

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: May 27, 2014

REGULAR _____ CONSENT X EFFECTIVE DATE _____ Upon Commission Approval _____

DATE: May 19, 2014

TO: Public Utility Commission

FROM: *LG*
Lisa Gorsuch

THROUGH: *JE* Jason Eisdorfer, *MEJ* Maury Galbraith, and *AA* Aster Adams

SUBJECT: NORTHWEST NATURAL: (Docket No. LC 60) Requests waiver of Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) 860-027-0400(3), to allow the Company a four-month filing extension for its upcoming Integrated Resource Plan.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that Northwest Natural's (NWN or Company) request for waiver of OAR 860-027-0400(3), be approved, allowing extension of the filing date for its upcoming Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) from May 9, 2014, to August 29, 2014.

DISCUSSION:

On April 22, 2014, NWN filed for a waiver of OAR 860-027-0400(3) in order to postpone the filing date of its upcoming IRP from May 9, 2014, to August 29, 2014, pursuant to OAR 860-027-0000(2). The Company makes this request to allow additional time to perform in-depth analysis of potential interstate pipeline alternatives.

NWN held its first technical advisory group meeting with stakeholders in August 2013. Since that time, five more meetings have been held to discuss the analysis, and the preparation of the Company's 2014 IRP, LC 60. The parties in this docket, which consist of Staff, Citizens' Utility Board, Northwest Industrial Gas Users, and Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission, have requested additional analysis related to a Cross-Cascades pipeline, as well as additional analysis of alternative options to this pipeline.

NWN emailed parties on April 18, 2014, proposing its request for a four-month filing extension, and its scope of the additional analysis that will be performed. Staff supports this extension to allow NWN to perform the additional analysis requested by parties for inclusion in LC 60. No parties are opposed to the waiver request.

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PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:

NWN's request for waiver of OAR 860-027-0400(3), allowing the Company to extend the filing date for its upcoming Integrated Resource Plan from May 9, 2014, to August 29, 2014, be approved.

NWN LC 60