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

August 3, 2006

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

93-0256722 (I.R.S. Employer

 $incorporation\ or\ organization)$

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 (*see* General Instruction A.2. below):

- " 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))

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Item 5.02 Departure of Directors or Principal Officers; Election of Directors; Appointment of Principal Officers.

On August 3, 2006, Richard L. Woolworth, director and Chairman of the Board of Northwest Natural Gas Company, died following a brief illness. Mr. Woolworth also served as Chair of NW Natural s Governance Committee and on the Audit Committee. The Board of Directors has made no decision as to whether or not the resulting vacancy on the Board will be filled or when the position of chairman will be designated.

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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: August 8, 2006 /s/ David H. Anderson Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer