

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the Application of Questar Gas Company for a Tariff Change Implementing a Low-Income Assistance Program,) Docket No:
10-057-08
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and)
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In the Matter of the Pass-Through Application of Questar Gas Company for an Adjustment in Rates and Changes for Natural Gas Service in Utah,) Docket No:
10-057-09
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In the Matter of the Application of Questar Gas Company to Amortize the Conservation Enabling Tariff Balancing Account,) Docket No:
10-057-10
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and)
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In the Matter of the Application of Questar Gas Company to Amortize the Demand Side Management Deferred Account Balance.) Docket No:
10-057-11
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TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING PROCEEDINGS

TAKEN AT: Public Service Commission
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah

DATE: July 22, 2010

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

REPORTED BY: Kelly L. Wilburn, CSR, RPR

APPEARANCES

Administrative Law Judge:

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1 JULY 22, 2010 3:00 P.M.

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

3 THE COURT: Okay, we're here in the four
4 matters, Docket No. 10-057-08 through 11, so four
5 Dockets. Number 8 is the Low-Income Assistance
6 Program. Tariff change in that program. Oh nine is
7 In the Matter of the Pass-Through Application of
8 Questar Gas Company For an Adjustment in Rates and
9 Changes For Natural Gas Service in Utah.

10 Ten is In the Matter of the Application of
11 Questar Gas Company to Amortize the Conservation
12 Enabling Tariff Balancing Account. And 11, In the
13 Matter of the Application of Questar Gas Company to
14 Amortize the Demand-Side Management Deferred Account
15 Balance.

16 And what we'll do is we'll just begin with
17 Number 8 and go right through the four until we're
18 finished.

19 MS. NELSON: Jenniffer Nelson here on behalf
20 of the Company. And with me I have Steven Bateson,
21 John Kennedy, and Kelly Mendenhall.

22 THE COURT: Okay, thank you.

23 And then with the Division, please.

24 MS. SCHMID: Patricia E. Schmid with the
25 Attorney General's Office. And with me is Mr. Marlin

1 Barrow from the Division.

2 THE COURT: Thank you.

3 And the Office?

4 MR. PROCTOR: Paul Proctor on behalf of the
5 Office. In addition, your Honor, Mr. Plenk I believe
6 is calling in on behalf of Salt Lake CAP.

7 THE COURT: Okay.

8 MR. PROCTOR: And Ms. Wolf is here as well.
9 I don't -- and I believe your staff was notified he
10 was calling in. I don't know the status.

11 THE COURT: Will you check? Yeah, we were
12 notified, but I don't know if he's called yet.

13 You know what? I'm sorry, Ms. Nelson, it's
14 Steven Bateson, John Kennedy?

15 MS. NELSON: And Kelly Mendenhall.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Let's wait just a minute
17 and see if he's called.

18 (Pause.)

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 MR. PLENK: Hello?

21 THE COURT: Yeah, we hear you Mr. Plenk and
22 Mr. Johnson. So we'll go ahead and begin with the
23 Docket No. Ending in 08. And what I'm gonna do is
24 just actually swear in all the witnesses at once. So
25 those of you that are gonna testify, if you could just

1 raise your right hand for me, please.

2 (The witnesses were sworn.)

3 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Then let's
4 begin with the Company.

5 (Brief interruption.)

6 MS. NELSON: Your Honor, I would just point
7 out that Mr. Mendenhall is here prepared to speak both
8 to the 10 docket and the 11 docket.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 MS. NELSON: And if it's not too troublesome
11 for the rest of the parties, it might be useful to
12 handle those two together.

13 THE COURT: Okay, that's fine. So do you
14 want to do them first or just as long as they're
15 together?

16 MS. NELSON: Just as long as they're
17 together.

18 THE COURT: Okay. Then let's begin with
19 No. 8. No, actually before we start on No. 8, my
20 understanding is the Commission called Barrie McKay
21 about some wording clarification on Section 2.02. Do
22 either of you -- do any of you know about that?

23 MS. NELSON: I, I'm not aware of that, but I
24 can certainly check into it.

25 THE COURT: I think the current wording is:

1 Energy assistance credit -- Section 2.02: Energy
2 assistance credit, \$37 a year. See Section 8.03.

3 And we wanted that changed to the following
4 language, and I can give you a copy of this: Annual
5 energy assistance credit for qualified low-income
6 customers, \$37. And then for a description of the
7 low-income program see Section 8.03-Energy Assistance
8 Fund.

