

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS CO
 Form 4
 September 15, 2006

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
 Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 RUE CJ

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS CO
 [NWN]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer
 (Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 220 N.W. SECOND AVENUE
 (Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
 09/15/2006

____ Director _____ 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) _____ Other (specify below)
 Secretary

PORTLAND, OR 97209-3991

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Code | V Amount (D) Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 09/15/2006 | | M | 2,000 A \$ 31.34 | 9,954 | D | |
| Common Stock | 09/15/2006 | | S | 2,000 D \$ 39.1905 | 7,954 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 3,235.6789 | I | See footnote (1) |

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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SEC 1474 (9-02)

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Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year) | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year) | 4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8) | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) | 7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4) | 8. Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|-------------------------------|
| Option to buy | \$ 31.34 | 09/15/2006 | | M | 2,000 | (2) 03/04/2014 | Common Stock | 2,000 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| RUE CJ 220 N.W. SECOND AVENUE PORTLAND, OR 97209-3991 | | | Secretary | |

Signatures

C.J. Rue 09/15/2006

__Signature of
Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. See 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

(1) Held in reporting person's account under the issuer's Retirement K Savings Plan as of August 31, 2006.

Option was granted for 5000 shares pursuant to the Northwest Natural Gas Company Restated Stock Option Plan. Option on 1,700 shares

(2) became exercisable on February 25, 2005, option on 1,700 shares became exercisable on January 1, 2006 and option on 1,600 shares will become exercisable on January 1, 2007.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, see Instruction 6 for procedure.

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