

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of: The Pass-Through) Docket No.
Application of Questar Gas Company) 11-057-02
for an Adjustment in Rates and)
Charges For Natural Gas Service)
In Utah)
)

In the Matter of: The Application) Docket No.
of Questar Gas Company to Amortize) 11-057-03
the Conservation Enabling Tariff)
Balancing Account)
)

In the Matter of: The Application) Docket No.
of Questar Gas Company to Amortize) 11-057-04
the Demand Side Management/Energy)
Efficiency Deferred Account Balance)
)

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING PROCEEDINGS

TAKEN AT: Public Service Commission
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah

DATE: May 25, 2011

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

REPORTED BY: Kelly L. Wilburn, CSR, RPR

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APPEARANCES

Administrative Law Judge:

RUBEN ARREDONDO

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For Questar Gas:

JENNIFFER R. NELSON, ESQ.

QUESTAR CORPORATION

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WITNESSES

For Questar Gas

JOHN KENNEDY

Page

Direct by Ms. Nelson

5

KELLY MENDENHALL

Direct by Ms. Nelson

7

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For the Division

CAROLYN ROLL

Direct by Ms. Schmid

11

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1 MAY 25, 2011 2:00 P.M.

2 P R O C E E D I N G S

3 THE COURT: We're here in three dockets:
4 Docket No. 11-057-02, In the Matter of: The
5 Pass-Through Application of Questar Gas for an
6 Adjustment in Rates and Charges For Natural Gas
7 Service in Utah.

8 Docket 11-057-03, In the Matter of: The
9 Application of Questar to Amortize the CET Balancing
10 Account. Docket No. 11-057-04, In the Matter of: The
11 Application of Questar to Amortize the Demand-Side
12 Management/Energy Efficiency Deferred Account Balance.

13 And we'll just continue through all of those
14 until we're finished today in this one hearing. Let's
15 take appearances, please, beginning with the Company.

16 MS. NELSON: Jenniffer Nelson, appearing on
17 behalf of Questar Gas Company. And with me I have
18 Kelly Mendenhall, who will be testifying on the CET
19 amortization docket and the demand-side
20 management/energy efficiency docket. And also John
21 Kennedy, who is here to testify on the pass-through
22 docket.

23 THE COURT: All right, thank you. And with
24 the Division, please.

25 MS. SCHMID: Patricia E. Schmid, with the

1 Attorney General's Office, for the Division. And with
2 me is the Division's witness, Carolyn Roll.

3 THE COURT: All right, thank you. Are we
4 gonna start with the Company witness first, or -- what
5 do you think?

6 MS. NELSON: We'd be happy to proceed that
7 way.

8 THE COURT: Okay.

9 MS. NELSON: Would you prefer that we address
10 one docket at a time, or all three?

11 THE COURT: Whatever is easiest for you. If
12 you want we can just go through the dockets, 02, 03,
13 04.

14 MS. NELSON: Okay.

15 THE COURT: You want to do that?

16 MS. NELSON: We're happy to do that.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Let me just swear all the
18 witnesses in, then.

19 (The witnesses were sworn.)

20 THE COURT: Go ahead Ms. Nelson.

21 MS. NELSON: The Company calls John Kennedy
22 to testify in Docket 11-057-02.

23 JOHN KENNEDY,

24 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,

25 was examined and testified as follows:

DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. NELSON:

Q. Mr. Kennedy, would you please state your name and the position you hold with the Company?

A. My name is John Kennedy. I'm a regulatory affairs analyst with Questar Gas Company.

Q. And did you participate in the preparation of the application in the referenced docket?

A. Yes, I did.

(A discussion was held off the record.)

Q. (By Ms. Nelson) Mr. Kennedy, could you please summarize the position the Company brings in that application?

A. Yes, I will. Questar Gas Company, the Applicant in pass-through Docket No. 11-057-02, respectfully asks for Commission approval for a decrease of approximately \$13.3 million in its Utah natural gas rates.

The majority of the price decrease in this application is a reduction in the amortization of the 191 account, which goes from approximately \$0.34 down \$0.14 per decatherm. This application is based on the April 2011 average of projected gas prices from two nationally-recognized forecasting agencies, namely PIRA Energy Group and Cambridge Energy Research

1 Associates.

2 This application asks for an overall decrease
3 of \$13.3 million, which includes a decrease of
4 \$14.2 million in commodity rates and an increase of
5 approximately \$900,000 in the supplier non-gas rates.
6 Resulting in a typical residential customer using
7 80 decatherms per year seeing a decrease in their
8 total annual bill of \$10.33, or approximately
9 1.5 percent decrease.

