

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
OF OREGON**

UG 435

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS
COMPANY, dba NW Natural,

Request for a General Rate Revision
(UE 435),

Advice 20-19, Schedule 198 Renewable
Natural Gas Recovery Mechanism
(ADV 1215) (UG 411).

RULING

**DISPOSITION: MOTION TO ADMIT SECOND PARTIAL STIPULATION AND
REQUEST FOR A WAIVER OF OAR 860-001-350(7) GRANTED**

On June 29, 2022, Northwest Natural Gas Company, dba NW Natural, filed a second partial stipulation resolving several issues in the proceeding, including decoupling, residential customer deposits, the Oregon Low Income Energy Efficiency Program, and COVID-19 deferral costs, on behalf of the following parties to the docket: NW Natural; the Staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon; the Oregon Citizens' Utility Board; the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers; and the Coalition of Communities of Color, Climate Solutions, Verde, Columbia Riverkeeper, Oregon Environmental Council, Community Energy Project, and Sierra Club (collectively the Stipulating Parties). The Small Business Utility Advocates does not join this stipulation. On the same day, the Stipulating Parties also filed a motion to admit the second partial stipulation into the evidentiary record, as well as a motion seeking the waiver of OAR 860-001-0350(7)(a), which requires that a written stipulation memorializing a settlement be accompanied by joint testimony or a brief supporting the settlement. The Stipulating Parties state that they filed the second partial stipulation to immediately notify the Commission and interested persons about the resolution of these issues. The Stipulating Parties state that they intend to file the testimony supporting the second partial stipulation on or around Thursday, July 7, 2022.

The request to waive the requirement in OAR 860-001-350(7)(a) that a stipulation be filed with supporting testimony is waived. Additionally, the request to admit the second

partial stipulation into the evidentiary record is granted. If the supporting testimony is not filed by July 7, 2022, the Stipulating Parties shall file a status report on that date.

I request that the parties confer and jointly propose amendments or additions to the procedural schedule to provide the opportunity for objections to this stipulation, replies to any objection, and hearing if requested. Please file a jointly proposed schedule no later than 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2022. In the event that parties are unable to reach agreement, separate schedules may be filed for consideration no later than 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 6, 2022.

Finally, because the second partial stipulation addresses issues related to the COVID-19 deferral costs, NW Natural shall file notice of the second partial stipulation in the COVID-19 deferral docket, UM 2068.

Dated this 30th day of June, 2022, at Salem, Oregon.



Sarah Spruce
Administrative Law Judge