

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS CO

Form 11-K

June 20, 2016

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D. C. 20549

FORM 11-K

ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015

OR

TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Commission file number 1-15973

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY

RETIREMENT K SAVINGS PLAN

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(Full Title of Plan)

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY

220 N.W. Second Avenue

Portland, Oregon 97209

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(Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the  
plan and the address of its principal executive office)

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Retirement K Savings Plan

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Note: Other schedules required by Section 2520.103-10 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA") have been omitted because they are not applicable.

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REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

Participants and Administrator

Northwest Natural Gas Company Retirement K Savings Plan

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of Northwest Natural Gas Company Retirement K Savings Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2015 and 2014. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audits.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. We were not engaged to perform an audit of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Our audits included consideration of internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of Northwest Natural Gas Company Retirement K Savings Plan as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The supplemental information in the accompanying schedules, Schedule H, Line 4i - Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) and Schedule H, Line 4j - Schedule of Reportable Transactions, have been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of Northwest Natural Gas Company Retirement K Savings Plan's financial statements. The supplemental information is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements but include supplemental information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplementary information is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the basic financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information in the accompanying schedules, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental information referred to above is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements taken as a whole.

/s/ Grant Thornton LLP

Portland, Oregon  
June 20, 2016

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Northwest Natural Gas Company  
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## STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

|                                    | December 31,   |                |
|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
|                                    | 2015           | 2014           |
| <b>ASSETS</b>                      |                |                |
| Cash                               | \$214,234      | \$71,111       |
| Investments, at fair value         | 178,617,157    | 178,745,400    |
| Total investments                  | 178,831,391    | 178,816,511    |
| Receivables                        |                |                |
| Notes receivable from participants | 3,034,578      | 3,101,842      |
| Total receivables                  | 3,034,578      | 3,101,842      |
| Total assets                       | \$ 181,865,969 | \$ 181,918,353 |
| <b>LIABILITIES</b>                 |                |                |
| Other liabilities                  | \$48,175       | \$47,250       |
| Net assets available for benefits  | \$ 181,817,794 | \$ 181,871,103 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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## STATEMENTS OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

|  | Years ended December 31, |               |
|--|--------------------------|---------------|
|  | 2015                     | 2014          |
| Additions  |                          |               |
| Investment income:   |                          |               |
| Interest and dividends                                       | \$1,728,717              | \$2,091,125   |
| Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments | (3,538,554)              | 9,688,995     |
| Net investment income (loss)                                 | (1,809,837)              | 11,780,120    |
| Contributions:   |                          |               |
| Participant elective and rollover                            | 9,918,747                | 8,832,386     |
| Employer   | 3,873,666                | 3,717,749     |
| Total contributions  | 13,792,413               | 12,550,135    |
| Interest income on notes receivable from participants        | 130,592                  | 125,935       |
| Other income (expense)                                       | (67,650)                 | (67,414)      |
| Total additions  | 12,045,518               | 24,388,776    |
| Deductions   |                          |               |
| Withdrawals and benefit payments                             | (12,020,460)             | (13,892,901)  |
| Administrative fees and expenses                             | (78,367)                 | (148,732)     |
| Total deductions   | (12,098,827)             | (14,041,633)  |
| Net increase (decrease) in net assets available for benefits | (53,309)                 | 10,347,143    |
| Net assets available for benefits                            |                          |               |
| Beginning of year  | 181,871,103              | 171,523,960   |
| End of year  | \$181,817,794            | \$181,871,103 |

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

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Northwest Natural Gas Company  
Retirement K Savings Plan

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of the Northwest Natural Gas Company Retirement K Savings Plan (the “Plan”) provides only general information. Employees and Participants should refer to the Plan document for a more comprehensive description of the Plan’s provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering substantially all employees of Northwest Natural Gas Company (the “Company”). The eligibility rules and entry dates vary primarily based on type of contribution and employment classification (bargaining, non-bargaining, regular, temporary, and term). At December 31, 2015, 1,229 participants had account balances in the Plan, of which 1,067 were active. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as amended.

