and “Highly Protected Information”:**

2. Any party may designate as Protected Information any information the party reasonably determines:

- (a) Falls within the scope of ORCP 36(C)(7) (a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information); and
- (b) Is not publically available.

3. Any party may designate as Highly Protected Information any information that the party reasonably determines:

- (a) Satisfies paragraph 2; and
- (b) Is not adequately protected by the general protective order.

4. To designate information as Protected Information, a party must place the following legend on the material:

PROTECTED INFORMATION SUBJECT TO  
GENERAL PROTECTIVE ORDER

The party should make reasonable efforts to designate as Protected Information only the portions of the information covered by ORCP 36(C)(7).

5. To designate information as Highly Protected Information, a party must place the following legend on the material:

HIGHLY PROTECTED INFORMATION  
SUBJECT TO MODIFIED PROTECTIVE ORDER

The party should make reasonable efforts to designate Highly Protected Information only the portions of the information that satisfies paragraph 3 of this Modified Protective Order.

6. Each page of a document containing Protected Information filed with the Commission and served on Qualified Persons under this order must be printed on yellow paper and placed in a sealed envelope or other appropriate container. *Only the portions of a document that fall within ORCP 36(C)(7) may be placed in the envelope/container.* The envelope/container must bear the legend:

THIS ENVELOPE IS SEALED UNDER ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
AND CONTAINS PROTECTED INFORMATION. THE  
INFORMATION MAY BE SHOWN ONLY TO QUALIFIED  
PERSONS AS DEFINED IN THE ORDER.

7. Protected Information disclosed by a designating party to a Qualified Person through informal discovery or by means of the Commission's Huddle website will be marked "Protected Information" and uploaded to a file folder designated "protected" in Huddle, if applicable.

8. Each page of a document containing Highly Protected Information filed with the Commission and served on persons qualified to access Highly Protected Information under this order must be printed on green paper and placed in a sealed envelope or other appropriate container. *Only the portions of a document that fall within ORCP 36(C)(7) may be placed in the envelope/container.* The envelope/container must bear the legend:

THIS ENVELOPE IS SEALED UNDER ORDER NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
AND CONTAINS HIGHLY PROTECTED INFORMATION. THE  
INFORMATION MAY BE SHOWN ONLY TO PERSONS  
QUALIFIED TO ACCESS HIGHLY PROTECTED INFORMATION  
AS DEFINED IN THE ORDER.

9. Highly Protected Information disclosed by a designating party to a person qualified to access Highly Protected information through informal discovery or by means of the Commission's Huddle website will be marked "Highly Protected Information" and uploaded to a file folder designated "highly protected" in Huddle, if applicable.

10. A party may designate as Protected Information or Highly Protected Information any information previously provided by giving written notice to the Commission and other parties. Parties in possession of newly designated Protected Information or Highly Protected Information must make reasonable efforts to ensure that all copies of the material containing the information bear the above legend if requested by the designating party.

11. A designating party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that information designated as Protected Information or Highly Protected Information continues to warrant protection under this order. If designated information becomes publically available or no longer falls within the scope of ORCP 36(C)(7), the designating party

should make reasonable efforts to remove the protected designation and provide written notice to the Commission and other parties.

**Challenge to Designation of Information as Protected or Highly Protected:**

12. A party may informally challenge any designation of Protected Information or Highly Protected Information by notifying the designating party. Once notified, the designating party bears the burden of showing that the challenged information is covered by ORCP 36(C)(7). If a party challenges the "Highly Protected Information" designation, the designating party bears the burden of showing that the "Highly Protected Information" designation is necessary. Any party may request that the ALJ hold a conference to help resolve disputes about proper designation.

13. If the dispute cannot be resolved informally, the challenging party may file a written objection with the ALJ. The objection need only identify the information in dispute and certify that reasonable efforts to achieve informal resolution have failed.

14. Within five business days of service of the objection, the designating party must either remove the challenged protected designation or file a written response. A written response must identify the factual and legal basis of how the challenged information is protected under the Oregon Public Records Act, ORS 192.410 *et seq*, or the Uniform Trade Secrets Act, ORS 646.461(4). Broad allegations unsubstantiated by specific facts are not sufficient. If the designating party does not timely respond to the objection, the Commission will remove the protected designation from the challenged information.

15. The challenging party may file a written reply to any response within five business days of service of an objection. The designating party may file a sur-reply within three business days of service of a response. The ALJ will make all reasonable efforts to resolve the matter within 10 business days of service of the last filing.

**Access to Protected Information and Highly Protected Information:**

16. Only Qualified Persons may access Protected Information designated by another party under this Modified Protective Order. Persons automatically bound by this protective order and qualified to access Protected Information are:

- a. Commission employees; and
- b. Assistant Attorneys General assigned to represent the Commission.

17. Persons qualified upon a party signing the Consent to be Bound section of Appendix B are:

- a. Counsel for the party;

- b. Any person employed directly by counsel of record; and
- c. An employee of the Regulatory Division at the Citizens' Utility Board of Oregon.

