

Gary A. Dodge, #0897
HATCH, JAMES & DODGE
10 West Broadway, Suite 400
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
Telephone: 801-363-6363
Facsimile: 801-363-6666
Email: gdodge@hjdllaw.com
Attorneys for Complainants

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the Formal Complaint Against Questar Gas Company Regarding Nomination Procedures and Practices for Transportation Service Customers	Docket No. 14-057-19 PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF MIKE MCGARVEY
---	--

The Complainants in this docket hereby submit the Prefiled Direct Testimony of Mike McGarvey of Summit Energy LLC.

DATED this 7th day of August 2014.

HATCH, JAMES & DODGE

/s/ _____
Gary A. Dodge
Attorneys for Complainants

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served by email this 7th day of August 2014 on the following:

Questar Gas Company:

Colleen Larkin Bell	colleen.bell@questar.com
Jennifer Nelson Clark	jennifer.clark@questar.com
Barrie McKay	barrie.mckay@questar.com

Division of Public Utilities:

Patricia Schmid	pschmid@utah.gov
Justin Jetter	jjetter@utah.gov
Chris Parker	chrisparker@utah.gov
Artie Powell	wpowell@utah.gov
Carolyn Roll	croll@utah.gov

Office of Consumer Services:

Brent Coleman	brentcoleman@utah.gov
Michele Beck	mbeck@utah.gov
Danny Martinez	dannymartinez@utah.gov

Utah Association of Energy Users:

Gary Dodge	gdodge@hjdllaw.com
Kevin Higgins	khiggins@energystrat.com
Neal Townsend	ntownsend@energystrat.com

Nucor Steel:

Damon E. Xenopoulos	dex@bbrslaw.com
Jeremy R. Cook	jrc@pkhlawyers.com

Federal Executive Agencies:

Karen White	Karen.White.13@us.af.mil
Christopher Thompson	Christopher.Thompson.5@us.af.mil
Gregory Fike	Gregory.Fike@us.af.mil
Thomas Jernigan	Thomas.Jernigan@us.af.mil

US Magnesium:

Roger Swenson	roger.swenson@prodigy.net
---------------	---------------------------

Summit Energy:

Larry R. Williams	larry@summitcorp.net
-------------------	----------------------

Utility Cost Management Consultants:

Floyd J. Rigby	FloydR@ucmc-usa.com
Travis R. Rigby	TravisR@ucmc-usa.com
Bruce Floyd Rigby	Bruce@ucmc-usa.com

The Home Builders Association of the State of Utah:

Ross Ford	ross@utahhba.com
-----------	------------------

Dunford Bakers, Inc.:

Dale Hatch	dhatch@dunfordbakers.com
------------	--------------------------

Utah Asphalt Pavement Association:

Douglas E. Griffith	dgriffith@keslerrust.com
Reed Ryan	reed@utahasphalt.org

Emery County Economic Development:

Michael McCandless	mikem@emery.utah.gov
David Blackwell	daveb@emery.utah.gov

Industrial Gas Users:

William J. Evans	bevans@parsonsbehle.com
Vicki M. Baldwin	vbaldwin@parsonsbehle.com

Shell Energy North America (US), L.P.:

Katherine B. Edwards	kbe@kbelaw.com
John Paul Floom	jpf@kbelaw.com
Erica L. Rancilio	elr@kbelaw.com
Amy Gold	amy.gold@shell.com

/s/ _____

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

Direct Testimony of Mike McGarvey

On behalf of Complainants

Docket No. 14-057-19

August 7, 2014

1 **INTRODUCTION**

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

3 A. My name is Mike McGarvey. My business address is 90 South 400 West #320,
4 Salt Lake City, Utah 84101.

5 **Q. By whom are you employed and what is your function?**

6 A. I am the Director of Natural Gas Trading and Marketing for Summit Energy LLC
7 (Summit). Summit has several customers who are TS customers of Questar Gas
8 Company.

9 **Q. What are your qualifications for testifying in the proceeding?**

10 A. I have traded and marketed wholesale and retail natural gas throughout the
11 country for the last 17 years. A copy of my resume is attached.

12 **PURPOSE AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

13 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

14 A. The purpose of my testimony is to recommend that the Utah Public Service
15 Commission (Commission) require Questar Gas Company to re-establish pooling
16 services for its TS Rate Schedule customers receiving natural gas supply at its
17 Wasatch Front (90164) City Gates.