The Company is the plan sponsor and administrator of the Plan. T. Rowe Price is the Plan’s trustee and performs the recordkeeping duties of the Plan.

Contributions

Under the Plan, participants may elect to contribute, subject to Internal Revenue Code (“Code”) limitations, up to 50% of their compensation to the Plan through salary deferral. For Non-Bargaining Unit employees, the Company contributes a matching contribution of 60% of the first 6% of the employee's salary deferral contributions, with a maximum match of 3.6% of annual eligible compensation. For Non-Bargaining Unit employees, prior to April 1, 2015, one-third of the matching contribution was made in Company stock; effective that date, no portion of the matching contribution is made in the form of Company stock. For Bargaining Unit employees, the Company contributes a matching contribution of 50% of the first 4% of the employee's salary deferral contributions, with a maximum match of 2% of annual eligible compensation. For Bargaining Unit employees, no portion of the matching contribution is made in the form of Company stock. Each year the Company may make a supplemental contribution, the amount of which will be set by the Company’s Board of Directors. For the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014, the Company’s Board of Directors did not declare any supplemental contributions.

Non-Contributory Employer Contributions

For all eligible Non-Bargaining Unit employees hired after December 31, 2006, and all eligible Bargaining Unit employees hired after December 31, 2009, the Company will contribute 5% and 4%, respectively, of eligible annual compensation (or another amount fixed annually) as a Non-Contributory Employer Contribution for each year a participant is an active employee of the Company. These Non-Contributory Employer Contributions are invested in the same funds that have been selected by participants for salary deferral and matching contributions. If a participant has not made an investment election, the contribution will be invested in the retirement-date-based investment fund that has a projected year of retirement that matches the year the participant turns age 65. In 2015 and 2014, Non-Contributory Employer Contributions totaled \$1,355,044 and \$1,199,058, respectively.

Participant Accounts

Where applicable, each participant’s account is credited with pre-tax contributions, matching contributions, supplemental contributions, rollover contributions, non-contributory employer contributions and net earnings or losses. Pre-tax contributions are based on the participant’s salary deferral election. Matching contributions, supplemental and non-contributory employer contributions are credited to the participant’s account according to the formula defined in the Plan document. Rollover contributions are credited upon receipt from the tax-qualified plan of

another employer or from an IRA. Plan earnings are allocated based on account balances in the investment options selected by the

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

participant, or in the absence of an election, the retirement-date-based investment option applicable to the participant under Plan terms.

**Investment Options**

Participants may direct contributions in any of the 20 investment options (two options are funds managed by T. Rowe Price Investments) offered by the Plan. One of the 20 investment options is an option to invest in the Company's stock. Contributions will be defaulted into the age-appropriate retirement-date-based investment until such time the employee makes active investment elections.

**Vesting**

All employee contributions, employer match and actual earnings credited to participant accounts are fully vested and nonforfeitable at all times subject to the limitations imposed by the Code. Non-contributory employer contributions are subject to a three year cliff vesting schedule with 100% vesting after three years of service.

**Notes Receivable from Participants**

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000, up to a maximum equal to the lesser of \$50,000 or 50% of their vested account, excluding Non-Contributory Employer Contributions. Participant loans are repaid through payroll deductions and participants' remaining account balances are used as collateral for the loans. The loans bear interest at a rate commensurate with local prevailing rates. The rate used equals the prime rate plus 1%, based on rates quoted in The Wall Street Journal on the last business day of the month prior to the loan's inception.

**Withdrawals and Payment of Benefits**

On termination of service due to death, disability, retirement or for other reasons, a participant may receive the value of his or her vested account as either: 1) a single lump sum distribution; 2) four lump-sum distributions; 3) monthly, quarterly, or annual installment payments; 4) a rollover to an IRA; or 5) the participant may leave the funds in the Plan. Under the hardship withdrawal provisions of the Plan, participants may withdraw salary deferral amounts while still employed by the Company, provided the circumstances qualify as a hardship as defined in the Plan.