9 MS. NELSON: We have no problem with that
10 change. Be happy to implement that.

11 THE COURT: All right. So just -- just so
12 that's on the record.

13 MS. NELSON: Okay.

14 THE COURT: All right then, go ahead.

15 MS. NELSON: Thank you. The Company calls
16 Steven Bateson to speak on behalf of the -- In the
17 Matter of the Application of Questar Gas Company For a
18 Tariff Change Implementing a Low-Income Assistance
19 Program. That's the 08 docket.

20 THE COURT: Okay.

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23 STEVEN BATESON,

24 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,
25 was examined and testified as follows:

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DIRECT EXAMINATION

BY MS. NELSON:

Q. Mr. Bateson, could you please state your name and business address for the record?

A. Steven Bateson. My address is 180 East 100 South, and I work for Questar Gas Company.

Q. And what's your position at Questar Gas?

A. I'm supervisor of rates.

Q. And have you participated in the low-income task force?

A. Yes.

Q. And did you participate in the preparation of the application in this docket?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Mr. Bateson, can you describe some of the historical events that led to the filing of this application?

A. Certainly, thank you. In its report and order in Docket No. 07-057-13, the Public Service Commission ordered Questar Gas to convene a task force represented by AARP and other parties with the goal of identifying and evaluating ways to help low-income per -- low income, low-income customers stay on Questar's system.

Pursuant to the order, Questar Gas organized

1 a task force to examine options for low-income
2 customers. All interveners and interested parties in
3 the general rate case were invited to participate in
4 the task force.

5 Of those invited the participants included:
6 AARP, Salt Lake Community Action Program, Red Cross,
7 HEAT, State Energy Assistance and Lifeline, The Office
8 of Consumer Services, Utah Association of Energy
9 Users, and the Division of Public Utilities.

10 I acted as the Company's principal
11 representative on the task force, and Ms. Laura
12 Polacheck represented AARP as the cochair. Marlin
13 Barrow, of the Division, acted as secretary and kept
14 minutes of each meeting and provided summaries to the
15 interested parties.

16 The task force met nine times and filed a
17 report with the Commission on December 1, 2009. The
18 low-income advocates advanced a proposal -- or were to
19 advance a proposal in the Company's next rate case,
20 which was Docket 09-057-16.

21 The Company's position during the task force
22 hearing was that we would not oppose that proposal if
23 it was -- required reasonable funding, was
24 administratively simple, and also that the Department
25 of Community and Culture would advocate -- or would

1 act as the gatekeeper for qualifying eligible
2 customers.

3 Q. Can you describe for me, Mr. Bateson, what
4 occurred in that general rate case docket?

5 A. Certainly. Prior to the opportunity for the
6 low-income advocates to advance their position, the
7 case was settled. As part of that settlement, the --
8 there was a provision in the settlement for a
9 low-income program.

10 The low-income program had a funding target
11 of approximately 1.5 million. And the interested
12 parties agreed to continue and meet and to develop
13 implementation details. The parties met on two
14 occasions to work out those details on -- and those
15 details were put in a filing that was made and
16 submitted to the Commission on June 15th of this year.

17 The program, as put forth in that document --

18 Q. And just for clarification, the document
19 you're referring to is the application in this matter?

20 A. Yes, the application in this matter.

21 Q. Thank you. Please continue.

22 A. The program provides that eligible customers
23 will receive a one-time credit on their monthly bill
24 after the Company receives notification of the
25 customer's qualification. The one-time credit was

1 calculated to be \$37 per household.

2 Customers that are qualified must be
3 certified by the DCC as being eligible to receive HEAT
4 assistance. The program will be funded through a
5 surcharge assessed to all customers. The surcharge
6 was calculated as a uniform percent of total revenues
7 to each rate class, with the caveats -- two caveats:

8 One, that customers that were qualified to
9 receive assistance would not be charged the surcharge.
10 And the second caveat being that no customer pay --
11 would be required to pay more than \$50 per month.

12 Questar attached to the application a
13 calculation of how the rate was calculated for each
14 rate class. Questar also proposed that the benefit
15 and the surcharge would be reviewed annually, in
16 conjunction with the fall pass-throughs. And any
17 adjustment made to the surcharge or the benefit to
18 keep the total annual funding in line with the
19 \$1.5 million target.

20 Interest would accrue on the monthly
21 outstanding balances at the rate of 6 per -- simple
22 6 percent. Any shortfall or overage in collection or
23 disbursement of the one -- of the fund in the one --
24 to the 1.5 million target would be carried over to the
25 next year.

1 Specifically, if less money were given out in
2 a year, then that amount would be added to the
3 benefit -- to be paid out the next year when that
4 benefit is calculated.