18 **Q. What specific recommendation do you make?**

19 A. I recommend that the Commission require Questar Gas Company (Questar Gas)
20 to continue providing supply pooling services at its City Gates for Utah
21 businesses that utilize the TS Rate Schedule. This can be accomplished through
22 contracts with TS suppliers to allow aggregation of natural gas supplies from each

23 TS supplier at the City Gate points of receipt shared with Questar Pipeline, for
24 ultimate distribution to the supplier's TS customers. I also recommend the
25 Commission require Questar Gas to utilize the TS supplier pools for its
26 confirmation operations performed each cycle and for its identification and
27 determination of supply disruption imbalance impacts that may require Questar
28 Gas' intervention or curtailments to maintain system integrity.

29 **Q. Why do you make these recommendations?**

30 A. There are several reasons why pooling services should be re-established. One,
31 removing the supply pooling service places undue and unfair supply reliability
32 risk on TS Rate Schedule customers. Two, it unreasonably limits the ability of
33 the TS Rate Schedule suppliers to effectively balance the natural gas supply with
34 TS customer consumption to avoid Questar Gas fees and penalties. Three, it
35 violates existing NAESB confidentiality requirements that Summit has to its TS
36 customers. Four, it is anti-competitive in nature and will significantly diminish
37 the willingness and desire of Third Party suppliers to provide supply at the
38 Questar Gas City Gates. Five, removing supply pooling functionality is
39 discriminatory in that it places unnecessary burdens on the hundreds of Utah
40 businesses that use the TS Rate Schedule, compared to similar businesses who
41 buy gas directly from Questar Gas Marketing.

42 **Q. Describe Pooling as you have referenced it.**

43 A. Pooling services are essentially a function of aggregation. With respect to this
44 Docket, the pooling provided by Questar Gas before July 1, 2014, allowed for the

45 combining of natural gas supplies delivered to Questar Gas each day from Questar
46 Pipeline. The pooled supplies would then be distributed to the TS Rate Schedule
47 customers individually.

48 **Q. Were the pooling services available before July 1 provided by Questar Gas or**
49 **Questar Pipeline?**

50 A. They were provided by Questar Gas, with the cooperation or accommodation of
51 Questar Pipeline.

52 **Q. Please explain.**

53 A. Gas supplies were pooled before July 1 on the Questar Gas side of the City Gates.
54 Gas supplies were nominated on Questar Pipeline from various supply points to
55 the Questar Gas City Gates. We were then able to nominate on Questar Gas from
56 the gas pool at Questar Gas' City Gates receipt point to individual end-use
57 consumers. This allowed for volumes to be organized and distributed within the
58 Local Distribution Company (LDC) in a manner that provided customer balancing
59 to be contained within the utility and provided Questar Gas with aggregate pooled
60 volumes to easily determine the overall imbalance position during periods of
61 constrained tolerance. This method mirrors the activity found at other utilities
62 where inter-state pipelines provide supply in bulk to the utility's city gate and
63 distribution is then performed within the LDC.

64 Questar Pipeline accommodated Questar Gas' previous form of pooling
65 service by permitting manual confirmations of nominations. During working
66 group meetings resulting from Questar Gas' recent general rate case, Questar

67 Pipeline elected to begin requiring electronic confirmations on July 1. However,
68 as discussed in more detail below, electronic confirmations do not preclude
69 pooling services; indeed, both are industry-standard. Questar Gas could continue
70 to provide a comparable pooling service by formalizing pooling agreements with
71 TS suppliers that could be used for purposes of nominations on Questar Pipeline.

72 **Q. How does Questar Gas' elimination of supply pooling place undue and unfair**
73 **supply reliability risk on TS Rate Schedule customers?**

74 A. With the pooling service removed, natural gas suppliers must nominate supply
75 from the upstream pipeline directly to each TS customer. The distribution of
76 natural gas to each TS customer must now be nominated individually with
77 Questar Gas and, again, with Questar Pipeline.

78 As each TS customer's consumption needs change, so too should the
79 amount of natural gas provided. Before July, this was accomplished by adjusting
80 the overall pooled volume of supply, if necessary, in Questar Gas by adjusting the
81 amount of natural gas delivered to the pool on Questar Pipeline. In most cases, no
82 overall pooled volume change was necessary; simply reallocating the distribution
83 of gas within Questar Gas was needed. This methodology promotes supply
84 reliability because no other changes are necessary outside of the Questar Gas
85 service territory.

86 Since July, every adjustment must be done on both of Questar's systems.
87 As seasonal, operational, and known or unknown maintenance constraints occur
88 on Questar Pipeline, each TS customer's supply is directly impacted by supply

89 disruptions or capacity allocations occurring beyond the Questar Gas service
90 territory. It is this direct impact that is at issue. With pooling, these disruptions
91 can be mitigated by distributing the impact across a group of TS customers as
92 determined by the supplier via nomination rankings. Without pooling, the impact
93 is direct. Distributing these impacts across the group within a pool lessens the
94 volume percentage per TS customer impacted and provides the supplier the
95 opportunity to re-supply the lost volume in the next nomination cycle without
96 interrupting the TS customer's consumption, whereas, a direct supply disruption
97 impact exposes the TS customer(s) to having to stop all consumption
98 immediately, as directed by Questar Gas, or face severe penalties. It is important
99 to note that many TS customers are schools, hospitals, greenhouses, etc. that
100 depend on consistent natural gas supply vital to their business and are not able to
101 withstand a 100% disruption.

