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UTAH PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION

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From: David M Johnson

RECEIVED

January 8, 2009

RE: "DOCKET NO. 07-057-13 - In the Matter of the Application of Questar Gas Company to Increase Distribution Non-Gas Rates and Charges to Make Tariff Modifications. As Filed by the Commission on Monday, December 22, 2008

Dear Commissioners:

Pursuant to Utah Code § 63-46b-12, an aggrieved party may file, within 30 days after the date of this Report and Order, a written request for rehearing or reconsideration by the Commission.

I am an aggrieved party. I buy the gas that heats my home from Questar. I also buy the gas that runs my Natural Gas Vehicle (NGV) from Questar. I have NO alternative. Where else am I going to get it? It is a monopoly. I can't buy it anywhere else. Yet, your ruling says that I now have to pay the highest possible rate for CNG for my car - even though I am a rate payer with Questar.

You don't charge extra for people who heat large houses! They can use fuel any way they see fit. You don't charge extra for people that have drafty houses! They can have huge drafts coming in under doors or through windows and not pay extra. You don't charge extra if they set their thermostats at 72 degrees all winter long. You don't charge extra if their furnace is so ancient that it is only 52% efficient.

But you penalize me if I decide to run my car or truck on CNG. You charge me a rate that has nothing to do with Questar's actual cost of fuel. You want to charge me the highest possible cost.

You penalize me if I reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Because of your ruling, I don't get the benefit of WEXPRO gas, even though I'm a rate-payer. Just because I use some fuel in my NGV.

You penalize me if I spend MY HARD EARNED money to buy a car or truck that has exhaust that is cleaner than the air it sucks in on bad air days.

Every Questar rate payer benefits by the cleaner air I make (or the filth I prevent).  
Every Questar rate payer gets benefit by reducing our dependence on foreign oil.  
Every Questar rate payer gets the benefit of ME spending MY HARD EARNED MONEY ON A VEHICLE THAT SOLVES PROBLEMS.

Fact is EVERY PERSON IN UTAH benefits because the air is a tiny bit cleaner. Yet you have the unbridled gall, the temerity - to publish a ruling that tells me that I don't deserve the benefit of getting fuel at the same rate I pay when I heat my home?

I am angry. This Isn't fair.

This ruling is NOT well thought through. It must be revisited and revised. If you are actually concerned that some guy from Las Vegas might, occasionally buy CNG at the Top Stop in Park City... well, it defies all logic. But if you actually thought that was a good argument, have them produce a card that shows they are a Questar rate payer. Or, show a bill from Questar, each time they fill up.

Wait. That sounds silly too. To prevent one person out of 1000 from getting an inexpensive fuel you want to have 999 do what? How much will that cost Questar to verify?

Your December 22, 2008 ruling flies in the face of all that is right. It was slipped in just before the holidays - when no one is paying attention. It not only fails to protect the public - it harms them. All it does is pave the way for Questar to charge higher rates at my expense. All it does it make it less likely that any private company will EVER put together private filling stations - because Questar will charge that entity nearly twice the going rate for the gas they will sell. You fatten Questar's bottom line and charge me twice the going rate for NGV fuel (even though I am a rate payer who has helped pay the cost of WEXPRO development).

All your ruling guarantees is that alternative fuels will become a less viable means of fueling a vehicle because your ruling unfairly TAXES me for doing what Governor Huntsman asked me to do.

The Governor urged the people of Utah to shift to cleaner fuels. He wants cleaner air, I take the plunge and what to I get? Shot in the back!

The logic you use in your ruling is flawed. The vast majority of people buying CNG for their NGV are in fact RATE PAYERS who deserve to pay Questar's cost including the WEXPRO fuels. They do not deserve to pay just the higher part that MAY at some point come from a non-Questar well.

I pray you revisit your findings and revise your ruling to treat rate payers equally. What you are doing is totally and completely unfair. It is bad for the public and bad for Utah and unfair to rate payers.

Respectfully submitted

Dave Johnson