**Administrative Fees and Expenses**

Certain expenses of administering and servicing the Plan, including equipment, supplies, and payroll expenses of administrative and clerical personnel, are provided by the Company without charge to the Plan; however, each participant is charged a flat fee of \$100 per year to help with the costs of audit, recordkeeping and trustee fees, as well as investment consulting charges. Loan disbursement fees are paid by the Plan, allocated to participants withdrawing amounts as loans during the year, and are classified as administrative fees and expenses; however, each participant with a loan is charged a flat fee of \$50 per loan to help with the costs of loan processing.

In 2015, T. Rowe Price credited the Plan with an administrative budget of \$82,476. Audit fees paid during 2015 were not paid for with the administrative budget. In general, plan expenses in excess of the administrative budget amount are paid by the Company.

**Plan Amendments**

Effective September 1, 2014, the Plan was amended to allow incoming rollovers from qualified 403(b) plans.

Effective January 15, 2015, the Plan was amended to provide for 100% vesting of the Plan accounts of Plan participants whose employment with the Company or an affiliate is involuntarily terminated without



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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

cause as a result of the January 2015 reduction in force affecting gas storage operations, regardless of the number of years of service the participant has completed.

Effective April 1, 2015, the Plan was amended to provide that matching contributions made to Non-bargaining Unit Employees will be made all in cash, to be invested at the direction of the Participant. Prior to the amendment, one-third of the matching contribution was made in Company stock. Company stock still remains an investment option.

Forfeitures

As of December 31, 2015 and 2014, the remaining forfeiture account balance was \$25,439 and \$3,827, respectively. This balance represents amounts forfeited during the year, available to offset the employer contributions, but not yet used as of December 31. Forfeitures of \$44,081 and \$67,414 for the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 were used to offset employer contributions, respectively.

2. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

New Accounting Pronouncements

On May 1, 2015, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued Accounting Standards Update (ASU) 2015-07, "Disclosures for Investments in Certain Entities That Calculate Net Asset Value per Share (or its Equivalent)." The ASU removes the requirement to categorize within the fair value hierarchy all investments for which fair value is measured using the net asset value per share practical expedient and also removes certain disclosure requirements. The new requirements are effective for us beginning January 1, 2016 and will be applied retrospectively to all periods presented, in our 2016 financial statements and related disclosures. This ASU will not materially affect our financial statements and disclosures,

On July 31, 2015, the FASB issued ASU 2015-12, "Plan Accounting: Defined Benefit Pension Plans, Defined Contribution Pension Plans, and Health and Welfare Benefit Plans." The ASU outlines a three part update. Only part two of the update is applicable for us, which simplifies the investment disclosure requirements for employee benefit plans by allowing certain disclosures at an aggregated level, reducing the number of ways assets must be grouped and analyzed, and no longer requiring investment strategy disclosures for certain investments. The new requirements are effective for us beginning January 1, 2016 and will be applied retrospectively in the 2016 financial statements, for all periods presented.

On January 5, 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-01, "Financial Instruments - Overall: Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities." The ASU enhances the reporting model for financial instruments, which includes amendments to address aspects of recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure. The new standard is effective for us beginning January 1, 2018. Upon adoption, we will be required to make a cumulative-effect adjustment to the statement of financial position in the first quarter of 2018. Early adoption is permitted. We are currently assessing the effect of this standard on our financial statements and disclosures.

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements are prepared using the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

statements and changes therein, and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Valuation of Investments

Investments are reported at fair value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 4 for discussion of fair value measurements.

Investment Transactions and Net Investment Income Recognition

Securities transactions are recorded on the date the securities are purchased or sold. Interest income is recorded as earned. Dividend income is recorded on the ex-dividend date. The cost of securities sold is determined by the average cost method.