102 Questar Gas' presentation in this Docket's Technical Conference on July
103 30, 2014, claims supply reliability can be restored without the use of pooling by
104 distributing supplies from several delivery agreements on Questar Pipeline to
105 multiple TS customers. This claim suggests that any supply disruption would
106 then have a similar outcome to that of pooling and is an acceptable method to
107 manage gas supply delivery. The fatal flaw with this logic becomes apparent
108 when you consider the requirement to provide supply from multiple sources to
109 multiple TS customers. This can be exemplified hypothetically when you
110 consider three supply agreements on Questar Pipeline providing supply to fifty TS

111 customers within Questar Gas. With pools, there would be three supply
112 agreement nominations on Questar Pipeline to the Questar Gas supply pool and
113 fifty supply nominations out of the supply pool to TS customers. Using Questar
114 Gas' logic of non-pooled distribution, each supply agreement on Questar Pipeline
115 would be nominated to each TS customer. This reasoning calls for fifty separate
116 nominations from each of the three supply agreements (one hundred fifty
117 nominations total) on Questar Pipeline, and an equal number on Questar Gas. It
118 triples the number of nominations and triples the number of confirmations to be
119 performed between Questar Gas and Questar Pipeline for each of four cycles each
120 day of the year.

121 In my experience, the risk profile for each TS customer is greatly
122 increased with this line of reasoning, while falling far short of being comparable
123 to the former methodology from a supply reliability perspective. Supplies
124 delivered to Questar Gas each day are not always consistent, either by location of
125 supply points or volume. Nor are daily consumption volumes from each TS
126 customer consistent. From this example, each of the upstream supply variations
127 and downstream consumption changes could result in hundreds of nominations
128 necessary each day and, in some situations, each cycle. With pooling, it is far less
129 complicated and problematic.

130 **Q. How does the elimination of pooling limit the ability of TS customer**
131 **suppliers to effectively balance supply with consumption and avoid Questar**
132 **Gas fees and penalties?**

133 A. Supply pools allow the TS Rate Schedule supplier to manage the distribution of
134 natural gas to each TS customer entirely within Questar Gas. Questar Gas'
135 operational tolerances vary throughout the year so it is important to align the
136 volume of supply with the expected consumption of each TS customer. In most
137 situations, a simple redistribution of supply is needed within Questar Gas by
138 decreasing and increasing supply volumes among TS customers in an effort to
139 comply with the specified tolerances. Other situations may also require volume
140 adjustments to the overall volumes being delivered to Questar Gas, where a
141 nomination is made with the upstream pipeline to provide the expected overall
142 daily volume for consumption for all TS customers.

143 By extending the distribution of supplies needed for compliance beyond
144 the Questar Gas service territory, the job of each TS Rate Schedule supplier
145 becomes far more complex. The work needed to make necessary adjustments
146 involves far more nominations for each TS customer in order to act in their best
147 interests to stay compliant and free from penalties. If FERC increases the number
148 of gas cycles beyond four, as currently being considered, the complexities will be
149 compounded even further.

150 **Q. How does Questar Gas's elimination of pooling services affect Summit's**
151 **ability to comply with existing NAESB confidentiality agreements under its**
152 **customer contracts?**

153 A. The NAESB natural gas purchase/sale agreement is a widely used and preferred
154 contract used between TS customers and their suppliers. It specifically outlines

155 and details the aspects of the transaction between the two parties. It also calls for
156 confidentiality between those parties relating to terms of their agreement:

