

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of: The Application) Docket No:
of Questar Gas Company to Amortize) 11-057-15
the Energy Efficiency Deferred)
Account Balance and for Tariff)
Modification)

In the Matter of: The Application) Docket No:
of Questar Gas Company to Include) 11-057-16
the Infrastructure Rate Adjustment)

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING PROCEEDINGS

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

DATE: January 19, 2012

TIME: 10:02 a.m.

REPORTED BY: Kelly L. Wilburn, CSR, RPR

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APPEARANCES

Presiding:

DAVID CLARK, Hearing Officer

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For Questar Gas Company:

JENNIFFER NELSON CLARK, ESQ.

QUESTAR CORPORATION

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For Questar Gas

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(The previous exhibits and related testimony were prefiled and are part of the PSC record and filed with the Commission.)

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1 JANUARY 19, 2012 10:02 A.M.

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

3 HEARING OFFICER: Good morning everyone. My
4 name is David Clark. I've been designated as the
5 presiding officer for the matters that will be heard
6 today before the Public Service Commission of Utah.

7 We're addressing two matters: Docket
8 Nos. 11-057-15 and 11-057-16. The first of those is
9 captioned: In the Matter of the Application of
10 Questar Gas Company to Amortize the Energy Efficiency
11 Deferred Account Balance and for Tariff Modification.
12 And the second is: In the Matter of the Application
13 of Questar Gas Company to Include the Infrastructure
14 Rate Adjustment.

15 Let's begin by taking the appearances of
16 counsel and the parties. Begin with the Applicant.

17 MS. NELSON CLARK: Thank you. Jenniffer
18 Nelson Clark on behalf of Questar Gas Company. And I
19 have with me Kelly Mendenhall.

20 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

21 MS. SCHMID: Patricia E. Schmid, with the
22 Attorney General's Office, for the Division of Public
23 Utilities. And with me is Marlin Barrow from the
24 Division.

25 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

1 Ms. Nelson Clark, would you like to proceed,
2 please.

3 MS. NELSON CLARK: Yes. We call
4 Mr. Mendenhall.

5 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.
6 (Mr. Mendenhall was duly sworn.)

7 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

8 KELLY MENDENHALL,
9 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,
10 was examined and testified as follows:

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY MS. NELSON CLARK:

13 Q. Mr. Mendenhall, would you please state your
14 name and business address for the record?

15 A. Yes. My name is Kelly Mendenhall. And my
16 business address is 180 East 100 South, Salt Lake
17 City, Utah.

18 Q. And what position do you hold with Questar
19 Gas?

20 A. I'm the director of regulatory affairs.

21 Q. Did you participate in the preparation of the
22 application of Questar Gas Company to amortize the
23 energy efficiency deferred account balance and for
24 tariff modification in Docket No. 11-057-15?

25 A. Yes, I did.

1 Q. Can you please summarize the relief Questar
2 Gas is seeking through that application?

3 A. Yes. In Docket 11-057-15, The Application of
4 Questar Gas to Amortize the Energy Efficiency Deferred
5 Account Balance and for Tariff Modification, the
6 Company is proposing to collect \$39 million for
7 customers.

8 And there's a couple reasons why we're
9 proposing to set the level at 39 million. First of
10 all, if you compare our proposal with what we're
11 currently collecting you'll see it's about a
12 \$3 million decrease.

13 And in the other docket we're gonna talk
14 about today that's about a \$2.2 million increase. And
15 so we wanted to file both of these dockets at the same
16 time in order to net the two effects and to create
17 rate stability.

18 The second reason is because currently we
19 have a balance in the energy efficiency account of
20 about 29 million. And so because we have a balance,
21 customers are required to pay interest expense on that
22 balance.

23 And so by collecting \$39 million a year and
24 we're able to pay that \$29 million down over time, and
25 our goal is to draw that down to zero by the spring of

1 2014. So by setting the amount at 39 million we're
2 able to accomplish both of those things.

3 And this change in the amortization amount
4 will result in a decrease to the typical customer of
5 \$2.59, or .4 percent. Now, in this filing the Company
6 is proposing that the change go into effect
7 February 1, 2012.

8 And the Company is also proposing to make a
9 change to the wording in the tariff so that we're able
10 to make this filing once a year instead of twice a
11 year. And the reason for that is because in past
12 filings the rate has remained relatively stable and we
13 didn't really need to make a change, but because of
14 the requirement to file twice a year we made -- we
15 were required to make a filing.

