

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

Questar Gas Company

)

Docket No. 02-057-02

PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
GARY L. ROBINSON
FOR QUESTAR GAS COMPANY

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. Gary L. Robinson, 180 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84111.

3 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

4 A. I am employed by Questar Gas Company (QGC or the Company) as a
5 Regulatory Affairs Specialist. My qualifications are detailed in Exhibit QGC 4.1.

6

7 **Q. Attached to your written testimony are also Exhibits QGC 4.2 through 4.7.
8 Were these prepared by you or under your direction?**

9 A. Yes.

10 **Q. What general areas will your testimony address?**

11 A. My testimony and exhibits will address (1) the 2001 year-end Results of
12 Operations Report (2001 Results) and (2) the calculation of the revenue deficiency for
13 the test year in this proceeding.

14 **Q. What test year is the Company using in this case?**

15 A. As explained in the Prepared Direct Testimony of Mr. Alan K. Allred (Exhibit
16 QGC 1.0), the test year is the 12-month period that will end on January 1, 2003. Thus,
17 the test year ends on the effective date when new rates established in this case are
18 most likely to become effective, if the case runs the maximum 240 days under Utah

1 law. Also, this test year is consistent with the section of the Utah Public Utility Code
2 that permits the Commission to consider “an appropriate future test period, not ex-
3 ceeding twelve months from the date of the filing.” We have adopted a future test
4 year that looks ahead from the filing date less than eight months.

5 **Q. What general approach have you taken to determine the test-year revenue**
6 **requirement and revenue deficiency?**

7 A. The foundation for the 2002 test year is the Company’s actual financial results
8 for the calendar year 2001. This is the information that is regularly provided the
9 Commission, the Division of Public Utilities (“Division”) and the Committee of
10 Consumer Services (“Committee”) in the Results of Operations Report at the end of
11 each year, that can be readily audited and analyzed. This gives the Commission and
12 the parties to the case a full calendar year’s actual information from which to compare
13 to the projected 2002 information which forms the test year necessary to establish
14 rates beginning in 2003 (the “rate-effective period”).

15 Beginning with the year 2001 recorded results, we first make adjustments to
16 reflect various regulatory treatments that have been required in past cases. This is the
17 information that is provided in the Results of Operations Report. From that adjusted
18 2001 information, we consider the “changes reasonably expected, but not speculative
19 in the utility’s revenues, expenses or investments,” as permitted under Utah Code
20 Ann. § 54-4-4(3). In general, we have done this by analyzing all of the elements that
21 determine the Company’s revenue requirement and identifying all the major changes
22 that are known or reasonably expected to occur through January 1, 2003.

23 Except for annual usage per customer, for which we have reliable data through
24 March 2002 and which I will discuss in more detail later, all other changes expected
25 to occur are measured relative to the actual 2001 data that forms the basis for the 2001
26 Results. This includes changes to rate base, depreciation, O&M expenses and
27 revenues, as well as the effects of other changes through the end of 2002, such as

1 known postage increases and tax-law changes.

2 Finally, I will discuss proposed changes to the treatment of several matters
3 that are the subject of prior Commission orders, but which QGC would like the
4 Commission to reconsider in light of today's regulatory and operational
5 environments.

6 **Q. What is your approach to rate base and the number of customers for the 2002**
7 **test year?**

8 A. To reflect the conditions that will be in place during the rate-effective period, I
9 have used a test-year-end 2002 rate base as well as the number of customers that are
10 reasonably expected to be on the system at the end of 2002.

11 .

12 **Q. In previous rate cases and Results of Operations Reports, the Company used**
13 **average rate base and average customers for the test year. Why have you**
14 **changed the approach?**

15 A. Because QGC's rate base is generally increasing due to the increasing number
16 of customers, the Company's investors should be permitted to earn a return on their
17 investment base as measured no later than the start of the rate-effective period,
18 January 1, 2003. To use average rate base for 2002 would effectively deny the
19 Company an opportunity to earn a return on a portion of its investment that will have
20 already been made by the time new rates become effective.

21 Similarly, because the steadily increasing number of customers produces other
22 increasing costs, the only fair way to reflect this effect is to identify the costs
23 associated with the number of customers at the end of the test year, not a number that
24 is six months out of date.

25 **Q. It has been suggested that average rate base is more appropriate because rate**
26 **base varies throughout the year. Do you agree?**

1 A. No. While I can agree that rate base varies somewhat seasonally throughout
2 the year, the important point is that it is constantly increasing when compared on a
3 year-earlier basis for any month throughout the year. Thus, rate base on January 1,
4 2003, will be significantly higher than on January 1, 2002, and the same is true for
5 February, March, and so on. Another way to look at it is that the 12-month moving
6 average of rate base is always increasing for QGC. Using an average rate base for
7 2002 would essentially put the Company's investors "behind the curve" by denying
8 them a return on incremental investment at the end of the test year.

9 **Q. Have you prepared a summary of the Company's 2001 Results and rate case**
10 **deficiency?**

11 A. Yes. Exhibit QGC 4.2 is such a summary. The top line of the exhibit presents
12 the annual revenue deficiency based on the fully adjusted Results of Operations as of
13 the end of 2001. As can be seen, after all the regulatory adjustments have been made,
14 the Company earned 9.81% on equity during 2001. This equates to a deficiency of
15 \$5,563,000, based on the currently authorized return on equity of 11%. Items 1-13 of
16 the exhibit present the comparative changes to the 2001 Results which are reflected in
17 the 2002 test-year results. Column B of the exhibit presents the revenue requirement
18 impact of each major change. For example, the impact on the test-year deficiency of
19 merging the former Utah Gas Service rate schedules into the GS-1 and F-1 schedules
20 (see item 1) is a decrease in distribution non-gas ("DNG") revenues that contributes
21 \$397,000 to the test year revenue deficiency. The total test-year deficiency of
22 **\$23,017,000** at the proposed return on equity of 12.6% is shown at line 16 of the
23 exhibit.

