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August 27, 2024

VIA E-MAIL TO

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Filing Center
201 High Street SE, Suite 100
Salem, Oregon 97301-3398

Re: Docket No. UG 490 – In the Matter of Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural, Request for a General Rate Revision.

Attention Filing Center:

Attached for filing in the above-referenced docket, please find Northwest Natural Gas Company's Response to Alliance of Western Energy Consumers' Motion to File Brief One Day Out of Time.

Please contact this office with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lauren Richards
Legal Assistant
McDowell Rackner Gibson PC

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

OF OREGON

UG 490

In the Matter of

NW NATURAL GAS COMPANY D/B/A NW
NATURAL

Request for a General Rate Revision

**NW NATURAL'S RESPONSE TO
ALLIANCE OF WESTERN ENERGY
CONSUMERS' MOTION TO FILE BRIEF
ONE DAY OUT OF TIME**

1 Pursuant to OAR 860-001-0420(4), Northwest Natural Gas Company dba NW Natural
2 ("NW Natural" or the "Company") hereby submits to the Public Utility Commission of Oregon
3 ("Commission") its Response to the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers' ("AWEC") Motion to
4 File Brief One Day Out of Time. As indicated in AWEC's motion, NW Natural does not object to
5 AWEC's requested extension but also requests a one-day extension for filing the Company's
6 closing brief, which is currently due on September 3, 2024. The Coalition of Communities of
7 Color, Climate Solutions, Verde, Columbia Riverkeeper, Oregon Environmental Council,
8 Community Energy Project, and Sierra Club (collectively, "the Coalition") filed a response to
9 AWEC's motion opposing NW Natural's requested one-day extension and asserting that NW
10 Natural did not justify the request and that an extension will make it difficult for the Coalition to
11 timely prepare for oral argument.

12 NW Natural requests a one-day extension because the current schedule provided the
13 Company with just eight days (five business days, given the upcoming holiday weekend) to review
14 parties' closing briefs and respond in its own closing brief. If AWEC's extension request were
15 granted and the Company's were not, the time for responding to AWEC's closing brief would be
16 shortened to four business days. Granting the Company a one-day extension would not prejudice
17 any party as it would shorten the time between NW Natural's closing brief and the oral argument
18 from nine days to eight days—which is still a significant amount of time. Notably, in the
19 Company's last general rate case (in which the Coalition participated), closing briefs were due

1 just three days before the oral argument.¹ Other currently pending general rate cases have one
2 week between the final briefs and oral argument.² The Coalition would have ample time to
3 prepare for oral argument if NW Natural were granted a one-day extension, and the Company
4 respectfully requests that Administrative Law Judge Spruce extend the deadlines for both
5 AWEC's and the Company's closing briefs by one day.

6 Respectfully submitted this 27th day of August, 2024.



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¹ See Docket UG 435.

² See Dockets UE 433 and UE 435.