10 Therefore the Company hereby requests in this
11 application to allow for the proposed adjustments to
12 the current commodity and SNG rates to become
13 effective Wednesday, June 1, 2011.

14 Also I'd like to mention, we have received
15 the Division's memo in which they brought up a
16 recommendation in their memo for a better formatting
17 of the calculation of the supplier non-gas rate shown
18 on Exhibit 1.6, page 2, so that it'll be easier to
19 understand the calculation.

20 We will be more than willing to incorporate
21 their recommendation in our next pass-through filing.
22 Thank you.

23 MS. NELSON: I have no further questions.

24 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

25 Any questions for the Company by the

1 Division?

2 MS. SCHMID: None from the Division.

3 THE COURT: All right. All right, let's go
4 to Docket 03. And then 04.

5 KELLY MENDENHALL,

6 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,

7 was examined and testified as follows:

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MS. NELSON:

10 Q. Mr. Mendenhall, would you please state your
11 name and your position with the Company?

12 A. My name is Kelly B. Mendenhall, and I'm the
13 director of regulatory affairs for Questar Gas.

14 Q. And did you participate in the preparation of
15 the application at reference in the
16 Docket No. 11-057-03?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. Can you please summarize the Company's
19 position in that matter?

20 A. Yes. I do have one correction. Do you want
21 me to make that now, or?

22 Q. Yes, please.

23 A. If you turn in the application to page 3 of
24 the application in 11-057-03? Paragraph 6 I say that
25 the annualized change in rates calculated in this

1 application results in a \$2.24 reduction, that should
2 be \$2.26.

3 Q. Thank you. Would you proceed with your
4 summary?

5 A. Yes. In Docket 11-057-03, the application of
6 Questar Gas to amortize a conservation enabling tariff
7 balancing account, the Company is proposing to make
8 changes to its conservation enabling tariff
9 amortization rate.

10 The Company proposes to amortize the
11 March 2011 over-collection of 5.7 million. This is
12 about 2.4 million lower than the October 2010 balance
13 that is currently being amortized. The decrease would
14 be spread to GS customers by applying a percentage
15 decrease to current rates.

16 This change in the CET amortization rate will
17 result in a \$2.26 per month decrease to the typical GS
18 residential customer's bill using -- or typical GS
19 residential customer uses about 80 decatherms a year.
20 And the Company is proposing that this change be made
21 effective June 1, 2011.

22 MS. NELSON: I have no further questions of
23 Mr. Mendenhall related to this docket.

24 THE COURT: All right. And then let's just
25 proceed to 04.

1 Q. (By Ms. Nelson) Mr. Mendenhall, did you also
2 participate in the preparation of the application in
3 Docket 11-057-04?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And can you please summarize the Company's
6 request for relief in that docket?

7 A. Yes. In Docket 11-057-04, the application of
8 Questar Gas Company to amortize the demand-side
9 management/energy efficiency deferred account balance,
10 the Company is proposing to increase the current
11 amortization rate from 37 and-a-half cents to
12 44.1 cents per decatherm for the GS class.

13 Now, typically when we're asking for a rate
14 increase it's because we've incurred more costs in our
15 energy efficiency programs. In the case of this
16 application it's a little different.

17 Currently we have, as of the end of March, we
18 have about a \$30 million balance in this account. And
19 because it's a balance, that means the customers owe
20 us \$30 million. And they're paying interest on this
21 balance. And also the Company is required to fund
22 this balance.

23 And so in our discussions with the Division,
24 and the Office, and the energy -- the demand-side
25 management group we've determined that a good solution

1 at this time would be to try and decrease this
2 amortization over time.

3 And so what the Company's proposing today
4 with the \$0.44 rate would be -- we'd be able to
5 amortize that balance down over a three-year period.
6 And the reason why we chose a three-year period,
7 there's a few reasons.

8 One, those expenses were incurred over a
9 three-year period, and so we feel like paying them
10 down over the same period of time gives some symmetry.
11 The \$0.44 rate is a rate that ratepayers have paid
12 before, so we're not setting the rate at an all-time
13 high for the DSM charge.

14 And third, as we are, as we are drawing this
15 balance down, doing it over a three-year period makes
16 it a little more manageable. So for those reasons
17 we're proposing that we increase the amortization rate
18 and that we draw this \$30 million down over a
19 three-year period.

20 Q. Mr. Mendenhall, can you offer a summary of
21 how the rates would change for a typical GS customer
22 if all three of the applications at issue today were
23 granted?

24 A. Yes. If all three of these dockets are
25 approved as filed by the Company the typical GS

1 residential customer using 80 decatherms would see a
2 decrease of about \$7.33, or about 1 percent on their
3 annual bill.

