

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS CO  
Form DEF 14A  
April 18, 2018  
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**UNITED STATES**  
**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION**

Washington, D.C. 20549

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the**

**Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

**(Amendment No. )**

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

Preliminary Proxy Statement

**Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**

Definitive Proxy Statement

Definitive Additional Materials

Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

**NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY**

**(Name of registrant as specified in its charter)**

**(Name of person(s) filing proxy statement, if other than the registrant)**

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11



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220 NW SECOND AVENUE

PORTLAND, OR 97209

April 18, 2018

To the Shareholders of Northwest Natural Gas Company:

We cordially invite you to attend the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural), which will be held in the Hospitality Suite on the Fourth Floor of NW Natural's offices, 220 NW Second Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97209 on Thursday, May 24, 2018, commencing at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time. We look forward to greeting as many of our shareholders as are able to join us.

At the meeting you will be asked to consider and vote upon five proposals: (1) the election of three Class I directors for terms of three years; (2) the increase in shares reserved for issuance under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan; (3) an advisory vote to approve named executive officer compensation; (4) the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as NW Natural's independent registered public accountants for the fiscal year 2018; and (5) the reorganization of NW Natural into a holding company structure. Your Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote FOR each of Proposals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

In connection with the meeting, we enclose a notice of the meeting, a Proxy Statement-Prospectus, a proxy card and, if you are a registered shareholder, an **admission ticket for you and one guest to attend the meeting. If you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, please detach and retain the admission ticket attached to your proxy card.** As space is limited, you may bring only one guest to the meeting. If you hold your stock through a broker, bank, or other nominee, please bring a legal proxy or other evidence to the meeting showing that you owned NW Natural common stock as of the record date, April 5, 2018, and we will provide you with an admission ticket. Please see page 11 for further instructions on attending the Annual Meeting. Detailed information relating to NW Natural's business activities and operating performance is contained in our 2017 Annual Report, which is also enclosed.

It is important that your shares are represented and voted at the meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend, please vote your shares in one of three ways: via internet, telephone or mail. Instructions regarding internet and telephone voting are included on the proxy card or Voting Instructions Form. If you elect to vote by mail, please sign, date and return the proxy card or Voting Instructions Form in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. Your proxy may be revoked at any time before it is exercised in the manner set forth in the Proxy Statement-Prospectus.

Sincerely,

Tod R. Hamachek  
Chairman of the Board

David H. Anderson  
President and Chief Executive Officer

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**NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY**

ONE PACIFIC SQUARE

220 NW SECOND AVENUE

PORTLAND, OREGON 97209

(503) 226-4211

**NOTICE OF 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**

Portland, Oregon, April 18, 2018

To our Shareholders:

The 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural) will be held in the Hospitality Suite on the Fourth Floor of NW Natural's offices, 220 NW Second Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97209 on Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time, for the following purposes:

1. to elect three Class I directors for terms of three years;
2. to increase the number of shares reserved for issuance under the Company's Employee Stock Purchase Plan;
3. to conduct an advisory vote to approve the named executive officers' compensation;
4. to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as NW Natural's independent registered public accountants for the fiscal year 2018;
5. to approve the reorganization of NW Natural into a holding company structure; and
6. to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

If you were a holder of record of NW Natural common stock at the close of business on April 5, 2018, the record date set for the Annual Meeting, you will be entitled to vote upon all matters properly submitted to shareholder vote at the meeting.

Our Board of Directors is soliciting the proxies of all holders of NW Natural common stock who may be unable to attend the meeting in person or who desire to vote by proxy before the meeting. These proxies also will instruct the relevant fiduciary under NW Natural's Dividend Reinvestment and Direct Stock Purchase Plan or Retirement K Savings Plan to vote any shares held for shareholders' benefit under those plans, as indicated on the proxies. A proxy and a stamped return envelope are enclosed for your use. No postage is needed if mailed in the United States. Instructions regarding internet and telephone voting also are included in the enclosed proxy card or Voting Instruction Form.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING THE AVAILABILITY OF PROXY**

**MATERIALS FOR THE SHAREHOLDER MEETING TO BE HELD ON**

**MAY 24, 2018**

This Proxy Statement-Prospectus and our 2017 Annual Report are available at [www.nwnatural.com](http://www.nwnatural.com).

**Your vote is very important to us.**

**We urge you to vote by promptly marking, signing, dating, and returning the enclosed proxy card or Voting Instruction Form, or by granting a proxy by the internet or telephone in accordance with the instructions in the enclosed proxy card or Voting Instruction Form, as soon as possible. Your prompt vote will save us the additional expense of further requests to ensure the presence of a quorum. You may vote in person at the meeting whether or not you previously have returned your proxy.**

By Order of the Board of Directors,

Shawn M. Filippi  
Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer

and Corporate Secretary

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**PROXY STATEMENT**

*of*

**NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY**

**PROSPECTUS**

*of*

**NORTHWEST NATURAL HOLDING COMPANY**

*relating to*

**COMMON SHARES**

This Proxy Statement-Prospectus contains both a Proxy Statement for the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders (Annual Meeting) of Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural), an Oregon corporation, to be held on May 24, 2018 and a Prospectus of Northwest Natural Holding Company (NW Holding), an Oregon corporation, relating to the issuance of common shares of NW Holding in connection with the proposed formation of a holding company for NW Natural.

Under the terms of an agreement and plan of merger (Plan of Merger) between NW Natural, NW Holding and NWN Merger Sub, Inc. (Merger Sub), Merger Sub would merge into NW Natural (Merger) and each outstanding share of common stock of NW Natural would be converted into one share of common stock of NW Holding. As a result of the Merger, the holders of NW Natural common stock immediately before the effective time of the Merger would become holders of NW Holding common stock, and NW Natural would become a subsidiary of NW Holding. Thus, NW Holding is offering and will issue a number of common shares equal to the number of shares of NW Natural common stock outstanding at the effective time of the Merger. There were 28,782,815 shares of NW Natural common stock outstanding on April 5, 2018, the record date for NW Natural's Annual Meeting.

NW Natural common stock is currently listed on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), with the trading symbol NWN. On April 5, 2018, the high and low sales prices of NW Natural common stock, as reported in the consolidated reporting system, were \$58.90 and \$57.305, respectively. NW Holding intends to list its common shares on the NYSE, and such listing, upon official notice of issuance, is a condition to the completion of the Merger. After completion of the Merger, all shares of NW Natural common stock will be held by NW Holding, and NW Natural common stock will no longer be listed on the NYSE.

All NW Natural shareholders of record at the close of business on April 5, 2018 are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting.

**This Proxy Statement-Prospectus provides detailed information about the formation of a holding company. You should read it carefully. If the holding company formation is approved and becomes effective, your shares of NW Natural common stock will be converted into shares of NW Holding common stock.**

**The proposed formation of the holding company involves risks. See Risk Factors on page 6 of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus.**

This Proxy Statement-Prospectus and the accompanying proxy, solicited on behalf of the Board of Directors of NW Natural, were first sent to shareholders of NW Natural on or about April 18, 2018.

**This Proxy Statement-Prospectus may incorporate important business and financial information about NW Natural that is not included in or delivered with the document. NW Natural shareholders may obtain from NW Natural without charge copies of documents that have been or may be incorporated in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus by requesting them in writing or by telephone from:**

**Northwest Natural Gas Company, Attn: Shareholder Services, 220 N.W. Second Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97209, (503) 226-4211.**

**To obtain this information in time for the Annual Meeting, security holders must request it no later than May 17, 2018, five business days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.**

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Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any other regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the accuracy or adequacy of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

**The date of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus is April 18, 2018**



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OF  
NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY,  
AND PROSPECTUS OF NORTHWEST NATURAL HOLDING COMPANY**

**April 18, 2018**

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### **SUMMARY**

*This summary is presented solely to furnish limited introductory information regarding NW Natural, NW Holding and the Holding Company Proposal to be considered at NW Natural's Annual Meeting. The following information has been selected from the more detailed information contained or incorporated by reference in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus. Shareholders should read the entire Proxy Statement-Prospectus, including exhibits, and the Incorporated Documents (defined below) before casting their votes. Proxies executed by shareholders may be revoked at any time prior to the Annual Meeting.*

### **HOLDING COMPANY PROPOSAL**

#### **NW Holding, NW Natural and Merger Sub**

Northwest Natural Gas Company was incorporated under the laws of Oregon in 1910. The company and its predecessors have supplied gas service to the public since 1859, and since September 1997, it has been doing business as NW Natural. NW Natural's executive offices are located at One Pacific Square, 220 N.W. Second Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97209. Its telephone number is (503) 226-4211. NW Natural is principally engaged in the distribution of natural gas in Oregon and southwest Washington.

NW Natural's business is divided into three segments:

local gas distribution, also referred to as the utility segment, which involves the distribution and sale of natural gas to customers in Oregon and Southwest Washington, and includes the utility portion of NW Natural's underground natural gas storage facility in Mist, Oregon, the north Mist gas storage expansion in Oregon, and the operations of NWN Gas Reserves LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of NW Natural;

gas storage, which represents natural gas storage services provided to intrastate and interstate customers from the non-utility portion of the Mist underground storage facility, the Gill Ranch storage facility, and asset management services under a contract with an independent energy marketing company; and

other, which primarily consists of an investment in a natural gas pipeline project, a minority interest in Kelso-Beaver Pipeline, our natural gas retail appliance store, and other non-utility business development and other activities. NW Natural also has signed agreements to purchase two privately-owned water utilities in the Pacific Northwest. If completed, the Company expects to include financial results from these businesses in other.

NW Natural formed NW Holding, and NW Holding formed Merger Sub, to effect the reorganization into a holding company structure. Each of NW Holding and Merger Sub was incorporated under the laws of the State of Oregon, and neither has assets.

#### **Proposed Holding Company Structure**

The Holding Company Proposal is to approve a holding company structure for NW Natural and its subsidiaries. If the Holding Company Proposal is approved, Merger Sub will be merged into NW Natural and each outstanding share of NW Natural common stock will be converted into one share of NW Holding common stock, so that the holders of NW Natural common stock would become holders of NW Holding common stock and NW Natural would become a wholly owned subsidiary of NW Holding.

The first mortgage bonds and cash deferred compensation obligations of NW Natural will not be affected by the Merger, but derivative securities based on NW Natural common stock, including options, restricted stock units and similar securities outstanding under executive compensation and employee benefit plans, would be affected. See Holding Company Proposal-Corporate Reorganization.



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NW Natural expects that, contemporaneously with the effective time of the Merger, when NW Holding becomes the sole holder of NW Natural common stock, NW Natural will transfer to NW Holding all outstanding shares of each of its subsidiaries other than Northwest Energy Corporation and that entity's subsidiary, which comprise part of the regulated gas utility business of NW Natural. This transfer, which is referred to in this document as the Subsidiary Transfer, and the Merger would structurally separate NW Natural's regulated gas utility business and its other businesses.

**Subsidiary Transfer and Merger**

Charts showing the entity structure and ownership of NW Natural and its affiliates before and after the Subsidiary Transfer and Merger are presented below.

**Before the Subsidiary Transfer and Merger:**

Percentages indicate the percentages of voting equity owned by the direct parent entity. Unless otherwise indicated, ownership is 100%.

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### **After the Subsidiary Transfer and Merger:**

Percentages indicate the percentages of voting equity owned by the direct parent entity. Unless otherwise indicated, ownership is 100%. The companies comprising the regulated gas utility business are on the far left of the chart.

### **Reasons for the Holding Company Proposal**

The principal reason for the formation of a holding company is to best position the company to respond to opportunities and risks in a manner that best serves the interests of its shareholders and customers. The holding company structure would allow NW Natural to continue to operate its regulated gas utility business efficiently while structurally separating other businesses of NW Natural from the regulated gas utility business. NW Natural management continuously looks for growth opportunities that would build on core competencies and that match the risk profile that NW Natural and its shareholders seek. By structurally separating the regulated gas utility from other businesses, NW Holding can maintain its commitment to the safe, reliable and efficient delivery of natural gas to the customers served by NW Natural, and utilize a more agile and efficient platform from which to pursue, finance and oversee new business growth opportunities, such as in the water sector. Business growth, diversification and access to capital markets are key to any businesses' financial health and strength. In addition to providing a more nimble and efficient platform for growth, the holding company structure would permit greater financing flexibility for each segment of the business, supporting further financial strength of the overall consolidated entity.

### **Required Vote**

The Holding Company Proposal must be approved by a vote of a majority of the outstanding shares of NW Natural common stock. As of the record date, 28,782,815 shares of NW Natural were issued and outstanding, of which less than 2% were owned by directors, executive officers and their affiliates.

### **Regulatory Conditions and Restrictions**

Completion of the Merger requires approval from the Oregon Public Utility Commission (OPUC) and the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC), and the change in control of Gill Ranch Storage, LLC, an indirect, wholly owned subsidiary of NW Natural, requires the approval of the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC). NW Natural received the OPUC and WUTC approvals in December 2017, and expects to receive the approval of the CPUC in 2018. In connection with these approvals, NW Natural agreed to certain conditions and limitations. See Holding Company Proposal-Regulatory Conditions and Restrictions.

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### **Effectiveness**

The Merger will be effective on the date to be selected by NW Natural and NW Holding, after the receipt of shareholder approvals and the satisfaction of certain conditions. See Holding Company Proposal-Effective Time of Merger; Conditions.

### **Exchange of Stock Certificates Not Required**

If the Merger is consummated, it will not be necessary for holders of NW Natural common stock to physically exchange their existing NW Natural stock certificates for stock certificates of NW Holding. See Holding Company Proposal-Exchange of Stock Certificates Not Required.

### **Material U.S. Income Tax Consequences to Shareholders**

No gain or loss will be recognized by the holders of NW Natural common stock in the Merger. See Holding Company Proposal-Material U.S. Income Tax Consequences for information regarding tax basis and holding period for shareholders.

### **NW Holding Capital Stock; Rights of NW Holding Shareholders**

NW Holding will have the same authorized capital stock as NW Natural, namely 103,500,000 shares consisting of 3,500,000 preferred shares and 100,000,000 common shares. The dividend, voting and liquidation rights of holders of NW Holding common stock will be identical to those of holders of NW Natural common stock immediately before the reorganization.

The rights of NW Holding shareholders will be governed by NW Holding's articles of incorporation and bylaws in effect at the effective time of the Merger. Except for the corporate entity's name, there are no differences between NW Natural's articles of incorporation and bylaws and NW Holding's articles of incorporation and bylaws.

See Holding Company Proposal-Description of NW Holding Common Stock; Comparative Shareholder Rights.

### **Stock Exchange Listing**

NW Natural common stock is currently listed on the NYSE. NW Holding intends to list NW Holding common stock on the NYSE. Such listing, upon official notice of issuance, is a condition to the completion of the Merger. See Holding Company Proposal-Listing of NW Holding Common Stock.

### **Dividends**

NW Holding will not conduct directly any business operations from which it will derive any revenues. Dividends on NW Holding common stock will depend primarily upon the results of operations, cash flows and financial condition of NW Natural and NW Holding's other subsidiaries and their ability to pay dividends on their equity interests owned directly or indirectly by NW Holding.

The payment of dividends on NW Holding common stock is within the discretion of, and subject to declaration by, NW Holding's Board of Directors, and NW Natural and NW Holding have agreed that NW Natural will not pay dividends or make distributions to NW Holding if the dividend or distribution would cause NW Natural to cease to comply with specified credit and capital structure requirements. See Holding Company Proposal-Regulatory Conditions and Restrictions. However, it is contemplated that NW Holding initially will pay dividends on NW Holding common stock at the current level of dividends paid on NW Natural common stock, and on the same schedule of dividend payment dates. See Holding Company Proposal-Dividends.

### **Directors and Management of NW Holding**

At the effective time of the Merger, the individuals serving as directors of NW Natural will also become directors of NW Holding, in the same classes and with the same terms. At that time, certain officers of





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NW Natural including its principal executive officer, principal financial officer, general counsel, principal accounting officer, and corporate secretary, will be officers of NW Holding. See Holding Company Proposal-Directors and Management of NW Holding.

### **Financial Information of NW Natural**

The Annual Report on Form 10-K of NW Natural accompanies this Proxy Statement-Prospectus. Separate financial statements for NW Holdings have not been provided because, before the holding company reorganization, NW Holdings will have no assets, liabilities or operations other than incident to its formation. After the reorganization, the consolidated financial statements of NW Holding will be the same as the consolidated financial statements of NW Natural immediately before the reorganization.

### **Market Price of NW Natural Common Stock**

On April 5, 2018, the high and low sales prices of NW Natural common stock, as reported in the consolidated transaction reporting system, were \$58.90 and \$57.305, respectively.

### **Preemptive Rights**

Holders of NW Natural common stock do not have, and holders of NW Holding common stock will not have, preemptive rights.

### **Rights of Dissent**

Holders of NW Natural common stock do not have, and holders of NW Holding s common stock will not have, dissenters rights.

### **Risk Factors**

For a discussion of the risks associated with the Holding Company Proposal, see Risk Factors on page 6.

**The Board of Directors recommends approval and adoption of the Holding Company Proposal and urges each shareholder to vote FOR the Holding Company Proposal.**

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**Risk Factors**

**If the Holding Company Proposal is approved and the Merger completed, NW Holding's ability to pay dividends on NW Holding common stock would be subject to the prior rights of holders of NW Holding indebtedness and preferred stock, if any.**

At the effective time of the Merger, the only class of NW Holding securities outstanding would be NW Holding common stock. However, NW Holding may from time to time thereafter issue debt securities and preferred stock, as well as additional shares of NW Holding common stock, in order to make capital contributions to one or more of its subsidiaries, although NW Natural would likely continue to issue its own debt securities and may issue preferred stock. NW Holding could also guarantee indebtedness of non-utility subsidiaries. The issuance or guaranty of securities by NW Holding would not be subject to the prior approval of the state utility commissions. The consolidated enterprise could thus be more leveraged than NW Natural and its current subsidiaries. NW Holding's ability to pay dividends on NW Holding common stock would be subject to the prior rights of holders of NW Holding debt securities (including guarantees) and preferred stock, if any.

In addition, the right of NW Holding, as a shareholder, to receive assets of any of its direct or indirect subsidiaries upon the subsidiary's liquidation or reorganization would be subject to the prior rights of the holders of existing and future debt securities and preferred stock issued by such subsidiaries, and, as in the case of dividends, the rights of holders of NW Holding common stock to receive any such assets would be subject to the prior rights of the holders of NW Holding's debt securities (including guarantees) and preferred stock.

**If the Holding Company Proposal is approved and the Merger completed, NW Holding's ability to pay dividends on NW Holding common stock would be dependent on the receipt of dividends and other payments from NW Holding's subsidiaries.**

NW Holding would be a holding company, the only significant assets of which will be the shares of common stock of its subsidiaries, and therefore NW Holding would not produce any operating income of its own. As a result, NW Holding's ability to make payments on its indebtedness and to pay dividends on its capital stock would be dependent on the receipt of dividends and other payments from its operating subsidiaries, including NW Natural.

NW Natural and its current subsidiaries, which would become NW Holding's direct and indirect subsidiaries, are separate and distinct legal entities, managed by their own boards of directors, and, as is currently the case, would have no obligation to pay any amounts to their respective shareholders, whether through dividends, loans or other payments. The ability of these companies to pay dividends or make other distributions on their common stock is now, and would continue to be, subject to, among other things: their results of operations, net income, cash flows and financial condition, as well as the success of their business strategies and general economic and competitive conditions; the prior rights of holders of existing and future debt securities and any future preferred stock issued by those companies; and any applicable legal restrictions.

If NW Natural ceases to comply with credit and capital structure requirements approved by the OPUC and WUTC, it will not, with limited exceptions, be permitted to pay dividends to NW Holding. See Holding Company Proposal-Regulatory Conditions and Restrictions.

**The risks applicable to NW Natural are applicable to NW Holding.**

Immediately after completion of the holding company restructuring, the risks that apply to NW Natural, including those risks describe in NW Natural's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and in its subsequently filed quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, are also applicable to NW Holding.

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**NW Holding may invest in activities that may prove to be riskier than the current activities of NW Natural, which could result in losses, a decline in stock price or more volatility in stock price.**

The holding company structure may allow us greater opportunities to invest in regulated and unregulated businesses. These investments may involve greater risk than an investment in NW Natural. If losses are incurred in unregulated businesses, they will likely not be recoverable through utility rates and they could adversely affect our stock price. Similarly, expenses associated with the unregulated businesses will not be recoverable through utility rates.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT NW NATURAL AND NW HOLDING**

### **General**

NW Natural is subject to the informational reporting requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (Exchange Act). NW Natural files annual, quarterly and special reports, proxy statements and other documents with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) (File No. 1-15973). You may read and copy any materials NW Natural files with the SEC at the SEC's public reference room at 100 F Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20549. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for further information on the public reference room. NW Natural's SEC filings are also available to the public from the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov). Other than those documents incorporated by reference into this Proxy Statement-Prospectus, as discussed below, information on this website does not constitute a part of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus.

NW Holding will become subject to the same informational requirements as NW Natural following the Merger described in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus, and both NW Holding and NW Natural will file reports and other information with the SEC in accordance with the Exchange Act. Upon the completion of the Merger, NW Holding common stock will be listed on the NYSE. At the time of such listing, NW Natural's common stock will cease to be listed and registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act. NW Natural will, however, continue to have public reporting obligations under Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act because NW Natural registered and publicly sold first-mortgage bonds and issued deferred compensation obligations to employees and directors under deferred compensation plans.

NW Holding has filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-4, Registration No. 333-223549 (together with all amendments, schedules and exhibits thereto, the Registration Statement) under the Securities Act of 1933, registering the shares of NW Holding common stock to be issued upon effectiveness of the Merger. This Proxy Statement-Prospectus, which constitutes a part of the Registration Statement, does not contain all of the information set forth in the Registration Statement, certain parts of which are omitted in accordance with the rules and regulations of the SEC. The Registration Statement and the exhibits thereto are available for inspection and copying as set forth above. Statements contained in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus or in any document incorporated by reference in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus as to the contents of any contract or other document are not necessarily complete, and in each instance reference is made to the copy of such contract or other document filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement or such incorporated document, each such statement being qualified in all respects by such reference.

### **Incorporation of Documents by Reference**

The SEC allows NW Natural to incorporate by reference the information that it files with the SEC under the Exchange Act. This allows NW Natural to disclose important information to you by referring you to those documents rather than repeating them in full in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus. NW Natural is incorporating into this Proxy Statement-Prospectus by reference:

NW Natural's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017;  
NW Natural's Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on March 13, 2018 and March 21, 2018; and

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all other documents filed by NW Natural with the SEC pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act subsequent to the filing of the Registration Statement and prior to the termination of the offering made by this Proxy Statement-Prospectus (which is the date of the annual shareholder meeting).

The documents incorporated into this Proxy Statement-Prospectus by reference, which are referred to as the Incorporated Documents, are deemed to be part of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus from the date of filing such documents. Any statement contained in an Incorporated Document may be modified or superseded by a statement in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus (if such Incorporated Document was filed prior to the date of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus) or in any subsequently filed Incorporated Document. Any statement contained in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus may be modified or replaced by a statement in an Incorporated Document that is filed with the SEC after the date of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus.

You may request any of the Incorporated Documents, at no cost, by writing Shareholder Services, NW Natural at 220 N.W. Second Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97209 or calling (503) 226-4211 (extension 2402). NW Natural maintains an Internet site at [www.nwnatural.com](http://www.nwnatural.com) which contains information concerning NW Natural and its affiliates. The information contained at NW Natural's Internet site is not incorporated by reference, and you should not consider it part of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus.

**Please contact NW Natural no later than May 17, 2018 in order to receive timely delivery of the Incorporated Documents before the Annual Meeting.**

## **FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This Proxy Statement-Prospectus contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, which are subject to the safe harbors created by such Act. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as anticipates, assumes, intends, plans, seeks, believes, estimates, expects, and similar references to future periods. Examples of forward-looking statements include, but are not limited to, statements regarding the following: plans, projections and predictions; objectives, goals or strategies; assumptions, generalizations and estimates; ongoing continuation of past practices or patterns; future events or performance; trends; risks; timing and cyclicity; earnings and dividends; capital or organizational structure, including restructuring and operating as a holding company; growth; labor relations and workforce succession; project and program development, expansion, or investment; business development efforts, including acquisitions and integration thereof; rate or regulatory outcomes, recovery or refunds; outcomes, timing and effects of potential claims, litigation, regulatory actions, and other administrative matters; and effects and efficacy of regulatory mechanisms.

Forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations and assumptions regarding our business, the economy, and other future conditions. Because forward-looking statements relate to the future, they are subject to inherent uncertainties, risks, and changes in circumstances that are difficult to predict. Our actual results may differ materially from those contemplated by the forward-looking statements. We therefore caution you against relying on any of these forward-looking statements. They are neither statements of historical fact nor guarantees or assurances of future performance. Important factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those in the forward-looking statements are discussed in the risk factors in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus and at Item 1A., Risk Factors of Part I and Item 7. and Item 7A., Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk, respectively, of Part II of the NW Natural 2017 Form 10-K.

Any forward-looking statement made by us in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus speaks only as of the date on which it is made. Factors or events that could cause our actual results to differ may emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for us to predict all of them. We undertake no obligation to publicly update any forward-looking statement, whether as a result of new information, future developments or otherwise, except as may be required by law.

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**INFORMATION REGARDING**  
**2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS**  
**TO BE HELD MAY 24, 2018**  
**PROXY STATEMENT-PROSPECTUS**

The Board of Directors of Northwest Natural Gas Company (NW Natural or the Company) is soliciting the proxies of all holders of NW Natural common stock who may be unable to attend in person or who desire to vote by proxy prior to the Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held in the Hospitality Suite on the Fourth Floor of NW Natural's offices, 220 NW Second Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97209 on Thursday, May 24, 2018, at 2:00 p.m. Pacific Daylight Time. The close of business on April 5, 2018 is the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. We request that you sign and return the enclosed proxy card or Voting Instruction Form promptly. Alternatively, you may grant your proxy by the internet or telephone.