16 We enjoy making filings, but not if there's
17 no reason to. So this proposal would allow us to be a
18 little more flexible in our ability to file, as well
19 as reduce the administrative burden to all the
20 parties. And that concludes my summary.

21 MS. NELSON CLARK: Thank you. He's available
22 for cross.

23 HEARING OFFICER: Any cross-examination?

24 MS. SCHMID: None.

25 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

1 MS. NELSON CLARK: May I move for the
2 admission of the application --

3 HEARING OFFICER: Yes.

4 MS. NELSON CLARK: -- in this matter?

5 HEARING OFFICER: Any objection?

6 MS. SCHMID: None.

7 HEARING OFFICER: It'll be received.

8 MS. NELSON CLARK: Thank you.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

10 (The Application in Docket 11-057-15 was
11 received.)

12 MS. SCHMID: The Division would like to
13 present Mr. Marlin Barrow as its witness in this
14 matter. Could he please be sworn?

15 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

16 (Mr. Barrow was duly sworn.)

17 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

18 MARLIN BARROW,

19 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,
20 was examined and testified as follows:

21 DIRECT EXAMINATION

22 BY MS. SCHMID:

23 Q. Mr. Barrow, could you please state your full
24 name, business address, and title for the record?

25 A. Yes. My name is Marlin Barrow. I work at

1 160 East 300 South in Salt Lake City, Utah. I'm
2 employed by the Utah Division of Public Utilities as a
3 technical consultant.

4 Q. In your capacity as a technical consultant
5 for the Division have you participated in Docket
6 Nos. 11-057-15 and 11-057-16?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Did you prepare or assist in the preparation
9 of the memorandums filed January 10, 2012, the first
10 one being entitled: "Questar Gas Docket
11 No. 11-057-15, Amortized Energy Efficiency Deferred
12 Account Balance," and the second being: "Docket
13 No. 11-057-16, Application of Questar Gas Company to
14 Include the Infrastructure Rate Adjustment"?

15 A. Yes. I am the principal author of both of
16 those memos filed on January 10th with the Commission.

17 MS. SCHMID: As such the Division would like
18 to move -- oh, sorry.

19 Q. (By Ms. Schmid) Mr. Barrow, do you adopt
20 these memorandums as your testimony in this matter?

21 A. Yes.

22 MS. SCHMID: As such the Division would like
23 to move the admission of the two afore-identified
24 memorandums.

25 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Any objection?

1 MS. NELSON CLARK: No objection.

2 Q. (By Ms. Schmid) Mr. Barrow, do you also have
3 a summary that you would like to present today?

4 HEARING OFFICER: Let me note they'll be
5 received in evidence.

6 (The Division Memorandums were received.)

7 MS. SCHMID: Okay, thank you.

8 HEARING OFFICER: Go right ahead.

9 Q. (By Ms. Schmid) Mr. Barrow, do you have a
10 summary you'd like to present today?

11 A. Just a very brief summary. On the first
12 docket, Docket 11-057-15, which is a request by
13 Questar Gas Company for Commission approval to allow
14 Questar Gas to reduce the DSM amortization rate
15 component of the GS rate schedule from approximately
16 44 cents to 41 cents per decatherm, as well as approve
17 a tariff change to their Section 209 of the Company's
18 Utah natural gas tariff, the Division recommended to
19 the Commission approval of the application, as filed,
20 on an interim basis, with the new DSM amortization
21 rate becoming effective February 1st of 2012.

22 This rate decrease will save a typical GS
23 residential customer approximately 29 -- \$2.59 a year
24 on their gas bill.

25 The Division also recommended to the

1 Commission the approval of the requested change to the
2 tariff language found in Section 209 in the beginning
3 of the paragraph under "Amortization of Approval" from
4 "no less frequently than semiannually" to at least
5 annually -- to "at least annually." Citing as a
6 reason for granting the approval the avoidance of
7 requiring the Company to needlessly file an
8 application when no change to the amortization rate is
9 required, such as was the case when the Company filed
10 an application in Docket No. 10-057-18.

11 That concludes my remarks regarding the first
12 docket.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very much. Any
14 cross-examination?

15 MS. NELSON CLARK: None.

16 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

17 MR. BARROW: Are we doing the second docket?

18 HEARING OFFICER: I think let's hear -- let's
19 receive the application, then he can summarize the
20 Division's position on that one as well.

