

NORTHWEST NATURAL GAS CO  
 Form 5  
 February 13, 2012

**FORM 5**

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

OMB APPROVAL

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 Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

**ANNUAL 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

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
 Yoshihara Grant M

(Last) (First) (Middle)

220 NW SECOND AVENUE

(Street)

PORTLAND, OR 97209

(City) (State) (Zip)

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

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
 12/31/2011

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

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

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

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

Form Filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

**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 at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	03/21/2011	^	G	300 D \$ 0	7,656	D	^
Common Stock	03/21/2011	^	G	300 <sup>(1)</sup> A \$ 0	7,656	D	^
Common Stock	^	^	^	^ ^ ^	1,754.5848	I	See Footnote <sup>(2)</sup>

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

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(9-02)

**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
					(A) (D)	Date Exercisable Expiration Date	Title	
Employee Stock Option to Buy	\$ 31.34	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â <sup>(3)</sup>	03/04/2014	Common Stock	3,000
Employee Stock Option to Buy	\$ 34.29	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â <sup>(4)</sup>	02/29/2016	Common Stock	2,500
Employee Stock Option to Buy	\$ 44.48	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â <sup>(5)</sup>	02/28/2017	Common Stock	2,000
Employee Stock Option to Buy	\$ 43.29	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â <sup>(6)</sup>	03/06/2018	Common Stock	2,000
Employee Stock Option to Buy	\$ 41.15	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â <sup>(7)</sup>	03/04/2019	Common Stock	2,000
Employee Stock Option to Buy	\$ 44.25	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â <sup>(8)</sup>	03/02/2020	Common Stock	2,000
Employee Stock Option to Buy	\$ 45.74	Â	Â	Â	Â Â Â <sup>(9)</sup>	03/02/2021	Common Stock	3,500

Buy

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Yoshihara Grant M 220 NW SECOND AVENUE PORTLAND, OR 97209	Â	Â	Â VP	Â

## Signatures

Shawn M. Fillipi,  
Attorney-in-Fact

02/13/2012

\_\_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) Reflects shares transferred from reporting person's registered account to reporting person's joint brokerage account with spouse.
- (2) Shares held in reporting person's account under Northwest Natural Gas Company's Retirement K Savings Plan as of December 31, 2011.
- (3) Option was granted for 3,000 shares pursuant to Northwest Natural Gas Company's Restated Stock Option Plan (the "Plan"). The option fully vested on January 1, 2007.
- (4) Option was granted for 2,500 shares pursuant to Northwest Natural Gas Company's Restated Stock Option Plan (the "Plan"). The option fully vested on January 1, 2010.
- (5) Option was granted for 2,000 shares pursuant to Northwest Natural Gas Company's Restated Stock Option Plan (the "Plan"). The option fully vested on January 1, 2011.
- (6) 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 February 27, 2009 and January 1, 2010, 2011 and 2012.
- (7) 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 February 25, 2010 and January 1, 2011, 2012 and 2013.
- (8) 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 February 24, 2011 and January 1, 2012, 2013 and 2014.
- (9) Option was granted for 3,500 shares pursuant to Northwest Natural Gas Company's Restated Stock Option Plan (the "Plan"). The option vests in installments of 875 shares on each 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 provided 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.