NW Natural's Annual Report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2017, including audited financial statements, is being sent to all shareholders, together with this Proxy Statement-Prospectus and the accompanying proxy card or Voting Instruction Form, commencing April 18, 2018.

**HOW TO VOTE BY PROXY AND REVOKE YOUR PROXY**

**Voting by Proxy**

You may vote your shares either in person or by duly authorized proxy. You may use the proxy card or Voting Instruction Form accompanying this Proxy Statement-Prospectus if you are unable to attend the meeting in person or you wish to have your shares voted by proxy, even if you do attend the meeting. If you are a registered shareholder, you may vote by internet, telephone, or mail, or you may vote your shares in person at the meeting. To vote:

**By internet (do not return your proxy card)**

Go to **www.proxyvote.com**. Internet voting is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on May 23, 2018.

Have your proxy card available.

Follow the simple instructions. You will be prompted to enter your **16-digit Control Number located on your proxy card**.

**By telephone (do not return your proxy card)**

On a touch-tone telephone, call the toll-free number indicated on your proxy card. Telephone voting is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time on May 23, 2018.

Have your proxy card available when you call.

Follow the simple recorded instructions. You will be prompted to enter your **16-digit Control Number located on your proxy card**.

**By mail**

Mark your choice on your proxy card. If you properly execute your proxy card but do not specify your choice, your shares will be voted FOR Proposals 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, as recommended by NW Natural's Board of Directors.

Date and sign your proxy card.

Mail your proxy card in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. If your envelope is misplaced, send your proxy card to Northwest Natural Gas Company, c/o Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc., 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717.

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### **Revoking Your Proxy**

You may revoke your proxy at any time before the proxy is exercised by: (1) delivering a written notice of revocation; (2) filing with the Corporate Secretary a subsequently dated, properly executed proxy; (3) voting after the date of the proxy by the internet or telephone; or (4) attending the meeting and voting in person. Your attendance at the meeting, by itself, will not constitute a revocation of a proxy. You should address any written notices of proxy revocation to: Northwest Natural Gas Company, 220 NW Second Avenue, Portland, OR 97209, Attention: Corporate Secretary.

### **Shares Held by Bank or Broker**

If your shares are held in nominee or street name by a bank or broker, you should follow the directions on the Voting Instruction Form you receive from your bank or broker as to how to vote, change your vote, or revoke your proxy. **If you want to vote those shares in person at the Annual Meeting, you must bring a signed legal proxy from the broker, bank, or other nominee giving you the right to vote the shares.** Revocation of proxies for shares held through a broker, bank, or other nominee must be made through the appropriate nominee in accordance with its instructions.

### **Adjournment**

If an adjournment of the meeting occurs, it will have no effect on the ability of shareholders of record as of the record date to exercise their voting rights or to revoke any previously delivered proxies.

NW Natural expects that on May 24, 2018, the scheduled date of the Annual Meeting, votes will be taken and the polls closed on the proposals included in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus. It is possible, however, that the management of NW Natural may propose one or more adjournments of the Annual Meeting, either to allow the inspectors of election to count and report on the votes cast after the polls have been closed, or, without closing the polls, to permit further solicitation of proxies with respect to the proposals in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus, including the Proposal 5 the proposal to approve reorganization of NW Natural into a holding company structure, or for other reasons.

Proxies solicited by the Board of Directors will be voted in favor of any adjournment proposed by management. However, if management proposes an adjournment to permit further solicitation of proxies, proxies that direct votes against the Holding Company Proposal will not be used to vote in favor of an adjournment.

If any adjournment is properly proposed on behalf of any person other than management, the persons named as proxies, acting in such capacity, will have discretion to vote on such adjournment in accordance with their best judgment.

A majority of the votes represented at the Annual Meeting, whether or not a quorum, must be cast in favor of adjournment for any adjournment to be approved.

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**VOTING YOUR SECURITIES**

The 28,782,815 shares of NW Natural common stock outstanding on April 5, 2018 were held by 5,185 shareholders residing in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and a number of foreign countries.

Each holder of NW Natural common stock of record at the close of business on April 5, 2018 will be entitled to one vote for each share of NW Natural common stock so held on all matters properly submitted at the meeting. Such holder will be entitled to cumulative voting for directors; that is, to cast as many votes for one candidate as shall equal the number of shares held of record multiplied by the number of directors to be elected, or to distribute such number of votes among any number of the nominees.

A majority of the shares of NW Natural common stock outstanding at the close of business on April 5, 2018 must be represented at the meeting, in person or by proxy, to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

**It is important that your shares be represented at the meeting. You are urged, regardless of the number of shares held, to sign and return your proxy. Alternatively, you may grant your proxy by the internet or telephone as described above.**

**ATTENDING THE ANNUAL MEETING**

**IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING, PLEASE DETACH AND RETAIN THE ADMISSION TICKET ATTACHED TO YOUR PROXY CARD.** As space is limited, you may bring only one guest to the meeting. If you hold your stock through a broker, bank, or other nominee, **please bring a legal proxy or other evidence to the meeting showing that you owned NW Natural common stock as of the record date, April 5, 2018,** and we will provide you with an admission ticket. If you receive your Annual Meeting materials electronically and wish to attend the meeting, please follow the instructions provided online for attendance. A form of government-issued photograph identification will be required for both you and your guest to enter the meeting. To permit as many shareholders as possible to participate, only shareholders or their valid proxy holders may submit questions at the meeting. Large bags and packages, weapons, cameras, recording equipment, and other electronic devices will not be permitted in the meeting. A map with driving directions appears on the inside cover of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus.

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**PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

NW Natural's Restated Articles of Incorporation (Restated Articles) provide that the Board of Directors (Board) shall be composed of not less than nine nor more than 13 directors, with the exact number of directors to be determined by the Board. The Board has fixed the number of directors at ten.

The Restated Articles also provide that the Board of Directors be divided into three classes and that the number of directors in each class be as nearly equal in number as possible. Members of each class are elected to serve a three-year term with the terms of office of each class ending in successive years. The term of the Class I directors expires at this year's Annual Meeting. Messrs. Boyle and Dodson, and Ms. Wasson are nominees for election to the Board as Class I directors to serve until the 2021 Annual Meeting or until their successors have been duly qualified and elected. Messrs. Boyle and Dodson and Ms. Wasson were last reelected to the Board of Directors by the shareholders at the 2015 Annual Meeting. In case any of the nominees should become unavailable for election for any reason, the persons named in the proxy will have discretionary authority to vote for a substitute. Management knows of no reason why any of the nominees would be unable to serve if elected.

**Vote Required**

Under Oregon law, if a quorum of shareholders is present at the Annual Meeting, the three nominees who receive the greatest number of votes cast at the meeting shall be elected directors. Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted for purposes of determining whether a quorum exists at the Annual Meeting, but are not counted and have no effect on the results of the vote for directors.

The Corporate Governance Standards adopted by the Board of Directors provide that any nominee for director in an uncontested election who receives a greater number of votes withheld than votes for is required to tender his or her resignation for consideration by the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee will then determine whether to recommend acceptance of, and the Board of Directors will decide whether to accept, such resignation.

**The Board of Directors recommends the election of the three nominees listed below.**

**INFORMATION CONCERNING NOMINEES  
AND CONTINUING DIRECTORS**

Set forth below is information with respect to the nominees and continuing directors, including their recent employment or principal occupation, a summary of their specific experience, qualifications, attributes or skills that led to the conclusion they are qualified to serve as a director, the names of other public companies for which they currently serve as a director or have served as a director within the past five years, their period of service as a NW Natural director, the committees on which they currently serve, and their age.



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**NOMINEES FOR ELECTION TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Class I**

**(For a term ending in 2021)**

**Timothy P. Boyle**

President and Chief Executive Officer, Columbia Sportswear Company, Portland, Oregon

Age: 68

Director since: 2003

Board Committees: Public Affairs and Environmental Policy

Mr. Boyle is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Columbia Sportswear Company, an active outdoor apparel and footwear company headquartered in Portland, Oregon. He has held these positions since 1988, except he relinquished his position as President from February 2015 until June 2017. Mr. Boyle began working with Columbia Sportswear Company in 1970. Mr. Boyle is a member of the boards of directors of Columbia Sportswear Company and Craft Brew Alliance, Inc., and is a trustee of Reed College, as well as an Emeritus Trustee of the Freshwater Trust. He also is a past trustee of the Youth Outdoor Legacy Fund, and University of Oregon Foundation, where he was past Vice Chairman of its capital campaign committee. He was also a past member of the Young Presidents' Organization. Mr. Boyle earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism from the University of Oregon.

Mr. Boyle's professional experiences, including his service as President and Chief Executive Officer and a member of the board of directors of Columbia Sportswear Company, his service as a director of Craft Brew Alliance, Inc., as well as his service on the NW Natural Board, and his current and prior community and public service, enable Mr. Boyle to provide valuable insight to the Board and management regarding public company operations, acquisitions, human capital management, executive compensation, investor and media relations, government relations, and growth and strategic direction, all of which strengthen the Board's collective knowledge, capabilities and experience.

**Mark S. Dodson**

Former Chief Executive Officer, NW Natural, Vancouver, Washington

Age: 73

Director since: 2003

Board Committees: Public Affairs and Environmental Policy, and Finance

Mr. Dodson served as President and Chief Executive Officer of NW Natural from January 1, 2003 to April 30, 2007, when he relinquished his position as President and continued to serve as Chief Executive Officer until his retirement on December 31, 2008. From 2001 to January 2003, Mr. Dodson served as President, Chief Operating Officer and General Counsel of NW Natural. Mr. Dodson joined NW Natural in 1997 as Senior Vice President of Public Affairs and General Counsel, following a 17-year career with the Portland law firm Ater Wynne Hewitt Dodson & Skerritt LLP. Mr. Dodson currently serves as a member of the board of directors of Medical Teams International, and formerly served as its Chairman. He previously served as a director of the American Gas Association, the Energy Insurance Mutual, the Oregon Business Council and The Nature Conservancy of Oregon. Mr. Dodson also has worked on affordable housing issues as a board member and Chairman of the Neighborhood Partnership Fund. He was formerly the Chair of the Portland Business Alliance and the Oregon State Board of Higher Education, and headed the Oregon Governor's Task Force on Scholarship and Student Aid. Mr. Dodson earned an undergraduate degree from Harvard University and a law degree from Boalt College of Law at the University of California, Berkeley.



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Mr. Dodson brings a seasoned perspective and comprehensive knowledge of the natural gas industry to our Board. Mr. Dodson's 20 years of service at NW Natural, including six years as Chief Executive Officer and more than 14 years as a member of the Board of Directors, combined with a 17-year career as a regulatory attorney at a Portland law firm, allow Mr. Dodson to contribute substantial expertise to NW Natural's Board and management. Mr. Dodson's professional experiences enable him to provide insight on a wide variety of matters affecting NW Natural, including, but not limited to: local, state and federal regulatory matters; large project development; gas storage projects; large pipeline projects; acquisitions; public company matters; human capital management; executive compensation; investor, media and government relations; legal matters; environmental issues; and strategic direction. Mr. Dodson's many years of experience serving at NW Natural, and his prior years serving as an outside legal advisor to NW Natural strengthen the Board's collective knowledge, capabilities and experience.

**Malia H. Wasson**

President, Sand Creek Advisors LLC, Portland, Oregon

Age: 59

Director since: 2014

**Board Committees: Audit, and Organization and Executive Compensation**

Ms. Wasson is the President of Sand Creek Advisors LLC, which provides business consulting to chief executive officers of public and private companies. Previously, Ms. Wasson was an Executive Vice President of Commercial Banking at U.S. Bank, N.A., and served as President of U.S. Bank's Oregon and Southwest Washington operations from 2005 to 2015. She also led the U.S. Bank, N.A. Advisory Board in Portland, Oregon. Ms. Wasson is a 33-year veteran of the banking industry. Prior to joining U.S. Bank in 1989, she held various commercial lending positions with the former Oregon Bank and Security Pacific Bank of Oregon. Ms. Wasson currently serves on the board of directors of Columbia Sportswear Company, where she is the Chair of the audit committee. She is also a member of the Oregon Business Plan Steering Committee and a director of Oregon Business Council. Ms. Wasson formerly served on the boards of Oregon Health & Science University Foundation, Inc., OHSU Knight Cancer Institute, Portland Business Alliance, Greater Portland Inc., Portland Mall Management, Inc., SOLVE Founders' Circle and the American Red Cross-Oregon Trail Chapter. She also serves as a senior fellow at American Leadership Forum. Ms. Wasson holds a Bachelor of Science and Commerce degree in finance from Santa Clara University.

Ms. Wasson brings to the NW Natural Board extensive experience in commercial banking, finance and accounting and remarkable local and regional experience. Ms. Wasson's management and leadership roles in the banking industry as well as her strong community presence position her to provide insight and advice to NW Natural on a wide range of financial, accounting, commercial and local and regional strategic matters, including, but not limited to, regulated industry, merger and acquisitions, consumer and commercial businesses, public and government policy and relations, and human resources and diversity. In addition, Ms. Wasson's service as Chair of the audit committee of Columbia Sportswear highlights her substantial experience in finance and accounting matters and positions Ms. Wasson to provide important guidance to the Board on matters of accounting, finance, and corporate governance, as a result of which, the Board has determined that she is an audit committee financial expert as defined by the SEC rules. Ms. Wasson's extensive knowledge and experience of finance, accounting, commercial banking and regulation, and her strong community ties, strengthen the Board's collective knowledge, capabilities and experience.

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**MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONTINUING IN OFFICE**

**Class II**

**(Term ending in 2019)**

**Tod R. Hamachek**

Chairman of the Board, NW Natural, Ketchum, Idaho

Age: 72

Director since: 1986

Board Committees: Governance (Chair) and Audit

Mr. Hamachek served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Penwest Pharmaceuticals Company from October 1997 to February 2005. Penwest, which was spun off from Penford Corporation in 1998, was located in Danbury, Connecticut and was engaged in the research, development and commercialization of novel drug delivery products and technologies. From 1985 until 1998, Mr. Hamachek served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Penford Corporation, a diversified producer of specialty paper, food starches and pharmaceutical ingredients. Mr. Hamachek is a director of the Seattle Times Company, where he is also Chair of the compensation committee, and The Blethen Corporation (the majority owner of the Seattle Times Company), and is a member of the board of directors and chair of Virginia Mason Medical Center and the Virginia Mason Health System in Seattle, Washington. He is also a director and past President of the board of directors of The Sun Valley Center for The Arts in Ketchum, Idaho. Mr. Hamachek is a graduate of Williams College and Harvard Business School.

Mr. Hamachek is our longest-serving director, and he brings to the NW Natural Board a broad array of institutional knowledge and historical perspective, and has participated in a variety of our principal standing committees. Drawing on his experience as an executive and director of Penwest Pharmaceuticals Company and an executive of Penford Corporation, along with his other professional experiences, Mr. Hamachek is able to provide important insights to our management and other directors on subjects ranging from corporate governance and corporate strategy to management oversight on large project development, public company operations, acquisitions, executive compensation, and media and government relations, all of which strengthen the Board's collective knowledge, capabilities and experience.

**Jane L. Peverett**

Former President and Chief Executive Officer, British Columbia Transmission Corporation, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

Age: 59

Director since: 2007

Board Committees: Organization and Executive Compensation, and Public Affairs and Environmental Policy

From 2005 to January 2009, Ms. Peverett served as President and Chief Executive Officer of British Columbia Transmission Corporation (BCTC), an electric utility in Vancouver, British Columbia. Between 2003 and 2005, she served as Chief Financial Officer of BCTC. Prior to joining BCTC, from 1988 through 2003, Ms. Peverett held various senior positions with Westcoast Energy Ltd., including serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of Union Gas Limited, a Westcoast Energy company, between 2001 and 2003. Ms. Peverett currently serves on the board of directors of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC), Hydro One Inc. and Canadian Pacific Railway Limited. She serves as Chair of the audit committees of CIBC and Canadian Pacific Railway Limited. Ms. Peverett has also previously served on the board of directors of AEGIS, Encana Corporation, Postmedia Network Canada Corp., BC Ferry Authority, BC Ferries Services, Inc. (BC Ferries), and the United



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Way of Lower Mainland, also serving as Chair of BC Ferry Authority, and as Chair of the audit committee of Encana Corporation. Ms. Peverett earned a Bachelor of Commerce degree from McMaster University and a Master of Business Administration degree from Queen's University. She is a certified management accountant.

Ms. Peverett's extensive senior management experience at Union Gas Limited of Chatham, Ontario, a natural gas distribution, storage and transmission company, and BCTC, the entity responsible for managing British Columbia's publicly-owned electrical transmission system, as well as her board experience at Hydro One Inc., one of North America's largest electricity delivery companies, and Canadian Pacific Railway Limited, and her prior board experiences at AEGIS, Encana Corporation, Postmedia Network Canada Corp., and BC Ferries, position her to advise management on a wide range of natural gas and energy industry-specific strategic and regulatory matters, including large project development and other business matters. In addition, Ms. Peverett's other board experiences, including as Chair of the audit committees of CIBC, a leading North American financial institution with almost 11 million personal banking and business customers, and Canadian Pacific Railway Limited, a former chair of the audit committee of Encana Corporation, and a former audit committee member of Postmedia Network Canada Corp., enable her to provide effective oversight of management and insight into a wide variety of corporate governance and financial matters. Ms. Peverett also has extensive knowledge of and training in finance and accounting matters, which strengthens the Board's collective knowledge, capabilities and experience.

**Kenneth Thrasher**

Chairman of the Board, Compli Corporation, Portland, Oregon

Age: 68

Director since: 2005

Board Committees: Public Affairs and Environmental Policy (Chair), Audit, and Organization and Executive Compensation

Mr. Thrasher served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Alternative Legal Solutions, Inc. (dba Compli), a software solution provider for management of compliance in employment, regulatory, environmental, health and safety, and corporate governance practices from 2002 through December 2009, when he relinquished his position as Chief Executive Officer and continued to serve as Chairman of the Board. Prior to joining Compli, Mr. Thrasher served 19 years in executive positions with Fred Meyer, Inc., a division of The Kroger Co., including serving as President and Chief Executive Officer from 1999 to 2001, as Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer from 1997 to 1999, and as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from 1987 to 1997. Mr. Thrasher serves as Chairman of Compli, as well as serving as a member of Compli's audit and compensation committees. He also serves on the board of directors of the Jensen Growth Fund, and is Chair of its audit committee. Mr. Thrasher is also Chairman of College Possible Portland, a director and member of the finance and audit committees of Education Northwest (formerly Institute for Youth Success and Oregon Mentors), a director of the Children's Institute and the OSU College of Business Dean's Council of Excellence, and is a member of the Cradle to Career Council of All Hands Raised, as well as a senior director of the Oregon Business Council. Mr. Thrasher has previously served on the board of directors of GSL Solutions, Inc., Friends of the Children, Portland State University Foundation, Albertina Kerr Centers, Portland Art Museum and the Oregon Coast Aquarium. Mr. Thrasher earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Oregon State University.

Mr. Thrasher brings to the NW Natural Board a wide range of leadership experiences in both the public and private sectors. Mr. Thrasher's service as an executive at Fred Meyer, Inc. positions him to provide oversight of management on a wide variety of strategic, financial, and public company matters, including, but not limited to, large project development and acquisitions. Mr. Thrasher's service as an executive, Chairman, member of the audit and compensation committees of Compli, and member of finance and audit committees of Education Northwest enables him to advise management on matters of compliance, regulation, human capital management,

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executive compensation and corporate governance. Mr. Thrasher's cumulative experience has led the Board to determine that he is an audit committee financial expert as defined by the SEC rules. Mr. Thrasher's other professional experiences, particularly his community and government related experience, provide insight with respect to government, community and media relations, all of which strengthen the Board's collective knowledge, capabilities and experience.

**Class III**

**(Term ending in 2020)**

**David H. Anderson**

Director, President and Chief Executive Officer, NW Natural, Portland, Oregon

Age: 56

Director since: 2016

Board Committees: None

Mr. Anderson is NW Natural's President and Chief Executive Officer. He previously served as President and Chief Operating Officer from August 2015 to July 2016, as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer from February 2014 to July 2015, as Executive Vice President of Operations and Regulation from February 2013 to February 2014, and as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from when he joined the Company in 2004 to February 2013. Before joining NW Natural, Mr. Anderson was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at TXU Gas. He previously held executive positions within TXU Corporation (formerly Texas Utilities) including Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer, and Vice President of Investor Relations and Shareholder Services.

Mr. Anderson serves as a director on the NW Natural Board, as well as serving on the Board of Directors of the American Gas Association (AGA), American Gas Foundation, and the Portland State University (PSU) Foundation. He also is Chair of the AGA's Audit Committee, Co-Chair of the AGA's Carbon Policy Task Force, a board trustee of the American Gas Foundation and a director of the Oregon Business Council, Portland Business Alliance, and Greater Portland Inc. He is also a member of SOLVE Founders' Circle. Mr. Anderson is a past board member of the Northwest Gas Association, and a past president of The Oregon Partnership, Inc. (Lines for Life). Mr. Anderson is also a past chair of AGA Finance Committee, AGA Fiscal and Tax Committee, the Associated Oregon Industries (AOI) Fiscal Policy Committee, and PSU Foundation Investment Committee, and is a past advisory board member for PSU School of Business and Oregon Department of Education Business Advisory Team. Mr. Anderson holds a BBA in Accounting from Texas Tech University and is a CPA (ret.) and CGMA.

Mr. Anderson serves a key leadership role on the NW Natural Board and provides the Board with in-depth knowledge of each area of NW Natural's business, its finance and operations, the energy industry generally, and the Company's challenges and opportunities. He acts as the principal intermediary between management and the independent directors of our Board, and communicates to the Board management's perspective on important matters brought before the Board. Mr. Anderson's 14 years with NW Natural, his over 30 years' experience in the energy industry, and his extensive involvement with the AGA and Northwest Gas Association enable him to bring to the Board a comprehensive understanding of the Company's business operations as well as matters relating to the energy industry generally. Mr. Anderson's service on local business, educational, charitable and public service boards provide an important connection between NW Natural and the communities it serves. Additionally, his extensive experience in finance and operations provides important perspectives with respect to the Company's business, operations, and financial positioning, as well as with respect to the communities the Company serves. Mr. Anderson's combined professional skills and insights from his position as President and Chief Executive Officer, as well as his previous executive positions with NW Natural, strengthen the Board's collective knowledge, capabilities and experience.

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**Martha L. Stormy Byorum**

Chief Executive Officer of Cori Investment Advisors, LLC, New York, New York

Age: 69

Director since: 2004

Board Committees: Finance (Chair), Audit, Governance, and Public Affairs and Environmental Policy (Ex Officio)

Ms. Byorum has been the Chief Executive Officer of Cori Investment Advisors, LLC, which was spun off from Violy, Byorum & Partners (VB&P), since 2003. VB&P was a leading independent strategic advisory and investment banking firm specializing in Latin America.

Ms. Byorum is also a member of the Board of Directors of the publicly-traded Tecnoglass Inc., formerly known as Andina Acquisition Corporation, a position she has held since 2011, and is currently the Chair of the Tecnoglass Inc. audit committee. Since 2014, she also has been a board member of JELD-WEN Holding, Inc., a company that became publicly-traded in January 2017; she serves on the JELD-WEN Holding, Inc. audit committee as well. Ms. Byorum was Executive Vice President of Stephens, Inc., a private investment banking firm from 2005 to 2013, and Senior Managing Director of Stephens Cori Capital Advisors, a division of Stephens, Inc. from 2005 to 2012. Prior to co-founding VB&P in 1996, Ms. Byorum had a 24-year career at Citibank, where, among other roles, she served as Chief of Staff and Chief Financial Officer for Citibank's Latin American Banking Group from 1986 to 1990, overseeing \$15 billion of loans and coordinating activities in 22 countries. She was later appointed the head of Citibank's U.S. Corporate Banking Business and a member of the bank's Operating Committee and a Customer Group Head with global responsibilities. In addition to Ms. Byorum's service as a director of the publicly-traded Tecnoglass Inc. and JELD-WEN Holding, Inc., she is a Life Trustee of Amherst College, and a Trustee Emeritus of the Folger Shakespeare Library. From 2001 until May of 2010, Ms. Byorum was a board member of Aeterna-Zentaris Laboratories, Inc., a publicly-traded biopharmaceutical company, and from 2007 until December 2011, she was a board member of M&F Worldwide Corp., a holding company operating four businesses, which was publicly-traded until December 2011. Ms. Byorum is a graduate of Southern Methodist University and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Byorum brings to the NW Natural Board more than 39 years of extensive experience in investment banking and public and private finance. Her multiple executive leadership roles at Stephens, Inc., Stephens Cori Capital Advisors, Cori Investment Advisors, LLC, VB&P and Citibank position her to advise NW Natural on a wide range of financial, strategic and governance matters. Ms. Byorum's experience also allows her to provide insights in areas including, but not limited to, mergers and acquisitions, human capital management and diversity, and investor and media relations. Ms. Byorum's current and prior service on other boards, including on M&F Worldwide Corp., Aeterna-Zentaris Laboratories, Inc., and JELD-WEN Holding, Inc., as well as Chair of the audit committee of Tecnoglass Inc., enables her to provide effective oversight of management and insight into a wide variety of public company operations and governance matters. Her cumulative experience has led the Board to determine that she is an audit committee financial expert as defined by the SEC rules. Ms. Byorum's extensive finance and banking experience strengthens the Board's collective knowledge, capabilities and experience.