The net appreciation in the fair value of investments presented in the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits consists of the realized gains (losses) and the unrealized appreciation (depreciation) on those investments.

Notes Receivable from Participants

Notes receivable from participants are measured at their unpaid principal balance plus any accrued but unpaid interest. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2015 or 2014. Delinquent notes receivable are reclassified as distributions based upon the terms of the Plan document.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Subsequent Events

Effective January 1, 2016, the matching contribution for Bargaining Unit employees was increased to 50% of the first 6% of the employee's salary deferral contributions, with a maximum match of 3% of eligible compensation.

Effective June 22, 2016, the T. Rowe Price Small-Cap Stock Fund will be removed as an investment option and the T. Rowe Price Small Cap Stock I Class will be added.

On January 1, 2016, the Company amended and restated the Plan in order to incorporate all amendments adopted since January 1, 2007 as well as comply with recent legislation and regulatory changes.

3. INVESTMENTS

Investments at fair value representing 5% or more of the Plan's net assets at December 31, 2015 are as follows:

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## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

| Description                                       | 2015         |
|---|--------------|
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2020 NL O 2,625,609 shares | \$30,602,263 |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2025 NL O 2,226,287 shares | 26,556,487   |
| Northwest Natural Gas Company 403,867 shares      | 20,439,721   |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2030 NL O 1,362,576 shares | 16,568,656   |
| BlackRock LifePath Equity Index T 158,276 shares  | 12,276,737   |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2035 NL O 922,798 shares   | 11,415,289   |
| BlackRock LifePath Index Ret NL O 860,755 shares  | 9,644,850    |
| T. Rowe Price Small Cap Stock Fund 235,553 shares | 9,094,687    |

Investments at fair value representing 5% or more of the Plan's net assets at December 31, 2014 are as follows:

| Description                                       | 2014         |
|---|--------------|
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2020 NL W 2,576,504 shares | \$33,489,144 |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2025 NL W 1,970,809 shares | 26,165,254   |
| Northwest Natural Gas Company 405,443 shares      | 20,231,608   |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2030 NL W 1,153,348 shares | 15,585,775   |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2035 NL W 860,051 shares   | 11,804,296   |
| Black Rock LifePath Index Ret NL W 904,278 shares | 11,358,360   |
| BlackRock LifePath Equity Index T 145,586 shares  | 11,133,742   |

During 2015 and 2014 the Plan's investments (including gains and losses on investments bought or sold, as well as held, during the year) appreciated in value as follows:

|  | 2015          | 2014         |
|--|---------------|--------------|
| Mutual funds   | \$(2,133,022) | \$(293,720 ) |
| Common trust   | (1,878,631 )  | 7,007,773    |
| Northwest Natural Gas Company common stock                   | 473,099       | 2,974,942    |
| Net appreciation (depreciation) in fair value of investments | \$(3,538,554) | \$9,688,995  |

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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

In accordance with fair value accounting, the following fair value hierarchy is used for determining inputs for the Plan assets:

- Level 1 Valuation is based upon quoted prices for identical instruments traded in active markets;
- Level 2 Valuation is based upon quoted prices for similar instruments in active markets, quoted prices for identical or similar instruments in markets that are not active, and model-based valuation techniques for which all significant assumptions are observable in the market; and
- Level 3 Valuation is generated from model-based techniques that use significant assumptions not observable in the market. These unobservable assumptions reflect our own estimates of assumptions that market participants would use in valuing the asset.

When developing fair value measurements, it is the Plan's policy to use quoted market prices whenever available, or to maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs when quoted market prices are not available.

Following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for assets measured at fair value. There were no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2015 and 2014. There were no transfers between fair value levels during 2015 and 2014.

Common stock: Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities are traded.

Mutual funds: Valued at the daily closing price as reported by the fund. Mutual funds held by the Plan are open-end mutual funds that are registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission. These funds are required to publish their daily net asset value and to transact at that price. The mutual funds held by the Plan are deemed to be actively traded.