24 **RESULTS OF OPERATIONS**

25 **Q. Has the Company filed a semi-annual Results of Operations report through the**
26 **end of 2001?**

1 A. No separate filing of 2001 Results has been made prior to the filing of this rate
2 case. Instead, the required end-of-year 2001 Results are included in this rate-case
3 filing. Exhibits QGC 4.3 and 4.4 constitute what would have been filed had this case
4 not been prepared at the same time.

5 **Q. Please identify and explain Exhibit QGC 4.3.**

6 A. Exhibit QGC 4.3 is the standard form of financial data for the report for the 12
7 months ended December 31, 2001. This includes the actual year-end information
8 taken from the books and records of the Company in column B and the adjustments
9 in column C that reflect the treatment to the 2001 data required under previous Com-
10 mission orders and Commission-approved stipulations in Docket Nos. 93-057-01, 95-
11 057-02 and 99-057-20—the “regulatory adjustments.” With appropriate tax-related
12 adjustments, this produces the fully adjusted results for 2001 shown in columns E and
13 F of Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 1. Each of the adjustments will be explained later in my
14 testimony.

15 Lines 51-52 indicate the various returns on rate base and on equity. As I
16 mentioned, QGC’s return on equity for the year 2001 already completed was 9.81%.
17 This is 119 basis points below the 11.0% authorized by the Commission. As Mr.
18 Allred explains in more detail in his testimony, the constantly increasing customer
19 base will cause this return on equity to erode even further through this year and will
20 continue through the rate-effective period.

21 **Q. Please explain lines 1 through 7 of page 1, Exhibit QGC 4.3, “Utility Operating**
22 **Revenue.”**

23 A. The revenues received by the Company are separated by category. The DNG
24 revenues (line 2) and the general related other revenues (line 6) are the revenue
25 components reviewed in a general rate case. The supplier non-gas (“SNG”),
26 commodity and pass-through-related other revenues are related to gas costs and are

1 reviewed in the Company's semiannual pass-through rate cases. Utah DNG revenues
2 as adjusted for the 2001 Results total \$215,662,000, as shown on line 7, column F.

3 **Q. In Docket No. 99-057-20, the test-year revenues were based on updated degree-**
4 **day normals through 1999. Have you made a similar update in this case?**

5 A. Yes. All revenues in the 2001 Results and the test year have been based on
6 30-year normals that have been updated through the end of 2001.

7 **Q. Have you changed the methodology used to recognize bad debt in this case?**

8 A. Yes. In previous rate cases and reports, bad debt has been recognized as an
9 O&M expense, and the Commission has required the use of an average of the past
10 three years in calculating the allowed bad-debt expense. In this case bad debt is being
11 recognized as a reduction to expected revenues and the ratio of bad debt to total
12 revenues during 2001 is used to calculate the expenses for the 2001 Results and the
13 rate case.

14 Treating bad debt as a reduction to revenues is more consistent with accepted
15 accounting practice for recording and reporting it. During 2001, bad-debt expense
16 totaled 0.9% of total revenues billed for the year. In this case, whenever a revenue
17 calculation or adjustment is made, a corresponding adjustment to bad debt amounting
18 to 0.9% of the revenue change is included in the customer accounts area (line 19 of
19 Exhibit QGC 4.3). An adjustment to the 2001 Results is then required to remove bad-
20 debt expense from O&M expenses (Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 3, column 9).

21 In addition, in Docket No. 01-057-14, the Company proposed to account for
22 bad-debt expense related to SNG and commodity revenues in the 191 Account. This
23 was adopted on an interim basis by the Commission, subject to its final review. To
24 reflect this change, only the DNG portion of bad debt has been included in the
25 calculations of the 2001 Results and the test year. It should be noted that the test year
26 assumes continued collection of pass-through related bad-debt costs. Absent this, the

1 2001 Results and rate-case deficiencies would increase by \$3,046,000 to \$8,609,000
2 and \$26,063,000, respectively.

3 **Q. Why have you used the 2001 actual bad-debt amount rather than a three-year**
4 **average?**

5 A. Bad-debt expense has steadily and materially increased during the past three
6 years, and this trend is not expected to reverse itself. Utah experienced a record
7 number of individual bankruptcy filings in 2001, and that level is being exceeded so
8 far in 2002. Using a three-year average ignores these clear trends.

9 **Q. Have you calculated an amount of utility non-gas expenses and net income for**
10 **the Company for the year ended December 2001?**

11 A. Yes. System-wide adjusted utility non-gas expenses for the test year total
12 \$167,057,000. Lines 8 through 30 of page 1 of Exhibit QGC 4.3 is a summary that
13 shows the components making up the 2001 expenses. The net operating income of
14 \$48,700,000 on line 31, column F, is the calculated difference between the utility
15 operating revenues and the utility operating expenses

16 **Q. Please explain lines 32 through 40 of page 1 of Exhibit QGC 4.3, “Additions to**
17 **Rate Base.”**

18 A. Utility plant in service and plant held for future use (Accounts 101, 105, &
19 106) make up the gross plant in service for rate base purposes. Other items added to
20 rate base include Company investment in materials and supplies (Account 154), gas
21 stored underground (Account 164-1), prepayments (Account 165) and cash working
22 capital.

23 **Q. In Docket No. 99-057-20, the Company updated the lead-lag study through 1999**
24 **for use in calculating the required cash working capital allowance. Have you**

1 **made a similar update in this case?**

2 A. Yes. The lead-lag study was updated with 2001 actual data. The result of the
3 study provides a net lead of about 2.2 days, which is about 2.1 days more than the
4 days calculated in the stipulated lead-lag study provided in Docket No. 99-057-20.
5 The use of the updated study results in a test-year cash working capital requirement of
6 \$2,872,000 (line 39, column F).

