

JON HUNTSMAN Jr. Governor GARY HERBERT Lieutenant Governor

# State of Utah Department of Commerce Division of Public Utilities

FRANCINE GIANI Executive Director

THAD LEVAR
Deputy Director

PHILIP J. POWLICK
Director, Division of Public Utilities

# **ACTION REQUEST RESPONSE**

**To:** Public Service Commission of Utah

Ted Boyer, Chair

Ric Campbell, Commissioner

Ron Allen, Commissioner

**From:** Utah Division of Public Utilities

Phil Powlick, Director

Artie Powell, Energy Section Manager

Doug Wheelwright, Utility Analyst

**Date:** February 11, 2009

**Subject:** Docket No. 09-057-03, Pass-Through application

Docket No. 09-057-04, Conservation Enabling Tariff

Docket No. 09-057-05, Demand Side Management

## RECOMMENDATION

The Division recommends that the Commission schedule a hearing to address these issues during the week of February 23, 2009. The Company has asked that the proposed changes be effective as of March 1, 2009 and an analysis of these issues will be completed by the Division prior to the hearing.

### **ISSUE**

Questar submitted three applications February 10, 2009. The net effect of these requests is a 16% reduction in natural gas rates totaling \$157 million. The



Company has identified and announced March 1, 2008 as the effective date of this change. The original action request identified April 13, 2009 as the due date for Division response.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Questar has submitted this rate reduction in three separate applications.

**Docket 09-057-03** is the 191 pass through adjustment. The Questar Gas Company Utah Natural Gas Tariff PSCU 400 (Tariff), Section 2.10, provides for pass-through applications to be filed "no less frequently than semi-annually." The driving force behind the proposed price decrease is a forecasted decrease in the price of purchased gas and the growing balance in the 191 balancing account. The proposed changes will result in a 16.53% reduction in the typical residential customer bill.

**Docket 09-057-04** is the amortization of \$446,884 under collected under the Conservation Enabling Tariff. The amortization will be applied as a percentage increase to the GS-1 and GSS DNG rates. The annualized change will result in no increase for a typical residential customer.

**Docket 09-057-05** is an amortization of \$18,267,717 in the DSM account. The proposed change will result in a 0.52% increase in the typical residential customer bill. All three of the proposed changes will go into effect March 1, 2009.

CC: Barry McKay, Questar Gas Company

Michele Beck, Committee for Consumer Service