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General Manager/CEO
W. Marc Farmer

June 1, 2026

Commissioners Garrett, Magruder, and Smith,

Clatskanie PUD is pleased to submit this letter in strong support of NW Natural's Conditional Use Permit application to accommodate additional natural gas well pads and processing equipment in the Mist area of Columbia County. This project represents a vital opportunity to enhance energy resiliency and affordability for our region, facilitate critical infrastructure investments, stimulate local economic development, and support the reliable delivery of essential energy services to the communities we serve.

As a publicly owned, locally controlled electric power utility, Clatskanie PUD has a core responsibility to advocate for opportunities that align with our strategic priorities and deliver meaningful, long-term benefits to the customers and communities in our service territory. The proposed project supports the continued safe and responsible operation of the Mist Underground Natural Gas Storage Facility, which has been an important part of Oregon's energy infrastructure for decades.

Key benefits of the project include:

- **Enhanced Energy Resiliency:** The additional well pads will help expand storage capacity and improve the facility's ability to meet peak demand, providing a reliable buffer during high-usage periods or supply disruptions. This directly supports grid stability and helps ensure affordable, dependable energy for residential, commercial, and industrial customers across the region.
- **Economic Development and Local Investment:** The project will generate construction and ongoing operational activity, supporting jobs and economic activity in Columbia County. It builds on the existing Mist Facility's long history as a locationally dependent use in the Primary Forest zone, consistent with county zoning goals for resource and infrastructure development.
- **Affordability and Reliability:** By enabling more efficient storage and withdrawal of natural gas, the expansion helps moderate price volatility and supports the delivery of cost-effective energy. This aligns with broader state and regional efforts to maintain a balanced, resilient energy portfolio.

Clatskanie PUD appreciates the important role Columbia County plays in balancing local land use considerations with the need for critical energy infrastructure. We urge the Commission to approve this zoning change without delay.

Thank you for your service to Columbia County and for your thoughtful consideration of this application. We stand ready to provide any additional information that may be helpful.

Sincerely,

Marc Farmer, General Manager/CEO
Clatskanie PUD
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