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April 29, 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** – Report on Status and Motion Regarding Schedule

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

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mark R. Thompson

Mark R. Thompson

enclosure

cc: LC 51 Service List

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

LC 51

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL,

2011 Integrated Resource Plan

REPORT ON STATUS AND
MOTION REGARDING SCHEDULE

BACKGROUND

On April 7, 2011, NW Natural filed a motion to suspend the schedule in this proceeding because it determined that it would likely modify its Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) in light of certain changed circumstances and concerns expressed by the parties, and because it believed it would be inefficient for the parties to comment on NW Natural's filed IRP before the modifications were made.

On April 11th, the Administrative Law Judge granted the motion, and ruled that the Company "shall file a written report no later than April 30, 2011 advising the Commission as to the status of its efforts to update the 2011 IRP and a proposed schedule for the remainder of this proceeding." Ruling, p. 2. NW Natural files this report and motion in accordance with the Administrative Law Judge's April 11th Ruling.

REPORT

Since it filed its motion to suspend the schedule in this proceeding, staff at NW Natural have been diligently reviewing the filed IRP and seeking to determine the best approach to modifying it. This has included an internal review to determine whether the

modeling included within the IRP should be changed, whether additional models should be created, and the extent of those efforts. It has also included an effort to determine the scope of changes to the language of the IRP and the final document.

NW Natural is not prepared to specifically set forth in this filing the changes it will make to the IRP, but it has determined that it will conduct additional modeling, change the models that support its current IRP, and revise language in various parts of the IRP. NW Natural staff has also done an analysis to determine the time that will be required to make these modifications, and has concluded that the modifications will likely not be able to be completed until late in August.

Because the parties to this docket and the Commission Staff have an interest in the changes that NW Natural will make to its IRP, NW Natural plans to hold a workshop of the Technical Working Group that has been involved with NW Natural's IRP within the next month. At this workshop, NW Natural will present and answer questions about its proposed modifications to the IRP.

On April 28th, the undersigned forwarded a proposal to all of the parties listed on the service list to set September 1, 2011 as the date by which NW Natural will file its revised IRP, and to hold a workshop of the Technical Working Group in May. NW Natural understands that Northwest Industrial Gas Users does not object to this motion, but that they reserve the right to comment on and participate in the determination of the scope of the changes that should be made to the IRP. The undersigned was unable to make contact with a representative of the Citizens' Utility Board, or Commission Staff before making this report.

MOTION

Because NW Natural will be making modifications to its filed IRP, and because it continues to believe it would not be an efficient use of the parties', Staff's, or the Company's time to have the parties comment on an IRP that will be subject to modification, NW Natural respectfully requests that the schedule in this proceeding be modified to set September 1, 2011 as the date by which NW Natural will file its revised IRP.

NW Natural will work with the parties and members of the Technical Working Group to establish a time and place for a workshop to discuss the changes NW Natural will make to its IRP, and will seek to set that workshop during May if possible.

Because NW Natural has not had a chance to obtain input from the parties about a procedural schedule for comments, response comments, etc., NW Natural requests additional time to work with the parties to determine a schedule for the dates beyond September 1 on which comments will be filed, and other procedural steps will be performed. NW Natural proposes that such a schedule be proposed at a later date to the Administrative Law Judge.

RELIEF REQUESTED

For all of the reasons described above, NW Natural respectfully requests an order setting September 1, 2011 as the date by which NW Natural will file a revised IRP, and directing that NW Natural work with the parties and propose at a later date a schedule for the remainder of the procedural schedule that will follow after September 1, 2011.

DATED this 29th day of April 2011.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Mark R. Thompson

Mark R. Thompson

OSB No. 044334

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 29th day of April 2011, I served the foregoing REPORT ON STATUS AND MOTION REGARDING 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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