Money market fund: The money market fund is not traded in an exchange or active market; however, the fair value is determined based on the net asset value per unit as determined by the fund's audited financial statements. There is no restriction in place with respect to daily redemptions of funds.

Common trust funds: Valued at the net asset value per unit as determined by the fund's audited financial statements. The net asset value is based on underlying assets owned by the fund, minus its liabilities, and then divided by the number of shares outstanding.

These methods may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value nor reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, although the Plan believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following table sets forth the fair value by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Plan's assets as of December 31:

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## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

2015

| Asset                           | Level 1      | Level 2       | Level 3 | Total          |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------|----------------|
| Mutual Funds:                   |              |               |         |                |
| Balanced                        | \$402,833    | \$—           | \$ —    | \$ 402,833     |
| Growth                          | 9,094,687    | —             | —       | 9,094,687      |
| International                   | 9,065,593    | —             | —       | 9,065,593      |
| Common trust <sup>1</sup>       | —            | 139,614,323   | —       | 139,614,323    |
| NW Natural Company stock        | 20,439,721   | —             | —       | 20,439,721     |
| Total investments at fair value | \$39,002,834 | \$139,614,323 | \$ —    | \$ 178,617,157 |

2014

| Asset                           | Level 1      | Level 2       | Level 3 | Total          |
|---------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------|----------------|
| Mutual Funds:                   |              |               |         |                |
| Balanced                        | \$4,279,895  | \$—           | \$ —    | \$ 4,279,895   |
| Growth                          | 8,927,059    | —             | —       | 8,927,059      |
| International                   | 10,058,694   | —             | —       | 10,058,694     |
| Common trust <sup>1</sup>       | —            | 127,435,353   | —       | 127,435,353    |
| Money market <sup>2</sup>       | —            | 7,812,791     | —       | 7,812,791      |
| NW Natural Company stock        | 20,231,608   | —             | —       | 20,231,608     |
| Total investments at fair value | \$43,497,256 | \$135,248,144 | \$ —    | \$ 178,745,400 |

<sup>1</sup> The Common Trust Funds primarily consist of LifePath and Equity Index Funds. The LifePath Funds provide for retirement outcomes consistent with investor preferences throughout the savings and draw down phases as they progress toward their target retirement date. The Equity Index funds seek to match the performance of an index by investing in stocks that make up that index. The Company believes the redemption value of these funds is likely to be the fair value, which is represented by the net asset value. A majority of the funds permit daily redemption without written notice. However, the US Treasury MM Trust B Fund allows daily redemption with 90 day written notice.

<sup>2</sup> The money market fund seeks preservation of capital and liquidity and, consistent with these, the highest possible current income. The Company believes the redemption value of these funds is likely to be the fair value, which is represented by the net asset value. Redemption is permitted daily without written notice.

## 5. TERMINATION PROVISIONS

In the event of any total or partial termination or discontinuance of the Plan, the accounts of all affected participants shall become fully vested and nonforfeitable (i.e. non-contributory employer contribution account). The Company may continue the trust and pay benefits as they mature, or liquidate and distribute the net assets of the trust among participants and beneficiaries in proportion to their interests. The Company has no current plans to terminate the Plan.

## 6. RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Since the Company's common stock is an investment held by the Plan, investments in this common stock represent transactions with parties in interest. Certain other Plan investments are short-term deposits and investments and shares of mutual funds managed by T. Rowe Price, the trustee, as defined by the Plan. These Plan investments qualify as parties-in-interest transactions for which a statutory exemption exists. The following are related-party investments:

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Retirement K Savings Plan

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - CONTINUED

|                                     | 2015         | 2014         |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Northwest Natural Gas Company Stock | \$20,439,721 | \$20,231,608 |
| T. Rowe Price                       | 17,406,116   | 16,746,077   |
|                                     | \$37,845,837 | \$36,977,685 |

Purchases of Northwest Natural Gas Company stock during the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 totaled 76,156 shares for \$3,466,827 and 62,116 shares for \$2,734,049, respectively. Sales of Northwest Natural Gas Company stock during the years ended December 31, 2015 and 2014 totaled 77,732 shares for \$3,658,924 and 101,302 shares for \$4,566,262, respectively.

