

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of: The Application)
of Questar Gas Company for an)
Adjustment to the 191.1 Balancing)
Account by Means of a Special)
One-Time Refund.)

TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING PROCEEDINGS

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

DATE: April 25, 2012

TIME: 10:02 a.m.

REPORTED BY: Kelly L. Wilburn, CSR, RPR

APPEARANCES

Presiding:

DAVID R. CLARK, ESQ., Hearing Officer

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For Questar Gas:

JENNIFFER NELSON CLARK, ESQ.

QUESTAR CORPORATION

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1 APRIL 25, 2012 10:02 A.M.

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

3 HEARING OFFICER: Good morning all. My name
4 is David Clark. The Commission has designated me as
5 the presiding officer for the hearing today.

6 We have before us a verified Application in
7 Docket No. 12-057-05. And the caption is:
8 Application of Questar Gas Company for an Adjustment
9 to the 191.1 Balancing Account by Means of a Special
10 One-Time Refund.

11 Let's begin by taking the appearances of
12 counsel. We'll begin with the Applicant.

13 MS. NELSON CLARK: Jenniffer Nelson Clark
14 here on behalf of Questar Gas. And I have with me
15 Mr. John Kennedy, who will serve as our witness.

16 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

17 MR. FELIX: Wes Felix of the Attorney
18 General's Office on behalf of the Division. With me
19 is Patricia Schmid and our witness, Marlin Barrow.

20 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. And welcome
21 Mr. Felix. This may be your first appearance here. I
22 could be wrong.

23 MR. FELIX: Before you, yes, absolutely.

24 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. Well, welcome.

25 MR. FELIX: Before the Commission yesterday,

1 though. Well, I guess I didn't. I was at the table.

2 HEARING OFFICER: We're pleased to have you
3 with us.

4 Ms. Clark, how would you like to proceed this
5 morning?

6 MS. NELSON CLARK: Mr. Kennedy has prepared a
7 brief summary of the relief sought, and he is also
8 available for cross-examination if requested.

9 HEARING OFFICER: All right. Would you raise
10 your right hand please, sir?

11 (Mr. Kennedy was duly sworn.)

12 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you.

13 JOHN E. KENNEDY,

14 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,
15 was examined and testified as follows:

16 DIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MS. NELSON CLARK:

18 Q. Mr. Kennedy, can you please state your name
19 and business address for the record?

20 A. My name is John Ernest Kennedy. I work at
21 Questar Gas Company. It's 333 South State, Salt Lake
22 City, Utah.

23 Q. And what position do you hold with Questar
24 Gas Company?

25 A. I'm a regulatory affairs specialist.

1 Q. Did you participate in the preparation of the
2 verified Application that is under consideration
3 today?

4 A. Yes, I did.

5 Q. Could you please summarize the relief that
6 the Company seeks through that Application?

7 A. Yes. Questar Gas Company, the Applicant in
8 this Docket No. 12-057-05, respectfully asks the Utah
9 Public Service Commission for approval of a decrease
10 of \$41,987,890. The reason for this decrease is the
11 commodity portion of the 191 account is over-collected
12 by approximately \$42 million.

13 We propose to return this amount to our
14 customers through a one-time credit, similar to what
15 was done in 2009 and 1985. 1995, pardon me. This
16 refund would be credited to current active GS and FS
17 customers on their upcoming May bills.

18 It would be determined by multiplying each
19 customer's total decatherm usage between December 2011
20 and April 2012 by 60.206 cents per decatherm. This
21 method refunds the 191 account commodity balance to
22 customers much sooner than if it was amortized over
23 the next 12 months, while also eliminating a future
24 \$42 million rate increase in one year when a credit
25 amortization would normally drop off.

1 A typical Utah GS customer using 80
2 decatherms per year would see a decrease of \$34.50 on
3 their May bill, or a total annual decrease of about
4 5 percent. Thank you.

5 MS. NELSON CLARK: Mr. Kennedy is available
6 for cross-examination.

7 HEARING OFFICER: Any cross-examination?

8 MR. FELIX: No cross.

9 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you Mr. Felix.
10 Would you like to present anything else,
11 Ms. Clark?

12 MS. NELSON CLARK: No, thank you.

13 HEARING OFFICER: Okay. And I'll note that
14 we'll receive into the record the Application, which
15 is verified and to which Mr. Kennedy referred, as
16 Exhibit 1 in this proceeding.

17 (Exhibit No. 1 was received.)

18 HEARING OFFICER: Mr. Felix?

19 MR. FELIX: Mr. Barrow is witness on behalf
20 of the Division. If he could be sworn in?

21 (Mr. Barrow was duly sworn.)

22 ***

23 MARLIN H. BARROW,

24 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,

25 was examined and testified as follows:

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DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MR. FELIX:

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

A. Yes. My name is Marlin Hobson Barrow. I work at 160 East 300 South, in the Heber Wells Building, for the Division of Public Utilities.