7 **Q. Please explain lines 41 through 48 of page 1 of Exhibit QGC 4.3, “Deductions**
8 **From Rate Base.”**

9 A. The reserves for depreciation, depletion and amortization (Accounts 108 &
10 111) serve to reduce the gross utility plant balance. Other items that are normally
11 deductions from rate base are accounts that provide working capital such as customer
12 deposits and unclaimed customer deposits (Accounts 235-1 and 253-1), deferred
13 investment tax credits (Account 255) and accumulated deferred income taxes
14 (Account 282).

15 **Q. What is the rate base for year-end 2001?**

16 A. The system total year-end rate base for 2001 is \$568,559,000, as shown on
17 page 1 of Exhibit QGC 4.3, line 49, column E. The amount allocated to the Utah
18 jurisdiction is \$546,368,000, as shown in column F.

19
20 **Q. Please explain the imputed tax adjustment shown in Column D.**

21 A. As in the past, QGC has used the “Return Method” of calculating income
22 taxes for the test year. This method uses the Utah rate base shown on line 49, the
23 fully adjusted rate of return on rate base, the annualized weighted cost of debt at the
24 end of December 2001, and the combined state and federal corporate income tax rate
25 of 38.02%.

1 **Q. Have the methods used by the Company to calculate taxes or allocate expenses**
2 **and rate base to the Utah jurisdiction changed from previously filed rate cases**
3 **or Results of Operations Reports?**

4 A. No. Other than using year-end instead of average, the methodologies used in
5 this case have been approved by the Commission in several previous QGC cases.

6 **Q. Please explain the adjustments you made to the booked revenues, expenses and**
7 **rate base to arrive at your 2001 Results amounts.**

8 A. Column C of page 1 of Exhibit QGC 4.3 provides the total of all adjustments
9 made in the 2001 Results. Pages 2-5 of Exhibit QGC 4.3 provide individual
10 adjustment summaries and show how they equal the total shown in column C of page
11 1. Exhibit QGC 4.4 provides the detail for each adjustment. The following narrative
12 describes the rationale and methodology for each adjustment.

13 **2001 Temperature Adjusted Revenue**
14 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 2, column 1, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 1.**

15 The volumes for the 12 months ended December 31, 2001, have been temp-
16 erature-adjusted and annualized at year-end levels. The annualization was done for
17 the residential and commercial classes by using the year-end number of customers for
18 the entire year and the temperature-adjusted usage per customer. The industrial
19 volumes were annualized by moving customers to the rate class they were on during
20 December and then taking into account known major changes to individual industrial
21 customers, such as the shutdown of the Geneva steel plant and the changing operating
22 plans for the UP&L Gadsby plant. The resulting adjusted volumes were then billed at
23 the rates effective January 1, 2002, in Utah and Wyoming to arrive at the adjusted
24 tariff revenues in the 2001 Results. The temperature adjusting and billing followed
25 the formulas and models used for several years and which have been approved by the
26 Commission in the past several rate cases.

1 **Revenue – Oak City and Rate Schedules FT-1 and FT-2**
2 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 2, column 2, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, pages 2A to 2B.**

3 The Oak City adjustment of \$19,560, shown on column D of page 2A, is an
4 annualization of imputed revenue for Oak City. It is calculated by taking the latest
5 number of customers in the Oak City area (163) during December 2001 and
6 multiplying that amount by \$120. This is to correct for a miscommunication that
7 occurred during the pre-service canvass of this area. The canvass was conducted with
8 an extension area charge (EAC) of \$10 less per month than was appropriate. The
9 Company agreed to run the system at the EAC communicated during the canvass and
10 impute the difference in revenues for recovery in future rate proceedings. This
11 treatment was approved in Docket No. 98-057-04.

12 The Utah Rate Schedules FT-1 and FT-2 minimum-bill adjustments, shown in
13 column B of page 2B, recognizes \$238,000 of minimum bills paid by Utah
14 transportation customers during 2001 that are not included in the calculated revenues
15 (see line 3).

16 **Average Rate Base**
17 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 2, column 3, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 3.**

18 The year-end amounts for Accounts 154, 165, 235 and 253 have been
19 adjusted to 13-month averages for purposes of the 2001 Results. These accounts are
20 calculated as averages because they are seasonal in nature, and the year-end amounts
21 are not reflective of the on-going balances in those accounts.

22 **Wexpro Plant**
23 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 2, column 4, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 4.**

24 This reduction to rate base of \$1,307,000 arises from the October 14, 1981
25 Wexpro Agreement, approved by the Utah and Wyoming Public Service
26 Commissions. The Wexpro Agreement describes the approved methods for operating
27 and determining costs and rates related to certain oil- and gas-producing properties

1 owned by QGC, but operated by Wexpro Company, a production affiliate of the
2 Company for over 20 years.

3 Section 5(b) of Exhibit E of the Wexpro Agreement requires that the pro-
4 duction plant component in each QGC rate base plant account be reduced by 6.3%.
5 As required by the Wexpro Agreement, the amount reduced is added to Wexpro's rate
6 base when calculating the Wexpro service fee charged to QGC.

7 **Underground Storage**
8 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 2, column 5, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 5.**

9 The order in Docket No. 93-057-01, prescribed that Account 164.1, Gas
10 Stored Underground - Current, was to be accounted for in QGC's pass-through cases
11 and excluded in calculating test-year rate base. This is accomplished by allowing a
12 return on the actual average balance in this account to be entered as a gas cost. The
13 adjustment of \$22,810,000 is to remove the year-end balance of Account 164 from the
14 rate base calculation in this case.