4 MS. NELSON: Thank you. I have no further
5 questions.

6 THE COURT: Thank you. Any questions by the
7 Division?

8 MS. SCHMID: No questions from the Division.

9 THE COURT: All right. Then to the Division,
10 did you have anything to add?

11 MS. SCHMID: Yes, we do.

12 THE COURT: Okay. You may proceed.

13 MS. SCHMID: The Division would like to have
14 its witness, Ms. Carolyn Roll, who's already been
15 sworn, address these dockets.

16 CAROLYN ROLL,

17 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,
18 was examined and testified as follows:

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION

20 BY MS. SCHMID:

21 Q. Could you please state your full name,
22 business address, and title for the record?

23 A. Carolyn Roll, 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake
24 City, Utah. And I am a utility analyst for the
25 Division of Public Utilities.

1 Q. In that capacity as an employee of the
2 Division have you participated in examining Docket
3 Nos. 11-057-02, 03, and 04?

4 A. Yes, I have.

5 MS. SCHMID: The Division filed its
6 memorandum on May 16, 2011, and so I believe it's
7 unnecessary to enter it as an exhibit; is that
8 correct?

9 THE COURT: That's right.

10 Q. (By Ms. Schmid) Ms. Roll, do any changes
11 need to be made to the Division's memo, given that
12 Questar corrected an amount in the application?

13 A. No. We had already made that change.

14 Q. Thank you. Do you have a summary you would
15 like to present?

16 A. Yes, I do.

17 Q. Please proceed.

18 A. The Division has reviewed the applications
19 for a rate decrease filed by Questar Gas company in
20 Docket Nos. 11-057-02, 11-057-03, and 11-057-04. The
21 Division recommends approval of these requests on an
22 interim basis. If all three requests are approved the
23 typical GS customer will see an annual rate decrease
24 of \$7.33.

25 There are a few items that the Division would

1 like to highlight for the Commission. In
2 Docket No. 11-057-02, the 191 account pass through,
3 this asks for the Public Service Commission approval
4 to decrease the commodity rate components of the --
5 Questar Gas Company's Utah natural gas rates by
6 14,200,000, while increasing the supplier non-gas
7 costs by 917,000, which nets to a decrease of
8 13,283,000.

9 The SNG costs are relatively stable and
10 predictable. Because of the stability in these costs,
11 in Docket No. 09-057-03 Questar Gas Company proposed,
12 and the Division supported, setting the SNG
13 amortization rate annually.

14 The next amortization for SNG costs will be
15 in the fall 2011 filing, but in exhibit filed by --
16 1.6 filed by the Company it did not show the
17 amortization revenues for SNG revenues that is
18 currently in the rates.

19 The Division recommends, and as the Company
20 agreed today, that in future filings where the SNG
21 balance will not be amortized the amount of SNG
22 amortization revenue included in current rates should
23 be entered on the exhibit, and any minor adjustments
24 to the amortization rate that may occur as a result of
25 that entry should be reflected.

1 Docket No. 11-057-03 affect only the CET
2 component of the distribution natural gas, DNG, rates
3 of the GS rate class. In this docket the Company is
4 requesting to amortize an over-collected balance of
5 \$5,724,937 in the CET deferral account.

6 The CET was originally proposed in
7 Docket No. 05-057-T01, and was approved as a
8 three-year pilot program ending in September 2009.
9 The three-year pilot program was subsequently extended
10 in June 2009.

11 In the order dated June 3, 2010, for the
12 general rate case Docket No. 09-057-16 the Commission
13 ordered that the CET was no longer a pilot and was to
14 continue in its current form.

15 In Docket No. 11-057-04 the Company proposes
16 that the energy efficiency amortization is set to
17 amortize \$10 million a year over the next three-year
18 period for the accumulated balance in the amortization
19 account, account No. 182.4, as well as cover current
20 annual expenditures estimated at \$32 million.

21 These expenses are for the current energy
22 efficiency programs, including the ThermWise Appliance
23 Rebate Program, the Builder Rebate Program, Business
24 Rebate Program, Weatherization Rebate Program, Home
25 Energy Audit Program, funding of 500,000 for

1 Low-Income Weatherization Assistance Program, which is
2 administrated by the Utah Department of Community and
3 Economic Development, and ThermWise Business Custom
4 Rebate Program.

5 The Division agrees with the Company's
6 amortization proposal, as this will reduce the
7 carrying costs that accumulate on this balance and
8 amortize the current year estimated expenses.

