# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the Application of Questar Gas Company to Increase Distribution Non-gas Rates and Charges and Make Tariff Modifications

Docket No 07-057-13

# RATE OF RETURN SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF

**ROGER J BALL** 

12 MAY 2008

1	Q	Are you the same Roger J Ball who filed Test Year Direct Testimony in this Docket on 26
2		January 2008?
3	Α	Yes. On 8 February I appeared and testified during the Test Year hearing, when it was
4		admitted into evidence as Exhibit RJB 1.0, together with a statement of my academic and
5		professional qualifications and professional experience as Exhibit RJB 1.1 and my 4
6		February Test Year Rebuttal Testimony as Exhibit RJB 2.0. On 31 March, I filed my Rate
7		of Return Direct Testimony as Exhibit RJB 3.0, on 21 April my Revenue Requirement
8		Direct Testimony as Exhibit RJB 4.0 and, most recently, on 28 April my Rate of Return
9		Rebuttal Testimony as exhibit RJB 5.0.
10	Q	What is the purpose of your Rate of Return Surrebuttal Testimony?
11	Α	To comply with the requirement in the Commission's 27 December 2007 Scheduling
12		Order in this proceeding that non-Company parties file surrebuttal testimony regarding
13		rate of return by 12 May 2008, and to respond to the rate of return rebuttal testimony of
14		the other parties to this proceeding.
15	Q	Have you read the rebuttal testimony filed by Questar Gas Company (Questar, or QGC,
16		or Company, or LDC) and the Utah Division of Public Utilities on 28 April 2008 in this
17		Docket?
18	Α	Yes. No-one offered any rebuttal of my 31 March Rate of Return Direct Testimony, which
19		is therefore uncontroverted.
20		No other party has addressed in testimony the added value to Questar Corporation from
21		its ownership and operation of Wexpro, Questar Exploration & Production or Questar
22		Pipeline Company in combination with Questar Gas Company that I described in my Rate
23		of Return Direct Testimony.

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25		dueling proposals gleaned from DCF and CAPM analysis, it should impute the added
26		benefits realised by Questar Corporation back to the LDC before finally determining RoE
27		in this proceeding.
28		Nor has any other party addressed in testimony the fact that virtually the entire amount of
29		the increase in revenue requirement that QGC seeks in this General Rate Case is
30		attributable to the Company's use of the fully-projected calendar 2008 test year selected
31		by the Commission. While the Legislature has effectively barred the Commission from
32		using an historical test period, as it has done previously, and instead mandated the use of
33		a future one in 2003's Senate Bill 61modifying UCA §54-4-4(3), it has left it open to the
34		Commission in balancing the interests of ratepayers with those of stockholders to offset
35		the gain to the latter from use of a future test period in order to ensure that rates will be
36		just and reasonable also for the former.
37	Q	Do you wish to alter your recommendations to the Commission regarding its
38		determination of a rate of return for Questar in this proceeding?
39	Α	No. In order to treat ratepayers equitably, the Commission should take account of the
40		excess profits received by Questar Corporation stockholders through payments Questar
41		Gas makes to Wexpro and Questar Pipeline, and for gas purchases in the market that
42		Questar Exploration & Production sells into instead of from a more diligent Wexpro,
43		because those payments are made at ratepayers' expense. The Commission should also
44		reduce the notional rate of return it would otherwise determine based upon other parties'
45		testimony and the foregoing by approximately \$22M, the value of the test year adopted in
46		this Docket, which Senate bill 61 did not mandate that ratepayers must bear.

It remains my recommendation to the Commission that, having carefully considered the

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That concludes my pre-filed written rebuttal rate of return testimony, thank you.

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Rate of Return Surrebuttal Testimony of Roger J Ball in Docket 07-057-13 was served upon the following by electronic mail on 12 May 2008:

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#### /s/

Roger J Ball

Questar Gas Company Rate Case

Docket No 07-057-13

Roger J Ball

RATE OF RETURN SURREBUTTAL TESTIMONY

12 May 2008