15 **Banked Vacation**
16 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 2, column 6, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 6.**

17 QGC's employees are allowed to accrue up to one year's worth of allowed
18 vacation and carry it forward until it is used. Because the allowed vacation in each
19 year is included in the labor overhead of that year, the carried-over or "banked"
20 vacation represents a benefit that has been earned by employees but which has not yet
21 been paid to them. The order in Docket No. 93-057-01 included an adjustment that
22 reduced the rate base amount by the average banked vacation balance. The
23 adjustment of \$779,000 in this case is to remove the year-end banked vacation
24 balance for the period ended December 31, 2001, from rate base.

25 **Sale of property**
26 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 2, column 7, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 7.**

1 During 2001 the Company sold two pieces of property that had been included
2 in the Utah portion of Account 105, property held for future use. As of the end of
3 2001, the sale of this property had not been reflected in the balance of Account 105.
4 This adjustment removes \$372,000 from the year-end Account 105 balance.

5 **Labor Annualization**
6 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 3, column 8, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 8.**

7 The QGC compensation plan specifies that merit increases for employees will
8 be effective on September 1 of each year. Consistent with the methodology approved
9 by the Commission in several previous rate cases, this increased labor cost has been
10 annualized to reflect the increase over a full year. In this case, the number of
11 employees and the average wage cost per employee as of December 2001 are
12 annualized.

13 Included in the labor annualization calculation is a capitalization ratio, which
14 is a measure of the portion of labor and overhead costs that are capitalized and not
15 currently expensed. Consistent with the order in Docket No. 93-057-01, the Company
16 uses a five-year average of this ratio for ratemaking and for stating 2001 Results. For
17 the five years ending December 2001, an average of 82.72% of labor expenses has
18 been charged to O&M expenses.

19 The total adjustment to the 2001 system labor and overhead costs is an
20 increase of \$3,505,000.

21 **Bad Debt**
22 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 3, column 9, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 9.**

23 As explained earlier, the accrual for bad debt is reflected as a reduction to the
24 revenue adjustments rather than as an O&M expense. This adjustment removes the
25 total bad-debt expense recorded during 2001 related to gas costs. This is done by
26 applying the average bad-debt ratio during 2001 of 0.9% to the system DNG revenues
27 for the year, which equals \$1,922,000. The difference between this and the total

1 accrued 2001 bad-debt expense of \$6,464,000 is the SNG and commodity-related bad
2 debt of \$4,541,000 that is removed in this adjustment.

3 **Questar Energy Services (“QES”)**
4 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 3, column 10, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 10.**

5 The 2001 *Distrigas* allocation used to allocate Questar Regulated Services
6 (“QRS”) expenses among the subsidiaries of QRS did not include an allocation to
7 QES. This adjustment reflects that \$339,000 of QRS expenses should have been
8 allocated to QES during 2001. Of this total, \$219,000 is moved from QGC.

9 **Gas Technology Institute (GTI)**
10 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 3, column 11 and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 11.**

11 Traditionally, QGC has supported industry-wide research and development
12 (R&D) efforts through payment of a FERC-approved charge included in interstate
13 pipeline rates. This charge is used to fund the industry-wide R&D. In Docket No.
14 99-057-20, the Commission approved the transfer of the GTI funding from the SNG
15 portion of rates to the DNG portion through a series of annual adjustments made in
16 the pass-through rate cases. The total amount that had been transferred through 2001
17 was \$892,000. In the rates that became effective January 1, 2002, an additional
18 \$298,000 was transferred to the DNG portion of rates. This adjustment is necessary
19 to match the GTI related expenses with the temperature adjusted revenues.

20 **Y2K Costs**
21 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 3, column 12, and Exhibit QGC 4.4 page 12.**

22 During 1999 and 2000, QGC incurred charges from Questar InfoComm (QIC)
23 for projects related to Y2K preparation and program modifications. As a part of the
24 stipulation approved in Docket No. 99-057-20, the Company agreed to amortize these
25 Y2K expenses over a three-year period. The amount incurred during 1999 was
26 \$1,450,000. The three-year amortization of this amount is \$483,000 per year. The

1 amount incurred during 2000 was \$190,000. The three-year amortization of this
2 amount is \$63,000 per year. The combined annual amortization amount for Y2K
3 expenses for 2001 is \$546,000. There were no new Y2K expenses charged during
4 2001.

5 **Affiliate Rate of Return**
6 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 3, column 13, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, pages 13A to 13D.**

7 A reduction to O&M expenses is necessary because Questar Corporation, QIC
8 and QRS calculate the charges to affiliates on a higher return on equity than is
9 allowed for QGC. These charges are reflected in the actual QGC expenses included
10 in the unadjusted 2001 amounts, but a portion is excluded from test-year data. This
11 adjustment reduces O&M expenses by \$2,629,000 and is based on QGC's currently
12 allowed 11.0% return on equity.

13
14 **CO₂ Processing Costs**
15 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 3, column 14, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 14.**

16 In a Commission-approved stipulation in Docket No. 99-057-20, QGC was
17 allowed to include up to \$5,000,000 of CO₂ processing costs in results of operations
18 and rate cases for five years. This adjustment removes \$2,862,000, which is the
19 incremental difference between the actual costs incurred during 2001 of \$7,862,000
20 and the \$5,000,000 allowed under the stipulation.

21 **Phantom Stock**
22 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 4, column 15, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, pages 15A to 15C.**

23 Consistent with the Commission order in Docket 93-057-01, an adjustment
24 has been made to remove the effects of mark-to-market entries related to stock
25 options that have yet to be exercised. In accordance with Generally Accepted
26 Accounting Principles (GAAP), the Company is required to make these non-cash
27 expense entries on a quarterly basis. For the 12 months ending December 2001, the

1 total of the entries was a reduction to expenses of \$591,000, which is removed by the
2 adjustment.