7. FEDERAL INCOME TAX STATUS

The Internal Revenue Service has determined and informed the Plan sponsor by a letter dated October 11, 2011, that the Plan is qualified and the trust established under the Plan at the time was tax-exempt, under the applicable sections of the Code.

Uncertain tax positions are accounted for in accordance with accounting standards that require Plan management's assessment of the anticipated settlement outcome of material uncertain tax positions taken in a prior year, or planned to be taken in the current year. No reserves for uncertain tax positions existed as of December 31, 2015 or 2014. The Plan is subject to routine audits by taxing jurisdictions; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. The Plan administrator believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2012.

On January 18, 2013, the Company notified the IRS of its intent to shift the Plan document to a pre-approved volume submitter format. On March 31, 2014 the IRS approved the volume submitter document, which extends the deadline for restating the Plan until April 30, 2016. The Company restated the Plan on April 29, 2016.

8. RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The assets of the Plan are invested in various investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statement of net assets available for benefits.



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SUPPLEMENTAL SCHEDULES

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Northwest Natural Gas Company

Retirement K Savings Plan

Form 5500, Schedule H, Line 4i; Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year)

December 31, 2015

| (a)(b)  | (c)  | (d)         | (e)           |
|---|--|-------------|---------------|
| Identity of issuer, borrower, lessor or similar party | Description of investment including maturity date, rate of interest, collateral, par or maturity value | Cost        | Current Value |
| * T. Rowe Price Small-Cap Stock Fund                  | Mutual fund  | \$8,653,822 | \$9,094,687   |
| Dodge & Cox International Stock Fund                  | Mutual fund  | 4,863,898   | 4,746,812     |
| Artisan International Institutional Fund              | Mutual fund  | 4,626,309   | 4,318,781     |
| Met West Total Return Bond Plan                       | Mutual fund  | 412,328     | 402,833       |
| * T. Rowe Price US Treasury MM Trust B                | Common trust   | 8,311,429   | 8,311,429     |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2020 NL O                      | Common trust   | 31,345,237  | 30,602,263    |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2025 NL O                      | Common trust   | 27,307,042  | 26,556,487    |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2030 NL O                      | Common trust   | 17,074,085  | 16,568,656    |
| BlackRock Equity Index T                              | Common trust   | 9,632,943   | 12,276,737    |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2035 NL O                      | Common trust   | 11,805,119  | 11,415,289    |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX RET NL O                       | Common trust   | 9,847,520   | 9,644,850     |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2040 NL O                      | Common trust   | 6,226,446   | 6,005,434     |
| BlackRock Ext Equity Market T                         | Common trust   | 5,197,649   | 5,206,459     |
| BlackRock US Debt Index NL W                          | Common trust   | 4,747,620   | 4,773,175     |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2045 NL O                      | Common trust   | 4,616,970   | 4,451,678     |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2050 NL O                      | Common trust   | 2,584,251   | 2,496,321     |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2055 NL O                      | Common trust   | 729,073     | 704,881       |
| BlackRock MSCI ACWI EXUS IX NLW                       | Common trust   | 534,147     | 507,632       |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2060 NL O                      | Common trust   | 94,820      | 93,032        |
| * Northwest Natural Gas Company Common Stock          | Common stock   | 15,632,171  | 20,439,721    |

|                                       |   |               |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|
| Total investments                     |   | 178,617,157   |
| Notes Receivable from<br>Participants | Interest rate of 4.25%, maturing<br>1/13/2016 to 12/23/2020 | 3,034,578     |
|                                       |   | \$181,651,735 |

\*Represents identification of known party-in-interest in the Plan.