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**John D. Carter**

Chairman of the Board, Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc., Portland, Oregon

Age: 72

Director since: 2002

Board Committees: Audit (Chair), Finance, and Governance

Mr. Carter served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc. from May 2005 to December 2008 when he was appointed to his current position of Chairman of the Board. From 2002 to May 2005, he was engaged in a consulting practice focused primarily on strategic planning in transportation and energy for national and international businesses, as well as other small business ventures. From 1982 to 2002, Mr. Carter served in a variety of senior management capacities at Bechtel Group, Inc., including Executive Vice President and Director, as well as President of Bechtel Enterprises, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Bechtel Group, Inc., and other operating groups. Prior to his Bechtel tenure, Mr. Carter was a partner in a San Francisco law firm. He is Chairman of the Board of Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc., and a director of FLIR Systems, Inc. Mr. Carter also previously served as a director and Chairman of the Board of privately-owned Kuni Automotive and as a director of privately-owned JELD-WEN, Inc., prior to it becoming publicly-traded in January 2017. In the United Kingdom, he served as a director of London & Continental Railways until February 2006, and, until December 2005, he served as a director of Cross London Rail Links, Ltd. Mr. Carter also serves on the board of The Nature Conservancy of Oregon and the Oregon Business Council. He is a former Chairman of the Oregon Business Plan and a former member of the board of Grow Oregon. Mr. Carter is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Law School.

Mr. Carter brings to the NW Natural Board a broad array of executive, leadership and board service experiences that contribute to the Board's governance of the Company. Mr. Carter's extensive executive senior management experiences, including his positions at Bechtel and as President and Chief Executive Officer of Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc., as well as his other current and prior board service, including as Chairman of the Boards of Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc. and Kuni Automotive, and as a director of FLIR Systems, Inc. and JELD-WEN, Inc., enable him to provide effective oversight of management and insight into a wide variety of strategic, corporate governance and financial matters, including, but not limited to, experience in large project development, acquisitions, human capital management, executive compensation, media and governmental relations, growth orientation, change management, and strategic direction. In addition, Mr. Carter's tenure as General Counsel of Bechtel Group, Inc. and prior experience as a partner in a San Francisco law firm brings to the Board substantial legal and governance expertise. Mr. Carter also has extensive knowledge of finance and accounting matters, including through his service as President and Chief Executive Officer of Schnitzer Steel Industries, Inc. and Bechtel Enterprises, Inc., the finance and project development subsidiary of Bechtel Group, Inc., as a result of which, the Board has determined that he is an audit committee financial expert as defined by the SEC rules. Mr. Carter's multifaceted skill set and professional experiences strengthen the Board's collective knowledge, capabilities and experience.

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**C. Scott Gibson**

President, Gibson Enterprises, Jackson, Wyoming

Age: 65

Director since: 2002

Board Committees: Organization and Executive Compensation (Chair), Governance, and Finance

Mr. Gibson has been President of Gibson Enterprises since its formation in 1992. In 1983, Mr. Gibson cofounded Sequent Computer Systems and served as its President from 1988 until March 1992 and as its President and Co-CEO from 1990 until March 1992. Before his tenure at Sequent, Mr. Gibson served as General Manager for the Memory Components Division of Intel Corporation. Mr. Gibson serves as a director of Qorvo, Inc., the surviving company of the TriQuint Semiconductor merger, and Pixelworks, Inc. He has previously served as a director of Radisys Corporation, Verigy Pte. Ltd. and TriQuint Semiconductor, and as a member of the Board of Trustees of Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering. Mr. Gibson also serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the St. Johns Medical Center and the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Mr. Gibson earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and a Masters in Business degree from the University of Illinois. He is currently a National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) Leadership Fellow, having completed the NACD's program for corporate directors.

Mr. Gibson brings to the NW Natural Board extensive experience as a director of publicly-traded companies, including Qorvo, Inc., Pixelworks, Inc. and, formerly Radisys Corporation, TriQuint Semiconductor and Verigy Pte. Ltd. He is a professional public company and non-profit board member, dedicating all his work hours to the boards and companies on which he serves. Based on this experience and other professional experiences, Mr. Gibson is able to deliver important insights to our management and other directors on subjects ranging from management oversight to growth orientation, change management and strategic direction. In particular, Mr. Gibson's service as an audit committee member of Qorvo, Inc., and Pixelworks, Inc., and formerly Radisys Corporation, TriQuint Semiconductor and Verigy Pte. Ltd. highlight Mr. Gibson's substantial experience in finance and accounting matters and position Mr. Gibson to provide important guidance to the Board on matters of accounting, finance, and corporate governance. Additionally, Mr. Gibson's current service on the governance committees of Qorvo, Inc., and Pixelworks, Inc. and formerly Radisys Corporation, as well as the compensation committees of Pixelworks, Inc. and formerly Radisys Corporation, TriQuint Semiconductor and Verigy Pte. Ltd., enables him to substantially contribute to Board matters involving executive compensation, human capital management, and general corporate governance. Mr. Gibson's broad and varied public company leadership service strengthens the Board's collective knowledge, capabilities and experience.

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**CORPORATE GOVERNANCE**

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ITS COMMITTEES**

**Meeting Attendance**

The Board of Directors conducts its annual organization meeting on the same date as the Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which all of the directors are encouraged to attend. In 2017, all of our directors, except Mr. Dodson, attended the Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

During 2017, there were six meetings of our Board, each of which included an executive session of non-management directors. No director attended fewer than 75 percent of the aggregate meetings of our Board and Committees on which he or she served.

**Independence**

The Board of Directors has adopted Director Independence Standards to comply with New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) rules. The Director Independence Standards, amended September 26, 2013, are available at [www.nwnatural.com](http://www.nwnatural.com) and are available in print to any shareholder who requests them. No director is deemed independent unless the Board affirmatively determines that the director has no material relationship with NW Natural either directly or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization that has a relationship with NW Natural. The Board applies NW Natural's Director Independence Standards as well as additional qualifications prescribed under the listing standards of the NYSE and applicable state and federal statutes. Annually, the Board determines whether each director meets the criteria of independence, including whether the members of the Governance, Audit and Organization and Executive Compensation Committees (OECC) satisfy the independence requirement for service on those committees. As of February 22, 2018, the Board determined that nine of the ten directors met the independence criteria. They are directors Boyle, Byorum, Carter, Dodson, Gibson, Hamachek, Peverett, Thrasher and Wasson.

**Board Nominations**

The Board is responsible for selecting candidates for Board membership and the Governance Committee has been assigned the responsibility of recommending to the Board of Directors nominees for election as directors. The Governance Committee, with recommendations and input from the Chairman of the Board, the Chief Executive Officer and other directors, evaluates the qualifications of each director candidate in accordance with the Director Selection Criteria established by the Board. Candidates for director nominees are reviewed in the context of the current composition and diversity of the Board, the operating requirements and existing and prospective business environment faced by NW Natural, NW Natural's business strategy, and the long-term interests of shareholders. Director candidates must be able to make a significant contribution to the governance of NW Natural by virtue of their business and financial expertise, educational and professional background, and current or recent experience as a chief executive officer or other senior leader of a public company or other relevant organization. The business discipline that may be sought at any given time will vary depending on the needs and strategic direction of our Company and the disciplines represented by our incumbent directors. In addition, the Governance Committee looks at the overall composition of the Board and how a candidate would contribute to the overall synergy and collaborative process of the Board. In conducting its assessment, the Governance Committee considers a variety of criteria, including, but not limited to, the candidate's integrity, reputation, judgment, knowledge, experience, commitment, skills, diversity and independence.

**Shareholder Nominations**

Shareholders' recommendations for director-nominees may be submitted to NW Natural's Corporate Secretary for consideration by the Governance Committee. In evaluating shareholder recommendations for director-nominees, the Governance Committee applies the same Director Selection Criteria discussed above. NW Natural's Restated Articles of Incorporation provide that no person, except those nominated by the Board, shall be eligible for election as a director at any annual or special meeting of shareholders unless a written request that his or her name be placed in nomination, together with the written consent of the nominee, shall be received from

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a shareholder of record entitled to vote at such election by the Corporate Secretary of NW Natural on or before the later of (a) the thirtieth day prior to the date fixed for the meeting, or (b) the tenth day after the mailing of the notice of that meeting.

### **Diversity**

As indicated above, NW Natural's Director Selection Criteria includes a consideration of diversity as one factor in evaluating candidates for Board membership. The Board believes that diversity with respect to factors such as background, experience, skills, geographic location, race and gender are important considerations in Board composition. The Governance Committee discusses diversity considerations in connection with each director candidate, as well as on a periodic basis in connection with the composition of the Board as a whole. In addition, the Governance Committee and the Board conduct formal self-evaluations each year that include an assessment of whether the Governance Committee and the Board have adequately considered diversity, among other factors, in identifying and discussing director candidates. The Governance Committee believes that, as a group, the nominees presented for election at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Shareholders contribute to the Board's diverse range of backgrounds, experiences and perspectives.

### **Board Leadership Structure**

The current Board leadership structure separates the roles of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The Board evaluates its leadership structure and role in risk oversight on an ongoing basis. The decision to combine or separate the Chairman and CEO roles is determined on the basis of what the Board considers to be best for NW Natural at any given point in time. Currently, the independent Chair of the Board meets regularly with the CEO and the Corporate Secretary to discuss appropriate business to come before the Board and its committees and actively recommends agenda items for Board meetings. NW Natural's Board is structured to promote independence. The directors of the Board meet regularly in executive sessions at which the independent Board Chairman presides and only the non-management directors are present. Under NW Natural's bylaws, the Governance Committee, Audit Committee and OECC must be composed entirely of independent directors and, under its charter, the Finance Committee must have a majority of independent directors. All committees have an independent chair that works with the executive officer primarily responsible for work with that committee and the Corporate Secretary to discuss appropriate business to come before the committee, and to recommend agenda items for that committee. The Board of Directors believes its leadership structure provides for appropriate independence between the Board and management.

The Governance Committee and the Board annually review the Corporate Governance Standards, which can be accessed electronically in the Corporate Governance section of NW Natural's website at [www.nwnatural.com](http://www.nwnatural.com), and the performance of the Board is reviewed annually by the members of the Board. The Corporate Governance Standards describe the Board's primary responsibilities, which include oversight of NW Natural's mission, and key programs that enable the Board to assess and manage material risks, including, but not limited to, risks related to business continuity, operational matters, strategic planning and business development, environmental matters, business improvement and information technology, market competition, corporate organizational structure and governance, legislative and regulatory risk and compliance, financial performance, business integrity and compliance, workforce and employee benefits, compensation and CEO succession.

### **Committees**

There are five standing committees of the Board: Audit, Finance, Governance, OECC, and Public Affairs and Environmental Policy. Each of the standing committees operates according to a formal written charter, all of which are reviewed annually and are available at [www.nwnatural.com](http://www.nwnatural.com). Copies of the charters are also available in print to any shareholder upon request. The performance of each committee is reviewed annually. Each committee may obtain advice and assistance from internal or external legal, accounting or other advisors, when appropriate. Each committee has the opportunity to meet in executive session with non-management directors at the end of each committee meeting; the independent chair of the committee presides at these sessions. Each committee regularly reports to the full Board of Directors.

**Table of Contents****Board and Committees**

<b>Director</b>	<b>Board</b>	<b>Audit<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Organization and Executive Compensation</b>	<b>Governance</b>	<b>Finance</b>	<b>Public Affairs</b>
David H. Anderson	X					
Timothy P. Boyle	X					X
Martha L. Stormy Byorum	X	X		X	Chair	Ex Officio <sup>1</sup>
John D. Carter	X	Chair		X	X	
Mark S. Dodson	X				X	X
C. Scott Gibson	X		Chair	X	X	
Tod R. Hamachek	Chair	X		Chair		
Jane L. Peverett	X		X			X
Kenneth Thrasher	X	X	X			Chair
Malia H. Wasson	X	X	X			
<b>Number of Total Meetings in 2017</b>	6	6	4	5	3	2

<sup>(1)</sup>Ms. Byorum also serves as a voting member of the Public Affairs and Environmental Policy Committee for purposes of its oversight of the Company's environmental liability and insurance recovery matters.

<sup>(2)</sup>Based on its review of relevant information, the Board has determined that each of Messrs. Carter and Thrasher and Ms. Byorum and Ms. Wasson is an audit committee financial expert, and that each member of the Audit Committee is independent as those terms are defined under applicable Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules.

**Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee is responsible for overseeing matters relating to accounting, financial reporting, internal controls, auditing, the Company's information technology systems, NW Natural's Enterprise Risk Management process, business continuity and disaster planning, capital projects and contingencies, the Company's Business Integrity Hotline, the Company's Business Integrity Program, and material litigation. The Audit Committee is also responsible for the appointment, oversight and review of the Director of Internal Audit as well as the independent registered public accounting firm, and reviews the audit findings and other internal accounting control matters with the independent auditor. A more detailed description of the Audit Committee's responsibilities is included in the Report of the Audit Committee, below.

**Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee is responsible for reviewing strategies and making recommendations to the Board with respect to NW Natural's financing programs, budgets and forecasts, financial policy matters and material regulatory issues. The Finance Committee also provides oversight of the Company's investor relations program and credit agency relationships, as well as the Company's retirement committee.

**Governance Committee**

The Governance Committee is empowered, during intervals between Board meetings, to exercise all of the authority of the Board in the management of NW Natural, except as otherwise may be provided by law. The Governance Committee, which serves as the nominating committee, makes recommendations to the Board regarding nominees for election to the Board, establishes criteria for Board and committee membership and policies that govern the Board's activities, reviews and recommends to the Board governance policies and structure including the Corporate Governance Standards discussed below, and evaluates Board and individual director performance. It also considers any questions of possible conflicts of interest of Board members and senior executives and, jointly with the OECC, considers CEO succession plans.

**Organization and Executive Compensation Committee**

The Organization and Executive Compensation Committee (OECC) oversees and reviews plans and preparations for talent succession and the transfer of knowledge and expertise of the Company's workforce; with

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input from the full Board reviews the performance of the CEO; considers the performance of other executive officers; and makes recommendations to the Board relating to executive compensation programs and benefit plans, as well as monitoring risks related to such plans and programs. In addition to those matters delegated to the OECC by the Board, the OECC also makes recommendations to the Board regarding Board compensation, and organization and executive succession matters. Each member of the OECC meets the criteria for a non-employee director under applicable SEC rules and the criteria for outside directors under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (Internal Revenue Code), to the extent such characterization is applicable for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017. For additional information regarding the OECC, see Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis Detailed Discussion and Analysis Executive Compensation Roles and Responsibilities OECC, below, and for additional information regarding Internal Revenue Code Section 162(m), see Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis Tax Deductibility of Compensation, below.

### ***Public Affairs and Environmental Policy Committee***

The Public Affairs and Environmental Policy Committee reviews and monitors NW Natural's significant regulatory matters as well as NW Natural's policies and practices relating to significant public and political issues that may impact our business operations, financial performance or public image. The Public Affairs and Environmental Policy Committee oversees our programs and policies relating to civic, charitable and community affairs, safety, diversity and equal employment opportunities. It also reviews and recommends to the Board appropriate environmental policies and informs the Board concerning our sustainability efforts and the status of our compliance with environmental regulations, as well as oversees our administrative and litigation matters related to our environmental liabilities. The Public Affairs and Environmental Policy Committee makes recommendations to the Board to ensure that we fulfill our objectives in a manner consistent with the responsibilities of good corporate citizenship.

### **Board's Role in Risk Oversight**

NW Natural's management is responsible for the day-to-day management of risks faced by the Company, while the Board of Directors, collectively and through its committees, has responsibility for the oversight of risk management. The Board periodically reviews its committee oversight authority to ensure the Board has adequate visibility and oversight of the Company's key areas of risk.

NW Natural's independent Audit Committee, which regularly reports to the full Board, has primary responsibility for oversight and evaluation of the Company's policies with respect to significant risks and exposures faced by the Company and the procedures for assessing, monitoring and managing those risks. Under the terms of its charter, the Audit Committee's duties include responsibility for oversight of the independent auditor, internal audit, and financial reporting, including the Code of Ethics and its system for review and treatment of hotline complaints regarding accounting or financial irregularities as well as other compliance and integrity violations. The Audit Committee also reviews NW Natural's annual and quarterly financial filings, including the disclosure of NW Natural's risk factors. The Audit Committee also has oversight responsibility for the Company's annual Enterprise Risk Management assessment process. In fulfilling its risk oversight function, the Audit Committee periodically, and as needed, discusses key risks with NW Natural's President and Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief Accounting Officer, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, legal counsel, internal auditors, and the Company's independent registered public accounting firm.

NW Natural's Board manages executive organization and succession planning, and executive compensation oversight risk responsibility through the independent OECC, which regularly reports to the full Board. Under the terms of its charter, the OECC is responsible for overseeing the Company's executive organization and executive officer succession planning to manage risks associated with the transfer of knowledge and expertise of NW Natural's workforce as aging employees retire. Additionally, under the terms of its charter, the OECC is responsible for overseeing the Company's executive compensation programs and plans to ensure consistency with corporate objectives and its compensation philosophy. In fulfilling its compensation risk oversight function, the OECC discusses with its outside consultant key compensation design elements of the Company's

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compensation plans and awards, including, but not limited to, whether those plans and awards properly incentivize executive performance, attract and promote retention of valuable executives, and disincent inappropriate risk-taking. For additional information regarding the OECC oversight of executive compensation, see Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis Detailed Discussion and Analysis Executive Compensation Roles and Responsibilities OECC below.

In addition to receiving regular reports from the Audit Committee and the OECC with respect to its risk oversight responsibilities, the Board reviews key risks associated with the Company's strategic plan at its annual strategic planning session and periodically throughout the year. Other committees having a significant risk oversight role include the Finance Committee, which has primary responsibility for the financial strategy and policies of the Company, including risk oversight of its capital structure and liquidity; the Public Affairs and Environmental Policy Committee, which has primary responsibility for overseeing the Company's strategy related to the Company's current and potential environmental liabilities, as well as legislative and regulatory risks; and the Governance Committee, which oversees risks related to corporate governance matters. In addition, management attends Board and committee meetings and regularly discusses with the Board and the committees various risks confronting the Company.

### **OECC Engagement of Compensation Consultant**

For 2017, the OECC engaged Pay Governance, an independent compensation consulting firm (Consultant), to assist in the evaluation of the competitiveness of our executive compensation programs and to provide overall guidance to the OECC in the design and operation of executive compensation programs. The Consultant reports directly to the OECC Chair. At the direction and under the guidance of the OECC Chair, the Consultant provides data and analysis that is used by both management and the OECC to develop recommendations for executive compensation and executive programs to submit to the OECC for its consideration.

The OECC reviews the engagement of its independent executive compensation consultant on a periodic basis, and as part of that process reviews a summary of all services provided to NW Natural by the consultant, the percentage of the total fees paid by NW Natural in relation to the total revenues of consulting firm, any business or personal relationships the consulting firm or the consultant may have with any member of the OECC or any executive officer of NW Natural, NW Natural stock owned by the consultant or the consulting firm, and internal policies and procedures of the consulting firm in place to maintain the objectivity, independence and separation between compensation consulting and investment advisory services, including, but not limited to the consulting firm's code of business conduct requirement that all the consulting firm's associates must report any potential conflicts of interest. Pay Governance does not provide any services to NW Natural other than executive compensation consulting.

## **CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STANDARDS**

The Board of Directors maintains Corporate Governance Standards that provide NW Natural and its Board of Directors with guidelines designed to ensure business is conducted with the highest level of integrity. The Corporate Governance Standards are reviewed annually by the Governance Committee to determine if changes should be recommended to the Board of Directors. The Corporate Governance Standards, amended December 21, 2017, are available at [www.nwnatural.com](http://www.nwnatural.com), and in print to any shareholder who requests a copy. Among other matters, the Corporate Governance Standards include the following guidelines:

Any nominee for director in an uncontested election who receives a greater number of votes withheld than votes for is required to tender his or her resignation for consideration by the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee will then determine whether to recommend acceptance of, and the Board of Directors will decide whether to accept, such resignation.

Open and complete director access to NW Natural's senior management, and Board and committee access to independent counsel, accountants or other advisors, as appropriate.

Director orientation and continuing education expectations to familiarize and enable directors to develop and maintain skills necessary or appropriate for the performance of their duties.

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The Board and committee structure and function, including expectations for meeting attendance and preparation.  
Annual CEO report to the Board regarding succession planning and talent management development.  
OECC recommendations regarding director compensation. Directors who are also employees of NW Natural receive no additional compensation for their service as directors.

Annually, the Board reviews and approves the strategic plan and one-year capital expenditure plans.

The Board provides an opportunity for an executive session of non-management directors at the end of each Board meeting; the Chair of the Board presides at these executive sessions.

The Code of Ethics is available at [www.nwnatural.com](http://www.nwnatural.com). Copies are also available in print to any shareholder who requests a copy. In addition, the Board of Directors has adopted procedures for the receipt, retention and treatment of concerns of our employees, shareholders, customers and other interested parties regarding accounting, financial reporting, internal controls, auditing or other matters. Concerns may be submitted in writing to the non-management directors of NW Natural, c/o Corporate Secretary, 220 NW Second Avenue, Portland, OR 97209. Employees and other third parties may also submit concerns anonymously pursuant to the Integrity Hotline at [NWNIntegrity.com](http://NWNIntegrity.com) or 1-866-546-3696, also located at our external and internal websites. Our Director of Internal Audit handles matters reported on the hotline in coordination with our Chief Compliance Officer and both regularly report to the Audit Committee regarding hotline activity and the Chief Compliance Officer regularly reports to the Audit Committee regarding the Business Integrity program.

The Corporate Secretary will refer concerns that come directly before the Corporate Secretary and Chief Compliance Officer relating to accounting, financial reporting, internal controls or auditing matters to the Chair of the Audit Committee. The Corporate Secretary also regularly reports to the Governance Committee regarding concerns submitted to the non-management directors of NW Natural, if any.

## **SECTION 16(a) BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires NW Natural's directors and executive officers to file initial reports of ownership and changes in ownership of NW Natural common stock with the SEC. Based solely on a review of the copies of reports furnished to us and written representations that no other such reports were required, we believe all directors and executive officers timely filed all reports required under Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except the Form 4 filed by the Company on behalf of Mr. C. Scott Gibson, dated as of January 12, 2017. The stock distribution of 268 shares from Directors Deferred Compensation Plan was omitted on the Form 4 dated January 12, 2017 due to administrative error, resulting in the filing of an amended Form 4 on November 8, 2017.

## **COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION**

There are no Compensation Committee interlocks or insider participation, which SEC regulations or NYSE listing standards require to be disclosed in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus.

## **TRANSACTIONS WITH RELATED PERSONS**

The Board adopted a written policy on the review of related person transactions (Transactions with Related Persons Policy) specifying certain transactions that involve directors, nominees, executive officers, significant shareholders and certain other related persons in which NW Natural is or will be a participant, and that are of the type required to be reported as a related person transaction under Item 404(a) of SEC Regulation S-K, must be reviewed by the Audit Committee. Pursuant to its charter, the Audit Committee is responsible for reviewing related person transactions.

Under the Transactions with Related Persons Policy, the Audit Committee reviews the material facts and circumstances of any transaction that may require reporting under Item 404(a) of SEC Regulation S-K to



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determine: (i) whether or not the transaction is on terms comparable to those that could be obtained in arm's length dealings with an unrelated third party; or (ii) whether or not the transaction is otherwise in the best interest of the Company. Upon review of a transaction, the Audit Committee may approve or disapprove the transaction and direct the officers of the Company to take appropriate action. In the event the Audit Committee is not otherwise convening, the transaction may be approved or ratified by the majority of disinterested members of the Board of Directors. We are not aware of any transactions entered into during the last fiscal year that did not follow the procedures outlined in the policy.

**Compensation to Spouse of an Executive Officer**

Ted Smart, the husband of Lea Anne Doolittle, Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, has been an employee of NW Natural since February 2006. In November 2006, Mr. Smart moved from his position as a senior auditor to purchasing manager. Ms. Doolittle was not involved in decisions regarding Mr. Smart's hiring, promotion or compensation. Compensation paid to Mr. Smart in 2017 was approximately \$212,000 and is expected to be approximately \$165,000 in 2018. Mr. Smart reports to the Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Compensation paid to Mr. Smart is reviewed periodically by the Audit Committee in accordance with our Transactions with Related Persons Policy.

**Certain Legal Fees**

Ms. Shawn M. Filippi, Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer and Corporate Secretary, is married to a Co-Managing Partner of the Portland office of Stoel Rives LLP. For many years prior to Ms. Filippi's employment at NW Natural, the Company engaged the law firm Stoel Rives LLP as outside legal counsel. The Company continues to engage Stoel Rives LLP from time to time, and intends to do so in the future. Total fees paid to Stoel Rives LLP in 2017 were approximately \$1,077,000. Ms. Filippi's husband is not compensated by Stoel Rives LLP based on work performed for the Company and does not routinely work on Company matters. Furthermore, his interest is less than 1% of Stoel Rives partnership allocation and the annual fees paid by the Company to Stoel Rives LLP in 2017 represented less than 1% of Stoel Rives LLP's annual gross revenues.

**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF COMMON STOCK OF CERTAIN****BENEFICIAL OWNERS**

The following table shows ownership of common stock of NW Natural on December 31, 2017 by each person who, to our knowledge, owned beneficially more than 5 percent of NW Natural common stock, as set forth in a Schedule 13G filed with the SEC:

<b>Name and Address of Beneficial Owner</b>	<b>Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership</b>	<b>Percent of Class</b>
BlackRock, Inc. 55 East 52nd Street New York, NY 10055	3,747,717 <sup>1</sup>	13.10%
The Vanguard Group, Inc. 100 Vanguard Boulevard Malvern, PA 19355	2,880,332 <sup>2</sup>	10.03%

<sup>(1)</sup> Based on information set forth in Schedule 13G/A filed January 23, 2018 with the SEC by BlackRock, Inc., the reporting person has sole dispositive power as to the total amount of beneficial ownership, and sole power to vote or direct the vote of 3,686,892 shares. The filing does not clarify the reporting person's power to vote with respect to the remaining 60,825 shares reported on the Schedule 13G/A.