3 **Advertising**
4 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 4, col. 16, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, pages 16A and 16B.**

5 In Docket 93-057-01, the Commission prescribed the types of advertising
6 costs that are recoverable in rates. In that case, advertising expenses were divided
7 into four categories: institutional, financial, promotional and informational. On
8 pages 56-65 of the Commission's Report and Order, the various types of advertising
9 were discussed. It was ordered that institutional advertising should not be recovered,
10 but that financial advertising, if modest in amount, would be allowed. It was also
11 determined that promotional advertising that attempts to increase sales of natural gas
12 through co-op advertising, lobby displays, Parade of Homes displays or economic
13 development programs are not in the public interest and should not be recovered. An
14 exception was made with regard to public-interest advertising, and an inclusion of
15 \$100,000 per year of advertising in this area was approved. Finally, the Commission
16 ruled that costs of informational advertising, such as the Blue Stakes, Equal Payment
17 Plan and the Fall Furnace Preparation campaigns, are fully recoverable.

18 In addition to regular advertising expenses, charges that are included in this
19 adjustment are customer research expenses (Exhibit 4.4, page 16A, line 6) and AGA
20 dues (line 10). These expenses cover the costs of customer focus groups, customer
21 satisfaction surveys and dues to the AGA to cover industry research and training.
22 AGA dues related to lobbying efforts, which make up about 2% of the total, are
23 removed.

24 Following the guidelines of the Commission in the 1993 order, the adjustment
25 decreases advertising and related expenses by \$1,106,000 (Exhibit QGC 4.4, page
26 16A, column F, line 11).

1 **Donations and Memberships**
2 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 4, column 17, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, pages 17A to 17C.**

3 Adjustments totaling \$73,000 have been made to remove allocated expenses
4 from Questar Corporation to QGC for donations, lobbying, political activities, and
5 memberships and for industry associations during the 12 months ended December
6 2001. This adjustment also includes costs that were assessed indirectly through QRS.

7 Economic development expenses that were included in this adjustment as
8 ordered in Docket No. 93-057-01 have not been removed. QGC believes that
9 reasonable expenses incurred for economic development that contribute to the overall
10 favorable economic climate of the state should be recoverable in rates. For example,
11 membership fees to homebuilders associations, as well as expenses for the Governor's
12 Economic Development Conference and the Economic Development Corporation of
13 Utah are reasonable expenses of doing business that should be recovered. QGC's
14 support of these economic development efforts is essential to the continued growth
15 and vitality of the state of Utah, and the related costs are necessary and expected of
16 QGC as a corporate citizen. Many commissions around the country have ordered
17 distribution companies to implement special economic development rates. If QGC
18 discontinues its support of economic development in Utah due to the lack recovery of
19 these expenditures in rates, Utah's competitive position to attract business may be
20 weakened.

21 **State Tax Adjustment**
22 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 4, column 18, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 18.**

23 This adjustment removes an incremental tax allocated to QGC as a result of
24 Questar Corporation's consolidated Utah tax return and decreases QGC expense by
25 \$249,000. For state income tax purpose, the Utah portion of consolidated business
26 income is computed based upon the ratio of assets, payroll and total sales in Utah to
27 the total of the consolidated company, including affiliates. This adjustment prevents
28 customers from paying additional taxes due to affiliate earnings.

1 **Reserve Accrual**
2 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 4, column 19, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 19.**

3 In Docket 99-057-20, the Commission approved an increase in the Company's
4 self-insurance program of \$176,000 to cover claims that are not covered by insurance
5 because of the Company's self-insured retention. Although such claims do not occur
6 every year, this adjustment provides the Company the ability to properly accrue for
7 these claims.

8 **Incentive Compensation Plans**
9 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 4, column 20, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, pages 20A to 20C.**

10 In accordance with previous Commission orders, QGC has removed, for
11 ratemaking purposes, incentive compensation expenses related to financial goals that
12 were either paid directly by QGC or allocated from Questar Corporation and QRS for
13 incentive payouts.

14 During 2001, the total payout by Questar Corporation for the Annual
15 Management Incentive Plan (AMIP) and employee plans was \$1,253,000. Of this
16 total, \$124,000 was related to operating goals. The remaining \$1,129,000 was related
17 to financial goals. The portion of this amount allocated directly or indirectly to QGC
18 was \$559,000 and is the amount removed through this adjustment (Exhibit QGC 4.4,
19 page 20B, column D, line 24).

20 The payouts for the QGC AMIP and the Performance Incentive Plan for
21 Employees (PIPE) are broken out between financial goals and operating goals. Line 4
22 of page 20C shows the 2001 payout for the AMIP operating goals, and line 8 shows
23 the percentage PIPE payout for the operating goals. The PIPE percentage payout was
24 then multiplied by the 2001 QGC payroll base (QGC's plus the QRS portion allocated
25 to QGC, line 15), to arrive at an adjusted 2001 Results PIPE payout of \$1,738,000.
26 This total is then increased on line 18 for overheads of 19.45% which is the overhead
27 rate stipulated to in previous rate cases. Line 19 shows the test year total for both
28 plans of \$2,076,000.

1 Each month, an accrual is made to expenses in Account 921 for the incentive
2 plan payouts. To calculate this adjustment, the \$2,076,000 calculated above is
3 compared with the actual accruals for the 12 months ended December 2001 of
4 \$2,466,000. The total adjustment needed to reduce the incentive payouts for QGC in
5 2001 is the difference between these two amounts of \$390,000. The total adjustment
6 for Questar Gas, and the allocated portions of Questar Corporation and QRS for
7 incentive payouts is \$949,000.