157 15.10. Unless the parties have elected on the Base Contract not to make
158 this Section 15.10 applicable to this Contract, neither party shall disclose
159 directly or indirectly without the prior written consent of the other party
160 the terms of any transaction to a third party (other than the employees,
161 lenders, royalty owners, counsel, accountants and other agents of the
162 party, or prospective purchasers of all or substantially all of a party's
163 assets or of any rights under this Contract, provided such persons shall
164 have agreed to keep such terms confidential) except (i) in order to comply
165 with any applicable law, order, regulation, or exchange rule, (ii) to the
166 extent necessary for the enforcement of this Contract, (iii) to the extent
167 necessary to implement any transaction, (iv) to the extent necessary to
168 comply with a regulatory agency's reporting requirements including but
169 not limited to gas cost recovery proceedings; or (v) to the extent such
170 information is delivered to such third party for the sole purpose of
171 calculating a published index. Each party shall notify the other party of
172 any proceeding of which it is aware which may result in disclosure of the
173 terms of any transaction (other than as permitted hereunder) and use
174 reasonable efforts to prevent or limit the disclosure. The existence of this
175 Contract is not subject to this confidentiality obligation. Subject to
176 Section 13, the parties shall be entitled to all remedies available at law or
177 in equity to enforce, or seek relief in connection with this confidentiality
178 obligation. The terms of any transaction hereunder shall be kept
179 confidential by the parties hereto for one year from the expiration of the
180 transaction.

181
182 In the event that disclosure is required by a governmental body or
183 applicable law, the party subject to such requirement may disclose the
184 material terms of this Contract to the extent so required, but shall promptly
185 notify the other party, prior to disclosure, and shall cooperate (consistent
186 with the disclosing party's legal obligations) with the other party's efforts
187 to obtain protective orders or similar restraints with respect to such
188 disclosure at the expense of the other party.

189
190 The City Gates between Questar Gas and Questar Pipeline are
191 interconnect points similar to interconnections between pipelines. They are
192 locations where nominations must be confirmed during each cycle of every day.

193 They are also locations where natural gas is commonly transacted between
194 entities like TS Rate Schedule suppliers and TS customers. It is very common for
195 a single volume of natural gas to be transacted between two or more entities at the
196 same interconnect for the same day of usage. As such, it is possible, and
197 common, for City Gate supplies to be purchased at the City Gate from Third
198 Parties for delivery to TS customers. When this happens, under the former
199 method of nomination, the Third Party supplier identified the TS Rate Schedule
200 supplier's pool for delivery. The pool maintained confidentiality between the TS
201 Rate Schedule supplier and the TS customers.

202 With the elimination of pooling, the TS Rate Schedule supplier must
203 identify each TS customer's agreement on Questar Gas, the volume and any
204 changes needing to be made either day-to-day or each cycle, or both. Not only
205 does this new non-pooled method of nomination remove the TS Rate Schedule
206 supplier from direct control of the volumes, but it also forces the disclosure of its
207 TS customers' identity, volume requirements and relation of the TS Rate
208 Schedule supplier to the Third Party who may also be a competitor within Questar
209 Gas. In my view, this clearly violates the confidentiality obligations of Paragraph
210 15.10 of the standard NAESB agreement.

211 **Q. How does the removal of pooling diminish the desire of Third Party suppliers**
212 **to provide supply at the Questar Gas City Gates?**

213 A. The negative market impacts of direct, non-pooled, point-to-point nominations
214 upstream of the Questar Gas City Gates to each TS customer has already begun

215 and is expected to become more severe. The requirement to nominate to each TS
216 customer creates a significant burden on Third Party suppliers, given the large
217 number of nominations and volume changes that are regularly required. Reduced
218 liquidity of market participants is likely, and expected, as a result of forcing non-
219 pooled supplies for Utah TS customers. In other words, I expect some natural gas
220 suppliers to simply decide not to market gas supplies to Utah TS businesses.
221 Rather, they will sell into liquid markets where these increased burdens do not
222 exist. For those suppliers who may elect to continue serving the Utah TS market,
223 the additional burdens will cause increased costs that will be passed on to the
224 consumers. I do not believe it is appropriate to allow any entity -- particularly an
225 entity that also competes to supply gas to Utah TS customers -- to cause this type
226 of anti-competitive, manipulative market effects.

227 **Q. Did the elimination of supply pooling create discriminatory impacts by**
228 **placing unnecessary burdens on TS Rate Schedule customers compared to**
229 **similarly situated customers of Questar Gas' gas marketing function?**

230 A. Yes. The discriminatory and anti-competitive nature of the discontinued pooling
231 services of Questar Gas can be clearly seen when comparing the rate schedules
232 available to Utah business consumers. The TS Rate Schedule is often chosen
233 because Utah commercial and industrial consumers wish to have greater control
234 over their natural gas fuel costs.

235 Questar Gas has now forced non-pooled nomination requirements and
236 burdens on TS customers that are not applicable or relevant to customers under

237 Questar Gas' GS or FS Rate Schedules. This places unfair operational risks on
238 the TS customers' supply reliability, exposes their operational fuel usage to an
239 unreasonable level of risk for additional fees and penalties, and forces disclosure
240 of their supply transactions to Third Party suppliers. Questar Gas' other rate
241 schedules do not suffer any such requirements or burdens, causing discriminatory
242 impacts on Utah TS customers.