5 The dollars collected and the costs
6 associated with the program would be recorded in a new
7 account, 191.8. And as I mentioned, would be subject
8 to adjustment annually.

9 Q. For clarification, Mr. Bateson, when you
10 refer to the "DCC" can you tell us what you're
11 referring to?

12 A. Yes. That's the Utah Department of Community
13 and Culture.

14 Q. Thank you. Has the Company undertaken any
15 preparation in anticipation of this program being
16 implemented?

17 A. Yes. We have remodeled our billing program
18 to accommodate this program, both on the surcharge and
19 to credit the billing. For Utah customers that's a
20 fully -- will be a fully-automated system.

21 For Idaho customers who are also subject to
22 the Utah tariff, we will manually input their
23 information into the system. The qualifying customers
24 and the regular non-qualifying customers will be
25 subject to the same billing program as the Utah

1 customers.

2 We've had initial contact with the Department
3 of Community and Culture and talked to them about what
4 they're going to require. And we are in -- our
5 attorneys are in contact with their attorneys for
6 working out that agreement.

7 We have set up the accounting to track the
8 collection and the payments as they begin to be
9 disbursed and collected.

10 Q. Mr. Bateson, were you aware that the Office
11 of Consumer Services, and then AARP and Salt Lake
12 Community Action Program, have filed comments in this
13 docket?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. And are you familiar with those comments?

16 A. Yes, I am.

17 Q. How has the Company responded to the
18 suggestions set forth in those comments?

19 A. I believe the Office has recommended that the
20 task force be allowed to preview -- review any changes
21 prior to the annual fall filing.

22 And in discussions with the Office and other
23 parties I believe the Company is willing to, after the
24 one-year anniversary of this program -- when we have a
25 year's worth of information under our belts, so to

1 speak -- that we would summarize the data, meet with
2 them, and discuss the nature of our, of our fall
3 requests for true ups on the, on the surcharge and the
4 benefit. So we would be happy to do that.

5 The second item that they recommended was
6 that if we saw that the disbursements approached
7 80 percent of the target, that we would notify the
8 Commission. We'd be happy to do that as we monitor
9 the activity in this new fund.

10 Thirdly, AARP requested that there be
11 continued low-income task force discussions. We think
12 that a better forum for those discussions would be the
13 cost of service and rate design task force that the
14 Commission -- we anticipate the Commission will be
15 establishing shortly in Docket 09-057-16. Since those
16 will be similar to or at least in the same category of
17 other discussions that will be ongoing in those -- in
18 that task force.

19 Q. And just for clarification, I'm looking at
20 the Office of Consumer Services' comments. And I
21 believe what they requested was to require
22 notification if the credits paid exceed the approved
23 \$1.5 million by 20 percent, or \$300,000. Is Company
24 amenable to that suggestion?

25 A. Yes. I was thinking that they wanted it

1 before we reached it, but certainly.

2 MS. NELSON: Thank you. I don't have any
3 further questions.

4 THE COURT: Thank you.

5 Any questions from the Division?

6 MS. SCHMID: None.

7 THE COURT: Any questions from the Office?

8 MR. PROCTOR: No.

9 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

10 And any other questions, Ms. Nelson, from
11 this witness?

12 MR. PROCTOR: Oh, excuse me. Mr. Plenk, I
13 believe.

14 THE COURT: Oh, I'm sorry. Mr. Plenk, do you
15 have any questions?

16 MR. PLENK: Yes, I do have one question.

17 CROSS EXAMINATION

18 BY MR. PLENK:

19 Q. Mr. Bateson, did you notice in the comments
20 the discussion about when there would be an
21 opportunity to -- for parties to propose modifications
22 in the \$1.5 million target amount? Did you notice
23 that in the comments that various people filed?

24 A. Yes. And I guess I was thinking that my
25 comments regarding the cost of service and rate design

1 task course -- task force addressed that. That would
2 be when I would recommend that those discussions take
3 place.

4 Q. And you agree, do you not, that those
5 discussions could take place, as you mentioned, as
6 early as a year from now?

7 A. I hope that those discussions start this fall
8 on the --

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. -- cost of service and task.

11 MR. PLENK: Okay, thank you. That's all,
12 thank you.

13 THE COURT: All right. Thank you, Mr. Plenk.
14 Anything else on Docket No. 08, Ms. Nelson?

15 MS. NELSON: No, thank you.

16 THE COURT: All right, thank you.
17 Division?

18 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. The Division has
19 filed its recommendation in this docket, but -- and we
20 do have a few changes and corrections to that. But
21 first of all I'd like to introduce our witness.

