

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS CO

Form 8-K

June 01, 2015

UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

Form 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF

THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

May 28, 2015

Date of Report (Date of earliest event reported)

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Commission File No. 1-15973

Oregon
**(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)**

93-0256722
**(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)**

220 N.W. Second Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97209

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's Telephone Number, including area code: (503) 226-4211

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- .. Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
- .. Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
- .. Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))

Item 5.07 Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders.

The Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Northwest Natural Gas Company (the Company) was held on May 28, 2015. At the meeting, shareholders voted on the following items:

Proposal 1: The following Class I nominees were elected to serve on the Board of Directors until the 2018 Annual Meeting, or until their successors have been duly qualified and elected:

NOMINEE	FOR	WITHHELD	BROKER NON-VOTES
Class I			
Timothy P. Boyle	18,331,001	345,967	5,609,490
Mark S. Dodson	18,468,474	208,494	5,609,490
Gregg S. Kantor	18,439,757	237,211	5,609,490
Malia H. Wasson	18,480,408	196,560	5,609,490

Proposal 2: The non-binding advisory vote on compensation of the Named Executive Officers was approved.

BROKER			
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	NON-VOTES
17,821,064	542,588	313,316	5,609,490

Proposal 3: The appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as the Company's independent registered public accounting firm for fiscal year 2015 was ratified.

BROKER			
FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	NON-VOTES
23,940,906	231,639	113,913	N/A

Item 7.01. Regulation FD Disclosure

On May 28, 2015, NW Natural issued a press release announcing the results of its annual meeting of shareholders held on May 28, 2015. A copy of the press release is attached as Exhibit 99.1.

The information contained in this Item 7.01 and in the accompanying exhibit shall not be incorporated by reference into any filing of NW Natural, whether made before or after the date hereof, regardless of any general incorporation language in such filing, unless expressly incorporated by specific reference to such filing. The information in this Item 7.01, including the

exhibit hereto, shall not be deemed filed for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, or otherwise subject to the liabilities of that section or Sections 11 and 12(a)(2) of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended.

Item 8.01 Other Events.

On May 28, 2015, the Company's Board of Directors approved an extension to the Company's share repurchase program for our common stock, under which the Company purchases shares on the open market or through privately negotiated transactions. The Company now has Board authorization through May 31, 2016 to repurchase up to an aggregate of 2.8 million shares or up to an aggregate of \$100 million. Since the program's inception in 2000, the Company has repurchased 2.1 million shares of common stock at a total cost of \$83.3 million.

Forward-Looking Statements

This report, and other presentations made by NW Natural from time to time, may contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements can be identified by words such as anticipates, 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, objectives, goals, strategies, future events, investments, gas storage development or costs or timing related thereto, gas reserves and their financial value and benefit, customer growth, weather, commodity and other costs, customer rates or rate recovery, financial positions, debt redemption, equity repurchases, revenues and earnings, dividends, performance, timing or effects of future regulatory proceedings or future regulatory approvals, effects of regulatory mechanisms, including, but not limited to, SRRM, contracting levels or pricing, and other statements that are other than statements of historical facts.

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 caution you therefore 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 by reference to the factors described in Part I, Item 1A Risk Factors, and Part II, Item 7 and Item 7A Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosure about Market Risk in the company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and in Part I, Items 2 and 3 Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations and Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk, and Part II, Item 1A, Risk Factors, in the company's quarterly reports filed thereafter.

All forward-looking statements made in this report and all subsequent forward-looking statements, whether written or oral and whether made by or on behalf of the company, are expressly qualified by these cautionary statements. Any forward-looking statement speaks only

as of the date on which such statement is made, and 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.

New factors emerge from time to time and it is not possible for the company to predict all such factors, nor can it assess the impact of each such factor or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statements.

Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits.

(d) Exhibits

The following exhibit is being furnished pursuant to Item 7.01 herein.

Exhibit	Description
99.1	Press Release of Northwest Natural Gas Company issued May 28, 2015 (furnished and not filed)

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS COMPANY
(Registrant)

Dated: June 1, 2015

/s/ MardiLyn Saathoff
Senior Vice President and General Counsel

EXHIBIT INDEX

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