

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON
STAFF REPORT**

PUBLIC MEETING DATE: July 24, 2001

REGULAR AGENDA _ **CONSENT AGENDA** **X** **EFFECTIVE DATE** July 25, 2001

DATE: July 10, 2001

TO: Phil Nyegaard through Lee Sparling and Bonnie Tatom

FROM: Reed Harris

SUBJECT: NW Natural Advice No. 01-12. Housekeeping tariff Revisions to correspond to changes in OAR 860-021-0126(3) adopted 1/23/01 in AR 393

SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend that the Commission allow the tariff sheets of NW Natural Advice No. OPUC 01-12 to become effective with service on and after July 25, 2001.

DISCUSSION:

On January 23, 2001, the Commission issued Order No. 01-117, in docket No. AR 393. One of the Oregon Administrative Rules changed in this housekeeping docket was OAR 860-021-0126, Late Payment Charge. The changes approved to OAR 860-021-0126 (3) restored the language of the rule to conformance with the original intent approved in 1990 (AR 193, Order No. 90-1105) as follows:

(3) The charge will be based on a monthly late-payment rate applied to overdue account balances at the time of preparing the subsequent month's bill for residential accounts or by the bill due date for all other accounts. The late-payment charge may not be applied to time-payment or equal-payment accounts that are current. ...

The Late Payment Charge (LPC) for residential service may only be applied to unpaid balances remaining at the time the next month's bill is prepared, while the LPC for non-residential service is activated when the bill becomes past due. The tariffs filed in NW Natural's advice No 01-12, implement this difference in the application of late payments charges between residential and non-residential service.

RECOMMENDATION:

I recommend that the Commission allow the Eighth revision of NWN's P.U.C. OR. 22 Sheet C-1 and the Seventh revision of P.U.C. OR. 23, sheet A-1 to become effective with service on and after July 25, 2001.