A party must identify all these persons in section 2 of Appendix B when consenting to be bound by the order, and must update this list throughout the proceeding to ensure it accurately identifies Qualified Persons.

18. A party bound by the protective order may seek to qualify other persons to access Protected Information by having those persons complete and sign Appendix C, and submitting that information to the Commission and all parties. Within five business days of receiving a copy of Appendix C, the designating party must either provide the requested access to Protected Information or file an objection under paragraph 22.

19. Only Qualified Persons, as defined in paragraph 16, are automatically bound by this Modified Protective Order and qualified to access Highly Protected Information.

20. Persons qualified to access Highly Protected Information upon signing the Signatory Page for Highly Protected Information, Appendix D, are:

- a. An employee or counsel of the Regulatory Division at the Citizens' Utility Board; and
- b. Counsel for a party.

**Objection to Access to Protected Information:**

21. All Qualified Persons have access to Protected Information unless the designating party objects as provided in this paragraph. All persons qualified to have access to Highly Protected Information will have access to Highly Protected Information unless the designating party objects as provided in this paragraph. As soon as the designating party becomes aware of reasons to restrict access to a Qualified Person, the designating party must provide the Qualified Person and his or her counsel notice stating the basis for the objection. The parties must promptly confer and attempt to resolve the dispute on an informal basis.

22. If the parties are unable to resolve the matter informally, the designating party must file a written objection with the ALJ. The requesting party may file a response to the motion within 5 business days of service of an objection. The ALJ will make all reasonable efforts to resolve the matter within 10 business days of the last filing. Pending the ALJ's decision, the specific Protected Information or Highly Protected Information may not be disclosed to the person subject to the objection.

**Use of Protected Information:**

23. All Qualified Persons must take reasonable precautions to keep Protected Information and, if applicable, Highly Protected Information, secure. Qualified Persons may reproduce Protected Information or Highly Protected Information only to the extent necessary to participate in these proceedings. A Qualified Person may discuss Protected Information or Highly Protected Information obtained under this order only with other Qualified Persons who have obtained the same information.

24. Without the written permission of the designating party, any person given access to Protected Information or Highly Protected Information under this order may not disclose Protected Information for any purpose other than participating in these proceedings.

25. Nothing in this protective order precludes any party from independently seeking through discovery in any other administrative or judicial proceeding information or materials produced in this proceeding under this protective order.

26. Counsel of record may retain memoranda, pleadings, testimony, discovery, or other documents containing Protected Information and Highly Protected Information to the extent reasonably necessary to maintain a file of these proceedings or to comply with requirements imposed by another governmental agency or court order. Any other person retaining Protected Information must destroy or return it to the designating party within 90 days after final resolution of these proceedings unless the designating party consents in writing to retention of the Protected Information. This paragraph does not apply to the Commission or its Staff.

**Duration of Protection:**

27. The Commission will preserve the designation of information as Protected Information or Highly Protected Information for a period of five years from the date of the final order in these proceedings, unless extended by the Commission at the request of the designating party. The Commission will notify the designating party at least two weeks prior to the release of Protected Information or Highly Protected Information.

**CONSENT TO BE BOUND**  
DOCKET NO. UM 1720

**I. Consent to be Bound:**

This modified protective order governs the use of Protected Information and Highly Protected Information in this proceeding.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Party) agrees to be bound by the terms of the modified protective order and certifies that it has an interest in these proceedings that is not adequately represented by other parties to the proceedings.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Persons Qualified under Paragraph 17:**

\_\_\_\_\_ (Party) identifies the following person(s) qualified under paragraph 17.

PRINTED NAME	DATE



**QUALIFICATION OF OTHER PERSONS**  
DOCKET NO. UM 1720

**III. Persons Seeking Qualification under Paragraph 18:**

I have read the modified protective order, agree to be bound by the terms of the order, and provide the following information.

<b>Signature:</b>		<b>Date:</b>
<b>Printed Name:</b>		
<b>Physical Address:</b>		
<b>Email Address:</b>		
<b>Employer:</b>		
<b>Associated Party:</b>		
<b>Job Title:</b>		
<b>If Not employee of party, description of practice and clients:</b>		

**Signatory Page for Highly Protected Information**  
DOCKET NO. UM 1720

I. Consent to be Bound

This Modified Protective Order governs the use of "Protected Information" and "Highly Confidential Information" in this proceeding.

\_\_\_\_\_ (Party) agrees to be bound by its terms of this Modified Protective Order.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

II. Persons Qualified pursuant to Paragraph 20: Highly Protected Information:

I have read the Modified Protective Order and agree to be bound by the terms of the order.

I certify that:

I understand that ORS 756.990(2) allows the Commission to impose monetary sanctions if a party subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission violates an order of the Commission.

The party I am associated with has a legitimate and non-competitive need for the Highly Confidential Information for this proceeding and not simply a general interest in the information.

By: Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

By: Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

By: Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_