

Miller C. Alex
Form 4
March 16, 2012

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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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 *
Miller C. Alex

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 NW SECOND AVENUE
(Street)

3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year)
03/15/2012

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

PORTLAND, OR 97209

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) |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| | | | | (A) or (D) Code V Amount Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 03/15/2012 | | M | 1,500 A \$ 41.15 | 2,388.1357 | D | |
| Common Stock | 03/15/2012 | | S | 1,500 D \$ 46 | 888.1357 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | 944.129 | I | See Footnote (1) |

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

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form

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) | Amount or Number of Shares |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------|---|--|---|----------------------------|
| | | | | Code V (A) (D) | | Date Exercisable Expiration Date | Title | |
| Employee Stock Option to Buy | \$ 41.15 | 03/15/2012 | | M | 1,500 | 02/25/2010 03/04/2019 | Common Stock | 2,000 |
| Employee Stock Option to Buy | \$ 44.48 | | | | | (3) 02/28/2017 | Common Stock | 1,500 |
| Employee Stock Option to Buy | \$ 43.29 | | | | | (4) 03/06/2018 | Common Stock | 1,500 |
| Employee Stock Option to Buy | \$ 44.25 | | | | | (5) 03/02/2020 | Common Stock | 2,000 |
| Employee Stock Option to Buy | \$ 45.74 | | | | | (6) 03/02/2021 | Common Stock | 2,600 |

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Miller C. Alex 220 NW SECOND AVENUE PORTLAND, OR 97209 | | | VP | |

Signatures

Shawn M. Filippi,
Attorney-in-Fact

03/16/2012

__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) Shares held in reporting person's account under Northwest Natural Gas Company's Retirement K Savings Plan as of February 29, 2012.
- (2) Option was granted for 2,000 shares pursuant to Northwest Natural Gas Company's Restated Stock Option Plan (the "Plan"). The option balance of 500 shares will vest on January 1, 2013.
- (3) Option was granted for 1,500 shares pursuant to Northwest Natural Gas Company's Restated Stock Option Plan (the "Plan"). The option fully vested on January 1, 2011.
- (4) Option was granted for 1,500 shares pursuant to Northwest Natural Gas Company's Restated Stock Option Plan (the "Plan"). The option fully vested on January 1, 2012.
- (5) Option was granted for 2,000 shares pursuant to Northwest Natural Gas Company's Restated Stock Option Plan (the "Plan"). The option vests in installments of 500 shares on each of February 24, 2011 and January 1, 2012, 2013 and 2014.
- (6) Option was granted for 2,600 shares pursuant to Northwest Natural Gas Company's Restated Stock Option Plan (the "Plan"). The option vests in installments of 650 shares on each of February 23, 2012 and January 1, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.