<sup>(2)</sup> Based on information set forth in Schedule 13G/A filed January 10, 2018 with the SEC by The Vanguard Group, Inc., the reporting person reports that it has sole power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of 2,839,801 shares, shared power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of 40,531 shares, sole power to vote or direct the vote of 35,475 shares and shared power to vote or direct the vote of 11,231 shares. The filing does not clarify the reporting person's power to vote with respect to the remaining 2,833,626 shares reported on the Schedule 13G/A.



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**BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF COMMON STOCK BY DIRECTORS  
AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Set forth below is certain information with respect to beneficial ownership of NW Natural's common stock as of December 31, 2017 by all directors and nominees, each of the Named Executive Officers (NEOs) included in the Summary Compensation Table below and all directors, NEOs, and executive officers as of December 31, 2017 as a group. If a person's options are not exercisable within 60 days of December 31, 2017, or the person holds shares in a deferred compensation account and those shares are not scheduled for distribution within 60 days of December 31, 2017 in the event they terminated their service on December 31, 2017, or they hold any other rights to acquire NW Natural common stock that are not vested and will not vest by 60 days after December 31, 2017, such options, shares or rights are not included in the table, but are included in the footnotes below.

Name of Beneficial Owners	Number of Shares <sup>1</sup>	Percent of Outstanding Common Stock
<b>Named Executive Officers</b>		
David H. Anderson (also a director)	87,297 <sup>2</sup>	*
Frank H. Burkhartsmeier	1,879 <sup>3</sup>	*
Brody J. Wilson	3,439 <sup>4</sup>	*
MardiLyn Saathoff	12,116 <sup>5</sup>	*
Lea Anne Doolittle	23,900 <sup>6</sup>	*
Justin B. Palfreyman	759 <sup>7</sup>	*
<b>Directors</b>		
Timothy P. Boyle	20,419 <sup>8</sup>	*
Martha L. Stormy Byorum	8,424 <sup>9</sup>	*
John D. Carter	54,811 <sup>10</sup>	*
Mark S. Dodson	15,045 <sup>11</sup>	*
C. Scott Gibson	5,380 <sup>12</sup>	*
Tod R. Hamachek	9,599 <sup>13</sup>	*
Jane L. Peverett	20,960 <sup>14</sup>	*
Kenneth Thrasher	7,607 <sup>15</sup>	*
Malia H. Wasson	3,666 <sup>16</sup>	*
All directors and executive officers as a group		
(22 in number)	341,308 <sup>17</sup>	1.188%

\* The total for each individual is less than 1.0 percent.

Based on the total number of shares beneficially owned on December 31, 2017 (including shares owned as of December 31, 2017, options exercisable within 60 days after December 31, 2017, shares underlying the Restricted Stock Units (RSUs) under the Long Term Incentive Plan (LTIP) that vested within 60 days after December 31, 2017, and shares held in deferred compensation accounts that would be received by directors and officers within 60 days of December 31, 2017, if the director or officer ceased service with NW Natural on that date).

(1) Unless otherwise indicated, beneficial ownership includes both sole voting power and sole investment power. Shares under the Directors Deferred Compensation Plan (DDCP), the Executive Deferred Compensation Plan (EDCP) and the Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors and Executives (DCP) that would be received by directors, NEOs and all directors and executive officers as a group within 60 days of December 31, 2017, if the director, NEO, or all executive officers and directors as a group ceased service with NW Natural on that date are included in the table. Unvested RSUs and the remaining shares under the DDCP, EDCP and DCP are not included in the table as they represent under the terms of the plans rights to receive shares that would not be distributed until a date that is later than 60 days after December 31, 2017; such shares are more fully disclosed in the footnotes below with respect to each beneficial owner named in table.

(2) Includes 421 shares held directly by Mr. Anderson, 63,482 shares held jointly with Mr. Anderson's spouse, 19,000 shares which Mr. Anderson has the right to acquire within 60 days through the exercise of options under the Restated Stock Option Plan (Restated SOP), 3,425 shares issuable under RSUs with performance threshold within 60 days under the LTIP, and 969 shares held indirectly under the Retirement K Savings Plan (401(k) Plan). Does not include 6,075 shares issuable under unvested RSUs with performance threshold under the LTIP, and 11,472 shares credited to Mr. Anderson's account under the DCP.

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- (3) Includes 375 shares issuable under RSUs with performance threshold within 60 days under the LTIP, and 1,504 shares issuable under time-based RSUs within 60 days under the LTIP. Does not include 1,125 shares issuable under unvested RSUs with performance threshold under the LTIP, and 4,512 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP.
- (4) Includes 2,583 shares held directly by Mr. Wilson, 705 shares issuable under RSUs with performance threshold within 60 days under the LTIP, and 151 shares held indirectly under the 401(k) Plan. Does not include 1,000 shares issuable under unvested RSUs with performance threshold under the LTIP, and 184 shares credited to Mr. Wilson's account under the DCP.
- (5) Includes 2,678 shares held directly by Ms. Saathoff, 7,000 shares which Ms. Saathoff has the right to acquire within 60 days through the exercise of options under the Restated SOP, 1,385 shares issuable under RSUs with performance threshold within 60 days under the LTIP, and 1,053 shares held indirectly under the 401(k) Plan. Does not include 2,400 shares issuable under unvested RSUs with performance threshold under the LTIP, 3,100 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP, and 3,746 shares credited to Ms. Saathoff's account under the DCP.
- (6) Includes 2,114 shares held directly by Ms. Doolittle, 397 shares held directly by Ms. Doolittle's spouse, 11,000 shares which Ms. Doolittle has the right to acquire within 60 days through the exercise of options under the Restated SOP, 1,238 shares issuable to Ms. Doolittle under RSUs with performance threshold within 60 days under the LTIP, 71 shares issuable to Ms. Doolittle's spouse under RSUs with performance threshold within 60 days under the LTIP, 35 shares credited to Ms. Doolittle's account under the EDCP, 8,709 shares Ms. Doolittle held indirectly under the 401(k) Plan, and 336 shares held indirectly under the 401(k) Plan by her spouse. Does not include 1,719 shares issuable to Ms. Doolittle under unvested RSUs with performance threshold under the LTIP, 115 shares issuable to Ms. Doolittle's spouse under unvested RSUs with performance threshold under the LTIP, 3,299 shares credited to Ms. Doolittle's account under the DCP, and 518 shares credited to Ms. Doolittle's account under the EDCP.
- (7) Includes 243 shares issuable under RSUs with performance threshold within 60 days under the LTIP, and 516 shares issuable under time-based RSUs within 60 days under the LTIP. Does not include 729 shares issuable under unvested RSUs with performance threshold under the LTIP, and 2,064 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP.
- (8) Includes 1,081 shares held directly by Mr. Boyle as sole trustee and trustor of Mr. Boyle's revocable living trust, 18,892 shares credited to Mr. Boyle's account under the DCP, and 446 shares credited to Mr. Boyle's account under the DDCP. Does not include 328 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP, and 4,018 shares credited to Mr. Boyle's account under the DDCP.
- (9) Includes 8,424 shares credited to Ms. Byorum's account under the DCP. Does not include 328 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP.
- (10) Includes 13,238 shares held directly by Mr. Carter, of which 5,000 shares are held under Mr. Carter's individual retirement account, 34,249 shares credited to Mr. Carter's account under the DCP, and 7,324 shares credited to Mr. Carter's account under the DDCP. Does not include 328 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP, and 13,860 shares credited to Mr. Carter's account under the DCP.
- (11) Includes 523 shares held directly by Mr. Dodson, 10,542 shares held in a trust for Mr. Dodson's spouse, and 3,980 shares credited to Mr. Dodson's account under the DCP. Does not include 328 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP.
- (12) Includes 5,103 shares credited to Mr. Gibson's account under the DCP, and 277 shares credited to Mr. Gibson's account under the DDCP. Does not include 328 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP, 11,343 shares credited to Mr. Gibson's account under the DCP, and 2,215 shares credited to Mr. Gibson's account under the DDCP.
- (13) Includes 6,666 shares held directly by Mr. Hamachek, 208 shares held directly by Mr. Hamachek's spouse, 477 shares credited to Mr. Hamachek's account under the DCP, and 2,248 shares credited to Mr. Hamachek's account under the DDCP. Does not include 328 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP, 4,326 shares credited to Mr. Hamachek's account under the DCP, and 20,232 shares credited to Mr. Hamachek's account under the DDCP.
- (14) Includes 1,523 shares held directly by Ms. Peverett, and 19,437 shares credited to Ms. Peverett's account under the DCP. Does not include 328 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP.
- (15) Includes 3,500 shares held directly by Mr. Thrasher, 4,000 shares held jointly with Mr. Thrasher's spouse and that secure a personal line of credit, and 107 shares credited to Mr. Thrasher's account under the DCP. Does not include 328 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP, and 428 shares credited to Mr. Thrasher's account under the DCP.
- (16) Includes 3,666 shares credited to Ms. Wasson's account under the DCP. Does not include 328 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP.
- (17) Includes 66,007 shares held by executive officers not named above, of which 4,691 shares are held directly by these executive officers, 14,120 shares are held jointly with spouse, 25,300 are shares that the executive officers not named above have the right to acquire within 60 days through exercise of options under the Restated SOP, 3,711 shares issuable under RSUs with performance threshold within 60 days under the LTIP, and 18,185 shares are held indirectly under the 401(k) Plan. Does not include 5,894 shares issuable under unvested RSUs with performance threshold under the LTIP, 5,982 shares issuable under unvested time-based RSUs under the LTIP, and 4,458 shares credited to accounts of executive officers not named above under the DCP.

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**TOTAL OWNERSHIP OF COMMON STOCK BY DIRECTORS  
AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Set forth below is the total number of shares of NW Natural's common stock owned, directly or indirectly, as of December 31, 2017 by all directors and nominees, each of the NEOs included in the Summary Compensation Table below, and all directors, NEOs, and executive officers as of December 31, 2017 as a group. This supplemental table is provided to illustrate each specified individual's total ownership in NW Natural, specifically including all shares subject to unexercised options, subject to unvested RSUs, and credited to deferred compensation plan accounts that are excluded from the above table entitled "Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock by Directors and Executive Officers," as referenced in the footnotes to that table. **Amounts included in this table are a different representation of the amounts included in the above table and footnotes entitled "Beneficial Ownership of Common Stock by Directors and Executive Officers," and are not in addition to amounts included in that table.**

Name of Owner	Total Number of Shares
<b>Named Executive Officers</b>	
David H. Anderson (also a director)	104,844
Frank H. Burkhartsmeier	7,516
Brody J. Wilson	4,623
MardiLyn Saathoff	21,362
Lea Anne Doolittle	29,551
Justin B. Palfreyman	3,552
<b>Directors</b>	
Timothy P. Boyle	24,765
Martha L. Stormy Byorum	8,752
John D. Carter	68,999
Mark S. Dodson	15,373
C. Scott Gibson	19,266
Tod R. Hamachek	34,485
Jane L. Peverett	21,288
Kenneth Thrasher	8,363
Malia H. Wasson	3,994
All directors and officers as a group (22 in number)	459,074

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**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION**

**REPORT OF ORGANIZATION AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE**

The Organization and Executive Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors (OECC) is responsible for discharging the responsibilities of the Board of Directors relating to the compensation of executives by ensuring that the Chief Executive Officer and other senior executives are compensated appropriately and in a manner consistent with the stated compensation philosophy of NW Natural and the requirements of the appropriate regulatory authorities.

The OECC is responsible for producing this report and for providing input and guidance to management in the preparation of the Compensation Discussion and Analysis following this report. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the OECC has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis with management.

In reliance on the review and discussion referred to above, the OECC recommended to the Board of Directors (and it has approved and directed) that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus and incorporated by reference into NW Natural's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2017.

Respectfully submitted on February 22, 2018 by the Organization and Executive Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors:

C. Scott Gibson, Chair  
Jane L. Peverett

Kenneth Thrasher  
Malia H. Wasson

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### **COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS**

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis (CD&A) describes our compensation philosophy and practices, our compensation program design, the process used to evaluate performance in the context of executive pay decisions, and 2017 compensation results for each Named Executive Officer (NEO).

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

##### ***Pay for Performance Alignment***

##### **2017 Company Performance**

In 2017 NW Natural delivered strong utility results, with the highest customer growth rate in a decade and approximately 10 percent year-over-year increase in meters added. Management accomplished key growth initiatives while maintaining the Company's focus on safety, reliability and customer service. Among other accomplishments of 2017, Management: implemented a core utility strategic plan focused on creating the platform for NW Natural to thrive in a low carbon environment and positioning natural gas to further reduce emissions in the region; effectively managed cleanup and cost recovery efforts related to the Company's legacy environmental liabilities, including receipt of a Record of Decision from the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to the Portland Harbor; continued to collect revenues under the Company's regulatory environmental site remediation and recovery mechanism (SRRM); successfully advanced or concluded other key regulatory dockets; prepared for and filed a general rate case in Oregon; concluded a multi-year Company headquarter evaluation project culminating in execution of a lease agreement for a more seismically resilient headquarters; rolled out important employee safety programs and improvements; advanced initiatives to attract and retain employees across the generational spectrum in anticipation of the continued trend of baby boomer retirements; completed key milestones in readying the Company's business continuity efforts; deployed important technology and cybersecurity solutions; improved system safety, reliability and delivery capacity through completion of system reinforcement projects; progressed system improvements and upgrades at the Company's liquefied natural gas facilities to improve performance and reliability; continued improvements in the customer acquisition process to ensure timely and smooth installation of new services; advanced the North Mist expansion project with completion of injection and withdrawal wells, major construction on the pipeline, and other key components of the project with the expectation of placing the facility into service during the fourth quarter of 2018; achieved first in the West and second in the nation for JD Power Residential Customer Satisfaction Study and first in the West for JD Power Business Customer Study; invested approximately \$152 million in capital expenditures for customer growth and system improvements; and increased the dividend for the 62<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year. All of this was accomplished while lowering customer rates by approximately 6.4 percent in Oregon and 3.1 percent in Washington.

This was also a pivotal year for NW Natural with Management's determination that the Gill Ranch Gas Storage Facility (Facility) is no longer central to the Company's broader utility strategy, which is focused on stable, utility-type earnings growth for investors. During 2017 the Company completed a comprehensive strategic review process that evaluated various alternatives and potential enhancements for the Facility, including a potential sale. Information learned in that process, along with continued low projected gas storage values, required Management to re-evaluate the carrying value of the Facility under accounting rules. The result of that evaluation was a non-cash impairment of \$192.5 million (\$141.5 million after tax) (GRS Impairment).

In 2007, Gill Ranch, a wholly owned subsidiary of NW Natural, jointly with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) made an investment decision to build the Facility in northern California. At that time, our market analysis projected that natural gas storage would be critical in achieving California's renewable portfolio standards and supporting the region's drive to a lower carbon energy landscape. Construction was completed and operations began at the Facility in 2010 under multi-year storage agreements with terms that ended as the full market implications from the shale gas revolution was transforming the natural gas industry. The additional shale gas eliminated the resource constraints that were expected to exist over the long term and resulted in lower gas

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prices, decreased seasonal price spreads and volatility, and consequently, reduced the value of gas storage to customers. As a result, over the last several years, we have contracted the Facility under short-term agreements to allow us to take advantage of any rebound in storage prices or other strategies that would increase revenues.

Although we have not seen the rebound in storage prices that we originally anticipated, we have worked diligently to operate the Facility efficiently and have been pursuing various strategic alternatives to increase revenues. These efforts included working to identify higher value customers in and/or near the northern California market that the Facility serves as well as exploring the possibility of providing energy storage services. Finally in the fourth quarter of 2017, we completed our strategic evaluation of our 75% share of the Facility. The Company continues to focus on safe operations and an evaluation of all strategic options for the Facility to maximize the value of the asset.

In addition, on December 22, 2017, the federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was enacted (Tax Reform). While Tax Reform lowers the federal corporate income tax rate to 21% from the previous maximum rate of 35%, like many companies, accounting rules required that we recognize the impact of the tax law net changes in 2017 the year Tax Reform was enacted. As a result of this recognition, we recorded a \$21.4 million net benefit to earnings.

This year also marked NW Natural's announcement of its entry into the water utility sector—a sector that has a risk profile and business model that is similar to the core gas utility. The announced transactions include agreements to acquire two privately owned water utilities in the Northwest. NW Natural determined to pursue opportunities in the water sector after a comprehensive strategic planning process. Management believes the water utility sector to be a strong strategic fit for NW Natural's existing capabilities of customer service, safety, environmental stewardship, reliability, and managing critical distribution infrastructure, as well as our ability to work effectively with regulators, customers and policymakers.

As described in Proposal 5 of this Proxy Statement-Prospectus, 2017 also marked the year that we obtained approval from the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (OPUC) and Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) to form a holding company. These approvals were a prerequisite for NW Natural's desired move to a holding company structure—a more agile and efficient platform from which to pursue, finance and oversee new business growth opportunities, such as those in the water sector.

Combined, these events resulted in 2017 fiscal year consolidated loss per share (EPS) of \$1.94, as compared to income of \$2.12 per share in 2016. The results in 2017 were primarily affected by the noncash GRS Impairment and the benefit from Tax Reform. Excluding these effects, on a non-GAAP basis, EPS was \$2.24 for 2017<sup>1</sup>, compared to \$2.19 in 2016<sup>2</sup>, primarily due to strong utility margin benefiting from customer growth and cooler weather, offset by higher operations and maintenance (O&M) expense from payroll and benefits and costs to upgrade safety equipment. The compensation awarded for 2017 aligns pay for performance by recognizing the utility segment's strong performance and results, Management's execution of an important strategic growth plan by making inroads into the water sector, and achieving major milestones in the Company's ability to form a holding company to support this new strategic avenue, while ensuring continued safe, reliable and efficient gas utility operations.

<sup>1</sup> Adjusted consolidated EPS is a non-GAAP financial measure based on the after-tax effects of the GRS Impairment and Tax Reform, using the new combined federal and state statutory rate of 26.5%. EPS is calculated using diluted shares of 28.7 million for the year ended 2017. See Non-GAAP Reconciliations at [Exhibit H](#).

<sup>2</sup> Regulatory environmental disallowance totaled \$3.3 million in 2016. Adjusted consolidated EPS is a non-GAAP financial measure based on the after-tax disallowance using the combined federal and state statutory tax rate of 39.5%. EPS is calculated using 27.8 million diluted shares for the year ended December 31, 2016. See Non-GAAP Reconciliations at [Exhibit H](#).



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Incentives Earned in 2017

The Company's incentive programs generally consist of cash payments under the Company's Executive Annual Incentive Plan (EAIP) and performance share awards and restricted stock units (RSUs) with performance threshold under the Company's Long Term Incentive Plan (LTIP). The Company's performance on annual performance measures in 2017 were reflected in payouts to the NEOs eligible for EAIP awards averaging 127 percent of target out of a possible 150 percent under the EAIP. This payout was due to 150 percent maximum achievement of the Net Income factor, achievement of 73.94 percent out of a possible 150 percent of the Operations factor, and an average achievement of 122.27 out of a possible 150 on the priority/individual performance factor for NEOs eligible for EAIP awards.

The Company's three-year performance resulted in a payout of 61.07 percent of target, or 30.54 percent of a possible 200 percent total opportunity, from performance share awards under the LTIP for the 2015-2017 award cycle. The payout under this plan was below the target opportunity because the Total Shareholder Return Component factor, which comprised 40 percent of the performance share award, resulted in a 42.59 percent payout factor, due to a cumulative total shareholder return for the period of 55.71 percent, which was below all but three of the companies in the plan's assigned peer group of nine companies, and the Three-Year Average ROIC Component, which comprised 20 percent of the performance share award, resulted in a 0 percent payout factor. The EPS Component, which comprised 20 percent of the performance share award, resulted in a 104.17 percent payout factor. The OECC assigned a rating of 116 out of a possible 200 percent for the remaining 20 percent of the performance share awards, based on specific strategic factor achievements during the three-year cycle.

In addition, the performance threshold for outstanding RSUs was met, as the Company's adjusted return on common equity for 2017 calculated with adjustments required under the RSU agreements was 7.52 percent<sup>3</sup>, which was greater than the Company's average cost of long-term debt for the preceding five years, which was 5.81 percent, resulting in vesting of outstanding RSUs scheduled to vest in 2018.

2017 Realized Compensation Relative to Company Performance

The OECC strives to align pay with performance. One way to measure this alignment is to compare the pay targeted and realized by our executives to the Company's annual and long-term performance as measured by several metrics, including, but not limited to, total shareholder return. The following charts display the target total direct compensation and actual realized compensation for the CEO and as an average for the other NEOs, respectively, for each of the last five years, along with the total shareholder return over the five-year period assuming investment of \$100 at the beginning of 2013. This table is not a required disclosure. It is provided only to demonstrate one way in which the OECC reviews executive compensation, and should not be used as a substitute for required disclosures.

<sup>3</sup> The Company's adjusted return on common equity (ROE) is a non-GAAP calculation for purposes of the RSUs that excludes from ROE the GRS Impairment and the net effects of Tax Reform.

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- (1) Amounts reflected as target total direct compensation in this table include the following amounts paid for the applicable year: (1) salary for the applicable year; (2) EAIP payment target for the applicable year; (3) the target value of the performance share award granted in the applicable year; and (4) the value of RSUs with performance threshold awarded in the particular year. The amounts reflected as target total direct compensation in this table do not include the following amounts for the year indicated: (a) the aggregate change in the actuarial present value of the NEOs' accumulated benefits under all defined benefit pension plans; (b) above-market interest credited to the non-qualified deferred compensation plan accounts of the NEOs, if any; (c) employer matching contributions to qualified defined contribution plan (the Retirement K Savings Plan (401(k) Plan)), (d) matching contributions under non-qualified deferred compensation plans, if any; and (e) any additional payments or de minimus amounts.
- (2) Amounts reflected as realized compensation are calculated in the same manner as realized compensation amounts set forth in the Realized Compensation Table. See Realized Compensation Table below.
- (3) For 2016, reflects a blended amount for Messrs. Kantor's and Anderson's salary, EAIP, performance shares and RSUs for that portion of the year they were CEO. Mr. Gregg S. Kantor served as the Company's Chief Executive Officer until July 31, 2016.
- (4) For each year, represents the average compensation of persons who were NEOs, other than the CEO, for that year. For 2016, reflects a blended amount for Messrs. Kantor's and Anderson's salary, EAIP, performance shares and RSUs for that portion of the year they were not CEO. For 2016, reflects a blended amount for Messrs. Hazelton's and Wilson's salary, EAIP and RSUs for that portion of the year they were CFO, and Mr. Wilson's performance shares as Mr. Hazelton was not yet eligible for a performance share payout. Mr. Gregory C. Hazelton served as Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer until September 2, 2016. For 2017, reflects a blended amount for Messrs. Burkhartsmeier's and Wilson's salary, EAIP, RSUs and performance shares for that portion of the year they were CFO.

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### ***Results of 2017 Shareholder Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation***

At the Annual Meeting of Shareholders held May 25, 2017, approximately 97 percent of the shareholder votes cast on the resolution approving the compensation of the Company's NEOs, without regard to abstentions as provided under Oregon law, were cast in favor of the resolution. Counting abstentions as a vote against, approximately 96 percent of the shareholder votes were cast in favor of the resolution. The OECC considered the level of support indicated by that vote as reflecting favorably on the Company's executive compensation system and determined that no changes in response to the vote were needed.

### ***Key 2017 OECC Actions***

In 2017, the OECC took the following significant actions:

executed executive succession plans by:

- completing identification and onboarding of a new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and new Chief Information Officer;
- effectively retaining the Company's Senior Vice President of Utility Operations for approximately one year beyond his normal retirement age to allow for a seamless transition to his successor; and
- adjusting certain executive positions to realign areas of responsibility and further strengthen the depth and breadth of the executive team;

continued to engage in robust and comprehensive leadership development and succession plans for officer and key positions throughout the Company;

in consultation with Pay Governance undertook a comprehensive review and assessment of the Company's executive compensation plans and programs and, among other actions, determined to modify the LTIP by:

- expressly prohibiting payment of dividends on unvested awards;
- implementing a minimum one-year service period for vesting of grants made under the LTIP;
- adopting a double-trigger change in control provision;
- establishing an upper limit on stock awards to directors in any one fiscal year; and
- eliminating the recycling of shares withheld for tax obligations back into the LTIP;

in consultation with Pay Governance, modified the EAIP to simplify plan design, eliminate measures that were redundant with Performance Share awards under the LTIP, expressly tie performance goals to business, strategic and financial plans approved by the Board, broaden performance payouts to reflect competitive practices, and align performance measures with those used by investors in valuing the Company;

in consultation with Pay Governance, adjusted the Company's compensation peer group with a focus on relevant factors including industry, company type, geography, size and relevant qualitative factors;

evaluated and adjusted the performance measures for performance share grants made under the LTIP in 2017;

reviewed trends regarding the desired frequency of shareholder say-on-pay votes, and determined to recommend continuation of an annual say-on-pay shareholder vote; and

in consultation with Pay Governance, undertook a competitive compensation analysis of non-employee director compensation, and made appropriate adjustments while retaining limited use of stock awards and retaining stock ownership requirements.

**Table of Contents****Highlighted Compensation Policies and Practices**

Our executive compensation and corporate governance policies and programs are designed to closely tie executive pay to Company performance and increase long-term shareholder value, without encouraging inappropriate risk-taking. To achieve our objectives, we have adopted the following policies and practices over time:

WHAT WE DO:	WHAT WE DON'T DO:
Use performance-based and stock-based compensation tools with metrics that correlate to shareholder value and emphasize controllable outcomes	× No change-in-control severance gross-up payments
Set annual and long-term incentive targets based on clearly disclosed and largely objective performance measures	× No new participation in supplemental executive retirement plans for officers hired after 2006
Maintain a high percentage of total target direct executive compensation that is at risk, particularly for the CEO	× No routine or excessive perquisites for executives
Utilize tally sheets displaying executives' total compensation from all sources and the probability of attaining such compensation, annually to make compensation decisions and periodically to consider plan design changes	× No encouraging of unnecessary or inappropriate risk-taking in incentive plan design or executive pay practices
Incorporate clawbacks into annual and long-term cash and equity incentive awards for amounts inappropriately received, and preclude payout in cases of termination for cause	× No routine use of non-change-in-control severance agreements and when used, use for terms not exceeding five years and with provisions for declining benefits over term
Modified supplemental executive retirement plans to reduce benefits and expenses	× No backdating or repricing of stock options
Require meaningful share ownership by executives and directors	× No dividends on unearned performance shares or RSUs
Use double-trigger change-of-control severance provisions with declining benefits as executive approaches age 65	× No excessive incentive payments incentive payments are capped to discourage inappropriate or unnecessary risk-taking
Conduct annual say-on-pay advisory votes	× No employment contracts
Require one-year service for vesting in performance shares and RSUs	× No single-trigger performance share vesting on change in control

**DETAILED DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS****Executive Compensation Roles and Responsibilities**

*OECC.* The OECC is responsible for, among other matters, reviewing the performance of the CEO and other executive officers, making recommendations to the Board relating to executive compensation programs and benefit plans, and monitoring risk related to such programs and plans. The Board of Directors has delegated to the OECC its full authority to grant equity awards under the terms of the LTIP and to approve all aspects of executive officer compensation other than cash compensation for the CEO.

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The OECC strives to utilize best practices in executing its executive compensation responsibilities. Among other practices, the OECC:

- annually conducts a thorough review of all executive compensation plans to ensure they provide the type and form of incentives that align with the OECC's Total Compensation Philosophy centered on pay for performance;
- generally biennially reviews a total remuneration analysis for all executive officers;
- reviews and provides input on officer priority goals prior to inclusion in executive compensation plans;
- reviews assessments of accomplishment of officer priority and strategic goals prior to determining incentive compensation;
- utilizes an annual review of the CEO to further incorporate full Board feedback in the evaluation process;
- periodically reviews performance of its expert executive compensation consultant and drives compensation consultant selection process approximately every five years; and
- annually considers whether the Company's compensation policies and practices create risks that are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on NW Natural.

The OECC also reviews, with the CEO and the Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer, the Company's organizational structure and recommends to the Board NW Natural's succession planning for executive positions. In addition, the OECC makes recommendations to the Board regarding Board cash compensation, approves equity compensation for the Board, and annually reviews executive and director stock ownership guidelines and levels.

*Use of Management by the OECC.* Management provides support to the OECC to facilitate executive compensation decisions, including working with the Consultant and counsel on plan design changes, preparing reports and materials, communicating with outside advisors, administering plans on a day-to-day basis with oversight by the OECC, and implementing the Board's and OECC's decisions. The Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer is the primary management contact for the OECC. The CEO makes recommendations to the OECC regarding plan design, salary increases, incentive awards and other executive compensation decisions for executives other than himself.

*Use of Consultants by the OECC.* For 2017 compensation decisions, the OECC engaged Pay Governance, a compensation consulting firm (Consultant), to assist in the evaluation of the competitiveness of our executive compensation programs and to provide overall guidance to the OECC in the design and operation of these programs. The Consultant reports directly to the OECC Chair, and the Chair reviews all invoices submitted by the Consultant. The OECC periodically reviews the performance, and assesses the independence, of the Consultant. At the direction and under the guidance of the OECC Chair, the Consultant provides data and analysis that is used by both management and the OECC to develop recommendations for executive compensation programs to submit to the OECC for its consideration. Among other matters, the Consultant provides advice regarding:

- the inclusion of compensation program elements;
- the design and operation of the executive incentive plans;
- policies for allocating between long-term, short-term and currently paid compensation;
- policies for allocating between cash and equity compensation, and among the different forms of equity compensation; and
- the basis for allocating to each of the two primary types of long-term compensation award opportunity.

**Table of Contents*****OECC Compensation Philosophy and Practices***

The OECC uses its total Compensation Philosophy centered on pay for performance to guide its executive compensation decisions. Each year, including 2017, the OECC reviews and adjusts, if necessary, its Compensation Philosophy. The guiding principles of this philosophy are to design executive compensation programs that:

attract, retain and motivate talented and qualified executives with competitive total remuneration;  
 motivate high performance by linking a significant portion of pay directly to Company performance;  
 align executives' interests with those of our shareholders by: (i) requiring meaningful stock ownership, and (ii) providing a significant component of compensation based on attainment of key financial and stock performance measures;  
 pay for the right results for the Company by appropriately balancing short- and long-term incentive measures;  
 motivate appropriate risk-taking to achieve Company objectives, but disincent inappropriate risk-taking; and  
 correctly balance compensation that is attractive to executives, affordable to NW Natural, proportional to the executive's contribution, aligned with shareholder interests and fair to shareholders and employees.

***How Compensation Decisions Are Made***

Guided by its Compensation Philosophy and Company performance, the OECC generally targets each component of executive compensation near the applicable market median range for an executive's position. However, the OECC makes compensation decisions by considering a number of other factors, all of which inform, but none of which dictate, the OECC's decisions. Our executive compensation programs are sufficiently flexible to allow pay to vary by individual position if warranted by other factors, including the following:

the executive's experience, contribution, relative position and level of responsibility within NW Natural;  
 the performance of the executive during the prior period;  
 marketability of the executive's skills and retention concerns;  
 the retention value of long-term incentives before vesting;  
 the value of long-term incentives needed to ensure that executives are focused on absolute share price appreciation over the long-term;  
 the extent to which the compensation package encourages meaningful stock ownership by each executive to align that executive's interests with that of the shareholders; and  
 the extent to which a compensation package could encourage inappropriate or unnecessary risk-taking.

***Competitive Market Position***

One component the OECC uses to achieve its Compensation Philosophy is to target each component of compensation at or near the median range of the applicable competitive market data provided by the Consultant. The Consultant has identified the appropriate range for the median of each component of compensation as follows:

<b>Compensation Type</b>	<b>Compensation Components Included</b>	<b>Range Above or Below 50th Percentile Median Range</b>
Base Salary	Base Salary	+/-10%
Total Cash Compensation	Base Salary and Annual Incentive	+/-15%
Total Direct Compensation	Base Salary, Annual Incentive and Long-Term Incentives	+/-20%
Total Remuneration <sup>1</sup>	Total Direct Compensation and Health and Welfare Benefits, and Deferred Compensation and Supplemental Retirement	+/-20%

<sup>(1)</sup>This component is reviewed approximately every two years.



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Though targeted at the median range of the applicable competitive market, the program contains several variable components that allow compensation to exceed median competitive pay levels when the performance expectations of the OECC are exceeded, and pay less than median competitive compensation when performance results do not meet those expectations.

We are likely to attract candidates for most of our executive positions from the energy service market, specifically, from gas and electric companies with similar revenue size in the United States. At times general industry market information may also be considered for certain executive positions that can be found in any industry. In preparing their competitive market assessment each year the Consultant evaluates the appropriate survey data comparisons for the Company. For 2017, the Consultant recommended, and the OECC approved, a new peer group of 20 gas, electric and water utilities with median annual revenues of \$1.1 billion (identified in [Exhibit B](#)), and the Consultant provided compensation data from the most recent proxy statements of these peer companies. For 2017, the Consultant also presented a blend of two sets of survey data, for companies with less than \$1 billion in revenues (identified in [Exhibit C](#)) and companies with between \$1 billion and \$3 billion in revenues (identified in [Exhibit D](#)), from the Willis Towers Watson (WTW), Energy Services Executive Compensation Database, 2016; and the WTW, General Industry Executive Compensation Database, 2016 for companies with less than \$1 billion in revenue (identified in [Exhibit E](#)). Survey data is formulated based on functional responsibilities of each NEO's position. The Consultant also used the American Gas Association Compensation Survey, 2016 as a reference (identified in [Exhibit F](#)). The Consultant selects the most appropriate market comparisons for each executive position and synthesizes that data to provide to the OECC for its review. At that time, the Consultant provides recommendations as to use of proxy data or relevant survey data, including circumstances when other data may be a more appropriate guide.



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**Elements and Objectives of our Executive Compensation Program for 2017.** The core of our total Compensation Philosophy is pay for performance using both annual and long-term incentives. The elements and objectives of the executive compensation program for the NEOs are described below:

**Compensation**

	<b><u>Element</u></b>	<b><u>Objective(s)</u></b>	<b><u>Key Features</u></b>
<b>FIXED</b>	<b><i>Base Salaries</i></b>	Competitive compensation foundation  Recognize executives' leadership responsibilities and value of executives' position to the Company	Generally targeted at median range of applicable market data  Adjustments are made based upon executives' experience, relative position, skill marketability and retention concerns, and performance in prior period
	<b><i>Executive Annual Incentive Plan</i></b>	Encourage and reward executive officers' contributions in achieving our annual financial, operating and individual performance goals, with a recognition that annual goals are an essential building block of long-term performance	Formula weighted:  70% Company Performance Factor (71.43% Net Income and 28.57% Operations)  30% Priority/Individual Goals
	<b><i>Long-Term Incentive Awards</i></b>	Focus the executives on key long-term objectives and long-term business results that align with the creation of shareholder value  Align executives' interests with shareholders' interests  Provide executives with an incentive to work toward increasing the price of our common stock and growing dividends  Reward executives for driving long-term performance  Encourage executive stock ownership	Target of 35% RSUs with performance threshold and 65% in performance share awards  Performance share awards have 3-year performance period  For 2017, formula for performance share awards is:  50% 3-Year Cumulative EPS  50% 3-Year Average ROIC  +/- 25% modifier based on Relative Total Shareholder Return (TSR)  + 10% potential modifier based on EBITDA from identified growth strategies  Generally, RSUs vest ratably over 4 years, if performance threshold is met  Double-trigger change-in-control vesting
<b>AT-RISK</b>			
<b>BENEFITS</b>	<b><i>Executive Health, Welfare and Retirement Benefits</i></b>	Provide executives reasonable and competitive benefits  Encourage savings for retirement	Health and welfare benefits consistent with standard benefits provided to non-union employees

SEVERANCE		<p>Allow for attraction and retention of experienced mid-career hires</p> <p>Mitigate the impact of limits on qualified plan benefits imposed by the Internal Revenue Code</p>	<p>401(k) Plan and non-qualified deferred compensation plans allow for certain Company matching contributions on deferrals</p> <p>For executive officers employed prior to 2007, qualified and supplemental non-qualified pension benefits</p> <p>Executive officers hired after 2006 are eligible for supplemental contributions to 401(k) Plan and nonqualified deferred compensation plan accounts</p>
	<b><i>Change-In-Control Arrangements</i></b>	<p>Ensure attention and dedication to performance without distraction in the circumstance of a potential change in control of NW Natural</p> <p>Enables executives to maintain objectivity with respect to merger or acquisition offers</p>	<p>Double trigger change-in-control severance agreements without any tax gross up</p> <p>Declining levels of benefits as executive approaches age 65</p>

**Table of Contents****Named Executive Officers**

Our NEOs for fiscal year 2017 were:

Name	Title During 2017
David H. Anderson	President and Chief Executive Officer
Frank H. Burkhartsmeyer	Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer <sup>1</sup>
Brody J. Wilson	Interim Chief Financial Officer, Vice President, Treasurer, Chief Accounting Officer and Controller <sup>1</sup>
MardiLyn Saathoff	Senior Vice President, Regulation and General Counsel
Lea Anne Doolittle	Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer
Justin B. Palfreyman	Vice President, Strategy and Business Development <sup>2</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> Mr. Wilson served in interim capacity as Chief Financial Officer (CFO) from September 2016 until Mr. Burkhartsmeyer's appointment to the position of Senior Vice President and CFO on May 17, 2017. At that time, Mr. Wilson was appointed to the positions of Vice President, Controller, Treasurer and Chief Accounting Officer.

<sup>(2)</sup> Mr. Palfreyman served as Vice President, Business Development until the Board appointed him Vice President, Strategy and Business Development on February 23, 2017.

**Key Executive Officer Transitions in 2017**

One critical responsibility of the OECC is to develop a plan and process for CEO succession and selection, and to monitor all executive officer succession planning and development and provide reports and recommendations to the Board at least semi-annually. Over the past several years, in anticipation of retirements in key executive positions, the OECC has devoted substantial time and discussion to executive succession planning and has actively engaged with management to find, engage and retain the executive talent necessary to drive the future success of our business. The additions of a new CFO and Chief Information Officer in 2017 were part of these efforts, as was the addition of strategic responsibilities to Mr. Palfreyman in February 2017. The OECC continues to provide oversight of the effective execution of recent executive officer transitions and other key executive leadership transitions as they occur.

**2017 Compensation Programs****Allocation of Current vs. At-Risk Compensation**

An executive's base salary is intended to reflect the value of the executive's position to NW Natural and provide a competitive compensation foundation. The remainder of total direct compensation is at risk and must be earned by achieving short-term and long-term performance goals, which are designed to drive increased shareholder value. The portion of total direct compensation designed to be paid in base salary versus pay at risk depends upon the executive's position and the ability of that position to influence outcomes, as well as market factors. The CEO has the largest portion of pay at risk. The following charts show the percentage represented by each of the four components of total direct compensation in 2017 for the CEO and for the other NEOs, as targeted by the OECC, and show that pay at risk as a percentage of total target direct compensation was 66 percent for the CEO and an average of 50 percent for the other NEOs.

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**Target Total Direct Compensation by Type<sup>1,2,3</sup>**

<sup>(1)</sup>Total value of RSUs based on a grant value of \$58.00, which was the price per share assumed by the OECC when making the RSU grant.

<sup>(2)</sup>Total value of Performance Shares based on a grant value of \$49.17 per share, which was the price per share assumed by the OECC when making the performance share grant.

<sup>(3)</sup>Amounts in All Other NEO chart for CFO include a blend of each of annualized salary, performance share awards, RSUs, and EAIP for Messrs. Burkhartsmeyer and Wilson to reflect the mid-year change in CFO responsibilities. Amounts do not include one-time attraction and retention payments to Mr. Burkhartsmeyer or Mr. Palfreyman.

The following charts show the percentage represented by each of the four components of total direct compensation in 2017 for the CEO and for the other NEOs that could have been achieved if the Executive Annual Incentive Plan had paid out at the maximum of 150 percent of target and the performance shares had paid out at the maximum of 200 percent. Based on maximum potential payouts, pay at risk as a percentage of total direct compensation would be 75 percent for the CEO and an average of 62 percent for the other NEOs.

**Maximum Total Direct Compensation by Type<sup>1,2,3</sup>**

<sup>(1)</sup>Total value of RSUs based on a grant value of \$58.00, which was the price per share assumed by the OECC when making the RSU grant.

<sup>(2)</sup>Total value of Performance Shares based on a grant value of \$49.17 per share, which was the price per share assumed by the OECC when making the performance share grant.

<sup>(3)</sup>Amounts in All Other NEO chart for CFO include a blend of each of annualized salary, performance share awards, RSUs, and EAIP for Messrs. Burkhartsmeyer and Wilson to reflect the mid-year change in CFO responsibilities. Amounts do not include one-time attraction and retention payments to Mr. Burkhartsmeyer or Mr. Palfreyman.

**Table of Contents****Base Salaries**

The following table shows the salaries of the NEOs before and after salary adjustments went into effect on March 1, 2017, and with subsequent extraordinary salary adjustments, as applicable, as well as the percentage increase of such adjustments compared to salary prior to March 1, 2017 and information regarding the median salary shown by market data provided by the Consultant.

Name	Salary		Market Data			
	Effective	Salary	Median	Percent	Above	Below
	Prior to	Effective				
	March 1,	March 1,	Effective After	Market	Market Data	
2017	2017	March 1, 2017	Data	Market Data		
David H. Anderson	\$600,000	\$650,000	N/A	8%	\$650,000	0%
Frank H. Burkhartsmeier <sup>1</sup>	N/A	N/A	\$400,000	N/A	372,000	7.5%
Brody J. Wilson <sup>2</sup>	301,000	308,000	252,000	2%/ (16%)	372,000/ 252,000	(17%)/0%
MardiLyn Saathoff	346,000	357,000	N/A	3%	380,000	(6)%
Lea Anne Doolittle	292,000	301,000	N/A	3%	322,000	(7)%
Justin B. Palfreyman	250,000	275,000	N/A	10%	310,000	(11)%

<sup>(1)</sup>Mr. Burkhartsmeier was appointed Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer effective May 17, 2017.

<sup>(2)</sup>Mr. Wilson received a monthly salary addition of \$5,500 per month or any portion thereof he served as the interim Chief Financial Officer and interim Treasurer in addition to his roles as Chief Accounting Officer and Controller. Percentage increase and median data for the position of Controller is displayed during and after this increase. The salary displayed after March 1, 2017 reflects the cessation of his interim duties as CFO.

The OECC set salaries for the NEOs using peer proxy data, energy service company survey data, and general industry survey data as guides. The OECC considered each NEO's functional position and areas of responsibility and, other than Messrs. Wilson (for the position of interim CFO) and Palfreyman, determined to set their salaries within the median range of proxy data for each NEO's position. The OECC determined to set Mr. Wilson's salary slightly below the median range of proxy data during the time Mr. Wilson was interim CFO in recognition of the interim nature of those duties and Mr. Wilson's experience in that position. The OECC set Mr. Wilson's salary upon completion of those interim duties within the median range of energy survey data for his position as Controller. The OECC considered Mr. Palfreyman's functional duties and determined to set his salary slightly below the median range to reflect his recent appointment to additional strategy responsibilities.

*The following discussion and analysis contains statements regarding individual and corporate performance measures, targets and goals. These measures, targets and goals are used for purposes of executive incentive compensation programs, and in some cases incentive compensation programs that are available to all NW Natural employees. These measures, targets and goals are disclosed in the limited context of NW Natural's compensation programs and should not be understood to be statements of management's representations of Company financial performance for the periods covered. The results reported with respect to these incentive compensation programs are used specifically for executive incentive compensation programs, and NW Natural cautions investors not to apply these statements to other contexts. Furthermore, these prior results are not intended to be and are not indicative of the Company's future financial performance.*

**Executive Annual Incentive Plan**

The Executive Annual Incentive Plan (EAIP) ties executive pay to achievement of annual financial, operating and individual performance goals. Participation in the EAIP, as of December 31, 2017, was limited to 12 participants, including the NEOs. Awards approved by the OECC are paid by March 15 of the following year, and are subject to clawback in the event of misconduct.

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Target and actual awards in dollars and as a percent of base salary in effect on December 31, 2017, for 2017 incentive awards paid in 2018 are set forth in the table below and illustrated in the bar chart immediately following the table. The below table also displays median target total cash compensation from market data and the percentage above or below that median of each NEO's total cash compensation (EAIP award plus base salary).

Named Executive Officer	Target Award % of Base Salary	Target Award Amount <sup>1</sup>	Actual Award % of Base Salary	Actual Award Amount	Median Target Total Cash <sup>2</sup> From Market Data	Market Data	
						% Target is Above or (Below) Total Cash <sup>2</sup> Median from Market Data	% Actual Payout is Above or (Below) Total Cash <sup>2</sup> Median from Market Data
David H. Anderson	75%	\$487,500	94%	\$611,000	\$1,106,000	3%	14%
Frank H. Burkhartsmeier <sup>3</sup>	45%	180,000	36%	142,000	539,000	8%	1%
Brody J. Wilson <sup>4</sup>	35%	88,200	44%	112,000	539,000/ 346,000	(23)%/(2)%	(22)%/5%
MardiLyn Saathoff	45%	160,650	57%	205,000	576,000	(10)%	(2)%
Lea Anne Doolittle	40%	120,400	51%	153,000	461,000	(9)%	(2)%
Justin B. Palfreyman	40%	110,000	51%	141,000	415,000	(7)%	0%

<sup>(1)</sup>Maximum award amount is 150% of target award amount.

<sup>(2)</sup>Total cash compensation is determined by adding annual incentive amounts to annual base salary amounts in effect on December 31, 2017.

<sup>(3)</sup>Mr. Burkhartsmeier's award was pro-rated to reflect his hire date of May 17, 2017. Had Mr. Burkhartsmeier been employed for the full year, his actual EAIP award would have been \$227,000 and his actual payout would have been 16% above the cash median of proxy data for his position.

<sup>(4)</sup>Mr. Wilson's market data is presented for both the positions of Chief Financial Officer, and for the positions of Vice President, Treasurer, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer.

<sup>(1)</sup>Maximum, target, and actual average 2017 awards were calculated using an averaged amount for Messrs. Burkhartsmeier and Wilson for that portion of the year they were CFO.

The OECC set the target amount payable under the EAIP to Mr. Anderson at the level that, when combined with base salary, placed his total target cash compensation near the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile of peer proxy data. With respect to Mr. Burkhartsmeier, Ms. Saathoff, Ms. Doolittle and Mr. Palfreyman, the OECC set target amounts payable under the EAIP at levels that placed total target cash compensation within the median range of peer proxy or energy survey data for their respective positions. The OECC set Mr. Wilson's total target cash compensation for the period he served as interim CFO below the median range, reflecting the interim nature of the role and Mr. Wilson's experience in it. The OECC set Mr. Wilson's total target cash compensation for his role as Vice President, Controller, Treasurer and Chief Accounting Officer within the median range for that role.

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The OECC gives considerable attention to what performance measures are appropriate for the EAIP. The OECC has discretion to authorize adjustments to performance measure calculations to eliminate extraordinary, non-recurring or unplanned impacts as the OECC determines is appropriate. The OECC retains this authority as a compensation plan risk mitigation strategy to avoid circumstances where EAIP goals could incent executive actions that would not be aligned with the best interests of the Company or shareholders long-term. For example, if it were in the best interests of Company and investors to divest of certain Company assets or lines of business, and such divestiture would result in a charge in the short-term, but would strengthen the Company and its earnings long-term, the OECC desires to maintain the flexibility to adjust measure calculations to avoid penalizing executives for acting in accordance with the Company's and shareholders' best interests. In the OECC's view, to retain the talent needed on the current executive team, and keep that team focused, engaged and driving to the right results for the Company, certain extraordinary, non-recurring or unplanned impacts should be excluded when calculating EAIP performance measure results. As an additional safeguard to this ability to make adjustments to performance measure calculations, the OECC has discretion to recommend an award increase up to a maximum of 150 percent of the target when goals are exceeded or to reduce an executive's performance-based award when goals are not achieved. The OECC exercised its authority when setting the targets for the 2017 EAIP. Specifically, the OECC determined to disregard any non-recurring earnings charges due to regulatory disallowances, gains or losses due to dispositions of businesses, impairment of businesses, and dilution caused by certain corporate actions if approved by the Board, in 2017 for purposes of Net Income calculations. Therefore, in 2017 the GRS Impairment and the benefits from Tax Reform (EAIP Adjustments) were disregarded for purposes of calculating the EAIP Net Income payout factor.

The formula for the EAIP total incentive award is as follows:

$$\left[ \left[ \left[ \text{Net Income} \times 71.43\% + \text{Operations Factor} \times 28.57\% \right] \times 70\% + \text{Priority/Individual Performance Factor} \times 30\% \right] \times \text{Target Award} = \text{Total Annual Incentive Award}$$

The OECC sets the Net Income and Operations Factors goals, ranges and targets each year taking into account the current economic and regulatory environment, management's annual objectives, and the way in which those annual objectives fit within the larger strategic and growth goals for the Company. Given the factors considered by the OECC, the ranges and targets may be higher or lower than in prior years.

**Net Income Factor.** The Net Income Factor is used to align executives' interests with shareholders' interests and in recognition of the importance earnings have in influencing our future stock price. Actual Net Income results are interpolated to determine the corresponding performance factor, up to a maximum of 150 percent. For 2017, Net Income levels were:

Minimum (0%)	Target (100%)	Maximum (150%)
\$57,931,998	\$61,373,503	\$63,094,256

Net Income for 2017 was a loss of \$55,622,976 and as adjusted to exclude the EAIP Adjustments, on a non-GAAP basis as described above, was income of \$64,482,765 resulting in a Net Income Factor equal to 150 percent.

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**Operations Factor.** Operating goals of significant importance to the enhancement of our overall profitability and productivity were selected by the OECC to comprise the Operations Factor. These operating goals are chosen because they are substantially aligned with the incentive programs for all employees. While each goal can contribute a goal rating between 0 and 200 percent multiplied by the assigned goal weight based on actual results, the aggregate of the Operations Factor is limited to a maximum of 150 percent. Actual results are interpolated to determine the performance factor for each goal. The Operations Factor was determined using the following formula:

$$\text{Sum of } \left[ \text{Goal Performance X Goal Weight} \right] \text{ for each of Six Key Goals} = \text{Operations Factor}$$

A summary of the operating goals for 2017, the weighting of each goal to the overall factor, and the 2017 goal performance rating achieved is set forth in the following table:

Key Goals	Goal Description	Goal Performance Range (0%-200%)		Target Performance (100%)	Goal Weight in Operations Factor	2017 Goal Rating Achieved
<b>Customer Satisfaction</b>	On a survey scale of 1-10 (10 as highest), percent of customers rating overall	66.35%	74.35%	70.35%	16.667%	106.50%
<b>Overall Company</b>	satisfaction at a 9 or 10					
<b>Customer Satisfaction</b>	Customers contact ratings of 9-10 for service technicians or construction crews interactions	83.35%	91.35%	87.35%	16.667%	100.75%
<b>Employee/Customer Interaction</b>						
<b>Market Share and Growth</b>	Total new meter sets	11,605	14,605	13,105	16.667%	125.53%
<b>Productivity</b>	Operations and maintenance expense divided by year-end	\$202.60	\$198.35	\$200.47	16.667%	26.36%
<b>Expense Per Customer</b>	number of customers					
<b>Health and Safety Damages</b>	Percentage of damage calls with response times of less than 60 minutes	97.27%	99.27%	98.27%	16.667%	33.00%
<b>Health and Safety Odor Response</b>	Percent of odor calls with response times of less than 60 minutes	92.27%	96.27%	94.27%	16.667%	51.50%

Our operating performance in 2017, resulted in an Operations Factor of 73.94 percent.



