

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
OF OREGON**

UG 344  
Phase II

In the Matter of

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS  
COMPANY, dba NW NATURAL,

Request for a General Rate Revision.

PREHEARING CONFERENCE  
MEMORANDUM

DISPOSITION: PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE ADOPTED

On November 9, 2018, the Public Utility Commission of Oregon held a telephone prehearing conference for Phase II in this docket. The following appearances were noted for the record: Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural), CUB, Commission Staff, and the Alliance of Western Energy Consumers' (AWEC) formerly known as the Industrial Customers of Northwest Utilities. At the conference, it was noted, without objection, that CUB and Staff had filed their withdrawals to the second stipulation.

**Procedural Schedule**

In Order No. 18-419, the parties were directed to have further proceedings be concluded no later than February 1, 2019, to address the application of TCJA 10-month interim benefits to rates and the underfunded pension liability. In light of the fact that the parties did not waive their respective rights to cross-examine witnesses at hearing, and upon receipt of clarifying information by the administrative law judge, the following schedule is hereby adopted:

NW Natural Opening Testimony	November 21, 2018
Staff and Intervenor Rebuttal Testimony	December 12, 2018
NW Natural Reply Testimony	January 4, 2019
Staff and Intervenor Cross-Testimony	January 4, 2019
Simultaneous Opening Briefs	January 18, 2019
Simultaneous Final Briefs	January 31, 2019
Hearings (subject to Commissioner availability)	TBD

With respect to the conduct of discovery, the parties agreed upon a five business day turnaround time on data requests beginning on January 4, 2019, after the filing of NW Natural's reply testimony.

Dated this 13th day of November, 2018, at Salem, Oregon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allan J. Arlow", written over a horizontal line.

Allan J. Arlow  
Administrative Law Judge

Attachment: Notice of Contested Case Rights and Procedures

## NOTICE OF CONTESTED CASE RIGHTS AND PROCEDURES

Oregon law requires state agencies to provide parties written notice of contested case rights and procedures. Under ORS 183.413, you are entitled to be informed of the following:

**Hearing:** The time and place of any hearing held in these proceedings will be noticed separately. The Commission will hold the hearing under its general authority set forth in ORS 756.040 and use procedures set forth in ORS 756.518 through 756.610 and OAR Chapter 860, Division 001. Copies of these statutes and rules may be accessed via the Commission's website at [www.puc.state.or.us](http://www.puc.state.or.us). The Commission will hear issues as identified by the parties.

**Right to Attorney:** As a party to these proceedings, you may be represented by counsel. Should you desire counsel but cannot afford one, legal aid may be able to assist you; parties are ordinarily represented by counsel. The Commission Staff, if participating as a party in the case, will be represented by the Department of Justice. Generally, once a hearing has begun, you will not be allowed to postpone the hearing to obtain counsel.

**Administrative Law Judge:** The Commission has delegated the authority to preside over hearings to Administrative Law Judges (ALJs). The scope of an ALJ's authority is defined in OAR 860-001-0090. The ALJs make evidentiary and other procedural rulings, analyze the contested issues, and present legal and policy recommendations to the Commission.

**Hearing Rights:** You have the right to respond to all issues identified and present evidence and witnesses on those issues. *See* OAR 860-001-0450 through OAR 860-001-0490. You may obtain discovery from other parties through depositions, subpoenas, and data requests. *See* ORS 756.538 and 756.543; OAR 860-001-0500 through 860-001-0540.

**Evidence:** Evidence is generally admissible if it is of a type relied upon by reasonable persons in the conduct of their serious affairs. *See* OAR 860-001-0450. Objections to the admissibility of evidence must be made at the time the evidence is offered. Objections are generally made on grounds that the evidence is unreliable, irrelevant, repetitious, or because its probative value is outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice, confusion of the issues, or undue delay. The order of presenting evidence is determined by the ALJ. The burden of presenting evidence to support an allegation rests with the person raising the allegation. Generally, once a hearing is completed, the ALJ will not allow the introduction of additional evidence without good cause.

**Record:** The hearing will be recorded, either by a court reporter or by audio digital recording, to preserve the testimony and other evidence presented. Parties may contact the court reporter about ordering a transcript or request, if available, a copy of the audio recording from the Commission for a fee set forth in OAR 860-001-0060. The hearing record will be made part of the evidentiary record that serves as the basis for the Commission's decision and, if necessary, the record on any judicial appeal.

**Final Order and Appeal:** After the hearing, the ALJ will prepare a draft order resolving all issues and present it to the Commission. The draft order is not open to party comment. The Commission will make the final decision in the case and may adopt, modify, or reject the ALJ's recommendation. If you disagree with the Commission's decision, you may request reconsideration of the final order within 60 days from the date of service of the order. *See* ORS 756.561 and OAR 860-001-0720. You may also file a petition for review with the Court of Appeals within 60 days from the date of service of the order. *See* ORS 756.610.