243 **Q. Why do you say that gas supply customers of Questar Gas are not burdened**
244 **in a similar manner?**

245 A. Until July, there was no difference in the manner with which gas supply
246 nominations from Questar Pipeline could be made between Questar Gas and the
247 TS suppliers. Daily natural gas supply delivered to the Questar Gas City Gates
248 could be made in bulk and the distribution was done within Questar Gas'
249 nomination system. The Questar Pipeline requirement for electronic
250 confirmations beginning in July at the shared City Gates between Questar
251 Pipeline and Questar Gas, coupled with Questar Gas' decision to abandon its
252 pooling service, impacts only TS Rate Schedule businesses. The nomination
253 method for Questar Gas consumers utilizing either the GS or FS Rate Schedules
254 has remained unchanged. Natural gas supplies for those rate schedules are still
255 received in bulk at the City Gate interconnect from Questar Pipeline and then
256 pooled for Questar Gas' distribution to its customer base.

257 **Q. Did Questar Gas ever explain why it was eliminating supply pooling**
258 **functionality for TS Rate Schedule suppliers?**

259 A. Questar Gas claimed the elimination of its pooling service was necessary to
260 comply with Questar Pipeline Company's requirement to perform electronic
261 confirmations at all of its interconnections, including the City Gates it shares with
262 Questar Gas.

263 **Q. Is it true that City Gate supply pooling at Local Distribution Company**
264 **receipt points cannot be made available where electronic confirmations are**
265 **used?**

266 A. Absolutely not. The pooling of natural gas supplies at City Gates where
267 electronic confirmations are required is very common with Local Distribution
268 Companies throughout the United States. Summit nominates to many pooled City
269 Gate receipt points where electronic confirmations are used, including Xcel in
270 Colorado, Southwest Gas in Arizona and SoCal Gas in California.

271 **Q. Are you certain that Questar Pipeline can accommodate the type of supply**
272 **pooling that you propose?**

273 A. Yes. In fact, at a Questar Pipeline Firm Shipper's Meeting in March of this year,
274 Questar Pipeline made a presentation regarding what it termed the "QGC Pooling
275 Proposal." Attached as Exhibit A (Complainants Exhibit 2.1) is the cover page
276 from that presentation, together with the pages of the presentation that dealt with
277 pooling. As confirmed in the "Conclusions" on page 7 of 8 of the attached
278 Questar Pipeline presentation, a "QGC pool meets the customer needs and QGC
279 documentation of firm supply" and "Minimal system changes are required to
280 implement this proposal." The presentation also confirms that automated EDI

281 confirmations can be utilized with a pool. All we need now is for Questar Gas to
282 follow through with its own pooling proposal.

283 **Q. Given these facts, has Questar Gas explained why it refuses to continue to**
284 **provide pooling services?**

285 A. Questar Gas has never provided a clear or understandable reason, other than
286 simply claiming this is the choice it has made. Questar Gas has suggested that
287 direct point-to-point non-pooled nominations better suit its needs in the event of a
288 curtailment on its system, and also that they enhance supply transparency. These
289 explanations are unpersuasive. Questar Pipeline has received and delivered
290 natural gas from and to pools for many years at many separate interconnect points
291 throughout its system. Questar Pipeline's interactions with Questar Gas should be
292 no different.

293 Summit Energy and others have met with Questar Gas and Questar
294 Pipeline and have provided examples of best practices used by other LDCs that
295 would provide Questar Gas the functionality it claims to require while
296 maintaining the service of pooling natural gas supplies for their TS customers.
297 The unwillingness of Questar Gas to eliminate the unnecessary impacts and
298 ramifications of its election to discontinue pooling services raises genuine
299 concerns with regard to unfair and anticompetitive monopolistic actions, and adds
300 unnecessary barriers to entry for those who would otherwise offer gas supplies
301 and services to Utah businesses in competition with Questar.

302 **Q. What was the outcome of Summit Energy's discussions with Questar Gas**
303 **and Questar Pipeline?**

304 A. Summit Energy has been very up front with Questar Gas and Questar Pipeline in
305 an effort to help them understand how comparable issues have been addressed and
306 resolved with other LDCs. Summit Energy met with key personnel collectively
307 from Questar Pipeline Marketing and Business Development, Questar Gas Gas
308 Marketing, Questar Pipeline/Questar Gas Gas Control and Questar Gas Gas
309 Supply to explain our concern and to propose an alternative solution that would
310 meet the needs of all involved. It appeared that Questar representatives were not
311 fully aware of the ramifications of its decision.