22 ***

23 MARLIN BARROW,

24 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,
25 was examined and testified as follows:

1 DIRECT EXAMINATION

2 BY MS. SCHMID:

3 Q. Mr. Barrow, could you please state your full
4 name and business address for the record?

5 A. Yes. It's Marlin H. Barrow. I work at
6 160 East 300 South, in the Heber Wells Building. And
7 I'm employed by the Division of Public Utilities.

8 Q. In the context of your employment with the
9 Division have you participated in the analysis in this
10 docket and the preparation and filing of a memo dated
11 July 7, 2010, entitled: Docket No. 10-057-08, Questar
12 Gas Company Application For Implementation of a
13 Low-Income Assistance Program?

14 A. Yes, I did.

15 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections that
16 need to be made to this memorandum?

17 A. Maybe just some points of clarification to my
18 memorandum that I would like to bring up. On page 3,
19 in paragraph A of my memorandum the Division stated:

20 "Although not shown above as part of
21 the quoted statute, the 1.5 million
22 target annual amount will remain in
23 effect until the Company's next general
24 rate case, when the Commission may
25 approve a change in the annual funding

1 of the Low-Income Assistance Program."

2 Regarding the amount of the 1.5 million, that
3 portion of the statement should be corrected to read:

4 "Although not shown above as part of
5 the quoted statute, the 1.5 million
6 target annual amount may remain in
7 effect until the Company's next general
8 rate case, or some other appropriate
9 time as determined by the Commission."

10 The point here is that the Commission does
11 have the authority to change aspects of the low-income
12 tariff at times, other than just in the context of a
13 general rate case. Which the original memo intimated
14 as being the case.

15 However, the Division does recommend that the
16 current tariff, as filed, is allowed some time to
17 develop before considering any revisions to the
18 funding levels.

19 And again, just to summarize some of the main
20 points of the tariff. Effective August 1st all
21 customers, other than those who qualified as
22 low-income customers last heating season, will be
23 charged a monthly amount to begin funding the Energy
24 Assistance Fund, with no customer paying more than \$50
25 a month.

1 In order for a low-income customer to receive
2 a one-time credit of \$37 towards their gas bill they
3 must certify or recertify their eligibility with the
4 Utah Department of Community and Culture, or DCC.

5 The collection of those funds will be tracked
6 in account 191.8, which the Company in its application
7 requested that the Commission authorize the
8 establishment of that account for that purpose.

9 The expected annual cost of this program to a
10 typical GS residential -- GS-scheduled residential
11 customer is calculated at \$1.22, or on average,
12 10 cents a month. In reality, this average amount is
13 lower in the summer months and higher in the winter
14 months.

15 In conclusion, the Division does support the
16 filing of this low-income tariff, and to establish the
17 low -- the Energy Assistance Fund in account 191.8.
18 Believes it is in compliance with Utah Code Annotated
19 54-7-13.6, is in the public interest, and provides a
20 just and reasonable low income sub -- low income
21 surcharge rate.

22 The Division recommends the Commission
23 approve the application as filed, with an effective
24 date of August 1, 2010. That concludes my remarks
25 regarding this application.

1 MS. SCHMID: The Division requests the
2 admission of the memorandum dated July 7th, as
3 clarified today.

4 THE COURT: Okay. We'll go ahead and -- can
5 you actually also submit a new recommendation with
6 those changes?

7 MS. SCHMID: Certainly.

8 THE WITNESS: Yes, I can.

9 MS. SCHMID: And we will file that and
10 circulate it to all parties.

11 THE COURT: All right, thank you. If you
12 could do that, and then we'll just -- it will be on
13 file with the Commission.

14 Any questions for Mr. Barrow, Ms. Nelson?

15 MS. NELSON: No.

16 THE COURT: Mr. Proctor, any questions for
17 Mr. Barrow?

18 MR. PROCTOR: No thank you.

19 THE COURT: Mr. Plenk, any questions for the
20 Division?

21 MR. PLENK: No, your Honor, thank you.

22 THE COURT: All right, thank you. And then
23 we'll proceed with the Office.

24 MR. PROCTOR: Your Honor, Ms. Murray will
25 speak to the issue on behalf of the Office.

1 THE COURT: Thank you.

2 Ms. Murray, go ahead.

3 MS. MURRAY: My name is Cheryl Murray. I'm a
4 utility analyst with the Office of Consumer Services.
5 My address is 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City,
6 Utah.

7 As stated in our July 8, 2010, memo, the
8 Office of Consumer Services supports Questar's
9 proposed tariff change implementing a Low-Income
10 Assistance Program.