9 After a preliminary review of all three
10 applications the Division recommends that all
11 application rates be approved on an interim basis as
12 filed per Docket No. 11-057-02, 03, and 04, with the
13 proposed rates becoming effective June 1, 2011. That
14 concludes my summary.

15 Q. One question. Is it the Division's position
16 that if the Commission adopts these rates and charges
17 as proposed by the Company and recommended by the
18 Commission (sic), if the Commission adopts these on an
19 interim basis that the resulting rates and charges
20 will be just, reasonable, and in the public interest?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Thank you.

23 THE COURT: Thank you.

24 MS. SCHMID: Ms. Roll is now available.

25 THE COURT: Any questions for the Division?

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MS. NELSON: No.

THE COURT: Okay. All right. And we'll note that there's no opposition included by the Office to the Division's recommendation.

So I'll go ahead and recommend to the Commissioners that they enter an order approving these applications in the interim in Dockets 02, 03, 04, and making that effective as of June 1st.

Anything else? No? Thank you.

(The hearing was concluded at 2:16 p.m.)

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STATE OF UTAH)
) ss.
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE)

This is to certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, KELLY L. WILBURN, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter in and for the State of Utah.

That the proceedings were reported by me in stenotype and thereafter caused by me to be transcribed into typewriting. And that a full, true, and correct transcription of said proceedings so taken and transcribed is set forth in the foregoing pages, numbered 1 through 16, inclusive.

I further certify that I am not of kin or otherwise associated with any of the parties to said cause of action, and that I am not interested in the event thereof.

SIGNED ON THIS **26th** DAY OF **May**, **2011**.