8 **Event Tickets**
9 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 4, column 21, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 21.**

10 For the 12 months ended December 2001, \$48,681 was expensed by Questar
11 Corporation for tickets to Jazz, Stingers and Grizz games at the Delta Center, Franklin
12 Quest Field and the E Center. During this period, 45.25% of the tickets were used in
13 a QGC employee-recognition plan. That is, those employees who had performed in
14 an exemplary manner were awarded tickets to the games. The remaining tickets were
15 used for marketing or other purposes. Pursuant to a stipulation in Docket No. 99-057-
16 20, the portion of these expenses related to employee recognition have been allowed
17 in rates. This adjustment, therefore, removes the 54.75% used for other purposes.
18 The adjustment includes costs that were charged directly to QGC from Questar
19 Corporation or indirectly through QRS or QIC. The total amount removed is
20 \$19,000.

21 **O&M Allocation**
22 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 5, column 22, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 22.**

23 The transfer of employees from Wyoming and the consolidation of several
24 functions that serve both jurisdictions resulted in a portion of QGC expenses that have
25 been allocated to Utah that should have been shared between the jurisdictions. This
26 adjustment transfers \$759,000 of expenses from the Utah jurisdictional expenses to
27 Wyoming. Since the transfer does not affect the system total expenses, there is no

1 amount shown in Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 4, column 22 (which only shows system
2 amounts).

3 **Affiliate Postage Usage**
4 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 5, column 23, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 23.**

5 In Docket No. 99-057-20, the Commission ordered the Company to reduce
6 postage expense for flyers that were included in the bills sent to customers by
7 affiliates or that were not associated with the regulatory business of QGC. The
8 adjustment also included removal of costs for articles in the *GasLight News* that were
9 related to corporate image building or promotional statements. During 2001, no such
10 articles appeared in the *GasLight News*. However, the Company included flyers
11 related to the Olympics and one promotional flyer prepared by QES that was planned
12 prior to the order in that case. The charging for bill inserts caused this type of
13 advertising to be too expensive, and additional flyers have not been sent. In any case,
14 future QES flyers included in mailings to QGC customers would include the
15 appropriate postage charge. This adjustment uses the methodology approved by the
16 Commission in 99-057-02 to adjust 2001 postage expenses by \$313,000.

17 **Annualization of Depreciation Expense**
18 **Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 5, column 24, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 24.**

19 As explained earlier, the Company has used year-end rate base in presenting
20 the 2001 Results. This adjustment of \$2,577,000 annualizes the depreciation expense
21 to match the year-end plant.

22 **THE 2002 TEST YEAR — COMPARISON TO 2001 RESULTS**

23 **Q. From the 2001 Results discussion and explanation that you have just given, how**
24 **have you determined the annual revenue deficiency for the test year ending**
25 **January 1, 2003?**

1 A. As I explained earlier in my testimony, from that adjusted 2001 information,
2 we have considered the changes in the utility's revenues, expenses and investments
3 that are known or reasonably expected through January 1, 2003, as permitted under
4 the Utah Public Utility Code.

5
6 **Q. Have you prepared a summary of the test-year calculations?**

7 A. Yes. Exhibit QGC 4.5 uses the same format presented in Exhibit QGC 4.3,
8 with the exception that column B is extracted from Exhibit QGC 4.3, column E.
9 Columns C and D in Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 1, then show the summary of changes
10 from the 2001 Results that are reflected in the test-year calculations. Page 4 of
11 Exhibit QGC 4.5 presents the imputed tax calculation as shown in column D.
12 Column G calculates the test-year revenue deficiency by comparing the adjusted net
13 operating income (column F, line 31) with the imputed net operating income (column
14 H, line 31) using the Utah jurisdictional adjusted rate base (column H, line 49) and
15 the return on equity recommended by Prof. Williamson of 12.6% (column H, line 52).
16 The resulting deficiency shown in column G, line 31 of \$14,136,000 is then grossed-
17 up for taxes (line 26) and bad debt (line 19) to arrive at the test-year revenue
18 deficiency of \$23,017,000 (column G, line 2)

19 **Q. Please explain the changes in the fully adjusted 2001 Results revenue, expense**
20 **and rate base accounts that you expect to occur and that are included in the 2002**
21 **test year values.**

22 A. Column C, page 1, of Exhibit QGC 4.5 provides the total of all material
23 changes in the test year from the 2001 Results. Pages 2-3 of Exhibit QGC 4.5 provide
24 individual summaries and show how they add up to the total shown in column C of
25 page 1. Exhibit QGC 4.6 provides the detail of these changes. The following
26 narrative describes the rationale and methodology for these reasonably expected
27 changes which we project will occur in the 2002 test year.

1 **Utah Gas Service Merger—Rate Schedules GSE and F1E**
2 **Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 2, column 1, and Exhibit QGC 4.6, page 1.**

3 In 2001, QGC purchased the Utah Gas Service system located in eastern Utah.
4 The Commission approved a stipulation agreed upon by the Company, the Division
5 and the Committee regarding the purchase of the system and the subsequent
6 regulatory treatment. One of the provisions agreed to was that the former Utah Gas
7 Service customers would continue to pay the DNG rates in effect for Utah Gas
8 Service prior to the purchase. These higher DNG rates would only continue until
9 QGC filed a general rate case, unless a case could be made for these customers to
10 continue paying a higher rate compared to QGC's other customers. In this
11 adjustment, the former Utah Gas Service customers now served under the GSE and
12 F1E rate schedules are merged into the GS-1 and F-1 schedules, respectively. The
13 impact of this change is to decrease the DNG revenues collected from these customers
14 by \$491,000.

