

Utah Public Service Commission
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UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

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J. Todd Walker

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January 9, 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'm an aggrieved party requesting a rehearing. I'm also a Questar customer who uses natural gas to heat my home, warm my water, AND run my vehicle. It is my understanding that Natural Gas for Vehicles will no longer be considered "traditional" under 08-057-13 and will be charged a rate based on international, not local market prices.

Before finalizing this ruling I ask you to consider the following four points.

1) **Re-Examine "Traditional" Use:** There are tens of thousands of Natural Gas Vehicles in use throughout the country, including large fleets owned by government entities. NGV's may be a minority, but burning natural gas as a fuel is common.

2) **Support Clean Air:** Natural Gas Vehicles produce significantly less air pollution than similar unleaded (and even gas/electric hybrid) vehicles of the same class. Utah needs cleaner air and helping to improve air quality is a Public Service.

3) **Encourage Energy Independence:** Natural Gas is plentiful and relatively inexpensive in Utah. Most importantly, Natural Gas is domestically produced. Dependence on foreign oil is not in the best interest of our country nor our state. Steps should be taken to encourage the use of Natural Gas as a fuel for vehicles.

4) **Consider "Cost Plus" Pricing:** When I fill up at a Natural Gas pump, I see and hear the huge compressors that make it possible for me to use Compressed Natural Gas. There is a cost associated with compressing natural gas. Opening up pricing to "international markets" is not the right action to take. Require that Questar do their homework. Have Questar submit a "cost

plus” plan based on the local (WEXPRO) fuel cost plus the cost of pumps and maintenance. I am willing to pay a “real cost” for my fuel. Not an artificially high cost based on international markets.

I purchased my bi-fuel Natural Gas Vehicle one year ago when I began commuting to Salt Lake for work. I usually fill up at the Questar plant on 200 South in Salt Lake City. When I first began going to the pumps, I would rarely see another NGV at the pumps. Now I almost always see other vehicles and have had to wait in lines. The cost of purchasing Natural Gas Vehicles has gone up as demand has increased. This is a good thing. It has helped to stimulate the economy while improving air quality. In addition, it has helped families like mine save on the cost of commuting to work.

I am an elected lawmaker. I am one of five council members in Pleasant View City. There have been many times that I have been the lone NAY vote on issues that come before the council. I was elected to the council by the residents of that city. My responsibility is to the citizens, not to a developer or other special interest group. My vote always reflects what I believe is the best for my community – what I believe to be the RIGHT THING TO DO even when it means standing alone.

I understand the pressure that is placed on the Utah Public Service Commission by the utility companies that serve our state. It is important that companies like Questar remain profitable so that they can stay in business and provide a much needed service. However, allowing local prices for CNG to be dictated by international markets is NOT the right approach. To believe that this is the only solution is erroneous. There must be a better way.

Please re-consider your ruling. Look for a better option that will encourage the use of alternative fuels. It is the “RIGHT THING TO DO.”

Respectfully,

J. Todd Walker
City Councilman
Pleasant View City, UT