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*Priority/Individual Performance Factor.* Thirty percent of each NEO's annual incentive target award is based on the Priority/Individual Performance Factor determined by individual performance goals, which include some stretch goals. In the case of the CEO, individual goals are determined by the OECC in consultation with the CEO. Whether the CEO has attained his goals is determined largely based on the OECC's assessment, with input from the full Board, of the CEO's performance. The other NEOs' individual performance goals align with the CEO's goals and support the Company's strategic plan. NW Natural's 2017 priority goals from which executive Individual Performance Factors included, among other goals:

- successful execution of the core utility strategic plan;
- support of a constructive role for natural gas in a low-carbon future;
- develop plans and policies to be the employer of choice and attract and retain employees across the generational spectrum;
- achievement of constructive regulatory objectives, and assess appropriate timing for the Company's next general rate case;
- maximize revenues of and conduct strategic review of the Company's storage assets;
- successfully execute key business development and growth objectives;
- continued improvement of customer service, facilities, and system capacity and reliability;
- effective management and optimization of real property assets;
- effective management, remediation of, and recover of costs related to certain environmental sites;
- advancement of the North Mist expansion project;
- continued advancement of strong employee and system safety, emergency response, and business continuity programs;
- advancement of key information technology initiatives and maintenance of a strong cybersecurity posture;
- sustain strong employee engagement and bench strength throughout the Company;
- achievement of overall customer satisfaction, profitability, growth and productivity targets; and
- achievement of EPS, ROIC, EBITDA and operations and maintenance and capital budget goals.

In addition to the above shared executive officer goals, Mr. Anderson identified 2017 CEO performance goals including, achieving additional financial performance goals, advancing certain utility and non-utility business opportunities and initiatives, achieving certain milestones related to our storage business, implementing key initiatives in our five-year strategic plan, and continued strengthening of alignment, development, and succession planning activities of the executive management team.

The CEO evaluated the 2017 individual performance of each NEO on a scale from 0 to 150 percent, based on priority/strategic goals specifically identified for each NEO. A rating of 100 percent indicates goals, including a particular stretch goal, were met, while ratings between 100 and 150 percent indicate extraordinary performance or achievement of multiple stretch goals. The OECC, with input from the full Board, uses this same method of assessment to establish the year-end performance rating for the CEO. The OECC determined that executives had met or exceeded their goals and assigned a rating of 118 percent for Mr. Anderson's individual performance. Performance of the other NEOs ranged from 120 percent to 127.81 percent.

Together with the Net Income Factor of 150 percent and Operations Factor of 73.94 percent, the priority/ individual performance of the NEOs resulted in an overall average payout under the EAIP of 127 percent of target.

### ***Long-Term Incentives***

In 2017, the long-term incentive portion of our executive compensation program consisted of two components: RSUs with performance threshold and performance shares. For purposes of valuing awards, we define the expected value of each RSU as the estimated market price of the Company's common stock near the grant date. We define the expected value of each share of performance share awards to be an estimate of the grant-date fair

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value of the awards as of the grant date. The OECC targeted an allocation of the expected value of long-term incentives for 2017 at approximately 35 percent RSUs with performance threshold and 65 percent performance share awards. The OECC believes the allocation between RSUs with performance threshold and performance shares provides a balanced performance focus for executives.

The OECC determined that, given the variability in long-term incentive plan design and weighting across industries, and across companies of various size within industries, the most appropriate guide for targeted long-term incentive opportunities was the market data provided by the Consultant. The expected value of long-term incentives granted to the NEOs in 2017 are displayed in the below table.

Name	RSUs with Performance Threshold			Performance Shares		Market Data	
	Expected Value of Long-Term Incentives (LTI)	Percent of Total Expected LTI Value	Number of RSUs with Performance Threshold Granted	Percent of Total Expected LTI Value	Target Number of Performance Shares	Long-Term Incentives of Market Data	Percent Expected Value Above or (Below) Median of Market Data
David H. Anderson	\$748,275	35%	4,500	65%	9,910	\$882,000	(15)%
Frank H. Burkhartsmeier	249,261	35%	1,500	65%	3,300	284,000	(12)%
Brody J. Wilson <sup>1</sup>	99,704	35%	600	65%	1,320	86,000	16 %
MardiLyn Saathoff	249,261	35%	1,500	65%	3,300	286,000	(13)%
Lea Anne Doolittle	169,997	35%	1,032	65%	2,240	232,000	(27)%
Justin B. Palfreyman	160,125	35%	972	65%	2,110	237,000	(32)%

<sup>(1)</sup> Survey data displayed for Mr. Wilson is for the position of Vice President, Treasurer, Controller and Chief Accounting Officer. Median value of proxy data comparable to CFO was \$284,000, and Mr. Wilson's target long-term incentive compensation was 65 percent below that level.

**Restricted Stock Units with Performance Threshold.** At its meeting each February, the OECC grants performance contingent RSUs under the LTIP. This practice gives the OECC the benefit of considering the relative value of all components of each executive's total compensation. Off-cycle grants may occur when the Company grants RSUs to attract new employees, to reward extraordinary performance, for retention purposes, or in recognition of promotions. Depending on the circumstances, these off-cycle grants may not include a performance threshold, and may include a vesting schedule that differs from the standard RSU with performance threshold vesting schedule. Mr. Burkhartsmeier, as part of his initial attraction and retention package, received a grant of 6,016 RSUs without a performance threshold scheduled to vest ratably on March 1 of each of 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021, subject to continued employment. Mr. Palfreyman, as part of his initial attraction and retention package in September 2016, received a grant of 2,580 RSUs without a performance threshold scheduled to vest one-fifth on each of March 1, 2018, 2019 and 2020, and two-fifths on March 1, 2021. Similarly, Ms. Saathoff, in recognition of her promotion to Senior Vice President, Regulation and General Counsel, in July 2016, received a grant of 3,100 RSUs without a performance threshold which will vest one-fourth on each of March 1, 2019 and 2020, and the remaining one-half on March 1, 2021. All RSU agreements' clawback' payments that were achieved due to misconduct. No other NEO has an RSU agreement without a performance threshold.

An RSU obligates the Company upon vesting to issue to the RSU holder one share of common stock plus a cash payment equal to the total amount of dividends paid per share between grant and vesting of the RSU. The performance threshold for the RSUs will be met on each vesting date if the Company's return on common equity for the preceding year is greater than the Company's average cost of long-term debt for the preceding five years. No RSUs with performance threshold will vest in a given year if the Company's performance threshold is not met, and shares subject to vesting in that year will be forfeited. In general, if the Company performance threshold is met, RSUs vest for 25 percent of the awarded shares on March 1 of each of the first four years after the grant date. For purposes of calculating return on common equity, earnings are adjusted to eliminate certain unusual items consisting of changes as a result of new accounting principles, any gain or loss on sale of a business, asset impairment charges that exceed \$500,000 other than utility plant impairment, and earnings impacts of new taxes







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**3-Year Total Shareholder Return Component (TSR).** For purposes of determining Relative TSR, as of December 31, 2017, the peer group companies were: Atmos Energy Corporation, South Jersey Industries, Inc., National Fuel Gas Company, New Jersey Resources Corporation, NiSource Inc., Southwest Gas Corporation, UGI Corporation, One Gas Inc. and WGL Holdings, Inc. TSR payout levels are based on the percentile rank of our TSR as compared to the TSR peer group, as follows:

TSR Percentile Rank <sup>1</sup>	TSR Payout Factor
less than 30%	0%
30%	25%
50%	100%
90% or more	200%

<sup>(1)</sup> TSR Percentile Ranks between any two data points are interpolated

However, the calculated payout percentage is reduced by 25 percent if the Company's total shareholder return is less than 0 percent. For the 2015-2017 performance cycle, NW Natural's total shareholder return was a cumulative 55.71 percent, which was at the 35.02 percentile of the peer group, and resulted in a 42.59 percent TSR payout factor.

**3-Year Cumulative EPS Component.** For the same reasons the OECC retained discretion under the EAIP to adjust for certain extraordinary, non-recurring or unplanned impacts as the OECC determines is appropriate, the OECC designed the EPS and ROIC components of the performance share awards to automatically adjust to eliminate the impact of changes in accounting principles, gain or loss on the sale of a business, impairments, tax impacts or tax rate changes. For the 2015-2017 performance share cycle, pursuant to the performance share award agreement, the EPS and ROIC components were automatically adjusted to exclude impairments associated with the regulatory SRRM Charges in 2016 and 2015<sup>4</sup>, and the GRS Impairment and benefits of Tax Reform in 2017. In addition, the OECC reviewed Management's decision to delay filing the Company's general rate case in Oregon until the end of 2017, and the impact of that timing decision on the Company's ability to meet the EPS and ROIC targets set in the 2015-2017 performance share awards. The OECC noted that the Board previously concurred with Management's decision regarding rate case timing, and exercised discretion to increase Cumulative EPS results by \$0.25, and ROIC results for 2017 by 0.43 percent, to reflect estimated additional earnings that were expected to result from earlier filing of the rate case and included in setting the targets. The adjustments described in this paragraph are referred to below as the Performance Share Adjustments.

<sup>4</sup> As part of our 2012 Oregon general rate case, the OPUC adopted the SRRM through which the Company tracks and recovers past deferred and future environmental remediation costs related to gas manufacturing sites owned by the Company and its predecessors since the early 1900s, and opened a separate docket to determine how the SRRM would be applied. In February 2015, the OPUC issued an order finding that the Company's approximately \$114 million of environmental remediation expenses incurred at that time and approximately \$150 million in environmental insurance settlements were prudent, and that future prudently incurred environmental costs allocable to Oregon would be recoverable through the SRRM, subject to an earnings test. However, through application of its earnings test with certain adjustments the OPUC deemed appropriate, the OPUC ordered the Company to forego collection under the SRRM of \$15 million of the approximately \$95 million of environmental expenses and associated carrying costs it had deferred through 2012. This resulted in a net after-tax charge in the first quarter of 2015 of approximately \$9.1 million. The OPUC issued a related order in January 2016 disallowing recovery of \$2.8 million in interest earned on the earlier disallowed amount, resulting in a \$3.3 million pre-tax, non-cash, or a \$2.0 million after-tax, charge in 2016.

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For the 2015-2017 performance cycle, the cumulative EPS Payout Factor was determined based on the following:

<b>Minimum (25%)</b>	<b>Target (100%)</b>	<b>Maximum (200%)</b>
\$6.66	\$6.96	\$7.20

EPS results between any two data points are interpolated. Amounts less than \$6.66 result in a 0% payout factor.

3-Year Cumulative EPS for the 2015-2017 performance cycle was \$2.14, and as adjusted by the Performance Share Adjustments, on a non-GAAP basis, was \$6.97, resulting in a Cumulative EPS factor equal to 104.17 percent.

3-Year Average ROIC Component. For the 2015-2017 performance cycle, the average ROIC target levels were:

<b>Minimum (25%)</b>	<b>Target (100%)</b>	<b>Maximum (200%)</b>
6.67%	6.82%	6.92%

ROIC results between any two data points are interpolated. Amounts less than 6.67% result in a 0% payout factor.

3-Year Average ROIC for the 2015-2017 performance cycle was 3.82 percent, and as adjusted by the Performance Share Adjustments, on a non-GAAP basis, was 6.65 percent, resulting in a 3-Year Average ROIC factor equal to 0 percent.

Strategic Component. The Strategic Component Factors for the 2015-2017 performance share awards also included financial measures related to the Company's gas storage assets and revenue growth, as well as other strategic growth initiatives, regulatory outcomes, safety and customer growth metrics and effective succession planning for key leadership positions. The OECC considered the challenges associated with the California gas storage markets, which have experienced historically low pricing and volatility. The OECC also weighed in its assessment, among other things, NW Natural's financial performance for each year of the three-year cycle; the Company's progress in enhancing and maximizing its gas storage assets, including the North Mist gas storage expansion project; effective execution of regulatory matters; strong measures of service that is safe, reliable and customer-oriented; customer growth; implementation of effective succession planning through key position retirements; and progress made in certain business development and growth initiatives; and assigned a strategic component factor of 116 percent from a possible 200 percent.

***Perquisites***

The OECC eliminated routine perquisites for executives effective January 1, 2008. The OECC acknowledges that certain benefits incidental to other business-related activities may continue, but the aggregate annual value of such benefits is not expected to regularly exceed \$10,000 for any NEO. Examples of when perquisites may exceed \$10,000 are when an individual is promoted to a senior position within the Company, or as part of an initial hire package for a senior level executive.

***Qualified and Non-Qualified Retirement (Defined Benefit) Plans***

Mr. Anderson and Ms. Doolittle participate in the Retirement Plan for Bargaining Unit and Non-Bargaining Unit Employees (Retirement Plan), our qualified defined benefit pension plan, on the same terms as other salaried employees. Messrs. Burkhartsmeier, Palfreyman and Wilson and Ms. Saathoff joined the Company after 2006, when the Retirement Plan was closed to new employees. We also maintain the following non-qualified supplemental retirement plans for certain executives participating in the Retirement Plan: the Executive Supplemental Retirement Income Plan and the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan. These plans are more fully described below under the Pension Benefits as of December 31, 2017 table and the related narrative discussion. As discussed there, in 2009 the OECC recommended and the Board approved amendments to these plans that moderate the growth in benefits payable under these plans.

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***Qualified and Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation (Defined Contribution) Plans***

We also maintain both tax-qualified and non-tax-qualified defined contribution plans in which the NEOs are eligible to participate. Our 401(k) Plan is a tax-qualified defined contribution plan and our Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors and Executives is a non-tax-qualified deferred compensation plan. For further discussion of Named Executive Officer participation in non-qualified deferred compensation plans in 2017, see the Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation in 2017 table below.

***Attraction and Retention Package for Mr. Burkhartsmeier***

In an effort to attract and retain Mr. Burkhartsmeier to the position of Senior Vice President and CFO, the OECC and Board, as applicable, approved in 2017 certain one-time payments and benefits to Mr. Burkhartsmeier beyond routine executive compensation, including: a hiring bonus of \$200,000 payable 50% on December 1, 2017, 25% on June 1, 2018 and 25% on December 1, 2018, subject to continued employment; and a grant of RSUs that were previously described. The Board also approved a Severance Agreement with Mr. Burkhartsmeier providing for the payment of a percentage of Mr. Burkhartsmeier's salary if he is terminated without cause on or prior to May 17, 2022, with such percentage of salary declining in 20 percent increments annually from 100% of Mr. Burkhartsmeier's salary if his employment is terminated without cause on or prior to May 17, 2018 to 0% of his salary if his employment is terminated without cause after May 17, 2022.

***Attraction and Retention Package for Mr. Palfreyman***

In an effort to attract and retain Mr. Palfreyman to the position of Vice President, Business Development with the later additional responsibilities of strategy, the OECC and Board, as applicable, approved in 2016 certain one-time payments and benefits to Mr. Palfreyman beyond routine executive compensation, including: a hiring bonus of \$120,000, with two ratable payments in October 2016 and October 2017, subject to continued employment. Mr. Palfreyman also received a grant of RSUs that were previously described.

***Change in Control/ Severance Agreements***

The Board of Directors considers an effective, highly-skilled and vital management team to be essential to protect and enhance the best interests of our Company. As such, it recognizes that the uncertainty and questions a potential change in control could result in the departure or distraction of management personnel to the Company's detriment. Accordingly, the Board has approved double trigger severance agreements with all of the NEOs. The agreements contain a provision that reduces the level of benefits as the NEOs approach age 65 given the value of the benefit should diminish commensurate with an officer's potential remaining years of employment. The Board believes the current form of severance agreement reflects a conservative approach relative to energy industry standards. None of the agreements with officers of NW Natural include provisions for tax gross-up upon a triggering event. See Potential Payments Upon Termination or Change in Control, below.

In general, the OECC prefers not to enter into severance agreements other than for change in control purposes. Accordingly, the OECC has established a guideline that severance benefits may only be provided following a termination without cause in the first five years of employment in a particular position or after a change in control. The benefit for termination without cause, absent a change in control, is reduced over the term of the agreement, which cannot exceed five years. The only such agreements outstanding are with Mr. Burkhartsmeier, as described above, and Mr. Anderson, which was entered into upon his appointment to the position of CEO. Mr. Anderson's agreement provides for the payment of a percentage of his salary if he is terminated without cause on or prior to August 1, 2021, with such percentage of salary declining in 20 percent increments annually from 100% of Mr. Anderson's salary if his employment was terminated without cause on or prior to August 1, 2017 to 20% of his salary if his employment is terminated without cause on or prior to August 1, 2021.



**Table of Contents****Stock Ownership Guidelines**

Our Corporate Governance Standards provide the following ownership guidelines for executive officers, expressed as a multiple of each executive officer's base salary:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Dollar Value of Stock Owned as Multiple of Base Salary</b>
Chief Executive Officer and President	4x
Executive Vice President or Chief Operating Officer	3x
Senior Vice Presidents or NEOs	2x
Vice Presidents and all other Executive Officers	1x

The OECC annually reviews these guidelines and the progress made by executives against these objectives. Stock ownership is measured using: shares owned directly by the executive or immediate family members; shares credited to an executive's 401(k) Plan and non-qualified deferred compensation plan accounts; and unvested restricted stock units, restricted stock, and in the money stock options. The value of stock owned is determined using the closing price for the common stock as of last day of the year. Generally, stock ownership objectives should be attained within five years of appointment as an officer or from promotion to a higher level ownership requirement. However, the OECC retains discretion to extend the time period within which ownership goals are reached. In February 2018, the OECC concluded all of the NEOs have achieved, or are making appropriate progress toward, stock ownership goals. The Company does not have a policy that requires retention of stock acquired from equity compensation plans after vesting of shares, because the OECC and Board have concluded that the Company's stock ownership requirements provide executives with a meaningful stake in the ownership of NW Natural, and fully align executive officers' ownership interests with our shareholders for the duration of the executive officers' service at the Company.

**Regulatory, Tax and Accounting Considerations*****Regulatory Treatment***

The Company fully assesses the accounting and tax treatment of each form of compensation paid to the NEOs for both NW Natural and the individual executive. This is particularly important in a regulated business where the Company is allowed to recover costs of service in rates (salaries, qualified pensions and health and welfare benefit costs), while the majority of other elements of executive compensation, such as annual incentive awards, long-term equity awards and non-qualified retirement benefits, are typically shareholder expenses because the public utility commissions that regulate the Company view these expenses as more closely tied to shareholder objectives. However, our incentive compensation programs benefit customers by including performance incentives that:

- encourage efficient, safe and reliable service;
- encourage management of capital, operating, and maintenance costs, which help to abate the need for future rate increases; and
- focus on customer satisfaction.

See Executive Annual Incentive Plan Operations Factor above.

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Actual amounts currently recovered in rates are based on amounts determined in our general rate cases approved by the OPUC in 2012 and by the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission in 2008. The following table shows the current rate recovery treatment for categories of compensation expenses for various elements of our executive compensation program:

<b>Executive Expenses Generally Recovered in Rates</b>	<b>Executive Expenses Generally Not Recovered in Rates</b>
Salaries	Stock Options
Qualified pension plan benefits	Executive Annual Incentive Plan
Contributions related to Qualified Retirement K Savings Plan (401(k) Plan)	Interest accruals and make-up contributions related to Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors and Executives
Health and welfare benefits	Interest accruals on Executive Deferred Compensation Plan
	Executive Supplemental Retirement Income Plan
	Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan
	Change-in-control severance benefits
	Non-change-in-control severance benefits
	Long Term Incentive Plan
	Restricted Stock Units
	Performance Shares

***Tax Deductibility of Compensation***

In developing executive compensation programs, the OECC takes into consideration the tax deductibility of the various components of compensation under the Internal Revenue Code. Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code generally limits the amount that may be deducted for compensation paid in any year to our NEOs (other than the CFO) to \$1 million per person. Certain exceptions to this limitation apply to performance-based compensation. We previously obtained shareholder approval of our former Restated SOP and our LTIP. It has been the intention of the OECC that options granted under the former Restated SOP and RSUs with a performance threshold granted under the LTIP, meet the performance-based compensation requirements of the Internal Revenue Code and related regulations, and that the compensation paid under those awards will be fully deductible. Because the OECC's determination as to the achievement of the strategic component of performance share awards is discretionary and because the OECC made discretionary adjustments to the performance share awards paid in 2017, amounts paid under those awards may not be tax deductible under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. Because the OECC approved amendments to the calculation of the performance threshold for RSUs granted prior to 2016, amounts paid under these RSUs also may not be tax deductible. For 2017, \$100,787 paid to Mr. Anderson was non-deductible. No other amounts paid to our NEOs for 2017 are expected to be considered non-deductible under Section 162(m).

The exemption from Section 162(m)'s deduction limit for performance-based compensation has been repealed, effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2017, such that compensation paid to our NEOs in excess of \$1 million will no longer be deductible unless it qualifies for transition relief applicable to certain arrangements in place as of November 2, 2017. Despite the OECC's intention to structure certain executive compensation programs to meet the deductibility requirements of Section 162(m), because of uncertainties as to the scope of the transition relief, no assurance can be given that compensation intended to satisfy the requirements for exemption from the deduction limit of Section 162(m) in fact will be eligible for the transition relief.

**Table of Contents****REALIZED COMPENSATION TABLE**

The SEC's calculation of total compensation, as shown in the Summary Compensation Table set forth on page 58, includes several items that are driven by accounting and actuarial assumptions, which are not necessarily reflective of compensation actually realized by the NEOs in a particular year. To supplement the SEC-required disclosure, we have included the additional table below, which shows compensation actually realized by each NEO for each of the years shown.

**Realized Compensation Table<sup>1</sup>**

Name and Principal Position	Year	Realized Compensation <sup>2</sup>
<b>David H. Anderson</b> President and Chief Executive Officer	2017	\$1,823,389 <sup>3</sup>
	2016	1,731,512 <sup>4,5</sup>
	2015	945,146
<b>Frank H. Burkhartsmeyer<sup>9,10</sup></b> Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2017	490,611 <sup>6</sup>
<b>Brody J. Wilson<sup>9,10</sup></b> Vice President, Treasurer, Chief Accounting Officer, and Controller	2017	490,764
	2016	522,922 <sup>7</sup>
<b>MardiLyn Saathoff<sup>10</sup></b> Senior Vice President, Regulation and General Counsel	2017	751,554
	2016	714,036 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Lea Anne Doolittle<sup>10</sup></b> Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer	2017	711,698 <sup>3</sup>
	2016	701,467 <sup>4</sup>
	2015	521,324
<b>Justin B. Palfreyman<sup>10</sup></b> Vice President, Strategy and Business Development	2017	471,833 <sup>8</sup>

(1) Amounts reported as realized compensation differ substantially from the amounts determined under SEC rules and reported as total compensation in the Summary Compensation Table. Realized compensation is not a substitute for total compensation. For more information on total compensation as calculated under SEC rules, refer to the narrative and notes accompanying the Summary Compensation Table set forth on page 58.

(2) Amounts reflected as realized compensation in this table include the following amounts paid for the applicable year: (1) salary earned in the applicable year; (2) EAIP payments earned in the applicable year; (3) the value of the performance share award actually paid for the performance period ending in the applicable year; (4) the value of RSUs vested and paid during the applicable year; and (5) the value realized on exercise of stock options during the applicable year, if any. The amounts reflected as realized compensation in this table do not include the following amounts for the year indicated: (a) the value of performance share awards, RSUs or stock options granted but not yet vested and paid or exercised; (b) the aggregate change in the actuarial present value of the NEOs' accumulated benefits under all defined benefit pension plans; (c) above-market interest credited to the non-qualified deferred compensation plan accounts of the NEOs, if any; (d) employer matching contributions to qualified defined contribution plan; (e) matching contributions under non-qualified deferred compensation plans, if any; and (f) any additional payments or de minimus amounts.

(3) Amount includes compensation realized on the exercise of stock options that were granted in prior years of \$189,438 for Mr. Anderson and \$74,985 for Ms. Doolittle.

(4) Amount includes compensation realized on the exercise of stock options that were granted in prior years of \$143,397 for Mr. Anderson, \$40,653 for Ms. Saathoff, and \$39,445 for Ms. Doolittle.

(5) Amount includes a promotion bonus of \$93,000 to reflect Mr. Anderson's 2016 mid-year transition to Chief Executive Officer.

(6) Amount includes an initial hire-on bonus of \$100,000 that was paid in December 2017 and was part of Mr. Burkhartsmeyer's attraction retention package. See Compensation Discussion and Analysis, above.

(7) Amount includes a one-time lump sum bonus in the amount of \$40,000 in recognition of Mr. Wilson's interim service as Chief Financial Officer.

(8) Amount includes the second installment of a hire-on bonus in the amount of \$60,000 that was paid in October 2017.

(9) Effective May 17, 2017, Mr. Burkhartsmeyer was appointed Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and Mr. Wilson's interim duties concluded. Mr. Wilson's 2017 realized compensation includes a supplemental salary addition of \$5,500 per month or any portion thereof in which he served as the interim Chief Financial Officer. See Compensation Discussion and Analysis, above.