11 We do not propose changes to the filed
12 tariff. However, we recommend that the Commission
13 require Questar to present any proposed change to the
14 energy assistance charge or credit to parties for
15 input prior to filing for a change with the
16 Commission.

17 Further, if the credits paid exceed the
18 approve 1.5 million by 20 percent, the Company should
19 notify parties to consider if a tariff adjustment
20 should be requested.

21 Mr. Bateson has described the Company's
22 commitment in regard to these recommendations, and we
23 appreciate the Company's willingness to provide the
24 requested information. However, we believe that
25 the -- that explicitly including this guidance in an

1 order will facilitate communications among the parties
2 and help maintain a viable program.

3 In its July 7, 2010, memo regarding approval
4 of the assistance program the Division had referenced
5 Utah Code 47 -- 54-7-13.6(C.) And they had
6 described -- Mr. Barrow has described today what their
7 intent was.

8 But we think -- we believe it's very
9 important that the distinction is included that -- or
10 recognized that the Commission does have the ability
11 to determine, outside of a rate case, if a change
12 should be made to the tariff.

13 And the Office requests that the Commission
14 not indicate in its order that changes must be made in
15 a rate case. We're not asking anything more than that
16 in that regard.

17 The Office believes the Questar tariff
18 implementing a Low-Income Assistance Program is in the
19 public interest, and respectfully requests Commission
20 approval. Thank you.

21 THE COURT: Thank you.

22 Ms. Nelson, any questions for the Office?

23 MS. NELSON: No, thank you.

24 THE COURT: Thank you.

25 Ms. Schmid?

1 MS. SCHMID: None.

2 THE COURT: And Mr. Plenk?

3 MR. PLENK: No questions, your Honor. Thank
4 you.

5 THE COURT: Thank you.

6 Okay. Then we'll proceed.

7 MR. PROCTOR: I believe Ms. Wolf --

8 THE COURT: I'm sorry.

9 MR. PROCTOR: -- or Mr. Plenk.

10 THE COURT: Mr. Plenk, go ahead, I'm sorry.

11 MR. PLENK: Your Honor, Ms. Wolf would like
12 to make a statement. And because it's a little
13 difficult to do this over the phone I'd rather have
14 her make a statement than the usual question-and-
15 answer format.

16 THE COURT: All right, that's fine.

17 Go ahead, Ms. Wolf.

18 MS. WOLF: Thank you. My name -- is this on?

19 THE COURT: Make sure that little green light
20 is lit.

21 MS. WOLF: Okay, now it is, I believe. Is
22 that better? My name is Betsy Wolf. I'm employed by
23 Salt Lake Community Action Program, or Salt Lake CAP.
24 And my business address is 764 South 200 West, in Salt
25 Lake City.

1 I'm speaking today on behalf of both Salt
2 Lake CAP and AARP. Both organizations work with and
3 on behalf of low-income people and low-income
4 consumers of utility services.

5 As the letter filed by Bruce Plenk on
6 July 8th on behalf of Salt Lake CAP and AARP stated,
7 our groups have worked with all the parties to come to
8 agreement -- largely to agreement regarding the
9 implementation procedures outlined in the tariff filed
10 by Questar Gas Company in this docket.

11 We do support the tariff, with the following
12 clarifications: Mr. Barrow, for the Division of
13 Public Utilities, has clarified that it is not seeking
14 a ruling on the question of whether this tariff can be
15 changed in advance of the next general rate case filed
16 by Questar Gas.

17 We do appreciate this clarification, support
18 that change, and hope that that will be included. Our
19 concern was, as the Office has stated, that the
20 Commission not make a ruling that would preclude
21 changes prior to the next rate case, or between rate
22 cases in general.

23 We, along with other parties, do want to see
24 how the program functions over the next few years.
25 But, as I said, we don't want to preclude such changes

1 if something unforeseen were to happen.

2 The second point is that we agree with the
3 Office's request -- which we also addressed in our
4 letter -- that the Company should be required to
5 consult with other parties prior to making any
6 substantial changes to the tariff.

7 And I think that's really the issue that we
8 were trying to address. There may be some confusion
9 there that -- Mr. Bateson was suggesting that we refer
10 to the cost of service task force. We do want to
11 insure that, should changes be contemplated prior to
12 filing the tariff, that as interested parties the
13 various parties be informed and consulted prior to
14 making those changes.

15 We do -- it's our desire to work
16 collaboratively with all the parties to make this
17 program work well. And we think it's in the interest
18 of everyone to work out those issues in advance.

19 We urge the Commission to approve the
20 low-income energy assistance program filed with the
21 Commission so that it can begin, along with the other
22 changes, to be -- to start on August 1st. Thank you.

