

**PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION OF OREGON  
STAFF REPORT  
PUBLIC MEETING DATE: February 2, 2010**

**REGULAR** \_\_\_\_\_ **CONSENT**  X  **EFFECTIVE DATE**  February 19, 2010

**DATE:** January 25, 2010

**TO:** Public Utility Commission

**FROM:** Lisa Gorsuch

**THROUGH:** Lee Sparling, Ed Busch, and Lori Koho

**SUBJECT:** NORTHWEST NATURAL: (Advice No. 10-3) Revises Schedule C, Miscellaneous Charges.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that Northwest Natural's (NWN or Company) request to revise Schedule C, be approved with an effective date of February 19, 2010.

**DISCUSSION:**

On January 19, 2010, NWN submitted a filing requesting to revise Schedule C, Miscellaneous Charges, to increase the charge assessed when a shut-off valve must be installed at the curb. This is an action that is seldom taken as it is generally used as a last resort when a customer is not paying for service and the Company cannot access its meter.

NWN proposes to increase the charge to install a shut-off valve from \$130 to \$250. The Company states that the average cost to complete an installation of this kind is \$619. Work papers were submitted with the filing, for Staff's review, to support the average cost assumptions.

Staff recommends NWN's request to increase this charge be approved for a number of reasons. As stated by the Company in this filing, the costs to complete such an installation continue to increase due to new design and safety standards. The increased charge may also act as a deterrent to customer behavior that leads to such installations.

Staff believes it is worth mentioning again that NWN installs very few shut-off valves at the curb. The Company states that approximately one installation occurs each year.

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**PROPOSED COMMISSION MOTION:**

NWN's Advice No. 10-3 be allowed to go into effect on February 19, 2010.