Q. Could you --

A. As a technical consultant.

Q. Thank you. Could you describe in a little more detail your current position?

A. In my current position I primarily review the applications that Questar Gas Company files before the Commission, including the one now before the Commission.

Q. And in conjunction with this docket did you receive an action request from the Commission?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. And what did you do in response to that action request?

A. I reviewed the Application and then prepared actually two memos in response to that action request kind of reviewing the Application and giving the Division's recommendation concerning the Application.

Q. And why is it that you produced two

1 memoranda?

2 A. I found in my first memo that I had some -- a
3 few numbers that probably needed to be corrected to
4 make it more technically correct in what I was trying
5 to explain.

6 Q. And did you make those corrections in your
7 second memorandum?

8 A. Yes, I did.

9 Q. And would the opinions reflected in your
10 second memorandum be the opinions you hold today?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Could you summarize the opinions that you
13 made in that memorandum?

14 A. Yes. I briefly, in reviewing the Application
15 I briefly went through the process that the Company
16 followed in filing this process, including the
17 previous time that they asked for a one-time refund.

18 I also tried to explain in my memo kind of a,
19 give a background of why this process occurs and how
20 it occurs. And tried to differentiate between what we
21 call a "base rate" in the commodity gas portion of the
22 rate and the 191 amortization rate.

23 In my first memo I, I was thinking of base
24 rate but I was actually talking about total rate, and
25 it was kind of confusing when I was trying to refer to

1 the various graphs. So I went back, and in the
2 paragraph section titled "Recent Pass-Through Filings"
3 in the second memo I changed the word "total rate" to
4 "base commodity rate." And then when it talks about
5 -- I had in my first memo 4.49 per decatherm. That
6 was corrected to \$4.15 per decatherm, which was the
7 base commodity rate.

8 And then again, going down a couple lines, it
9 said: In this filing the total base commodity rate
10 was increased by \$0.06 to \$4.21, instead of \$4.55
11 which was in my first memo. And then I again included
12 the word "base commodity rate" in the filing that was,
13 that was filed on October 1st -- or August 31, 2011.
14 I changed the rate from \$4.30 to \$4.17, which was the
15 base commodity rate.

16 The reason I did this is, as I explained
17 previously, in the total commodity rate there's two
18 portions of the rate: One is the base commodity rate,
19 which is really determined on the forecasted -- or the
20 projections of forecasted gas costs that the Company
21 files. And then the 191 amortization rate is really a
22 process that they go through in order to refund any
23 over or under-collections.

24 So I wanted to make sure that was explained
25 better that there is a base commodity rate and a 191

1 amortization rate which does make the total commodity
2 rate. And those are the only changes I made was in
3 that one paragraph.

4 And then in the process of reviewing I found
5 this to be the most expedient way to quickly get
6 customers a refund of the over-collection that has
7 occurred due to the rampant decrease of the current
8 gas market price that people have been calling about
9 and wondering why they've been charged a lot more than
10 what they see the actual price of gas being. So this
11 was a quick way of getting that refund back to them.

12 And the Division supports the Application and
13 believes that it really is in the public interest to
14 give this back to customers as quickly as possible,
15 rather than the normal process that they would have
16 refunded by. And that probably concludes my remarks.

17 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you. Any
18 cross-examination for Mr. Barrow?

19 MS. NELSON CLARK: No.

20 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you Mr. Barrow.

21 Is there any other information to present to
22 the Commission on this Application?

23 MR. FELIX: Oh, your Honor, we should
24 probably move for the admission of the --

25 HEARING OFFICER: Oh.

1 MR. FELIX: -- the full copy of his
2 memorandum as filed on April 23rd. I think it's dated
3 April 19th. That's the Memorandum of Marlin H.
4 Barrow, technical consultant on behalf of the
5 Division.

6 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you, Mr. Felix.
7 We'll mark that Exhibit 2 in this docket.

8 (Exhibit No. 2 was received.)

9 HEARING OFFICER: And we'll be off the
10 record.

11 (A recess was taken from 10:13 to 10:15 a.m.)

12 HEARING OFFICER: I've conferred with the
13 Commissioners. They've authorized me to issue an
14 order from the bench on this Application to the effect
15 that it is approved.

16 It will be memorialized in a written order.
17 But so that the Company can plan for and execute the
18 refund on May 1st, or begin the refund process by that
19 date as requested in the Application, I wanted to make
20 you all aware today of the Commission's order in this
21 matter.

22 Is there anything further to come before the
23 Commission?

24 MS. NELSON CLARK: No, thank you.

25 MR. FELIX: No, your Honor.

1 HEARING OFFICER: Thank you very much.
2 MR. FELIX: Thank you.
3 HEARING OFFICER: We're adjourned.
4 (The hearing was concluded at 10:16 a.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 13, 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 27th DAY OF April, 2012.

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

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