Kelly L. Wilburn, CSR, RPR
Utah CSR No. 109582-7801

<p>\$</p> <p>\$0.14 [1] - 5:22 \$0.34 [1] - 5:21 \$0.44 [2] - 10:4, 10:11 \$10 [1] - 14:17 \$10.33 [1] - 6:8 \$2.24 [1] - 8:1 \$2.26 [2] - 8:2, 8:17 \$30 [3] - 9:18, 9:20, 10:18 \$32 [1] - 14:20 \$5,724,937 [1] - 14:5 \$7.33 [2] - 11:2, 12:24 \$900,000 [1] - 6:5</p>	<p>2010 [2] - 8:12, 14:11 2011 [8] - 3:1, 5:23, 6:13, 8:11, 8:21, 12:6, 13:15, 15:13 25 [1] - 3:1 2:00 [1] - 3:1 2:16 [1] - 16:10</p>	<p>affect [1] - 14:1 agencies [1] - 5:24 agreed [1] - 13:20 agrees [1] - 15:5 ahead [2] - 4:20, 16:5 all-time [1] - 10:12 allow [1] - 6:11 amortization [15] - 3:19, 5:20, 8:9, 8:16, 9:11, 10:2, 10:17, 13:13, 13:14, 13:17, 13:22, 13:24, 14:16, 14:18, 15:6 amortize [7] - 8:6, 8:10, 9:8, 10:5, 14:4, 14:17, 15:8 Amortize [2] - 3:9, 3:11 amortized [2] - 8:13, 13:21 amount [2] - 12:12, 13:21 analyst [2] - 5:6, 11:24 and-a-half [1] - 9:11 annual [4] - 6:8, 11:3, 12:23, 14:20 annualized [1] - 7:25 annually [1] - 13:13 appearances [1] - 3:15 appearing [1] - 3:16 Appliance [1] - 14:22 Applicant [1] - 5:15 Application [3] - 3:5, 3:9, 3:11 application [16] - 5:8, 5:13, 5:20, 5:22, 6:2, 6:11, 7:15, 7:23, 7:24, 8:1, 8:5, 9:2, 9:7, 9:16, 12:12, 15:11 applications [4] - 10:22, 12:18, 15:10, 16:7 applying [1] - 8:14 approval [3] - 5:16, 12:21, 13:3 approved [4] - 10:25, 12:22, 14:7, 15:11 approving [1] - 16:6 April [1] - 5:23 Assistance [1] - 15:1 Attorney [1] - 4:1 Audit [1] - 14:25 available [1] - 15:24 average [1] - 5:23</p>	<p>B</p> <p>balance [12] - 8:12, 9:9, 9:18, 9:19, 9:21, 9:22, 10:5, 10:15, 13:21, 14:4, 14:18, 15:7 Balance [1] - 3:12 Balancing account [2] - 3:9, 8:7 based [1] - 5:22 basis [3] - 12:22, 15:11, 15:19 become [1] - 6:12 becoming [1] - 15:13 beginning [1] - 3:15 behalf [1] - 3:17 better [1] - 6:16 bill [3] - 6:8, 8:18, 11:3 brings [1] - 5:12 brought [1] - 6:15 Builder [1] - 14:23 business [1] - 11:22 Business [2] - 14:23, 15:3 BY [3] - 5:2, 7:9, 11:20</p>	<p>collection [1] - 8:11 Commission [6] - 5:16, 13:1, 14:12, 15:16, 15:18 Commissioners [1] - 16:6 commodity [3] - 6:4, 6:12, 13:4 Community [1] - 15:2 Company [19] - 3:15, 4:4, 4:21, 5:4, 5:12, 6:10, 6:25, 7:11, 8:7, 8:10, 8:20, 9:10, 9:21, 10:25, 13:16, 13:19, 14:3, 14:15, 15:17 Company's [5] - 7:18, 9:5, 10:3, 13:5, 15:5 component [1] - 14:2 components [1] - 13:4 concluded [1] - 16:10 concludes [1] - 15:14 conservation enabling tariff [2] - 8:6, 8:8 continue [2] - 3:13, 14:14 correct [1] - 12:8 corrected [1] - 12:12 correction [1] - 7:20 costs [6] - 9:14, 13:7, 13:9, 13:10, 13:14, 15:7 cover [1] - 14:19 current [8] - 6:12, 8:15, 9:10, 13:22, 14:14, 14:19, 14:21, 15:8 Custom [1] - 15:3 customer [5] - 6:6, 8:19, 10:21, 11:1, 12:23 customer's [1] - 8:18 customers [2] - 8:14, 9:19</p>
