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NW NATURAL GOES LIVE WITH ADVANTICA ESSENTIALS SOLUTION Asset inspection activities now automated

MECHANICSBURG, Pa. (February 12, 2007) – NW Natural has successfully implemented Advantica’s Essentials solution to update its processes for maintaining plant information, field assets and associated inspection history.

NW Natural is using Essentials modules to support its corrosion control, leakage management, gas storage facilities and critical asset-related inspection requirements, and to manage each facility’s maintenance and inspection process. The modules allow NW Natural to schedule, track and report inspections; group facilities for work management; maintain historical information for inspection; and define and maintain business rules to comply with the scheduling requirements of internal guidelines and regulatory agencies. The solution also features user alerts to highlight assets requiring immediate attention.

“We are pleased with the Essentials implementation process and finalization at NW Natural,” said Brett Beaver, Advantica Business Development Manager. “This solution offers a balanced approach for



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mission-critical business systems, and Advantica has developed and delivered a quality product to meet NW Natural's needs.”

Designed to comply with mandates set forth in Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 192, the solution involves a back-office data management component to management monitor required inspection and maintenance activities as well as a field-based data collection component to perform those activities. The NW Natural implementation includes an interface with its MapFrame™ Field Flow Manager™ application to synchronize inspection requests and results between Essentials and MapFrame's field mapping and data collection components.

Essentials is a system-based product that enables utilities to maintain information required for routine work and regulatory compliance. Each module within the solution can operate on a standalone basis, collectively or integrate with a geographic information system (GIS) to improve schedule management and work efficiency.

Essentials is an innovative solution for gas distribution and transmission asset management and regulatory compliance. Taking a comprehensive approach to asset management, Essentials allows utilities to improve asset integrity, demonstrate regulatory compliance and reduce capital and operational costs.

NW Natural has been providing natural gas service in the Pacific Northwest since 1859. Headquartered in Portland, Oregon, the company is the largest independent gas utility in the Northwest, serving customers throughout western Oregon and in southwest Washington. NW Natural provides reliable, cost-effective natural gas service to more than 636,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers.

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Note to Editors: Advantica is a global business provider of engineering and software solutions designed to enhance safety and performance in the gas and oil industry.

More than 600 highly skilled Advantica employees across North America, Europe, the Middle East and China support client operations across planning and design, integrity and safety, operational performance and testing and certification.