

- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

In the Matter of the Application of QUESTAR GAS)
COMPANY to adjust rates for natural gas service in)
Utah)

DOCKET NO. 01-057-14

INTERIM ORDER

ISSUED: December 31, 2001

By The Commission:

On December 14, 2001, Questar Gas Company (the Company) submitted a pass-through application in the above-entitled docket requesting an annualized gas cost decrease of \$66,947,000 to become effective January 1, 2002. The requested reduction is due, in large part, to the substantially reduced cost of natural gas purchased by the Company. The effect of this proposed change would decrease the annual bill for a typical GS-1 residential customer using 115 decatherms of gas per year by \$86.00, which is a 11.21% decrease.

On December 21, 2001, the Division of Public Utilities ("DPU") submitted its Memorandum to the Commission recommending that the proposed decrease in rates be approved on an interim basis effective January 1, 2002. The DPU recommended that the Commission exclude certain costs, identified in the DPU's Memorandum, from the interim treatment sought by the Company. The DPU believes that inclusion of such costs is not sufficiently supported by the Company's filed supporting material. While the DPU recommended approval of interim rates, it did not quantify the specific impact that the exclusion would have on the rates proposed by the Company. On December 31, 2001, the Committee of Consumer Services (CCS) filed a Memorandum containing its recommendations. The CCS mirrors the DPU's concerns concerning the inclusion of additional new costs in the 191 Account procedure, but, like the DPU, recommends implementation of an interim rate.

The Commission will approve the interim use of the proposed rates pending final resolution of issues raised by the application. The interim rates may become effective January 1, 2002. We will require the Company to meet its burden and substantiate the inclusion of these costs in the 191 Account rate making process. If the final resolution of the issues associated with this docket requires modification of the interim rate, that may be done as part of the final order in this docket or incorporated in a subsequent proceeding dealing with the 191 Account.

ORDER

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the proposed rate decrease in the annualized amount of \$66,947,000 requested by Questar Gas Company be placed in effect on an interim basis as of January 1, 2002.

Dated at Salt Lake City, Utah, this 31st day of December, 2001.

/s/ Stephen F. Mecham, Chairman

/s/ Constance B. White, Commissioner

/s/ Richard M. Campbell, Commissioner

Attest:

/s/ Julie Orchard
Commission Secretary