23 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

24 Mr. Plenk, any follow-up questions?

25 MR. PLENK: No, I don't have any other -- any

1 follow up, your Honor. Thank you.

2 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

3 Ms. Nelson?

4 MS. NELSON: Nothing, thank you.

5 THE COURT: Ms. Schmid?

6 MS. SCHMID: Nothing, thank you.

7 THE COURT: And Mr. Proctor?

8 MR. PROCTOR: No.

9 THE COURT: Okay, thank you.

10 And anything else on docket ending in 08?

11 MS. NELSON: (Moves head from side to side.)

12 THE COURT: No? Okay, thank you then.

13 We'll proceed to Docket No. 10-057-09.

14 Ms. Nelson?

15 MR. PROCTOR: Excuse -- excuse me, your
16 Honor, if I might? The Office typically and
17 traditionally has not appeared and spoken to the
18 matters involving the next three dockets.

19 THE COURT: Okay.

20 MR. PROCTOR: And so with respect to the
21 parties, if the Court would excuse us, I would
22 appreciate it.

23 THE COURT: That's fine.

24 MR. PROCTOR: Thank you.

25 MR. PLENK: And your Honor, I would join in

1 that request. This is Bruce Plenk. Since AARP is not
2 involved in the other, the other matters, I would like
3 the opportunity to be excused for the remainder of the
4 hearing.

5 THE COURT: All right, thank you. That's
6 fine.

7 MR. PLENK: Thank you, your Honor.

8 THE COURT: All right, 09?

9 MS. NELSON: The Company calls John Kennedy.

10 JOHN KENNEDY,

11 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,
12 was examined and testified as follows:

13 DIRECT EXAMINATION

14 BY MS. NELSON:

15 Q. Mr. Kennedy, could you please state your
16 name, and your business address, and your employer for
17 the record?

18 A. My name is John Ernest Kennedy. I work for
19 Questar Gas Company at 180 East 300 South, Salt Lake
20 City, Utah, as a regulatory affairs specialist.

21 Q. And Mr. Kennedy, were you -- did you
22 participate in the preparation of the document
23 entitled: In the Matter of the Pass-Through
24 Application of Questar Gas Company For an Adjustment
25 in Rates and Changes For Natural Gas Service in Utah,

1 the 09 docket we've been referring to?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. Could you summarize, briefly, the relief the
4 Company requests in that docket?

5 A. Yes. Questar Gas Company, the applicant in
6 this pass-through Docket 10-057-09, respectfully asks
7 the Utah Public Service Commission for approval to
8 implement an increase to the commodity and supplier
9 non-gas portions of its Utah natural gas rates.

10 The majority of the proposed price increase
11 in this filing is an under-collected 191 account
12 commodity balance of \$37.8 million. This filing is
13 based on the May 2010 average of projected gas prices
14 from two nationally-recognized forecasting agencies,
15 namely: PIRA Energy Group and Cambridge Energy
16 Research Associates.

17 This application asks for a combined increase
18 of \$48.3 million, which includes an increase of
19 44.9 million in the commodity portion of rates and
20 3.4 million dollars in the supplier non-gas portion of
21 rates.

22 This would result in a typical residential
23 customer, using 80 decatherms per year, seeing an
24 increase in their total annual bill of \$37.48, or
25 approximately 5.5 percent.

1 Therefore, the Company hereby requests in
2 this application to allow for an increase in both the
3 commodity and supplier non-gas portion of rates, to
4 become effective August 1, 2010. Thank you.

5 MS. NELSON: I have no further questions.

6 THE COURT: Thank you. Ms. Schmid, any
7 questions?

8 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Then we'll proceed with
10 the Division. Any comments on 09?

11 MS. SCHMID: Yes, we do have some. The
12 Division calls Mr. Barrow, who has previously been
13 sworn.

14 MARLIN BARROW,

15 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,
16 was examined and testified as follows:

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. SCHMID:

19 Q. Mr. Barrow, in your employment with the
20 Division have you been involved in the analysis and
21 preparation of a memorandum entitled: July 12,
22 2000 -- sorry. Entitled: Questar Gas Docket
23 Nos. 10-057-09, Pass-Through, 10-057-10, CET, and
24 10-057-11, DSM, dated July 12, 2010, and filed that
25 day?

1 A. Yes, I prepared those.

2 Q. Do you have any corrections, pardon me, or
3 clarifications that you need to make with -- to this
4 memorandum?

5 A. Yes. There's just a couple of minor
6 corrections I would like to point out, if I may. On
7 page 5 of my memo, on the third line from the bottom
8 there's an incorrect percentage that reads 11 percent.
9 That percentage should be 18 percent.