15 **New Customers**
16 **Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 2, column 2, and Exhibit QGC 4.6, pages 2A to 2C.**

17 During 2002, QGC expects to add 18,500 Utah customers. The impact of
18 these new customers must be reflected in the revenues, expenses and rate base at the
19 end of the test year. Page 2A shows that the impact on DNG revenues when these
20 18,500 new customers are annualized for all of 2002 is an increase of \$5,020,000.

21 On the other side of the equation, expenses also increase with the addition of
22 new customers. Page 2B summarizes the applicable expense increases. In addition,
23 specific incremental expenses arise due to these new customers. That is, in order to
24 maintain the current level of customer service and provide for these additional
25 customers, a total of 12 operating employees are needed. Page 2C provides the detail
26 of where the employees will be added and calculates the annual expense related to
27 these additional employees of \$458,000 (Exhibit QGC 4.6, page 2C, column E, line
28 5). Depreciation expense associated with the increase of \$54.6 million in plant (page

1 2B, line 1) is increased by \$1,639,000 (line 2). This reflects annual depreciation at
2 3% that will be related to the new plant. Property taxes will also increase with the
3 addition of plant. This increase is estimated using the average property tax as a
4 percent of net plant, applied to the \$54.6 million increase in plant.

5 Page 2B also summarizes the changes to rate base related to the new
6 customers. The portion of the 2002 capital budget (\$81.9 million) related to new
7 customers, including the additions to customer mains, customer service lines, meters,
8 regulators, feeder lines, main lines, compression stations and measuring stations totals
9 \$54,638,000. The addition to Accumulated Depreciation of \$1,639,000 equals the
10 depreciation expense increase calculated above. The increase to Accumulated
11 Deferred Income Tax of \$5,845,000 is calculated by taking the difference between the
12 book depreciation shown here and the maximum tax depreciation available under the
13 IRS guidelines. This increase takes into account the bonus tax depreciation of 30%
14 allowed for plant added after September 11, 2001.

15 **Usage Per Customer**
16 **Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 2, column 3, and Exhibit QGC 4.6, page 3A and 3B.**

17 As was pointed out by Mr. Allred, the increase in revenue from an increasing
18 number of customers is offset by a continuing decline in the average usage per
19 customer. Page 3A summarizes the impact on DNG revenues of \$4,038,000 when the
20 2002 expected usage per customer is included in the revenue calculation. Usage per
21 customer is one of the most important variables that determines the Company's
22 annual revenues and revenue requirement. Page 3B (which is the same as Exhibit
23 QGC 1.1 accompanying Mr. Allred's testimony) shows the steadily declining usage
24 per customer that has occurred over the past 20 years on QGC's system. This decline
25 results partly from the installation of more efficient gas appliances over these years
26 and the higher awareness of the importance of proper insulation in homes and
27 commercial buildings—both in new construction and in upgrading existing buildings.

1 Because revenues to be collected in the rate-effective period are primarily
2 determined by the average usage per customer, it is important to reflect as accurately
3 as possible what this number will be during the rate-effective period.

4 Actual usage-per-customer data through March 2002 has been determined and
5 incorporated with the historical information reported through the end of 2001. This
6 information was then projected through the end of the 2002 test year to arrive at an
7 average usage per customer of 116.16 Dth per year to be used for determining the
8 revenue deficiency. This usage per customer includes the effect of updating the
9 normal degree days for the 30-year period ending 2001 and the merging of the GSE
10 and the GS-1 rate schedules. This accounts for the slight differences from the figures
11 used by Mr. Allred.

12 **Other Rate Base**
13 **Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 2, column 4 and Exhibit QGC 4.6 page 4.**

14 In addition to the change in rate base resulting from the increase in the number
15 of customers shown in Exhibit 4.5, column 2, other changes will occur in the rate
16 base accounts during 2002. First of all, the remaining capital budget not directly
17 related to customer additions will be closed to plant. This increases the plant
18 accounts by \$27,212,000. As explained above, additions to plant also result in
19 increases to depreciation expense, accumulated depreciation and accumulated
20 deferred income taxes. These changes are shown on page 4 of Exhibit QGC 4.6.

21 In addition to the increase in accumulated depreciation related to the new
22 plant, the depreciation on all existing plant increases this account. Including all
23 reasonably expected depreciation during 2002 in the calculation results in an increase
24 in this account of \$29,529,000. The depreciation expense related to existing plant
25 was shown in the 2001 Results.

26 **Credit Card Fees**
27 **Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 2, column 5, and Exhibit QGC 4.6, page 5.**

1 In April of 2002, QGC entered into an agreement with NCO Financial
2 Systems, Inc. (NCO) to provide a credit card payment option to customers.
3 Customers requesting to pay their bills by credit card will be provided this service by
4 NCO. NCO will bill the customer directly for this service. QGC will no longer incur
5 credit card expenses. Customers were informed of this change in a bill insert sent
6 with April billings. The \$321,000 of credit card expenses have been removed from
7 the test year in comparison to the 2001 Results.

8 **Labor Annualization**
9 **Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 2, column 6, and Exhibit QGC 4.6, page 6.**

10 Consistent with the previous labor annualization, the expected labor costs as
11 of December 2002 are used to create a labor annualization adjustment for the test
12 year. The goal of this adjustment is to reflect in the test year the labor and overhead
13 costs for the Company during the rate-effective period. An increase in labor cost of
14 \$1,816,000 annualizes the effect of a reasonably expected average merit increase of
15 4.0% that will take place on September 1, 2002. This amount also includes the
16 addition of two QGC and QGC's allocation of three QRS administrative employees
17 and 12 operating employees as discussed by Mr. Jibson.