<p>0</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>3 [1] - 14:11 300 [1] - 11:23 37 [1] - 9:11</p>	<p>C</p>	<p>D</p>
<p>02 [2] - 4:12, 16:7 03 [5] - 4:12, 7:4, 12:3, 15:12, 16:7 04 [6] - 4:13, 7:4, 8:25, 12:3, 15:12, 16:7 05-057-T01 [1] - 14:7 09-057-03 [1] - 13:11 09-057-16 [1] - 14:12</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5.7 [1] - 8:11 500,000 [1] - 14:25</p> <p>6</p> <p>6 [1] - 7:24</p> <p>8</p>	<p>80 [3] - 6:7, 8:19, 11:1</p>	<p>calculated [1] - 7:25 calculation [2] - 6:17, 6:19 Cambridge Energy Research Associates [1] - 5:25 capacity [1] - 12:1 Carolyn Roll [4] - 4:2, 11:14, 11:16, 11:23 carrying [1] - 15:7 case [1] - 9:15 cents [2] - 9:11, 9:12 CET [7] - 3:9, 3:18, 8:16, 14:1, 14:5, 14:6, 14:13 change [5] - 7:25, 8:16, 8:20, 10:21, 12:13 changes [2] - 8:8, 12:10 charge [1] - 10:13 charges [2] - 15:16, 15:19 Charges [1] - 3:6 chose [1] - 10:6 class [2] - 9:12, 14:3 collected [1] - 14:4</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9</p> <p>917,000 [1] - 13:7</p>
<p>1</p> <p>1 [4] - 6:13, 8:21, 11:2, 15:13 1.5 [1] - 6:9 1.6 [2] - 6:18, 13:16 11-057-02 [7] - 3:4, 4:22, 5:15, 12:3, 12:20, 13:2, 15:12 11-057-03 [6] - 3:8, 7:16, 7:24, 8:5, 12:20, 14:1 11-057-04 [5] - 3:10, 9:3, 9:7, 12:20, 14:15 13,283,000 [1] - 13:8 13.3 [2] - 5:17, 6:3 14,200,000 [1] - 13:6 14.2 [1] - 6:4 16 [1] - 12:6 160 [1] - 11:23 182.4 [1] - 14:19 191 [2] - 5:21, 13:2 1st [1] - 16:8</p>	<p>A</p> <p>able [1] - 10:4 account [6] - 5:21, 9:18, 13:2, 14:5, 14:19 accumulate [1] - 15:7 accumulated [1] - 14:18 add [1] - 11:10 address [3] - 4:9, 11:15, 11:22 Adjustment [1] - 3:6 adjustments [2] - 6:11, 13:23 administrated [1] - 15:2 adopts [2] - 15:16, 15:18 affairs [2] - 5:6, 7:13</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>28</p> <p>29</p> <p>30</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>28</p> <p>29</p> <p>30</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>28</p> <p>29</p> <p>30</p>
<p>2</p> <p>2.4 [1] - 8:12 2009 [2] - 14:8, 14:10</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>44.1 [1] - 9:12</p>	<p>31</p> <p>32</p> <p>33</p> <p>34</p> <p>35</p> <p>36</p> <p>37</p> <p>38</p> <p>39</p> <p>40</p> <p>41</p> <p>42</p> <p>43</p> <p>44</p> <p>45</p> <p>46</p> <p>47</p> <p>48</p> <p>49</p> <p>50</p>	<p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>28</p> <p>29</p> <p>30</p>	<p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</p> <p>15</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>26</p> <p>27</p> <p>28</p> <p>29</p> <p>30</p>