10 And also, in reference to the footnotes at
11 the bottom of page 5, I incorrectly referenced
12 Column E on both those footnotes. Those references
13 should be to Column D, as in "Dog."

14 And then I had one other correction, but it's
15 on the -- page 10. It's kind of a footnote that
16 summarizes all of the dockets. I don't know if you
17 wanted to address that right --

18 THE COURT: Would you say that -- which page,
19 again?

20 THE WITNESS: It's page 10 of my memo.

21 THE COURT: All right.

22 THE WITNESS: It's the footnote at the
23 bottom. That should also include -- or be stated:

24 "As well as the effect of the
25 settlement stipulation in the general

1 rate case in Docket 09-057-16."

2 So that footnote should also -- the correct
3 way should be:

4 "Includes the effect of the
5 low-income tariff requested in
6 Docket No. 10-057-08, as well as the
7 effect of the settlement stipulation in
8 the general rate case in Docket
9 09-057-16."

10 Q. (By Ms. Schmid) To clarify things,
11 Mr. Barrow, will you undertake to file a corrected
12 version of the memo dated July 12th, and distribute it
13 to the parties?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Do you have any summary comments you would
16 like to make regarding Docket No. 09?

17 A. No additional summary comments, other than
18 what Mr. Kennedy already presented.

19 Q. The Division supports approval?

20 A. Yes.

21 THE COURT: All right. Thank you,
22 Ms. Schmid.

23 Any questions for Mr. Barrow, Ms. Nelson?

24 MS. NELSON: No, sir.

25 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

1 MS. SCHMID: Oh, pardon me?

2 THE COURT: Uh-huh.

3 MS. SCHMID: Could we move for the admission
4 of the memorandum dated July 12, 2010?

5 THE COURT: Okay. You can just file that
6 corrected version. And then it will be filed with the
7 Commission and we'll just take administrative notice
8 of that.

9 MS. SCHMID: Perfect, thank you.

10 THE COURT: Thank you. And then Ms. Schmid,
11 are you okay with us handling both 10 and 11 together?

12 MS. SCHMID: Yes.

13 THE COURT: All right.

14 And then we'll proceed, Ms. Nelson, with 10
15 and 11.

16 MS. NELSON: Thank you. The Company calls
17 Kelly Mendenhall to testify with regard to both those
18 dockets.

19 KELLY MENDENHALL,

20 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,

21 was examined and testified as follows:

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. NELSON:

24 Q. Mr. Mendenhall, can you state your name,
25 employer, position, and business address for the

1 record?

2 A. Sure. My name is Kelly B. Mendenhall. My
3 employer is Questar Gas Company. I'm employed as a
4 supervisor of rates for them. And my business address
5 is 180 East 100 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

6 Q. Mr. Mendenhall, did you participate in the
7 preparation of the documents entitled: In the Matter
8 of the Application of Questar Gas Company to Amortize
9 the Conservation Enabling Tariff Balancing Account,
10 Docket No. 10-057-10, and the docket -- the document
11 entitled: In the Matter of the Application of Questar
12 Gas Company to Amortize the Demand Side Management
13 Deferred Account Balance, Docket No. 10-057-11?

14 A. I did.

15 Q. Could you summarize, briefly, the relief the
16 Company seeks in both of those pleadings?

17 A. Yes. In Docket 10-057-10 Questar Gas is
18 proposing to make a change to its conservation
19 enabling tariff rate. As of May 2010 the Company had
20 over-collected about \$3.5 million from customers in
21 the GS class.

22 And this money will be returned to customers
23 by reducing the rates in the GS class on a percentage
24 decrease basis. This change will result in a decrease
25 to the typical GS customer of about \$5 per year.

1 In Docket 10-057-11 Questar Gas is proposing
2 to reduce the demand side management amortization rate
3 for the GS class from about 45 cents a decatherm to
4 37.5 cents per decatherm. And the new amortization
5 rate is based on the 2010 DSM budget of \$36 million.
6 And this reduction will result in a decrease to the
7 typical GS customer of about \$6 per year.

8 And Questar Gas is asking that these two
9 changes be implemented on August 1, 2010.

10 Q. And Mr. Mendenhall, can you summarize
11 briefly -- we've spoken about four dockets: The 09
12 docket -- I'm sorry, the -- now I've got it wrong.

13 A. Oh eight docket?

14 Q. Oh eight docket, 09 docket, the 10 docket,
15 and the 11 docket. Can you summarize the cumulative
16 effect of -- if all of these were approved, what is
17 the cumulative effect on a typical customer?