18 **Contributions In Aid of Construction (CIAC)**
19 **Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 2, column 7 and Exhibit QGC 4.6, page 7.**

20 A recent review of Company procedures indicated that some areas of the main
21 and service-line extension policy were being inconsistently applied. Consistent
22 application of current tariff provisions is reasonably expected to increase CIAC by
23 \$1,620,000. Under the current practice of recording CIAC as revenues, these
24 adjustments have been added to system other revenues. In his testimony, Barrie L.
25 McKay proposes to change the accounting of CIAC to a reduction in rate base. Until
26 that proposal has been approved, these amounts are properly reflected in the revenue
27 area.

1 **Property Insurance**
2 **Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 3, column 8, and Exhibit QGC 4.6, page 8.**

3 The Company is experiencing dramatic increases in property insurance rates,
4 particularly since September 11, 2001. \$419,000 has been included in the 2002 test
5 year and is an annualization of the reasonably expected increases in insurance costs
6 for the test year.

7 **2002 Postage Rate Increase**
8 **Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 3, column 9, and Exhibit QGC 4.6, page 9.**

9 A postage rate increase has been approved that will be effective on June 30,
10 2002. \$540,000 reflects the impact of this increase. This amount was calculated by
11 applying the new postage rates to the total postage charges for the Company during
12 2001 by category and represents what is reasonably expected to occur on an
13 annualized basis during the 2002 test year.

14 **IRC Section 29 Tax Credits**
15 **Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 3, column 10, and Exhibit QGC 4.6, page 10.**

16 Under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 29, producers of gas can
17 currently qualify for income tax credits that are related to production of gas from
18 wells classified in “tight sands” formations. These credits cease at the end of 2002.
19 Because these credits will not be available during the rate-effective period, they have
20 been removed from the test-year tax calculation. Under certain provisions of
21 currently proposed tax law, some tight sands credits may be available in the future.
22 Should the tax laws change, QGC will update this calculation to reflect the
23 continuation of any relevant credits. The \$1,735,000 has been removed from 2002
24 test-year revenues in comparison to the 2001 Results because of this tax-law change.

25 **Y2K Cost Amortization**
26 **Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 3, column 11, and Exhibit QGC 4.6, page 11.**

1 In the 2001 Results, an adjustment was made to include an amortization of
2 Y2K expenses that was approved in Docket 99-057-20 (see Exhibit QGC 4.3, page 3,
3 column 12, and Exhibit QGC 4.4, page 12). The amortization approved in that case
4 was for three years, which will end in 2002. Even though these costs will continue to
5 be amortized through the end of 2002, they will have ceased by the time rates become
6 effective in 2003. Therefore, the \$546,000 of amortization expense added in the
7 original 2001 Results is removed from the test year.

8 ***Distrigas* Allocation**
9 **Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 3, column 12, and Exhibit QGC 4.6, page 12.**

10 The *Distrigas* allocation methodology is used to allocate some of Questar
11 Corporation's charges among its various subsidiaries. Many of these are charged
12 directly to the affiliates where there is a direct connection between the affiliate and the
13 expense. The *Distrigas* formula is used to allocate other corporate expenses. The
14 expense allocation percentages are calculated at the end of each year for use in the
15 following year. For example, the allocation percentages based on 2001 data are being
16 used during 2002. An annualization is necessary to reflect using the current *Distrigas*
17 allocation percentages for the test year. This is done by adjusting the total Questar
18 Corporation charges to affiliates that are allocated based on the *Distrigas* allocation
19 during 2001 using the 2002 allocation percentages. Part of the reason for the decrease
20 in the QGC allocation percentage is the recent acquisition of Shenendoah Energy Inc.
21 (SEI), a gas-producing company purchased by Questar Market Resources during
22 2001. During part of 2001, SEI was not included in the *Distrigas* calculation, but has
23 been included in the allocations used during 2002. The total impact of this
24 adjustment is to reduce QGC expenses by \$463,000.

25 **Q. Are there any other adjustments that were ordered in Docket No. 93-057-01,**
26 **stipulated to in Docket No. 99-057-20, or for things that will materially effect the**

1 **rate-effective period that you have not included in this case?**

2 A. No. To the best of my knowledge, the Company has made a comprehensive
3 examination of previous Commission orders and of all of the Company's revenue,
4 expense and rate base accounts and has included all material changes that are
5 reasonably expected to occur in preparing the 2002 test year data, including all the
6 related expenses or revenue and rate base accounts that are also affected.

7 **Q. What is the capital structure and overall rate of return being used for the test**
8 **year?**

9 A. The long-term debt and equity positions of the Company as of December 2001
10 have been adjusted to annualize the effects of issuing \$60,000,000 of long-term debt
11 and \$40,000,000 of capital stock during the 4th quarter of 2001. This capital structure
12 is not expected to materially change in 2002 nor the rate-effective period. Exhibit
13 QGC 4.7 presents the unadjusted capital structure at year-end 2001 with the currently
14 allowed return on equity of 11% and the capital structure used in the test year. The
15 equity ratio used in this filing is 52.61%, as shown on line 5, column B. The
16 requested return on equity is 12.6% as shown on line 5, column C, and the overall
17 cost of capital of 10.38% is shown on line 6, column D.

18 **Q. At current rates, what would the expected rate of return on equity for QGC be**
19 **for its Utah operations in the test year?**

20 A. Exhibit QGC 4.5, page 1, line 52, column F presents this calculation. The
21 exhibit shows that for the test year the Utah operations of the Company would be
22 expected to earn **7.84%** on common equity during the rate-effective period absent rate
23 relief in this docket.

24

RATE-CASE MODEL

1 **Q. In previous QGC rate cases, the Company has also filed a computerized model**
2 **that is used to support the semi-annual Results of Operations and the test year**
3 **calculations. Has the Company used this model in filing this case?**

4 A. Yes. The model has been updated since Docket No. 99-057-20 and has been
5 converted to Microsoft Excel. A copy of this model will be forwarded to participants.

6 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

7 A. Yes it does.