



PublicService Commission <psc@utah.gov>

Questar Rate Request

1 message

Andrew Blackham <andrew.jblackham@ymail.com>
Reply-To: Andrew Blackham <andrew.jblackham@ymail.com>
To: "psc@utah.gov" <psc@utah.gov>

Mon, Aug 26, 2013 at 1:31 PM

I have been following the requests of Questar with their rate hikes. I understand their need to expand their services (for both quality and safety reasons) throughout the Utah valley. However, I think that the rate hike that Questar has requested isn't necessary for their operations or service to continue at the same level. I consulted with both Questar's financials and services to learn more about their expenditures and practices, and I've found that they have sufficient funds for the near future. Listed below are reasons why:

(1) Natural gas has become much more available and affordable due to a large increase in supply (through fracking and other technologies). This does not increase Questar's expenses; if anything, it increases revenues through more natural gas use.

(2) Questar already has monthly fees that cover the expenses of daily maintenance. Their financials are in very good shape and they could easily have enough to cover expenses for their expansion.

(3) Utah's population is going to continue increasing at an exponential rate. For Questar, this means millions of new customers. Although they have to expand their services to meet the needs of expanding cities, the costs of the expansion should *easily* be covered by the increased customer base. For example: Each customer pays fees to set up their service. If 10000 people paid the introductory fees (\$50), Questar could easily gain \$.5 million with minimal expenses. This doesn't even include the monthly profits they gain from continued use of service.

I hope you will consider the unique changes to the natural gas market, the financial strength of Questar as a corporation, and the population expansion that will provide numerous customers for Questar's future. Please take both the producer and consumer into account as you make your decisions regarding Questar rates for Utah. I thank you for your continued work in providing the highest quality of public services to the state of Utah.

Sincerely,

Andrew Blackham