<p>10:1, 11:2, 12:19, 12:23, 13:4, 13:7 deferral [1] - 14:5 Deferred account [2] - 3:12, 9:9 Demand [1] - 3:11 demand [3] - 3:19, 9:8, 9:24 Demand-Side [1] - 3:11 demand-side [2] - 3:19, 9:8 demand-side management [1] - 9:24 Department [1] - 15:2 determined [1] - 9:25 Development [1] - 15:3 different [1] - 9:16 DIRECT EXAMINATION [3] - 5:1, 7:8, 11:19 director [1] - 7:13 discussion [1] - 5:10 discussions [1] - 9:23 distribution natural gas [1] - 14:2 Division [19] - 3:24, 4:1, 7:1, 7:2, 9:23, 11:7, 11:8, 11:9, 11:13, 12:2, 12:5, 12:18, 12:21, 12:25, 13:12, 13:19, 15:5, 15:10, 15:25 Division of Public Utilities [1] - 11:25 Division's [5] - 4:2, 6:15, 12:11, 15:15, 16:4 DNG [1] - 14:2 Docket [19] - 3:4, 3:8, 3:10, 4:22, 5:15, 7:4, 7:16, 8:5, 9:3, 9:7, 12:2, 12:20, 13:2, 13:11, 14:1, 14:7, 14:12, 14:15, 15:12 docket [8] - 3:19, 3:20, 3:22, 4:10, 5:8, 8:23, 9:6, 14:3 Dockets [1] - 16:7 dockets [4] - 3:3, 4:12, 10:24, 11:15 down [5] - 5:21, 10:5, 10:10, 10:15, 10:18 draw [1] - 10:18 drawing [1] - 10:14</p>	<p>DSM [1] - 10:13 duly [3] - 4:24, 7:6, 11:17</p>	<p>future [1] - 13:20</p>	<p>14:10, 14:11, 15:13, 16:8</p>	<p>5:18, 13:5 need [1] - 12:11 NELSON [12] - 3:16, 4:6, 4:9, 4:14, 4:16, 4:21, 5:2, 6:23, 7:9, 8:22, 11:4, 16:1 Nelson [3] - 4:20, 5:11, 9:1 nets [1] - 13:7 next [3] - 6:21, 13:14, 14:17 non [3] - 6:5, 6:17, 13:6 None [1] - 7:2 Nos [2] - 12:3, 12:20 note [1] - 16:2</p>	
	<p>E</p>	<p>G</p>	<p>K</p>	<p>L</p>	<p>O</p>
	<p>easier [1] - 6:18 easiest [1] - 4:11 East [1] - 11:23 Economic [1] - 15:3 effective [4] - 6:13, 8:21, 15:13, 16:8 Efficiency [1] - 3:12 efficiency [2] - 3:20, 9:9 employee [1] - 12:1 end [1] - 9:17 ending [1] - 14:8 energy [1] - 9:24 Energy [1] - 14:25 energy efficiency [3] - 9:15, 14:16, 14:21 enter [2] - 12:7, 16:6 entered [1] - 13:23 entry [1] - 13:25 estimated [2] - 14:20, 15:8 examined [3] - 4:25, 7:7, 11:18 examining [1] - 12:2 exhibit [3] - 12:7, 13:15, 13:23 Exhibit [1] - 6:18 expenditures [1] - 14:20 expenses [3] - 10:8, 14:21, 15:8 extended [1] - 14:9</p>	<p>H</p>	<p>M</p>	<p>P</p>	
	<p>F</p>	<p>I</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>J</p>	
	<p>fall [1] - 13:15 few [2] - 10:7, 12:25 filed [6] - 10:25, 12:5, 12:19, 13:15, 13:16, 15:12 filing [2] - 6:21, 13:15 filings [1] - 13:20 finished [1] - 3:14 first [1] - 4:4 follows [3] - 4:25, 7:7, 11:18 forecasting [1] - 5:24 form [1] - 14:14 formatting [1] - 6:16 full [1] - 11:21 fund [1] - 9:21 funding [1] - 14:25</p>	<p>half [1] - 9:11 happy [2] - 4:6, 4:16 hearing [2] - 3:14, 16:10 held [1] - 5:10 hereby [1] - 6:10 high [1] - 10:13 highlight [1] - 13:1 hold [1] - 5:4 Home [1] - 14:24</p>	<p>majority [1] - 5:19 manageable [1] - 10:16 Management/Energy [1] - 3:12 management/energy [2] - 3:20, 9:9 March [2] - 8:11, 9:17 Matter [3] - 3:4, 3:8, 3:10 matter [1] - 7:19 MAY [1] - 3:1 means [1] - 9:19 memo [3] - 6:15, 6:16, 12:11 memorandum [1] - 12:6 Mendenhall [4] - 7:10, 8:23, 9:1, 10:20 mention [1] - 6:14 million [10] - 5:17, 6:3, 6:4, 8:11, 8:12, 9:18, 9:20, 10:18, 14:17, 14:20 minor [1] - 13:23 month [1] - 8:17</p>	<p>p.m [1] - 16:10 P.M [1] - 3:1 page 2 [1] - 6:18 page 3 [1] - 7:23 paid [1] - 10:11 Paragraph [1] - 7:24 participate [3] - 5:7, 7:14, 9:2 participated [1] - 12:2 Pass [1] - 3:5 pass [4] - 3:21, 5:15, 6:21, 13:2 Pass-Through [1] - 3:5 pass-through [3] - 3:21, 5:15, 6:21 Patricia E. Schmid [1] - 3:25</p>	
	<p>included [2] - 13:22, 16:3 includes [1] - 6:3 including [1] - 14:22 Income [1] - 15:1 incorporate [1] - 6:20 increase [3] - 6:4, 9:10, 10:17 increasing [1] - 13:6 incurred [2] - 9:14, 10:8 interest [1] - 9:20 interim [4] - 12:22, 15:11, 15:19, 16:7 issue [1] - 10:22 it'll [1] - 6:18 items [1] - 12:25</p>	<p>Jenniffer Nelson [1] - 3:16 John Kennedy [4] - 3:20, 4:21, 4:23, 5:5 June [6] - 6:13, 8:21,</p>	<p>name [5] - 5:3, 5:5, 7:11, 7:12, 11:21 namely [1] - 5:24 nationally [1] - 5:24 nationally-recognized [1] - 5:24 Natural gas [3] - 3:6,</p>	<p>occur [1] - 13:24 October [1] - 8:12 offer [1] - 10:20 Office [3] - 4:1, 9:24, 16:3 One [2] - 10:8, 15:15 one [3] - 3:14, 4:10, 7:20 opposition [1] - 16:3 order [2] - 14:11, 16:6 ordered [1] - 14:13 originally [1] - 14:6 over-collected [1] - 14:4 over-collection [1] - 8:11 overall [1] - 6:2 owe [1] - 9:19</p>	