312 Summit Energy explained how the functionality of a formalized pooled
313 receipt supply would benefit both Questar Gas and Questar Pipeline by providing
314 the supply transparency needed for day-to-day operations and for peak-day and
315 supply disruption events. We explained how it also allows for cross-agreement
316 balancing whereby Questar Gas and Questar Pipeline could mitigate volume
317 discrepancies for both upstream disruptions and downstream volume
318 requirements. Most importantly, we explained how pooling addressed the
319 problems experienced on December 5, 2013, where Questar Gas declared a period
320 of interruption due to a massive supply disruption impacting the scheduled
321 Questar Gas and TS Rate Schedule suppliers' gas supplies. Formalized supply
322 pools benefit all parties in those situations by allowing the utility to precisely
323 identify impacted supplies from each supplier and provide directions as to how to

324 implement any necessary supply volume changes. It would also formalize the
325 relationship between Questar Gas and TS suppliers, leading to more efficient lines
326 of communication between them rather than communicating only through TS
327 customers.

328 While we believed that the representatives from Questar Gas Control
329 understood and agreed with us, Questar Gas has nevertheless refused to reinstate
330 the critical pooling services.

331 **Q. Does the risk of future curtailments like those on December 5, 2013 support**
332 **Questar Gas's elimination of pooling services?**

333 A. No. As discussed above, pools are actually beneficial when supply disruptions
334 occur and curtailment may be necessary. In any event, similar curtailments had
335 not occurred on Questar Gas in recent memory, and Questar Gas has admitted that
336 its contact information and procedures for notifying customers in the event of
337 such curtailments were "rusty." The possibility of infrequent curtailments, and
338 Questar's inadequate preparation for curtailments, do not justify the radical
339 changes imposed by Questar or the attendant risk of unreasonable consequences
340 on Utah businesses.

341 **Q. What program does Questar Gas use for nominations, and does it differ from**
342 **those used elsewhere in the country?**

343 A. Questar Gas and Questar Pipeline both use Quorum, a program used by other
344 natural gas companies throughout the country.

345 **Q. Do other entities using the Quorum nomination system also provide**
346 **interconnect pooling services?**

347 A. Yes, Summit Energy uses the Quorum system on several other systems for
348 nominations where interconnect pooling is performed.

349 **Q. Can you please better explain natural gas nomination methods at city gates**
350 **and other interconnects?**

351 A. An interconnect is the connection point between two natural gas systems that
352 permit the transfer of gas in either direction. These locations perform cycle
353 confirmations needed to align such transfers and are common locations for natural
354 gas transactions between parties.

355 Interconnect operations include the alignment and transfer of natural gas
356 from one capacity agreement of an entity selling or supplying gas to another
357 capacity agreement of an entity buying or receiving the gas. The process of
358 confirming volumes through an interconnect is outlined by the nomination
359 procedures at each interconnect. The providing agreement's nomination identifies
360 the receiving agreement and the receiving agreement identifies the providing
361 agreement. After the agreements have been aligned, the other aspects of the
362 nomination are considered, such as volume and priority rank.

363 City Gates and interconnects operate identically. The only difference
364 between a City Gate and any another interconnect is that an interconnect is called
365 a City Gate where the interconnection is made with a local distribution company
366 utility.

367 **Q. How do capacity agreements and pools differ?**

368 A. A pool is a common market point where volumes are gathered from multiple
369 capacity agreements for distribution to other capacity agreements. They are
370 generally used for the aggregation and transfer of volume ownership.

371 **Q. If an LDC allows pooling at its City Gates for transportation customers, does
372 it negatively affect the LDC or its other customers?**

373 A. No, there is no negative impact on other rate schedule customers. The operations
374 necessary to provide supply and balancing for such customers are independent of
375 those used to provide pooling for transportation customers.

376 Questar has a legitimate concern with balancing supplies to TS customers,
377 and imbalances (the difference between nominations and usage) can have a
378 negative influence on Questar and other customers that could require Questar to
379 make a nomination change for itself. However, pooling actually helps Questar
380 Gas and its other customers in this regard. Pooling allows gas suppliers to more
381 effectively manage the overall supply/demand balance in aggregate, providing
382 more efficient control over imbalances. Questar Gas' decision to eliminate
383 pooling will require that imbalances be managed on a customer by customer
384 basis, requiring over 400 TS customers to be monitored individually. Formalized
385 pooling would allow Questar Gas to focus on the overall aggregate pooled
386 imbalances resulting from combined supply and consumption of dozens of TS
387 customers at once. Pooling provides a far simpler and more effective method to

388 manage potential impacts and helps ensure that mistakes of the past need not be
389 repeated.