18 A. Yes. If all of these are approved effective
19 August 1st, the typical GS customer using
20 80 decatherms per year would see about a \$27.66
21 increase. That's about 4.1 percent, on an annual
22 basis.

23 THE COURT: Okay.

24 MS. NELSON: I have no further questions.

25 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Mendenhall.

1 Ms. Schmid, any questions? Any questions for
2 Mr. Mendenhall?

3 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

4 THE COURT: All right, thank you.

5 Mr. Barrow, any question -- any testimony or
6 summary?

7 MS. SCHMID: Yes, please.

8 MARLIN BARROW,
9 called as a witness, having been duly sworn,
10 was examined and testified as follows:

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY MS. SCHMID:

13 Q. Mr. Barrow, in your employment with the
14 Division of Public Utilities did you file a memorandum
15 entitled: Questar Gas Dockets Nos. 10-057-09,
16 Pass-Through, 10-057-10, CET, and 10-09 -- 057-11,
17 DSM?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And do you have corrections to this
20 memorandum that you will make and cause to be filed in
21 this docket and served on the parties?

22 A. Yes. As previously stated, I will make those
23 corrections.

24 Q. Is it your testimony, and as presented in the
25 memorandum, that the Division supports approval of the

1 applications in 10 and 11?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Do you have any other comments you would like
4 to make?

5 A. Nothing, really, outside of what has already
6 been mentioned by Mr. Mendenhall. I would like to
7 point out that, in regard to the demand side
8 management or the DSM amortization, the Company is
9 requesting to amortize a balance of \$36 million.

10 This balance is more than what has
11 traditionally been amortized in the past, is because
12 they've always requested to amortize what's actually
13 in the account balance. Which as of May 31st was only
14 \$33 million.

15 But in light of the fact that the Company has
16 already notified the Commission, through a letter,
17 that two of their programs -- the ThermWise Appliance
18 and the ThermWise Builder programs -- have already
19 reached 55 percent of their budgeted amounts, and when
20 the Division looked at the May 31st actual
21 expenditures and annualized those expenditures the
22 annualized amount came just over \$36 million, the
23 Division can support the request to amortize, at this
24 time, a \$36 million balance instead of what's actually
25 in the account. Which is kind of a departure from

1 previous applications.

2 But we do support the application of
3 amortizing at a \$36 million level, instead of the
4 \$33 million which is the balance in the account as of
5 May 31st.

6 In summary, the Division -- and this refers
7 to the corrections that I put in my memo. The
8 Division calculates the net effect of these four
9 dockets, Docket 10-057-08, 09, 010, and 11, and also
10 including the effect of the stipulation that was
11 entered into in the general rate case which will
12 become effective on August 1st of 2010, the combined
13 net effect of all of these is an increase to a typical
14 GS residential customer's annual bill of about \$26.

15 Which is a little different than what
16 Mr. Mendenhall concluded, but I think he was not
17 factoring in the effect of the stipulation in the
18 general rate case in his calculations. It's about a
19 dollar less than what he had.

20 In conclusion, the Division does support the
21 Company's filings, finds that they are in the public
22 interest and provides just and reasonable rates, and
23 requests they be made effective August 1, 2010.

24 The Division also recommends that the rate
25 changes requested in Dockets Nos. 10-057-09, 10, and

1 11 be approved by the Commission on an interim basis,
2 until the Division can complete an audit of the
3 entries in those respective accounts associated with
4 those -- these applications.

5 And that concludes the comments I have.

6 MS. SCHMID: Thank you.

7 THE COURT: Thank you.

8 Any questions, Ms. Nelson, for Mr. Barrow?

9 MS. NELSON: No, thank you.

10 THE COURT: All right. Anything else the
11 Company would like to add?

12 MS. NELSON: No, thank you.

13 THE COURT: Okay. Then if that's all, we'll
14 go ahead and conclude. I'll make a recommendation,
15 per the parties' testimony, to the Commissioners to
16 approve these, with all the testimony changes, by
17 August 1st. Thank you.

18 (The hearing was concluded at 3:48 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF UTAH)
) ss.
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE)

This is to certify that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, KELLY L. WILBURN, a Certified Shorthand Reporter and Registered Professional Reporter in and for the State of Utah.

That the proceedings were reported by me in stenotype and thereafter caused by me to be transcribed into typewriting. And that a full, true, and correct transcription of said proceedings so taken and transcribed is set forth in the foregoing pages, numbered 1 through 38, 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.

SIGNED ON THIS 1st DAY OF August, 2010.

Kelly L. Wilburn, CSR, RPR
Utah CSR No. 109582-7801

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