<p>paying [2] - 9:20, 10:9 per [5] - 5:22, 6:7, 8:17, 9:12, 15:12 percent [2] - 6:9, 11:2 percentage [1] - 8:14 period [7] - 10:5, 10:6, 10:9, 10:10, 10:15, 10:19, 14:18 pilot [3] - 14:8, 14:9, 14:13 PIRA Energy Group [1] - 5:25 position [5] - 5:4, 5:12, 7:11, 7:19, 15:15 predictable [1] - 13:10 prefer [1] - 4:9 preliminary [1] - 15:9 preparation [3] - 5:7, 7:14, 9:2 present [1] - 12:15 price [1] - 5:19 prices [1] - 5:23 proceed [5] - 4:6, 8:3, 8:25, 11:12, 12:17 program [2] - 14:8, 14:9 Program [7] - 14:23, 14:24, 14:25, 15:1, 15:4 programs [2] - 9:15, 14:22 projected [1] - 5:23 proposal [1] - 15:6 proposed [5] - 6:11, 13:11, 14:6, 15:13, 15:17 proposes [2] - 8:10, 14:15 proposing [5] - 8:7, 8:20, 9:10, 10:3, 10:17 public interest [1] - 15:20 Public Service Commission [1] - 13:3</p>	<p>company [6] - 3:17, 5:6, 5:14, 9:8, 12:19, 13:11 questions [7] - 6:23, 6:25, 8:22, 11:5, 11:6, 11:8, 15:25</p> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <p>rate [15] - 6:17, 8:9, 8:16, 9:11, 10:4, 10:11, 10:12, 10:17, 12:19, 12:23, 13:4, 13:13, 13:24, 14:3 rate increase [1] - 9:13 ratepayers [1] - 10:11 Rates [1] - 3:6 rates [15] - 5:18, 6:4, 6:5, 6:12, 7:25, 8:15, 10:21, 13:5, 13:18, 13:22, 14:2, 15:11, 15:13, 15:16, 15:19 reason [1] - 10:6 reasonable [1] - 15:20 reasons [2] - 10:7, 10:16 Rebate [5] - 14:23, 14:24, 15:4 received [1] - 6:14 recognized [1] - 5:24 recommend [1] - 16:5 recommendation [3] - 6:16, 6:21, 16:4 recommended [1] - 15:17 recommends [3] - 12:21, 13:19, 15:10 record [2] - 5:10, 11:22 reduce [1] - 15:6 reduction [2] - 5:20, 8:1 reference [1] - 7:15 referenced [1] - 5:8 reflected [1] - 13:25 regulatory [2] - 5:5, 7:13 related [1] - 8:23 relatively [1] - 13:9 relief [1] - 9:6 request [1] - 9:6 requesting [1] - 14:4 requests [3] - 6:10, 12:21, 12:22 required [1] - 9:21 residential [4] - 6:6,</p>	<p>8:18, 8:19, 11:1 respectfully [1] - 5:16 result [2] - 8:17, 13:24 resulting [1] - 15:19 Resulting [1] - 6:6 results [1] - 8:1 revenue [1] - 13:22 revenues [2] - 13:17 review [1] - 15:9 reviewed [1] - 12:18 Roll [2] - 12:10, 15:24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <p>SCHMID [8] - 3:25, 7:2, 11:8, 11:11, 11:13, 11:20, 12:5, 15:24 Schmid [1] - 12:10 see [2] - 11:1, 12:23 seeing [1] - 6:7 September [1] - 14:8 Service [1] - 3:7 set [1] - 14:16 setting [2] - 10:12, 13:12 show [1] - 13:16 shown [1] - 6:17 sic [1] - 15:18 Side [1] - 3:11 side [3] - 3:19, 9:8, 9:24 SNG [7] - 6:12, 13:9, 13:12, 13:14, 13:17, 13:20, 13:21 solution [1] - 9:25 South Salt Lake City [1] - 11:23 spread [1] - 8:14 stability [1] - 13:10 stable [1] - 13:9 start [1] - 4:4 state [3] - 5:3, 7:10, 11:21 subsequently [1] - 14:9 summarize [3] - 5:12, 7:18, 9:5 summary [4] - 8:4, 10:20, 12:14, 15:14 supplier non-gas [3] - 6:5, 6:17, 13:6 supported [1] - 13:12 swear [1] - 4:17 sworn [5] - 4:19, 4:24, 7:6, 11:15,</p>	<p>11:17 symmetry [1] - 10:10</p> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <p>testified [3] - 4:25, 7:7, 11:18 testify [2] - 3:21, 4:22 testifying [1] - 3:18 THE COURT [18] - 3:3, 3:23, 4:3, 4:8, 4:11, 4:15, 4:17, 4:20, 6:24, 7:3, 8:24, 11:6, 11:9, 11:12, 12:9, 15:23, 15:25, 16:2 Therefore [1] - 6:10 ThermWise [2] - 14:22, 15:3 third [1] - 10:14 three [14] - 3:3, 4:10, 10:5, 10:6, 10:9, 10:15, 10:19, 10:22, 10:24, 12:22, 14:8, 14:9, 14:17, 15:9 three-year [8] - 10:5, 10:6, 10:9, 10:15, 10:19, 14:8, 14:9, 14:17 title [1] - 11:22 today [4] - 3:14, 10:3, 10:22, 13:20 total [1] - 6:8 try [1] - 10:1 turn [1] - 7:23 two [1] - 5:23 typical [6] - 6:6, 8:17, 8:18, 10:21, 10:25, 12:23 typically [1] - 9:13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <p>unnecessary [1] - 12:7 up [1] - 6:15 uses [1] - 8:19 Utah [5] - 3:7, 5:17, 11:24, 13:5, 15:2 utility [1] - 11:24</p> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <p>Weatherization [2] - 14:24, 15:1 Wednesday [1] - 6:13 willing [1] - 6:20 witness [6] - 4:2, 4:4,</p>	<p>4:24, 7:6, 11:14, 11:17 witnesses [2] - 4:18, 4:19</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <p>year [12] - 6:7, 8:19, 10:5, 10:6, 10:9, 10:15, 10:19, 14:8, 14:9, 14:17, 15:8</p>
<p>Q</p>				
<p>Questar [3] - 3:9, 3:11, 12:12 Questar Gas [4] - 3:5, 7:13, 8:6, 13:5 Questar Gas</p>				