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Northwest Natural Gas Company  
Retirement K Savings Plan

Form 5500, Schedule H, Line 4j; Schedule of Reportable Transactions  
For the year ended December 31, 2015

| (a)                                  | (b)                  | (c)            | (d)           | (g)           | (h)  | (i)                |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|--|--------------------|
| Identity of party involved           | Description of asset | Purchase price | Selling price | Cost of asset | Current value of asset on transaction date | Net gain or (loss) |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2020 NL W     | Common trust         | \$1,057,394    | \$ —          | \$1,057,394   | \$1,057,394                                | \$ —               |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2020 NL W     | Common trust         | (28,467,440)   | (34,917,598)  | 28,467,440    | (34,917,598)                               | 6,450,157          |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2020 NL O     | Common trust         | 33,585,059     | —             | 33,585,059    | 33,585,059                                 | —                  |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2020 NL O     | Common trust         | (2,238,879)    | (2,209,579)   | (2,238,879)   | (2,209,579)                                | (29,300)           |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2025 NL W     | Common trust         | 1,089,920      | —             | 1,089,920     | 1,089,920                                  | —                  |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2025 NL W     | Common trust         | (21,918,479)   | (27,595,979)  | 21,918,479    | (27,595,979)                               | 5,677,500          |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2030 NL W     | Common trust         | 982,815        | —             | 982,815       | 982,815                                    | —                  |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2030 NL W     | Common trust         | (13,227,713)   | (16,803,018)  | 13,227,713    | (16,803,018)                               | 3,575,304          |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2035 NL W     | Common trust         | 817,406        | —             | 817,406       | 817,406                                    | —                  |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2035 NL W     | Common trust         | (9,952,274)    | (12,835,404)  | 9,952,274     | (12,835,404)                               | 2,883,130          |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2025 NL O     | Common trust         | 28,118,411     | —             | 28,118,411    | 28,118,411                                 | —                  |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2025 NL O     | Common trust         | (808,055)      | (777,948)     | (808,055)     | (777,948)                                  | (30,107)           |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2030 NL O     | Common trust         | 17,437,851     | —             | 17,437,851    | 17,437,851                                 | —                  |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2030 NL O     | Common trust         | (363,249)      | (347,478)     | (363,249)     | (347,478)                                  | (15,770)           |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2035 NL O     | Common trust         | 12,660,825     | —             | 12,660,825    | 12,660,825                                 | —                  |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX 2035 NL O     | Common trust         | (853,270)      | (847,942)     | (853,270)     | (847,942)                                  | (5,327)            |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX RET NL O      | Common trust         | 10,434,232     | —             | 10,434,232    | 10,434,232                                 | —                  |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX RET NL O      | Common trust         | (586,629)      | (581,325)     | (586,629)     | (581,325)                                  | (5,304)            |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX RET NL W      | Common trust         | 710,713        | —             | 710,713       | 710,713                                    | —                  |
| BlackRock LifePath IDX RET NL W      | Common trust         | (11,642,858)   | (12,159,310)  | 11,642,858    | (12,159,310)                               | 516,451            |
| T. Rowe Price US Treasury MM Trust B | Common trust         | 11,702,748     | —             | 11,702,748    | 11,702,748                                 | —                  |
| T. Rowe Price US Treasury MM Trust B | Common trust         | (3,373,979)    | (3,373,979)   | (3,373,979)   | (3,373,979)                                | —                  |

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SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Northwest Natural Gas Company Retirement K Savings Plan Administrative Committee has duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY  
RETIREMENT K SAVINGS PLAN

Date: June 20, 2016     /s/ Lea Anne Doolittle

Lea Anne Doolittle  
Retirement K Savings Plan  
Administrative Committee

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EXHIBIT INDEX

to  
Annual Report on Form 11-K  
For Year Ended  
December 31, 2015

| Document   | Exhibit<br>Number |
|--|-------------------|
| Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm | 23                |