(10) Messrs. Burkhartsmeyer and Palfreyman were not NEOs in 2016 or 2015 and Mr. Wilson, Ms. Saathoff, and Ms. Doolittle were not NEOs in 2015.

**Table of Contents****SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE**

The following is a summary of our NEOs' compensation in 2015, 2016 and 2017. Only a portion of the executive compensation shown in this Summary Compensation Table is included for purposes of establishing regulatory rates charged to customers. Although most of our compensation programs are designed to promote shareholder objectives, our customers also directly benefit because many of the programs include performance incentives designed to improve service to our customers. For discussion regarding amounts excluded from rate recovery, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis Regulatory, Tax and Accounting Considerations Regulatory Treatment, above.

NAME AND PRINCIPAL POSITION	YEAR	SALARY (\$)	BONUS <sup>1</sup> (\$)	STOCK AWARDS <sup>2</sup> (\$)	NON- EQUITY INCENTIVE PLAN COMPEN- SATION <sup>1</sup> (\$)	CHANGE IN PENSION VALUE AND NON- QUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION <sup>3</sup> (\$)	ALL OTHER COMPEN- SATION <sup>4</sup> (\$)	TOTAL (\$)
					(g)	(h)	(i)	
David H. Anderson President and Chief Executive Officer	2017	\$641,667	\$173,279	\$834,910	\$437,721	\$1,040,648	\$58,308	\$3,186,533
	2016	506,250	225,753	642,885	441,248	821,947	42,108	2,680,191
	2015	418,083	77,606	364,013	282,394	333,020	29,177	1,504,293
Frank H. Burkhartsmeyer Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2017	248,611	140,664	631,331	101,336		12,990	1,134,932
	2016							
	2015							
Brody J. Wilson Vice President, Treasurer, Chief Accounting Officer, and Controller	2017	272,028	32,806	111,245	79,194	47	33,712	529,032
	2016	253,583	64,350	110,050	80,650	3	30,270	538,906
	2015							
MardiLyn Saathoff Senior Vice President, Regulation and General Counsel	2017	355,167	60,754	278,113	144,246	2,577	43,507	884,364
	2016	339,000	47,328	475,569	152,672	2,830	47,865	1,065,264
	2015							
Lea Anne Doolittle Senior Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer	2017	299,500	44,894	189,607	108,106	323,612	23,601	989,320
	2016	290,667	35,472	187,370	114,528	348,886	21,947	998,870
	2015	282,667	34,659	191,972	124,341	394,358	17,564	1,045,561
Justin B. Palfreyman Vice President, Strategy and Business Development	2017	270,833	102,232	178,597	98,768		25,801	676,231
	2016							
	2015							

Column (f) was deleted as it is not applicable.

(1) The total bonus paid to each NEO under our EAIP for performance in 2017 is split between columns (d) and (g). Amounts constituting the discretionary portion of bonuses under the plan are the amounts listed as bonuses in column (d). Amounts constituting the performance-based, non-discretionary portion of bonuses under the plan are the amounts listed as non-equity incentive plan compensation in column (g). Amounts in column (d) include \$100,000 paid as a hiring bonus for Mr. Burkhartsmeyer, and \$60,000 paid as a hiring bonus for Mr. Palfreyman.

(2) Amounts shown in column (e) represent the grant date fair value of performance share awards and RSUs granted in each year disregarding estimated forfeitures, determined under share-based compensation accounting guidance. The amount shown for RSUs is equal to the number of RSUs awarded multiplied by the closing market price of the common stock on the date of grant. The issuance of the shares under these awards is contingent upon meeting certain performance criteria, so the shares may or may not be earned. Mr. Burkhartsmeyer was awarded 6,016 RSUs during 2017 without a performance threshold and Ms. Saathoff was awarded 3,100 RSUs during 2016 without a performance threshold. In 2015 and 2016, a portion of each performance share award was based on relative total shareholder return (40 percent of each target award) and, therefore, was subject to a market condition, so the amount shown for that portion of each of those performance share awards represents the grant date fair value of the award calculated using a Monte Carlo model. For the remaining portion of each performance share award subject to strategic performance milestones (20 percent of each target award for the 2015 and 2016 awards), earnings per share (EPS) targets (20 percent of each target award for the 2015 and 2016 awards) and return on invested capital (ROIC) targets (20 percent of each target award for the 2015 and 2016 awards), the amount shown is based on the estimated number of shares to be issued multiplied by the sum of the closing market price of the common stock on the date of grant plus the estimated dividends per share to be paid over the three-year performance period. Performance share awards granted in 2017 are subject to EPS and ROIC targets, with the total payout subject to modification based on a growth modifier, with the total payout also subject to modification based on total shareholder return (TSR) performance which is a market modifier under share-based compensation accounting guidance. Accordingly, the grant date fair value per share of the awards was calculated using a Monte Carlo method to take into account the TSR market modifier.



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Amounts included for the 2017 performance share awards represent that grant date fair value per share multiplied by the target number of shares, which is the number of shares assumed to be issued based on the EPS and ROIC performance conditions. If the maximum number of shares issuable under the EPS and ROIC conditions had been used as the estimated number of shares, the total amounts in column (e) for 2017 would have been \$1,400,269 for Mr. Anderson, \$819,594 for Mr. Burkhartsmeier, \$186,550 for Mr. Wilson, \$466,376 for Ms. Saathoff, \$317,398 for Ms. Doolittle and \$298,971 for Mr. Palfreyman.

<sup>(3)</sup>The amounts included in column (h) as the aggregate change in the actuarial present value of the NEOs' accumulated benefits under all defined benefit pension plans during 2017 were: \$1,040,135 for Mr. Anderson, \$0 for Messrs. Burkhartsmeier, Wilson and Palfreyman and Ms. Saathoff, and \$314,323 for Ms. Doolittle. The 2017 amounts were calculated using a discount rate of 3.31 percent, which is 37 basis points lower than the discount rate used for 2016. The 2016 amounts were calculated using a discount rate of 3.68 percent, which is 12 basis points lower than the discount rate used for 2015. Amounts of above-market interest included in column (h) that were credited to the non-qualified deferred compensation plan accounts of the NEOs during 2017 were: \$513 for Mr. Anderson, \$0 for Mr. Burkhartsmeier, \$47 for Mr. Wilson, \$2,577 for Ms. Saathoff, \$9,289 for Ms. Doolittle, and \$0 for Mr. Palfreyman. For this purpose, interest credited is considered above-market to the extent such interest exceeds 120 percent of the average of the applicable long-term federal rates for the twelve months corresponding to the period for which market yield information is obtained to calculate interest crediting rates under the non-qualified deferred compensation plans.

<sup>(4)</sup>The amounts included in column (i) as matching contributions under the 401(k) Plan during 2017 were: \$10,530 for each of Mr. Anderson and Ms. Doolittle and Saathoff, \$1,000 for Mr. Burkhartsmeier, \$10,476 for Mr. Wilson, and \$10,519 for Mr. Palfreyman. The amounts recorded as matching contributions under non-qualified deferred compensation plans during 2017 were: \$35,109 for Mr. Anderson, \$0 for Mr. Burkhartsmeier, \$324 for Mr. Wilson, \$270 for Ms. Saathoff, \$6,542 for Ms. Doolittle, and \$0 for Mr. Palfreyman. The amounts recorded for dividend equivalents for restricted stock units with performance threshold that vested during 2017 were: \$12,669 for Mr. Anderson, \$0 for Mr. Burkhartsmeier, \$3,566 for Mr. Wilson, \$4,579 for Ms. Saathoff, \$6,137 for Ms. Doolittle, and \$0 for Mr. Palfreyman. The amounts recorded for enhanced 401(k) contributions during 2017 were: \$13,500 for Mr. Wilson, Ms. Saathoff and Mr. Palfreyman, and \$11,597 for Mr. Burkhartsmeier. The amounts recorded as enhanced contributions under non-qualified deferred compensation plans during 2017 were: \$5,453 for Mr. Wilson, \$14,235 for Ms. Saathoff and \$1,390 for Mr. Palfreyman. Amounts in column (i) also include a \$250 gift card plus \$143 gross up expense for each of Mr. Burkhartsmeier, Mr. Wilson, Ms. Saathoff, Ms. Doolittle and Mr. Palfreyman.

**CEO COMPENSATION AND EMPLOYEE COMPENSATION**

As a result of rules under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, beginning with our 2018 proxy statement, the SEC requires disclosure of the ratio of CEO compensation, as calculated in the Summary Compensation Table, to the median compensation of all of the Company's employees other than the CEO. Mr. Anderson's 2017 compensation calculated for purposes of the Summary Compensation Table was \$3,186,533. We estimate that the median annual compensation for all other NW Natural employees, excluding Mr. Anderson, was \$114,869 for 2017, calculated as though it were to be presented in the Summary Compensation Table. As a result, we estimate that Mr. Anderson's compensation was approximately 28 times that of the median annual compensation for all employees in 2017.

Our CEO to median employee pay ratio is a reasonable estimate calculated in a manner consistent with SEC requirements. We identified the median employee by examining the 2017 compensation for all individuals, excluding our CEO, who were employed by us on December 31, 2017. We included all employees, whether employed on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Pay elements that were included in 2017 compensation for each employee for purposes of identifying the median employee included salary or wages received in 2017; cash incentive bonuses received during 2017; the value of the performance share awards actually paid in 2017; and the value of RSUs vested and paid during 2017. Wages and salaries were annualized for employees who were not employed for the full year. For simplicity, the Company's contribution to the 401(k) plan and medical benefits were excluded as all employees, including the CEO, are offered the exact same benefits.

**Table of Contents****GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS DURING 2017**

The following table includes grants of annual incentive awards, performance share awards, and RSUs granted to our NEOs during 2017:

Name (a)	Grant Date (b)	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>1</sup>			Estimated Future Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares	Grant Date Fair Value of Equity Awards <sup>4</sup> (\$) (l)
		Threshold (\$) (c)	Target (\$) (d)	Maximum (\$) (e)	Threshold (#) (f)	Target (#) (g)	Maximum (#) (h)		
David H. Anderson	2/22/2017	\$	\$341,250	\$511,875	2,478 <sup>2</sup>	9,910 <sup>2</sup>	19,820 <sup>2</sup>		\$
	2/22/2017					4,500 <sup>3</sup>			565,360
Frank Burkhardtmeier	5/17/2017		126,000	189,000	825 <sup>2</sup>	3,300 <sup>2</sup>	6,600 <sup>2</sup>		188,263
	5/17/2017					1,500 <sup>3</sup>			88,425
	5/17/2017							6,016 <sup>5</sup>	354,643
Brody J. Wilson	2/22/2017		61,740	92,610	330 <sup>2</sup>	1,320 <sup>2</sup>	2,640 <sup>2</sup>		75,305
	2/22/2017					600 <sup>3</sup>			35,940
MardiLyn Saathoff	2/22/2017		112,455	168,683	825 <sup>2</sup>	3,300 <sup>2</sup>	6,600 <sup>2</sup>		188,263
	2/22/2017					1,500 <sup>3</sup>			89,850
Lea Anne Doolittle	2/22/2017		84,280	126,420	560 <sup>2</sup>	2,240 <sup>2</sup>	4,480 <sup>2</sup>		127,791
	2/22/2017					1,032 <sup>3</sup>			61,817
Justin B. Palfreyman	2/22/2017		77,000	115,500	528 <sup>2</sup>	2,110 <sup>2</sup>	4,220 <sup>2</sup>		120,374
	2/22/2017					972 <sup>3</sup>			58,223

Column (i), (j) and (k) were deleted as they are not applicable.

(1) Threshold level estimated payouts cannot be determined because the minimum performance level for payout under each component of the formula in the EAIP is interpolated down to a zero payout. See Compensation Discussion and Analysis 2017 Compensation Programs Executive Annual Incentive Plan, above, for a complete discussion of the terms of the awards. Amounts above include only the portion of the award subject to performance metrics, constituting 70 percent of the annual incentive opportunity. The remaining 30 percent of the annual incentive opportunity is awarded based on discretionary criteria and is reflected as a bonus in column (d) of the Summary Compensation Table. The actual non-equity incentive plan portion of the awards earned in 2017 and paid in 2018 are reflected in column (g) of the Summary Compensation Table.

(2) Share amounts represent potential performance share awards granted pursuant to the terms of the LTIP. See Compensation Discussion and Analysis 2017 Compensation Programs Long-Term Incentives Performance Shares, above, for a complete discussion of the terms of the awards. Share amounts do not include an estimate of an additional \$5.678 per share dividend equivalent also payable pursuant to the terms of the awards. Threshold level estimated future payouts assume the minimum award payable other than no payout.

(3) Share amounts represent RSU awards with a performance threshold granted pursuant to the terms of the LTIP. See Compensation Discussion and Analysis 2017 Compensation Programs Long-Term Incentives Restricted Stock Units with Performance Threshold, above, for a complete discussion of the terms of the awards. Share amounts do not include an estimate of an additional dividend equivalent, which is based on a tiered calculation and also payable pursuant to the terms of the awards. RSU awards do not have threshold or maximum payout levels as there is only one payout level if the performance threshold is satisfied.

(4) Amounts shown in column (l) for RSU awards represent the grant date fair value of the RSUs which was based on a value of \$59.90 per share for RSUs granted on February 22, 2017, and \$58.95 for RSUs granted on May 17, 2017, each of which was the closing market price of the common stock on the grant date. Performance share awards granted in 2017 are subject to EPS and ROIC targets, with the total payout subject to modification based on a growth modifier, with the total payout also subject to modification based on total shareholder return (TSR) performance which is a market modifier under share-based compensation accounting guidance. Accordingly, the grant date fair value per share of the awards of \$57.0494 was calculated using a Monte Carlo method to take into account the TSR market modifier.

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Amounts shown in column (l) for the performance share awards represent that grant date fair value per share multiplied by the target number of shares, which is the number of shares assumed to be issued based on the EPS and ROIC targets. The values used for RSUs and performance share awards are the same as those used under share-based compensation accounting guidance.

<sup>(5)</sup> Share amount represents a time-based RSU with no performance threshold, granted to Mr. Burkhartsmeier on May 17, 2017. See Compensation Discussion and Analysis 2017 Compensation Programs Long-Term Incentives Restricted Stock Units with Performance Threshold, above, for a complete discussion of the terms of the award. Share amount does not include an estimate of an additional dividend equivalent, which is based on a tiered calculation and also payable pursuant to the terms of the awards.

**OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017**

The following table includes all of the outstanding equity awards held by our NEOs at December 31, 2017:

Name (a)	Option Awards				Stock Awards		Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares That Have Not Vested (\$) <sup>1</sup> (j)	
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#) (b)	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) (c)	Option Exercise Price (\$) (e)	Option Expiration Date (f)	Number of Shares That Have Not Vested (#) (g)	Market Value of Shares That Have Not Vested (\$) <sup>1</sup> (h)		Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares That Have Not Vested (#) (i)
David H. Anderson	8,000		\$44.25	3/2/2020		\$		
	11,000		45.74	3/2/2021				
					650 <sup>3</sup>	38,773	27,420 <sup>2</sup>	1,635,603
					600 <sup>3</sup>	35,790	600 <sup>4</sup>	35,790
					1,050 <sup>3</sup>	62,633	2,100 <sup>5</sup>	125,265
Frank H. Burkhartsmeier					1,125 <sup>3</sup>	67,106	3,375 <sup>6</sup>	201,319
					6,016 <sup>7</sup>	358,854	6,600 <sup>2</sup>	393,690
					375 <sup>3</sup>	22,369	1,125 <sup>6</sup>	67,106
Brody J. Wilson					185 <sup>3</sup>	11,035	3,940 <sup>2</sup>	235,021
					190 <sup>3</sup>	11,334	190 <sup>4</sup>	11,334
					180 <sup>3</sup>	10,737	360 <sup>5</sup>	21,474
					150 <sup>3</sup>	8,948	450 <sup>6</sup>	26,843
MardiLyn Saathoff	2,000		41.15	3/4/2019				
	2,000		44.25	3/2/2020				
	3,000		45.74	3/2/2021				
					185 <sup>3</sup>	11,035	9,860 <sup>2</sup>	588,149
					375 <sup>3</sup>	22,369	375 <sup>4</sup>	22,369
					450 <sup>3</sup>	26,843	900 <sup>5</sup>	53,685
					3,100 <sup>8</sup>	184,915		
Lea Anne Doolittle					375 <sup>3</sup>	22,369	1,125 <sup>6</sup>	67,106
	3,000		41.15	3/4/2019				
	3,000		44.25	3/2/2020				
	5,000		45.74	3/2/2021				
					345 <sup>3</sup>	20,579	6,680 <sup>2</sup>	398,462
				325 <sup>3</sup>	19,386	325 <sup>4</sup>	19,386	
				310 <sup>3</sup>	18,492	620 <sup>5</sup>	36,983	
				258 <sup>3</sup>	15,390	774 <sup>6</sup>	46,169	
Justin B. Palfreyman					2,580 <sup>9</sup>	153,897	4,220 <sup>2</sup>	251,723
					243 <sup>3</sup>	14,495	729 <sup>6</sup>	43,485

Column (d) was omitted as it is not applicable.

<sup>(1)</sup> Amounts are calculated based on the price of \$59.65, the closing market price for the Company's common stock on December 29, 2017 (the last trading day of 2017).

<sup>(2)</sup> For 2016-2018 performance share awards, the share amounts include the target level of the awards and for 2017-2019 performance share awards, the share amounts include the maximum level of the awards. The actual number of performance shares issuable will be determined by the OECC at the end of the three-year performance cycles ending December 31, 2018 and 2019, respectively. Does not include an estimate for the accumulated cash dividends also payable



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pursuant to the terms of the awards. For a complete description of the performance objectives, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis 2017 Compensation Programs Long-Term Incentives Performance Shares, above.

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- (3) Share amounts represent RSU awards with performance thresholds that were met as of December 31, 2017, and that are scheduled to vest based on continued service through March 1, 2018. The achievement of the performance threshold is reviewed and approved by the OECC after the end of each year. This amount does not include an estimate for the accumulated cash dividends also payable pursuant to the terms of the awards. For a complete description of the performance threshold, see Compensation Discussion and Analysis 2017 Compensation Programs Long-Term Incentives Restricted Stock Units with Performance Threshold, above.
- (4) Share amounts represent the remaining balance of RSUs with performance threshold awards. The remaining shares covered by each of these RSUs with performance threshold will vest on March 1, 2019 subject in each case to achievement of the performance threshold for the immediately preceding year. This amount does not include an estimate for the accumulated cash dividends also payable pursuant to the terms of the awards.
- (5) Share amounts represent the remaining balance of RSUs with performance threshold awards. One-half of the remaining shares covered by each of these RSUs with performance threshold will vest on each of March 1, 2019 and 2020 subject in each case to achievement of the performance threshold for the immediately preceding year. This amount does not include an estimate for the accumulated cash dividends also payable pursuant to the terms of the awards.
- (6) Share amounts represent the remaining balance of RSUs with performance threshold awards. One-third of the remaining shares covered by each of these RSUs with performance threshold will vest on each of March 1, 2019, 2020 and 2021 subject in each case to achievement of the performance threshold for the immediately preceding year. This amount does not include an estimate for the accumulated cash dividends also payable pursuant to the terms of the awards.
- (7) Share amount represents a time-based RSU. One fourth of the shares will vest on each of March 1, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.
- (8) Share amount represents a time-based RSU. One-fourth of the shares will vest on each of March 1, 2019 and 2020 and the remaining one-half will vest on March 1, 2021.
- (9) Share amounts represent a time-based RSU. One-fifth of the shares will vest on each of March 1, 2018, 2019 and 2020 and the remaining two-fifths will vest on March 1, 2021.

**OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED DURING 2017**

Name (a)	Option Awards		Stock Awards	
	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#) (b)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$) (c)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting <sup>1</sup> (#) (d)	Value Realized on Vesting <sup>1</sup> (\$) (e)
	David H. Anderson	8,000	\$ 189,438	5,881
Frank H. Burkhardtmeier				
Brody J. Wilson			1,641	106,736
MardiLyn Saathoff			2,956	191,387
Lea Anne Doolittle	4,000	74,985	2,832	184,213
Justin B. Palfreyman				

- (1) Amounts represent performance share awards and RSUs with performance threshold that vested during 2017. The performance shares are related to the three-year award cycle 2015-2017 and were earned but unpaid as of the fiscal year-end; the value realized is based on a price of \$59.65, the closing market price for the Company's common stock on December 29, 2017 (the last trading day of 2017), plus dividend equivalents. The performance share award paid at 61.07 percent of the target level incentive based upon Company performance and strategic results. See Compensation Discussion and Analysis 2017 Compensation Programs Long-Term Incentives Performance Shares, above. The number of shares actually paid was determined by the OECC on February 21, 2018. The value realized includes cash for dividend equivalents of \$5.6175 per share based on dividends per share paid by the Company during the performance period as follows: Mr. Anderson, \$16,467; Mr. Burkhardtmeier, \$0; Mr. Wilson, \$4,974; Ms. Saathoff, \$9,949; Ms. Doolittle, \$8,576; and Mr. Palfreyman, \$0. RSUs with performance threshold are related to the units that vested on March 1, 2017 and the value realized is based on the closing stock price on February 28, 2017 or \$60.10 per share, plus cash dividend equivalents which were as follows: Mr. Anderson, \$12,669; Mr. Burkhardtmeier, \$0; Mr. Wilson, \$3,566; Ms. Saathoff, \$4,579; Ms. Doolittle, \$6,137; and Mr. Palfreyman, \$0. Receipt of the following amounts under performance share awards and RSUs were deferred pursuant to elections under our Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors and Executives: Mr. Anderson, 0 shares; Mr. Burkhardtmeier, 0 shares; Mr. Wilson, 180 shares valued at \$10,818 and \$338 of dividend equivalents; Ms. Saathoff, 2,212 shares valued at \$118,862 and \$0 of dividend equivalents; Ms. Doolittle, 786 shares valued at \$43,590 and \$482 of dividend equivalents; and Mr. Palfreyman, 0 shares. See Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation in 2017 for a discussion of the terms of this plan.

**Table of Contents****PENSION BENEFITS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Name	Age	Plan Name	Number of Years Credited Service	Present
				Value of Accumulated Benefit <sup>1</sup>
David H. Anderson	56	Retirement Plan for Bargaining Unit and Non-Bargaining Unit Employees	13.25	\$664,970
		Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan Tier 1	13.25	2,860,493
		Deferred Compensation Plan Supplemental Annuity	13.25	
Frank H. Burkhartsmeier	53	N/A		N/A
Brody J. Wilson	38	N/A		N/A
MardiLyn Saathoff	61	N/A		N/A
Lea Anne Doolittle <sup>2</sup>	62	Retirement Plan for Bargaining Unit and Non-Bargaining Unit Employees	17.17	908,998
		Executive Supplemental Retirement Income Plan	17.17	3,038,472
		Deferred Compensation Plan Supplemental Annuity	17.17	
Justin B. Palfreyman	39	N/A		N/A

<sup>(1)</sup>The Present Value of Accumulated Benefit in the above table represents the actuarial present value as of December 31, 2017 of the pension benefits of the NEOs under the respective pension plans calculated based on years of service and final average compensation as of that date but assuming retirement at the earliest age at which benefits were unreduced under the respective plans. The actuarial present value was calculated using the RP-2014 Mortality Table adjusted backward to 2006 and projected generationally using Scale MP-2017 and a discount rate of 3.31 percent, the same assumptions used in the pension benefit calculations reflected in our audited balance sheet as of December 31, 2017.

<sup>(2)</sup>Ms. Doolittle is eligible for normal retirement benefits under the pension plans in which she is a participant.

**Retirement Plan for Bargaining Unit and Non-Bargaining Unit Employees**

The Retirement Plan for Bargaining Unit and Non-Bargaining Unit Employees (Retirement Plan) is our qualified pension plan covering certain employees covered by a labor agreement and hired prior to January 1, 2010 as well as all regular, full-time employees not covered under a labor agreement whose employment commenced prior to January 1, 2007 (when the non-bargaining unit portion of the Retirement Plan was closed to new participants). Eligible non-bargaining unit employees commenced participation in the Retirement Plan after one year of service and became 100 percent vested after five years of service. Final average earnings for purposes of calculating benefits consist of the participant's highest average total annual compensation for any five consecutive years in the last 10 years of employment, with total annual compensation for this purpose generally consisting of salary and annual incentive, excluding long-term incentives, amounts deferred under our non-qualified deferred compensation plans and, commencing in 2010 as provided in a Retirement Plan amendment approved in 2009, annual incentive payments in excess of target. In addition, as of December 31, 2017, the Internal Revenue Code limited the amount of annual compensation considered for purposes of calculating benefits under the Retirement Plan to \$270,000.

A normal retirement benefit is payable upon retirement at or after age 62 and consists of (a) an annuity benefit equal to 1.8 percent of final average earnings for each of the participant's first 10 years of service, and (b) a lump sum benefit equal to 7.5 percent of final average earnings for each year of service in excess of 10 years. In addition, for participants hired before January 1, 2000 and under age 60 on that date, a supplemental annuity is provided under the Retirement Plan equal to the participant's total years of service multiplied by the sum of (x) a

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varying percentage (based on the participant's hire age and age on January 1, 2000) of total final average earnings, and (y) 0.425 percent of the excess of final average earnings over an amount referred to as Covered Compensation, which generally consists of the average of the Social Security maximum taxable wage bases over the 35 years preceding the participant's retirement.

Employees who have attained age 55, if age plus accredited years of service totals 70 or more, are eligible for early retirement benefits. Annuity benefits are reduced by 1/3 percent per month (four percent per year) for each month that the benefit commencement date precedes age 62, with such benefit reduction increased to 1/2 percent per month (six percent per year) for each month the benefit commencement date precedes age 60. The lump sum benefit is not subject to reduction on early retirement. At December 31, 2017, Ms. Doolittle was eligible for normal retirement benefits under the Retirement Plan, and no NEOs were eligible for early retirement benefits under the Retirement Plan.

