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April 7, 2011

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Public Utility Commission of Oregon
550 Capitol Street, NE, Suite 215
Post Office Box 2148
Salem, Oregon 97308-2148

Attn: Filing Center

Re: **LC 51** – Motion to Suspend Schedule

Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural (“NW Natural” or the “Company”) herein files the attached Motion to Suspend Schedule in LC 51, NW Natural’s 2011 Integrated Resource Plan.

Attached is a Certificate of Service demonstrating that this filing was served to parties on the LC 51 service list.

If you have any questions please contact me at (503) 721-2476 or Jennifer Gross at (503) 226-4211, extension 3590.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark R. Thompson

Mark R. Thompson

enclosure

cc: LC 51 Service List

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSON
OF OREGON**

LC 51

In the Matter of
Northwest Natural Gas Company's,
dba NW Natural,
Integrated Resource Plan (IRP)

MOTION TO SUSPEND
SCHEDULE

MOTION

As described more fully below, Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural ("NW Natural" or "Company") respectfully requests that the current schedule in LC 51 be temporarily suspended, to allow the Company time to complete modifications to its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) in light of certain changed circumstances. The Company believes that this approach would lead to the most efficient review of NW Natural's 2011 IRP, and the best use of the parties' and Commission's time. NW Natural understands that no party will oppose this motion.

BACKGROUND

On January 12, 2011, NW Natural filed its 2011 IRP with the Commission. On February 24, 2011, a pre-hearing conference was held, in which the parties agreed to a procedural schedule to govern the filing of parties' comments and the presentation of the IRP to the Commission. On March 21, 2011, and again on March 29, 2011, the schedule was modified to accommodate agreements that were reached by the parties on an appropriate schedule.

Separate from the concerns that led to the schedule changes adopted by the Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding to date, certain parties (including Commission Staff) noted that recent circumstances may require that NW Natural update the assumptions it modeled in its 2011 IRP. Specifically, Palomar Gas Transmission LCC made a filing on March 23, 2011, in which it provided notice to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that it was

20 withdrawing its application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Palomar
21 Gas Transmission Project, referred to as Palomar East in the 2011 IRP.

22 Over the last several days, the Company has been seeking to determine what changes, if
23 any, need to be made to its IRP to ensure that the IRP contains reasonable assumptions
24 regarding available future capacity and gas supply, including certain gas supplies the Company
25 is currently seeking Commission approval to acquire¹. At this time, the Company is not able to
26 present precisely what changes it believes need to be made to its IRP, but it has determined
27 that it will make certain modifications.

28 The Company has communicated with the parties to this docket in an effort to
29 determine the appropriate path forward in light of the fact that the Company will be modifying
30 its IRP. Through those discussions, the parties and the Company have determined that it would
31 make sense to suspend the current schedule, while the Company works with the parties to
32 determine appropriate modifications to its IRP. This approach is intended to prevent the
33 Commissioners and parties from expending resources in commenting on and reviewing NW
34 Natural's IRP without the benefit of reviewing the modifications that will be made.

35 NW Natural believes that by the end of April it will be able to have identified, and will
36 have begun the necessary changes to its models and assumptions so that it can present the
37 Commission with an updated 2011 IRP for review in a timely manner. NW Natural, therefore,
38 proposes to report back to the Administrative Law Judge by April 30th on its proposal for a
39 revised schedule to govern this proceeding. NW Natural will work with parties prior to that
40 time with the intent of providing a jointly-developed schedule for the consideration.

41 **RELIEF REQUESTED**

42 For all of the reasons described above, NW Natural respectfully requests an order
43 suspending the current schedule, and directing that NW Natural present a modified proposed
44 schedule before April 30th.

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¹ See Docket No. UM 1520.

48 DATED this 7th day of April 2011.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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/s/ Mark R. Thompson

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Mark R. Thompson

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OSB No. 044334

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 7th day of April 2011, I served the foregoing MOTION TO SUSPEND THE SCHEDULE in Docket LC 51 upon each party listed below by U.S. mail, postage prepaid, or where paper service is waived, by electronic mail.

LC 51

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