

**In the Matter Of:**

In Re: QGC - Infrastructure Rate Adjustment

**HEARING PROCEEDINGS DOCKET NO. 16-057-16**

*November 22, 2016*

*Job Number: 353855*

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

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In the Matter of the                    )     Docket No. 16-057-16  
Application of Questar Gas         )       
Company to Change the                )     HEARING  
Infrastructure Rate                    )       
Adjustment                             )     

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November 22, 2016  
9:04 a.m.

Location: Public Service Commission  
160 East 300 South, 4th Floor  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111  
(801) 530-6769

Reporter: Teri Hansen Cronenwett  
Certified Realtime Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter  
Job Number: 353855

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A P P E A R A N C E S

Presiding Officer:	Michael Hammer
For the Division of Public Utilities:	Patricia E. Schmid Assistant Attorney General 160 East 300 South, Fifth Floor Salt Lake City, Utah 84114
For Questar Gas Company:	Jenniffer Nelson Clark Senior Corporate Counsel 333 South State Street Salt Lake City, Utah 84145 Jenniffer.Clark@Questar.com
For the Office of Consumer Services:	Rex W. Olsen Assistant Attorney General 160 East 300 South, 5th Floor P.O. Box 140857 Salt Lake City, UT 84114-0857 (801) 366-0353 rolsen@utah.gov

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1 November 22, 2016

9:04 a.m.

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

3 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: My name is Michael  
4 Hammer, and I am the commission's designated presiding  
5 officer for this hearing. This is the time and place  
6 noticed for hearing in the Application of Questar Gas  
7 Company to Change the Infrastructure Rate Adjustment.  
8 That's Commission Docket No. 16-057-16. Let's go ahead  
9 and take appearances, please.

10 MS. CLARK: I'm Jenniffer Clark. I'm here on  
11 behalf of Questar Gas Company. And with me I have  
12 Jordan Stephenson, who will be the company's witness in  
13 this matter.

14 MS. SCHMID: Good morning. Patricia E.  
15 Schmid with the Attorney General's offices representing  
16 the Division of Public Utilities. As the division's  
17 witness this morning, we have Mr. Eric Orton who is  
18 sitting beside me at counsel table.

19 MR. OLSEN: Rex Olsen with the attorney  
20 general's office on behalf the Office of Consumer  
21 Services. And with me from the office is Dan Martinez.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Are there any  
23 preliminary matters that we need to address before we  
24 commence with testimony? Then since it's Questar's  
25 application, we'll ask Questar to call its first

1 witness.

2 MS. CLARK: Thank you. The company calls  
3 Jordan Stephenson.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Stephenson, as  
5 long as the court reporter is okay with it, I'm fine  
6 with you staying seated where you are.

7 COURT REPORTER: Uh-huh.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Stephenson, do  
9 you swear to tell the truth?

10 THE WITNESS: Yes.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you. Please  
12 proceed.

13 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

14 JORDAN STEPHENSON,  
15 called as a witness at the instance of the applicant,  
16 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified  
17 as follows:

18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 BY MS. CLARK:

20 **Q. Mr. Stephenson, please state your full name**  
21 **and your business address.**

22 A. Jordan Stephenson, and it's 333 South State,  
23 Salt Lake City, Utah.

24 **Q. What is your title?**

25 A. I am a senior regulatory analyst.

1 Q. Did you prepare the application in this  
2 matter, or was it prepared under your direction?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Do you have any corrections to the application  
5 or its exhibits?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Would you adopt the application and the  
8 accompanying exhibits as your testimony today?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Mr. Stephenson, would you please summarize the  
11 relief the company is requesting in this docket.

12 A. Yes. In this docket the company seeks to  
13 adjust the infrastructure tracker replacement rate to  
14 include approximately \$17 million of investment related  
15 to replacement projects that were in service as of  
16 October 31st, 2016.

17 The company times these filings around when  
18 investment is closed. This year the filings were made  
19 one month apart for this replacement adjustment charge  
20 because of the large amounts of investment that closed  
21 in September and October of 2016. The majority of the  
22 additional investment since the last filing occurred in  
23 the Feeder Line 21 in Salt Lake belt main projects in  
24 October.

25 The company is requesting a 2.2 million dollar

1 increase in annual revenue related to this investment,  
2 resulting in a total annual revenue requirement of 19.4  
3 million dollars. If approved, this would result in  
4 annual increase of one dollar and 70 cents per year or a  
5 .25 percent paid by a typical customer using 80  
6 decatherms per year, and that concludes my summary.

7 MS. CLARK: The company would move for the  
8 admission of the application and the company exhibits.

9 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Any objections?

10 MR. OLSEN: No objection.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: They are admitted.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. CLARK: Mr. Stephenson is available for  
14 further questions.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Any  
16 cross-examination, Ms. Schmid?

17 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Olsen?

19 MR. OLSEN: No questions, thank you.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you. Any  
21 additional witness, Ms. Clark?

22 MS. CLARK: The company has nothing further.  
23 Thank you.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

25 Ms. Schmid.

1 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. The division would  
2 like to call its witness, Mr. Eric Orton. Could he  
3 please be sworn.

4 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Orton, do you  
5 swear to tell the truth?

6 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you. Please  
8 proceed.