390 **Q. Is the concept of pooling new to Questar?**

391 A. No. Questar Corp. actively uses pooling throughout its business functions, be it
392 the gathering of wellhead volumes within Wexpro, pooling as described in the
393 Questar Pipeline tariff or Questar Gas' pooled supplies used for its distribution
394 responsibilities. It wasn't until July of this year that Questar Gas ended the
395 decades old pooling service for its TS customers. During my employment with
396 Questar Energy Trading in 2003-2005, pools were used as a common practice.

397 **Q. Do other pipelines that provide natural gas to Questar Gas' City Gates utilize
398 pools and electronic confirmations at other interconnections?**

399 A. Yes. For example, Kern River Gas Transmission provides delivery to the SoCal
400 Gas and PG&E utilities and receives pooled supply from Opal. Historically, Kern
401 River has not used pools with Questar Gas because only a small number of Utah
402 TS customers receive their supply from Kern River compared to that of Questar
403 Pipeline. Questar Pipeline delivers and receives natural gas from and to pools at
404 many of its interconnects with Northwest Pipeline, Colorado Interstate Gas,
405 Wyoming Interstate Gas and Kern River Gas Transmission, to name a few.

406 **Q. Will you please summarize your testimony and your recommendations?**

407 A. I have examined the TS customer impacts of Questar Gas' nomination process
408 change beginning July 1, 2014, in which the pooling service previously provided
409 at its City Gates with Questar Pipeline was eliminated, and have determined it is

410 not a fair or feasible solution that maintains a reasonable or comparable level of
411 supply reliability and supply/usage balancing provided previously. The resulting
412 customer-specific point-to-point nomination method directly exposes each TS
413 customer to increased supply risks beyond the service territory of Questar Gas
414 while decreasing the optionality of supply balancing and flexibility necessary to
415 ensure secure and reliable supply services for typical day-to-day operations, and
416 especially during periods of peak seasonal usage where system constraints are
417 common.

418 This type of point-to-point nomination imposes an additional and
419 unreasonable level of risk for TS customers that is not required of any other rate
420 class, including an increased level of communication and nominations required
421 between suppliers and upstream pipelines to make adjustments per confirmation
422 cycle, an increased number of confirmations to follow Questar Gas' suggestion to
423 diversify supply agreements across each TS supplier's customer base, anti-
424 competitive and discriminatory market impacts on Third Party supplier
425 participation at the City Gates, increased burdens for those who may elect to
426 continue to provide City Gate supply, and a necessary breach of supplier-
427 customer confidentiality when any Third Party supplier is utilized.

428 The City Gates between Questar Gas and Questar Pipeline function and
429 operate the same as interconnections between other pipelines with connections to
430 other LDCs or other pipelines. As such, the most effective way to resolve the
431 operational needs of Questar Gas, while considering its compliance with its

432 affiliate, Questar Pipeline, and the TS customers' reasonable needs, is to allow for
433 receipt supply pooling at the Questar Gas City Gates for distribution. A City Gate
434 receipt pool for each TS supplier would give the TS customer and Questar Gas
435 upstream supply transparency while allowing Questar Gas to have cross-
436 agreement balancing necessary during occurrences of severe supply disruption as
437 occurred last December. These pools would also provide Questar Gas with an
438 aggregate level perspective for balancing and imbalance mitigation and for the
439 identification and determination of any imbalances for the purpose of assessing
440 costs or fees based on the net imbalance of the pool.

441 It is my view that the formal establishment of receipt City Gate pooling
442 between Questar Gas and the TS suppliers is necessary to maintain the previously
443 available and relied upon method of ensuring stable and reliable natural gas
444 supply and supply services for Utah businesses who are TS Rate Schedule
445 customers, and would perform in a manner consistent with the supply operations
446 used by Questar Gas for similar customers to whom Questar Gas sells gas. I
447 strongly urge the Commission to require Questar Gas to re-establish supply
448 pooling at its City Gates with Questar Pipeline.

449 **Q. Does this conclude your prepared testimony?**

450 **A. Yes.**

Michael McGarvey

Professional Summary

Seventeen years energy industry experience performing duties relating to wellhead production and gathering, physical and financial natural gas trading throughout the West and Midcon, transportation optimization, storage and asset management, end-user marketing, gas operations, financial structured products and WTI crude optimization. Nine years developing and guiding business practices and contractual obligations for FERC and other regulatory compliance. In depth understanding of cross commodity risk as applicable to wind integration and gas/power operational optimization.

Employment

2012-Present **Summit Energy, LLC** **Salt Lake City, UT**

Director, Natural Gas Trading and Marketing

- Responsible for leading the development and execution of the company's marketing plan and sales strategy.
- Manage all trading and risk management activity.
- Manage the scheduling operations.