21 MS. NELSON CLARK: Thank you.

22 KELLY MENDENHALL,

23 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,

24 was examined and testified as follows:

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DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. NELSON CLARK:

Q. Mr. Mendenhall, in your capacity as an employee of Questar Gas Company did you participate in the preparation of the application of Questar Gas Company to include the infrastructure rate adjustment in Docket No. 11-057-16?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And can you briefly summarize the relief Questar Gas seeks in that docket?

A. Yes. In Docket 11-057-16, The Application of Questar Gas Company to Include the Infrastructure Rate Adjustment, the Company is proposing to adjust the infrastructure rate to include the investment related to high pressure infrastructure replacement projects that occurred in September through December of 2011. And the largest part of that investment is related to feeder line 25 that was replaced down in Utah County.

The Company is requesting a \$2.2 million increase in annual revenue. And if approved this increase would increase the typical GS customer's bill by about \$1.98, or .3 percent. The Company is proposing that this change be made effective February 1, 2012.

And as I mentioned earlier, we're filing

1 these two dockets simultaneously. And if these two
2 dockets are approved as filed by the Company the
3 typical GS residential customer using 80 decatherms
4 will see a decrease of about 61 cents per year on
5 their bill.

6 MS. NELSON CLARK: Questar Gas --
7 Mr. Mendenhall is available for cross-examination, if
8 any, on this docket.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Any cross-examination?

10 MS. SCHMID: None.

11 MS. NELSON CLARK: We seek the admission of
12 this application as well.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. It'll be
14 received in evidence.

15 MS. NELSON CLARK: Thank you.

16 (The Application in Docket 11-057-16 was
17 received.)

18 HEARING OFFICER: I have one question,
19 Mr. Mendenhall. I know it's in the application. Did
20 you mention in your summary the effect on customer
21 rates of the infrastructure rate adjustment exclusive
22 of the offsetting effect of the --

23 MR. MENDENHALL: Yes.

24 HEARING OFFICER: I missed that, I apologize.

25 MR. MENDENHALL: Let me, let me tell you. It

1 would affect the typical customer by about \$1.98 a
2 year. That would be an increase -- or 3/10ths of a
3 percent.

4 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very much.

5 MR. MENDENHALL: Uh-huh.

6 HEARING OFFICER: Okay.

7 MS. SCHMID: Mr. Barrow has some comments on
8 Docket No. 11-057-16. These supplement the memorandum
9 in this docket that has already been received into
10 evidence. And summarize those comments. Please
11 proceed.

12 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Barrow.

13 MR. BARROW: Yes. Docket No. 11-057-16 is a
14 request of Questar Gas Company for Commission's
15 approval to allow Questar to increase the
16 infrastructure rate adjustment mechanism component of
17 the DNG rates for all rate schedules in the Company's
18 Utah natural gas tariff.

19 The Division recommended to the Commission
20 approval of the application, as filed, on an interim
21 basis, with the new infrastructure rate adjustment
22 rates becoming effective February 1, 2012. The rate
23 increase will increase a typical GS residential
24 customer's annual gas bill by approximately \$1.98.

25 In the memo the Division filed the Division

1 noted that \$55.4 million of feeder line replacement
2 projects was added to investment plant during 2011,
3 compared to a 2011 budget request of 45 million.

4 The Company cited the reason for the increase
5 in costs was due primarily to feeder line 12 incurring
6 additional costs of approximately 10.3 million from
7 excessive water pumping and hauling due to the wet
8 spring of 2011, unanticipated expenses due to EPA
9 requirements for Superfund treatment costs incurred
10 during excavation of the line, and a required reroute
11 of the line due to the uncertainty on the part of Salt
12 Lake City as to the exact location of some bridge
13 pylons.

14 The Division supports the request for the
15 infrastructure rate adjustment mechanism component
16 increases for all rate schedules as being just and
17 reasonable and in the public interest. And recommends
18 Commission approval on an interim basis until the
19 appropriate audits on the costs can be completed and
20 verified, at which time the Commission will make its
21 recommendation -- at which time the Division will make
22 its recommendation to the Commission on whether to
23 make the rates permanent.

24 And that concludes my remarks on that docket,
25 thank you.

1 MS. SCHMID: Mr. Barrow is available for
2 cross-examination or questions from the Hearing
3 Officer.

4 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Counsel?

5 MS. NELSON CLARK: We have no questions,
6 thank you.

7 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. And I have no
8 questions.

9 Are there any other matters to come before
10 the Commission in relation to these two dockets?

11 MS. NELSON CLARK: No, sir.

12 MS. SCHMID: No.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Then we'll be
14 off the record.

15 (The hearing was concluded at 10:16 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

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 25th DAY OF January, 2012.

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

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