9 ERIC ORTON,  
10 called as a witness at the instance of the Division of  
11 Public Utilities, having been first duly sworn, was  
12 examined and testified as follows:

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MS. SCHMID:

15 Q. Mr. Orton, by whom are you employed and in  
16 what capacity?

17 A. The Utah Division of Public Utilities. I am a  
18 technical consultant.

19 Q. In that capacity have you participated on  
20 behalf of the division in this docket?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Did you prepare or cause to be prepared the  
23 division's action request response filed with the  
24 commission on November 14th, 2016?

25 A. Yes.



1           **Q. Do you have any changes that need to be made**  
2 **to that action request response?**

3           A. No. I believe it's accurate.

4           **Q. With that, do you adopt the action request**  
5 **response as your testimony today?**

6           A. I do.

7           MS. SCHMID: The division would like to move  
8 that the action request response filed on November 14th,  
9 2016, be admitted.

10          MS. CLARK: No objection.

11          PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Any objection?

12          MR. OLSEN: No objection.

13          PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: They are admitted.

14          MS. SCHMID: Thank you.

15          **Q. (By Ms. Schmid) Mr. Orton, do you have a**  
16 **summary today?**

17          A. I do.

18          **Q. Please proceed.**

19          A. Thank you. In this filing the company  
20 includes one more month of infrastructure investment  
21 placed into service and now proposes to collect the  
22 revenue requirement associated with this investment  
23 amount in rates. This amount, in addition to what is  
24 already allowed in rates on an interim basis, provides  
25 the total revenue requirement of \$19.4 million.

1           Based upon the division's review, the  
2 application is compliant and will produce rates that are  
3 just, reasonable and in the public interest. And  
4 therefore, we recommend that the application be approved  
5 on an interim basis until the division can complete its  
6 audit, at which time we will make a final recommendation  
7 to the commission. That's it. Thank you.

8           MS. SCHMID: Mr. Orton is now available for  
9 questioning.

10           PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Clark?

11           MS. CLARK: We have no questions.

12           PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Olsen?

13           MR. OLSEN: No questions.

14           PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.

15           Anything else, Ms. Schmid?

16           MS. SCHMID: Nothing else. Thank you very  
17 much.

18           PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Olsen?

19           MR. OLSEN: Thank you. Mr. Martinez has no  
20 prepared statement but is here available if there are  
21 questions from the court.

22           PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Do any of the  
23 parties have any questions?

24           MS. CLARK: No.

25           MS. SCHMID: No.

1           PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Mr. Martinez, I  
2     suppose I'll simply ask you whether the office has an  
3     official position or statement of position in this  
4     matter. I mean, I know you haven't formally prepared  
5     anything. But do you have a recommendation for the  
6     commission?

7           MR. MARTINEZ: The office did review the  
8     company's application, and the information that has  
9     already been stated in the record the office agrees with  
10    and is -- did not have anything further to add to the  
11    record at this time.

12          PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: So not to press  
13    you, but you are not -- the office is not recommending  
14    approval or recommending that the commission not  
15    approve?

16          MR. MARTINEZ: The office does not oppose the  
17    company's application at this time.

18          PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Thank you.  
19    Ms. Clark, any questions?

20          MS. CLARK: I have no questions for  
21    Mr. Martinez.

22          PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Ms. Schmid?

23          MS. SCHMID: No questions.

24          PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Anything else,  
25    Mr. Olsen?

1 MR. OLSEN: Nothing further. Thank you.

2 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Okay. Thank you.

3 Well, I know that these rates are requested to be  
4 effective December 1st. So is there a request perhaps  
5 for a bench order?

6 MS. CLARK: Yes, please. The company would  
7 request that the commission approve the application on  
8 an interim basis via a bench order so that rates can be  
9 effective December 1st.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Okay. Well, I'll  
11 need to see if I can wrangle a quorum together, so we'll  
12 be in recess for just a few minutes.

13 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

14 (Recess from 9:11 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.)

15 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: Having considered  
16 the application, the accompanying exhibits and the  
17 testimony presented at hearing, the commission finds the  
18 application to be just, reasonable and in the public  
19 interest. The commission therefore grants the  
20 application and approves the rates proposed in the  
21 application on an interim basis until the division  
22 completes its audit.

23 This bench order has been approved and  
24 confirmed by the commission, and the commission will  
25 issue a written order to memorialize it. If there's

1 nothing further from the parties.

2 MS. CLARK: No, thank you.

3 MS. SCHMID: Nothing further from the  
4 division.

5 MR. OLSEN: Nothing further.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER HAMMER: We're adjourned.  
7 Have a nice morning.

8 MS. SCHMID: Thank you.

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10 (The hearing concluded at 9:16 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF UTAH )  
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE )

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, Teri Hansen Cronenwett, Certified Realtime Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Utah.

That the proceedings were reported by me in Stenotype, and thereafter transcribed by computer under my supervision, and that a full, true, and correct transcription is set forth in the foregoing pages, numbered 3 through 12 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.

WITNESS MY HAND and official seal at Salt Lake City, Utah, this 2nd day of December, 2016.



Teri Hansen Cronenwett, CRR, RMR  
License No. 91-109812-7801

My commission expires:  
January 19, 2019

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