2010-2012 **Magnum Energy, LLC** **Salt Lake City, UT**

Vice President, Natural Gas Storage Sales

- Responsible for the development and execution of the company's marketing plan and sales strategy. Also responsible for the overall coordination, functional management and leadership of all natural gas storage marketing and sales activities for the business.
- Provided in depth gas storage and transportation market knowledge, proposed market segmentation alternatives and created wholesale products for high deliverability natural gas storage, CCGT and CAES.
- Worked closely with engineering, finance, accounting and legal counterparts within the organization to create business plans, associated tariffs and transaction agreements that optimize company assets within the storage value chain.
- Applied a broad range of transaction structures to meet margin requirements including financing, financial hedges, physical purchases and sales, asset management and capacity release transactions.
- Implemented programs to identify, develop and execute standard and non-standard transactions for both strategic and marketing oriented clients that produce, transport, store, distribute, sell and store natural gas and compressed air.
- Developed and valued plans that optimize wind/natural gas/power integration that reduce cross commodity operational risk and align with future Renewable Portfolio Standards.

2007-2010 **Shell Energy North America** **Salt Lake City, UT**

Manager, West Origination

- Established and managed Shell's Salt Lake City office managing natural gas wholesale, retail and aggregator business in Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, South Dakota, California, Arizona, Nevada & Montana.
- Coordinated with Business Development, Renewables, Producer Services, Mergers/Acquisitions and Utilities groups to maximize regional footprint.

2005-2007 **BP Energy Company** **Salt Lake City, UT**

End-User Origination

- Established and managed BP's first Utah office.
- Expanded customer base and increased end-use physical market 800%.
- Exceeded initial 3-year startup target projections within first nine months of hire.
- Thorough knowledge of digital options and other financial products.
- Advised and assisted BP's Houston desk for storage optimization and Park/Lend in the West.
- Member of BP President's Extended Leadership Team within three months of hire.

2003-2005 **Questar Energy Trading Company** **Salt Lake City, UT**

Storage Manager, Physical/Financial Trader

- Developed, implemented and hedged all Rockies storage positions. Performed price and basis discovery. Traded physical gas from Sumas to San Juan and SoCal to Cheyenne Hub.
- Responsible for trading and managing Questar's Midcon production increasing returns by 1200% in first year.
- Hedged corporate gas and crude equity production for Questar Market Resources.
- Performed scheduling responsibilities for all Rockies storage accounts and pipelines as needed.
- Developed active trade tracking software to replace existing antiquated methods within first two months of employment and received Corporate/Presidential recognition. Developed several model/macros showing forward and current positions to aid daily trading optimization.
- Educated Questar Pipeline Company how to develop and manage the current PAL-1 & 2 Park and Lend services for Clay Basin Storage.

2002-2003 **Duke Energy Trading & Marketing, LLC** **Salt Lake City, UT**
Financial Gas Trader

- Developed and implemented all western monthly transportation positions. Gamma scalped transportation spreads to harvest extrinsic value.
- Developed, implemented and hedged all long dated storage positions at Clay Basin, Jackson Prairie, Socal, PG&E and Wild Goose storage facilities.
- Maintained current pipeline rates and discounts, transportation grid capacities, storage inventories and injection/withdrawal activity.
- Responsible for marking Balmo and basis market marks. Performed price discovery.

2000-2001 **Duke Energy Trading & Marketing, LLC** **Salt Lake City, UT**
Rockies Operations Supervisor

- Managed the scheduling operations in the Rocky Mountain region scheduling group emphasizing increased job knowledge through cross-training and efficiency. Optimized transportation, storage, gathering and position.
- Traded daily and monthly physical natural gas at Opal and Cheyenne Hub.

1997-2000 **Duke Energy Trading & Marketing, LLC** **Salt Lake City, UT**
Operations Representative

- Performed the responsibilities consistent with scheduling natural gas. Assets scheduled are Questar Pipeline, Questar Gas, Clay Basin, Overthrust, CIG, WIC, TrailBlazer, Kern River, Opal, Montana Power, Overland Trail, NWP, GTN, Jackson Prairie, SoCal, PG&E, Whitney Canyon, KN, KN Gathering, Treestem, TransColorado, and Anshutz/Painter.
- Managed pipeline, transport and end-user imbalances as well as storage cycles. Assisted scheduling for TransWestern Pipeline, Southern California and El Paso Pipeline.

Education **1996** **University of Utah** **Salt Lake City, UT**
 Bachelors of Science
 International Politics
 International Relations Certificate
 Physics

2002 **Princeton Energy Programme** **Salt Lake City, UT**
 Fundamentals of Energy Futures and Options
 Energy Risk Management
 Options II – Option Pricing and Applications
 Fundamentals of Technical Analysis in the Energy Markets

2006 **BP** **Houston, TX**
 Marketing/Selling Techniques
 Negotiations