The basic benefit form for annuity benefits is a monthly single life annuity. The participant may choose among different annuity forms that are the actuarial equivalent of the basic benefit.

### **Deferred Compensation Plan Supplemental Annuity**

As discussed above, final average earnings for purposes of calculating benefits under the Retirement Plan exclude amounts deferred under our non-qualified Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors and Executives (DCP), which is described below under Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plans. Accordingly, deferral of compensation under the DCP during a participant's last 10 years of employment may result in a reduction in benefits payable under the Retirement Plan unless the participant's total annual compensation in each of those years is over the limit (\$270,000 in 2017) imposed by the Internal Revenue Code. In recognition of this possible loss of Retirement Plan benefits, the DCP provides for payment of a supplemental annuity generally payable in the same form and for the same period of time as the annuity payable under the Retirement Plan, subject to certain requirements for the timing of commencement of benefits. The supplemental annuity is equal to the difference between the actual benefit under the Retirement Plan assuming the participant had elected to receive the lump sum benefit in the form of an annuity and the corresponding benefit that otherwise would have been payable under the Retirement Plan if the participant had not deferred compensation under the DCP.

### **Executive Supplemental Retirement Income Plan**

The Executive Supplemental Retirement Income Plan (ESRIP) is a non-qualified pension plan providing supplemental retirement benefits to persons who were executive officers prior to September 1, 2004, including Ms. Doolittle. Under the ESRIP, a target annual retirement benefit is determined for each participant, which is then reduced by the participant's (a) Retirement Plan benefit (with the lump sum portion converted to a single life annuity), (b) annual Social Security benefits, and (c) any supplemental annuity under the DCP, in each case assuming commencement of benefits at age 65. Final average compensation for purposes of calculating ESRIP benefits generally consists of the participant's highest average salary and annual incentive for any five consecutive compensation years in the last 10 years of employment. Long-term incentive compensation is excluded from the definition of final average compensation. To help control the cost of future benefits under the ESRIP, the Board authorized ESRIP amendments in 2009 to provide that, commencing with annual incentives paid for 2010 performance, annual incentive compensation in excess of 125 percent of target is also excluded from the calculation of final average compensation.

The target annual retirement benefit is equal to 4.33 percent of final average compensation for each of the participant's first 15 years of service. This formula results in a target benefit of 65 percent of final average compensation after 15 years of service. A normal retirement benefit equal to the target benefit reduced by Retirement Plan, Social Security and DCP supplemental annuity benefits as discussed above is payable upon retirement at the later of age 62 or after 10 years of service. Participants become vested for 50 percent of this benefit after five years of service and then become vested for an additional 10 percent for each additional year of service until fully vested after 10 years of service. At December 31, 2017, Ms. Doolittle was eligible for early retirement benefits under the ESRIP.

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The basic benefit form for ESRIP benefits is a monthly single life annuity with 10 years of guaranteed payments. The participant may choose among different annuity forms that are the actuarial equivalent of the basic benefit.

### **Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan**

The Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan (SERP) is a non-qualified pension plan providing supplemental retirement benefits to persons who become eligible executive officers after September 1, 2004, including Mr. Anderson. The SERP is divided into two tiers, with persons who became eligible executive officers between September 1, 2004 and December 1, 2006 (Mr. Anderson) being participants in SERP Tier 1, and persons who are eligible for the Retirement Plan and who become eligible executive officers after December 1, 2006 being participants in SERP Tier 2. No NEO was a participant in SERP Tier 2. Participants must complete five years of service before becoming 100 percent vested in SERP benefits.

#### ***SERP Tier 1***

Under SERP Tier 1, a target lump sum retirement benefit is determined for each participant, which is then reduced by the lump sum actuarial equivalent of the participant's Retirement Plan benefit, Social Security benefit and any supplemental annuity under the DCP, in each case valued as of and assuming commencement at age 65. Final average pay for purposes of calculating SERP Tier 1 benefits generally consists of the participant's highest average salary and annual incentive for any five consecutive compensation years in the last 10 years of employment. To help control the cost of future benefits under the SERP, the Board authorized SERP amendments in 2009 to provide that, commencing with annual incentives paid for 2010 performance, annual incentive compensation in excess of 125 percent of target is excluded from the calculation of final average pay.

The target lump sum retirement benefit is equal to 40 percent of final average pay for each of the participant's first 15 years of service, resulting in a maximum target benefit of six times final average pay after 15 years of service. A normal retirement benefit equal to the target benefit reduced by the lump sum actuarial equivalents of Retirement Plan, Social Security, and DCP supplemental annuity benefits as discussed above is payable as a lump sum upon retirement at or after age 60. Upon termination of employment at any time after becoming vested, a participant will receive a termination benefit equal to the SERP Tier 1 normal retirement benefit reduced by 0.4166 percent per month (five percent per year) for each month that termination of employment precedes age 60, up to a maximum reduction of 60 percent for termination at age 48 or below. Participants may choose among different annuity forms that are the actuarial equivalent of the basic lump sum benefit.

**Table of Contents****NON-QUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION IN 2017**

Name	Plan Name	Executive Contributions in 2017 <sup>1</sup>	NW Natural Contributions in 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Aggregate Earnings in 2017 <sup>1</sup>	Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions in 2017	Aggregate Balance at 12/31/2017 <sup>1</sup>
David H. Anderson	EDCP					
	DCP	\$345,212	\$35,109	\$3,343	\$198,863	\$756,094
Frank H. Burkhartsmeier	EDCP					
	DCP					
Brody J. Wilson	EDCP					
	DCP	11,282	5,777	213		21,291
MardiLyn Saathoff	EDCP					
	DCP	104,576	14,505	13,335		482,775
Lea Anne Doolittle	EDCP			7,121		188,456
	DCP	107,870	6,542	33,119		945,794
Justin B. Palfreyman	EDCP					
	DCP					

<sup>(1)</sup> All amounts reported in the Executive Contributions and NW Natural Contributions columns are also included in amounts reported in the Summary Compensation Table above for either 2016 or 2017. The portion of the amounts reported in the Aggregate Earnings column that represents above-market earnings is included in column (h) of the Summary Compensation Table, and the amount of above-market earnings for each NEO is set forth in footnote 3 to that table. Of the amounts reported in the Aggregate Balance column, the following amounts have been reported in the Summary Compensation Tables in this Proxy Statement-Prospectus or in prior year proxy statements: Mr. Anderson, \$756,094; Mr. Burkhartsmeier, \$0; Mr. Wilson, \$20,911; Ms. Saathoff, \$214,591; Ms. Doolittle, \$752,521; and Mr. Palfreyman, \$0. Amounts not previously reported consist of market-rate earnings on amounts deferred and amounts deferred before designation as a NEO. Amounts previously reported as described in this footnote have been reduced by amounts distributed such that no amount in this footnote will exceed the amount in the Aggregate Balance column.

**Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plans In 2017**

We currently maintain two non-qualified deferred compensation plans for executive officers: the DCP and the Executive Deferred Compensation Plan (EDCP). Prior to 2005, the EDCP was the plan pursuant to which our executives deferred compensation. On January 1, 2005, deferrals under the EDCP were discontinued and the DCP became effective for future deferrals of compensation by our executives. Accordingly, all deferred contributions in 2017 were made under the DCP, while earnings continued to accrue on EDCP account balances.

Participants in the DCP may elect in advance to defer up to 50 percent of their salaries, up to 100 percent of their annual incentives, and up to 100 percent of performance share and restricted stock unit awards under our LTIP. We make matching contributions each year equal to (a) 60 percent of the lesser of the participant's salary and annual incentive deferred during the year under both the DCP and our 401(k) Plan or 6 percent of the participant's total salary and annual incentive for the year, reduced by (b) the maximum matching contribution we would have made under our 401(k) Plan if the participant had fully participated in that plan. For participants hired after December 31, 2006, we make enhanced contributions each year equal to 5% of the greater of: (a) the participant's salary and annual incentive deferred during the year under the DCP, or (b) the excess of the participant's total salary and annual incentive received during the year over the limit (\$270,000 in 2017) imposed by the Internal Revenue Code on compensation that may be considered in calculating the corresponding enhanced contributions under our 401(k) Plan.

All amounts deferred under the EDCP or the DCP have been or will be credited to either a stock account or a cash account. Under the DCP, deferrals of compensation payable in cash are made to cash accounts and deferrals of compensation payable in our common stock are made to stock accounts. No transfers between a participant's cash account and stock account are permitted under the EDCP. Under the DCP, transfers from a cash account to a stock account are permitted, but not vice-versa. Stock accounts represent a right to receive

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shares of our common stock on a deferred basis, and are credited with additional shares based on the deemed reinvestment of dividends. The average annual rate of earnings on stock accounts over the five years ending December 31, 2017 was approximately 10.20 percent and in 2017 was approximately 2.82 percent, in each case representing the total shareholder return of our common stock annualized, assuming dividend reinvestment. Cash accounts under the DCP and the EDCP are credited quarterly with interest at a rate equal to Moody's Average Corporate Bond Yield. The average quarterly interest rate paid on cash accounts in 2017 was 4.11 percent.

Participants make elections regarding distributions of their accounts at the time they elect to defer compensation, and have limited rights to change these payment elections. Distributions may commence on a predetermined date while still employed or upon termination of employment, and may be made in a lump sum or in annual installments over five, 10 or 15 years. Hardship withdrawals are permitted under both the EDCP and the DCP, and participants in the EDCP may withdraw their full account balance at any time subject to forfeiture of 10 percent of the balance.

**POTENTIAL PAYMENTS UPON TERMINATION OR CHANGE IN CONTROL****Change in Control Compensation**

We have agreed to provide certain benefits to the NEOs upon a change in control of NW Natural, although certain of the benefits are only payable if the NEO's employment is terminated without cause or by the officer for good reason within 24 months after the change in control. In our plans and agreements, change in control is generally defined to include:

- the acquisition by any person of 20 percent or more of our outstanding common stock;
- the nomination (and subsequent election) of a majority of our directors by persons other than the incumbent directors; and
- the consummation of a sale of all or substantially all of our assets, or an acquisition of NW Natural through a merger or share exchange.

In our plans and agreements, cause generally includes willful and continued failure to substantially perform assigned duties or willfully engaging in illegal conduct injurious to NW Natural, and good reason generally includes a change in position or responsibilities (that does not represent a promotion), a decrease in compensation, or a home office relocation of over 30 miles.

The following table shows the estimated change in control benefits that would have been payable to the NEOs if (i) a change in control had occurred on December 31, 2017, and (ii) each officer's employment was terminated on that date either by us without cause or by the officer with good reason.

Name	Cash Severance Benefit <sup>1</sup>	Insurance Continuation <sup>2</sup>	Restricted Stock Unit Acceleration <sup>3</sup>	Performance Share Acceleration <sup>4</sup>	Present Value of SERP Enhancements <sup>5</sup>	Total <sup>6</sup>
David H. Anderson	\$2,578,333	\$53,722	\$594,122	\$362,355	\$494,760	\$4,083,292
Frank H. Burkhartsmeier	800,000	49,836	456,118	67,686		1,373,640
Brody J. Wilson	581,734		107,579	54,287		743,600
MardiLyn Saathoff	664,107		431,149	135,928		1,231,184
Lea Anne Doolittle	796,800	52,181	199,366	91,177		1,139,524
Justin B. Palfreyman	654,943		219,319	43,278		917,540

<sup>(1)</sup> *Cash Severance Benefit.* Each NEO has entered into a severance agreement providing for, among other things, cash severance benefits payable if the NEO's employment is terminated by us without cause or by the officer for good reason within 24 months after a change in control. The cash severance benefit for each NEO is equal to two times (two and a half times for Mr. Anderson) the sum of final annual salary plus average annual incentive for the last three years (annualized for annual incentives paid for partial years). These amounts are

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payable in a lump sum within five days after termination. The agreements provide for the following reductions in the cash severance benefit based on age at the time of termination: 10 percent reduction at age 62, 40 percent reduction at age 63, 70 percent reduction at age 64, and 100 percent reduction at age 65. Ms. Doolittle was age 62 at December 31, 2017 and, therefore, her cash severance benefits have been reduced under this provision. Under the severance agreements, if any payments to a NEO in connection with a change in control would be subject to the 20 percent excise tax on excess parachute payments as defined in Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code, then, if it would result in a greater net after-tax benefit for the officer to have the payments that would otherwise be made reduced by the amount necessary to prevent them from being parachute payments, then the officer will be paid such reduced benefits. The amounts in the above table under Cash Severance Benefit for Ms. Saathoff and Messrs. Palfreyman and Wilson have been reduced in accordance with this provision.

(2) *Insurance Continuation.* If cash severance benefits are triggered, the severance agreements also provide for the continuation of life and health insurance benefits for two years following termination of employment, but not to the extent similar benefits are provided by a subsequent employer. The amounts in the table above represent the present value of two years of monthly life and health insurance benefit payments at the rates paid by us for each NEO as of December 31, 2017. Under the severance agreements, if any payments to a NEO in connection with a change in control would be subject to the 20 percent excise tax on excess parachute payments as defined in Section 280G of the Internal Revenue Code, then, if it would result in a greater net after-tax benefit for the officer to have the payments that would otherwise be made reduced by the amount necessary to prevent them from being parachute payments, then the officer will be paid such reduced benefits. The amounts in the above table under Insurance Continuation for Ms. Saathoff and Messrs. Wilson and Palfreyman have been reduced in accordance with this provision.

(3) *Restricted Stock Unit Acceleration.* As of December 31, 2017, each NEO held outstanding unvested RSUs as listed in the Outstanding Equity Awards table above. The RSU award agreements state that if cash severance benefits are triggered under the severance agreements, all outstanding unvested RSUs will immediately vest. The amounts in the table above represent the number of unvested RSUs as of December 31, 2017 multiplied by a stock price of \$59.65 per share, which was the closing price of our common stock on the last trading day of 2017, plus an amount for each RSU equal to the dividends paid per share during the period the RSU was outstanding.

(4) *Performance Share Acceleration.* As described above under the Grants of Plan-Based Awards During 2017 table and Compensation Discussion and Analysis 2017 Compensation Programs Long-Term Incentives Performance Shares, we granted performance share awards to the NEOs in 2017 under which shares of our common stock (plus accumulated cash dividends) will be issued to them based on our performance over the years 2017 to 2019. Performance share awards on somewhat different terms were granted in February 2016 to the NEOs under which common stock (and dividends) will be issued based on our performance over the years 2016 to 2018. The agreements for the performance share awards granted in 2017 state that if cash severance benefits are triggered under the severance agreements, we must immediately issue a pro-rata portion of the target award amount based on the portion of the award period completed prior to termination of employment. The agreements for the performance share awards granted in 2016 require us to issue a calculated number of shares within five days after a change in control and provide that (i) the number of shares to be issued will be pro-rated based on the portion of the award period completed prior to the change in control, (ii) for the portion of the award payable based on total shareholder return relative to a peer group of companies (TSR), actual stock performance through the date of the change in control will be applied to determine a gross payout amount before applying the above pro-ration, (iii) for the portions of the award payable based on cumulative earnings per share (EPS) and average return on invested capital (ROIC), if the change in control occurs during the first year of the award period, the payout will be based on 100 percent of the pro-rated target, and if the change in control occurs during the second or third year of the award period, the payout will be calculated by assuming that the levels of EPS and ROIC achieved in the last completed year continued for the remaining year or years of the award period, and (iv) for the portion of the award payable based on achievement of strategic milestones, the payout will be based on 100 percent of the pro-rated target. These payments under the 2016 awards are required whether or not the officer's employment is terminated in connection with the change in control. The amounts in the table above represent the number of shares that would have been issued under the awards based on TSR, EPS and ROIC performance through December 31, 2017, multiplied by a stock price of \$59.65 per share, which was the closing price of our common stock on the last trading day of 2017, plus an amount equal to the dividends paid per share during the applicable award periods through December 31, 2017.

(5) *Present Value of SERP Enhancements.* As discussed above in the text accompanying the Pension Benefits table, Mr. Anderson is a participant in the SERP Tier 1, which generally provides for a lump sum benefit payable six months after termination of employment. If a SERP Tier 1 participant's employment is terminated by us without cause or by the participant for good reason within 24 months after a change in control, the SERP Tier 1 participant will receive three additional years of service for purposes of calculating their SERP Tier 1 benefit. The amounts in the table represent the excess of the SERP benefit Mr. Anderson would receive on termination following a change in control over the SERP benefit he would have received if employment had terminated absent a change in control on December 31, 2017.

(6) *Total.* Amounts in this column equal the sum of the amounts in the five columns to its left.

**Other Benefits Triggered on Certain Employment Terminations**

When Mr. Anderson was promoted to President and CEO effective August 1, 2016, the Company entered into a severance agreement with him that provides the following severance benefits if his employment is terminated without cause: 100 percent of his base salary for a termination without cause during the year ending August 1, 2017, decreasing to 80 percent of base salary for a termination in the year ending August 1, 2018, 60 percent for a termination in the year ending August 1, 2019, 40 percent for a termination in the year ending August 1, 2020, 20 percent for a termination in the year ending August 1, 2021, and 0 percent thereafter. If Mr. Anderson's employment had been terminated without cause on December 31, 2017, he would have been entitled to a



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payment of \$520,000 under this agreement. When Mr. Burkhartsmeier was hired, effective May 17 2017, the Company entered into a similar severance agreement providing severance for termination without cause equal to 100% of his base salary and declining in 20 percent increments over the five years from May 17, 2017. If he had been terminated without cause on December 31, 2017, he would have been entitled to a payment of \$400,000 under this agreement.

As of December 31, 2017, Mr. Burkhartsmeier, Ms. Saathoff and Mr. Palfreyman held time-based RSUs as described above under Outstanding Equity Awards. The RSU award agreements generally require Mr. Burkhartsmeier, Ms. Saathoff and Mr. Palfreyman to be employed by the Company on the applicable vesting dates to receive RSU payouts, but the agreements also provide that if their employment terminates earlier as a result of death or disability, the RSUs will immediately vest. The value of the RSU payout, based on a stock price of \$59.65 per share (which was the closing price of our common stock on the last trading day of 2017), that Mr. Burkhartsmeier, Ms. Saathoff and Mr. Palfreyman would have been entitled to receive on death or disability as of December 31, 2017 was \$364,524, \$193,657 and \$159,966, respectively.

As of December 31, 2017, each NEO held outstanding unvested RSUs with performance threshold as listed in the Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2017 table above. The RSU award agreements generally require the officer to be employed by us on the applicable vesting dates to receive RSU payouts, but the agreements also provide that if employment terminates earlier as a result of death or disability, or when the officer is eligible for normal or early retirement under our Retirement Plan and at least one year has elapsed since the grant date of the RSU, the officer will nevertheless receive 100 percent of each scheduled RSU payout if the performance threshold is satisfied for the applicable year. Assuming achievement of the performance threshold for all years, the estimated value of the RSU payouts, based on a stock price of \$59.65 per share (which was the closing price of our common stock on the last trading day of 2017) and continuation of quarterly dividends on our common stock at the current rate, each NEO would be entitled to receive on death or disability, as of December 31, 2017 would be: Mr. Anderson, \$618,455; Mr. Burkhartsmeier, \$96,555; Mr. Wilson, \$111,466; Ms. Saathoff, \$246,793; Ms. Doolittle, \$206,749; and Mr. Palfreyman, \$62,568. As of December 31, 2017, Ms. Doolittle was, and Ms. Saathoff would have been if she were a participant in the Retirement Plan, eligible for normal or early retirement under the Retirement Plan. Based on the same assumptions, the estimated value of the RSU payouts that Ms. Doolittle and Ms. Saathoff would be entitled to receive on retirement as of December 31, 2017 would be: Ms. Doolittle \$126,930 and Ms. Saathoff \$150,238.

As described above under Grants of Plan-Based Awards During 2017 table and Compensation Discussion and Analysis 2017 Compensation Programs Long-Term Incentives Performance Shares, we granted performance share awards to the NEOs in February 2017 under which shares of our common stock (plus accumulated cash dividends) will be issued to them based on our performance over the years 2017-2019. Performance share awards on somewhat different terms were granted in February 2016 under which common stock (and dividend equivalents) will be issued based on our performance over the years 2016-2018. The award agreements generally require the officer to be employed by us on the last day of the performance period to receive an award payout, but the award agreements for these awards provide that if employment terminates earlier as a result of death, disability, or retirement after reaching age 60 the officer will be entitled to a pro-rated award payout. For awards granted in 2017, the pro-rated payout on retirement only applies if at least one year has elapsed since the grant date of the award. Accordingly, if any NEO had terminated employment on December 31, 2017 as a result of death or disability, his or her target award for the 2017-2019 performance period would have been reduced to one-third of the original target award reflecting employment for one year of the three-year performance period, and his or her target award for the 2016-2018 performance period would have been similarly reduced to two-thirds of the original target award, and then he or she would receive payouts under these adjusted awards at the end of the applicable performance periods based on our actual performance against the performance goals. Assuming achievement of target performance levels, the estimated value of the pro-rated award payouts, based on a stock price of \$59.65 per share (which was the closing price of our common stock on the last trading day of 2017) and continuation of quarterly dividends for the remainder of the performance period on our common stock at the current rate, for each NEO would be: Mr. Anderson, \$546,728; Mr. Burkhartsmeier, \$71,844; Mr. Wilson, \$85,352; Ms. Saathoff, \$213,816;

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Ms. Doolittle, \$143,706; and Mr. Palfreyman, \$45,936. As of December 31, 2017, Ms. Doolittle and Ms. Saathoff were over age 60 and eligible for retirement. Based on the same assumptions, the estimated value of the award payouts for the 2016-2018 performance period that Ms. Doolittle and Ms. Saathoff would be entitled to receive if they had retired as of December 31, 2017 would be: Ms. Doolittle \$95,810 and Ms. Saathoff \$141,973.

As of December 31, 2017, three NEOs held options to purchase common stock as listed in the Outstanding Equity Awards table above. Under the terms of their stock option agreements, upon the death or disability of the officer, the standard three-month period for exercising options following termination of employment is extended to one year, but not beyond each option's original 10-year plus 7-day term. If death or disability of a NEO had occurred on December 31, 2017, there would have been no increase in the value of outstanding options resulting from the extension of the post-termination exercise period from three months to one year based on option values as of December 31, 2017 for three-month and one-year remaining terms calculated using the Black-Scholes option pricing model with the same assumptions used for valuing our options under ASC 718. If an officer terminates employment when eligible for normal or early retirement under our Retirement Plan, the stock option agreements provide that all unexercisable options become fully exercisable and the standard three-month period for exercising options following termination of employment is extended to three years, but not beyond each option's original 10-year plus 7-day term. As of December 31, 2017, Ms. Doolittle was, and Ms. Saathoff would have been if she were a participant in the Retirement Plan, the only NEOs with stock options eligible for normal or early retirement under the Retirement Plan. If they had retired on December 31, 2017, there similarly would have been no incremental benefit from extending the term.

**NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION IN 2017**

Name (a)	Fees Earned or		Change in Pension Value and Non-qualified Deferred	Total (\$) (h)
	Paid in Cash (\$) <sup>1</sup> (b)	Stock awards (\$) <sup>2</sup> (c)	Compensation Earnings <sup>3</sup> (f)	
Timothy P. Boyle	\$127,000	\$20,057	\$	\$147,057
Martha L. Byorum	159,500	20,057	1,525	181,082
John D. Carter	161,500	20,057	186	181,743
Mark S. Dodson	133,000	20,057	7,216	160,273
C. Scott Gibson	153,500	20,057	2,547	176,104
Tod R. Hamachek	224,500	20,057	39,744	284,301
Jane L. Peverett	134,500	20,057	41	154,598
Kenneth Thrasher	148,500	20,057		168,557
Malia H. Wasson	140,500	20,057	52	160,609

Columns (d), (e) and (g) were deleted as they are not applicable in 2017. See Director Fees and Arrangements, below.

- (1) All cash amounts were deferred pursuant to the terms of the Deferred Compensation Plan for Directors and Executives (DCP) for Mr. Carter. A portion of cash amounts paid to Mr. Hamachek and Ms. Peverett were deferred pursuant to the terms of the DCP.
- (2) Represents restricted stock units (RSUs) granted in accordance with the Northwest Natural Gas Company Compensation Policy for Non-employee Directors. During 2017, 328 RSUs valued at \$20,057 were granted to each director, or 2,952 shares valued at \$180,515 in the aggregate, on May 25, 2017 and will vest on May 23, 2018, the day before the 2018 annual shareholder's meeting. Upon vesting, shares issued pursuant to RSUs granted on May 25, 2017 will be deferred pursuant to the DCP for Ms. Byorum, Mr. Hamachek, Ms. Peverett, Mr. Thrasher, and Ms. Wasson.
- (3) Amounts in column (f) represent above-market interest credited to the directors' accounts under the Directors Deferred Compensation Plan and the DCP during 2017. For Mr. Dodson, the amount also includes above-market interest credited to his cash account balance under the Executive Deferred Compensation Plan, which he participated in while he was an executive officer of the Company. For this purpose,

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interest credited is considered above-market to the extent such interest exceeds 120 percent of the average of the applicable long-term federal rates for the twelve months corresponding to the period for which market yield information is obtained to calculate interest crediting rates under the non-qualified deferred compensation plans.

**Non-Employee Director Compensation Philosophy**

The OECC's compensation philosophy for non-employee members of the Board is designed to attract and retain high performing directors who will perform in the best interest of shareholders. The OECC targets the compensation of Board members to be aligned near the middle of the market (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) for about 20 peer companies. The OECC reviews Board compensation annually and recommends adjustments to compensation as necessary. The Consultant who assists the OECC with executive compensation also provides competitive market data for Board compensat