

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the)
Application of Questar Gas) Docket No. 15-057-17
company to Change the)
Infrastructure Rate)
Adjustment)
)
In the Matter of the) Docket No. 15-057-18
Application of Questar Gas)
Company to Amortize the)
Demand Side)
Management/Energy) HEARING
Efficiency Deferred Account)
Balance.)

November 30, 2015
10:02 a.m.

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160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
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A P P E A R A N C E S

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I N D E X

Witness	Page
JORDAN STEPHENSON	
Examination by Ms. Nelson Clark	4
ERIC ORTON	
Direct Examination by Ms. Schmid	7
Examination by Presiding Officer	9
KELLY B. MENDENHALL	
Direct Examination by Ms. Nelson Clark	13
Cross-Examination by Ms. Schmid	17
Examination by Presiding Officer	17
CAROLYN ROLL	
Direct Examination by Ms. Schmid	23
Examination by Presiding Officer	26

1 November 30, 2015

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

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: We are on the record.

4 Good morning everyone. I'm Melanie Reif, the hearing
5 officer for this docket. Actually, we're hearing two
6 dockets this morning, Docket 1505717 and 1505718.

7 These dockets are entitled In the Matter of
8 the Application of Questar Gas Company to Change the
9 Infrastructure Rate Adjustments and In the Matter of the
10 Application of Questar Gas Company to Amortize the
11 Demand Side Management Energy Efficiency Deferred
12 Account Balance.

13 Welcome, and we'll start by taking
14 appearances.

15 MS. NELSON CLARK: Jennifer Nelson Clark on
16 behalf of Questar Gas Company, and I have two witnesses
17 with me, Jordan Stephenson and Kelly Mendenhall.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

19 MS. SCHMID: Patricia E. Schmid with the
20 attorney general's office on behalf of the Division of
21 Public Utilities, and with me we have Mr. Eric Orton,
22 who will be the division's witnesses in Docket No.
23 15057-17. And Carolyn Roll, who will be the division's
24 witness in Docket No. 15057-18.

25 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you. And

1 welcome everyone. I'll go ahead and take these in order
2 starting with the 17 docket. And just for ease of
3 clarity, I think I'll go ahead and have everyone sworn
4 in at the same time.

5 So if you intend to give testimony today, if
6 you would kindly raise your right hand. And when you do
7 come up to testify, you can take a seat at the desk and
8 make sure the microphone is right up to you.

9 So do you swear to tell the truth?

10 WITNESSES: Yes. Yes.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. Ms. Nelson.

12 MS. NELSON CLARK: Thank you. The company
13 calls Jordan Stephenson.

14 THE WITNESS: Do you want me at the desk
15 today?

16 PRESIDING OFFICER: Yes, please.

17 THE WITNESS: Okay.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER: And you have been sworn so
19 go ahead and take a seat.

20 THE WITNESS: Okay.

21 JORDAN STEPHENSON,

22 called as a witness at the instance of Questar Gas
23 Company, having been first duly sworn, was examined and
24 testified as follows:

25 DIRECT EXAMINATION

1 BY MS. NELSON CLARK:

2 Q. Would you please state your name and business
3 address for the record.

4 A. Jordan Stephenson, 333 South State, Salt Lake
5 City, Utah.

6 Q. And who do you work for?

7 A. Questar Gas Company.

8 Q. What position do you hold there?

9 A. I am the senior regulatory analyst.

10 Q. Mr. Stephenson, did you prepare the
11 application in this matter, or was it prepared under
12 your supervision?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you adopt the contents of that application
15 as your testimony today?

16 A. Yes.

17 MS. NELSON CLARK: Company moves for the
18 admission of the application and attached exhibits.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER: Any objection?

20 MS. SCHMID: No objection.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER: They are admitted.

22 MS. NELSON CLARK: Thank you.

23 Q. (By Ms. Nelson Clark) Mr. Stephenson, would
24 you please summarize the relief the company is seeking
25 with this application.

1 A. Yes. In Docket No. 15057-17, the company
2 seeks to adjust the infrastructure tracker replacement
3 rate to include investment related to high pressure and
4 intermediate high pressure infrastructure replacement
5 projects that were in service as of October 31st, 2015.
6 The majority of the incremental investment since the
7 last tracker filing comings from the Feeder Line 6 and
8 24 projects.

9 The company's requesting a \$7.3 million
10 increase in annual revenue related to this investment,
11 resulting in a revenue requirement of \$12.7 million. If
12 approved, this would result in an increase of 5 dollars
13 and 71 cents per year or .8 percent paid by a typical
14 customer using 80 decatherms per year.

15 **Q. Does that conclude your --**

16 A. And that concludes my summary. Yes.

17 MS. NELSON CLARK: Thank you. Mr. Stephenson
18 is available for further questioning.

19 PRESIDING OFFICER: Any questions, Ms. Schmid?

20 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

21 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you for your
22 testimony, Mr. Stephenson.

23 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. Is that it?

24 MS. NELSON CLARK: The company has no further
25 witnesses on the 17 docket. If you would prefer us to

1 proceed and also have our witness speak on the 18, we
2 can do that or --

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: Why don't we take them one
4 by one, so we'll move to the division on the 17 docket.

5 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. The division would
6 like to call Mr. Eric Orton as its witness. Mr. Eric
7 Orton has previously been sworn.

8 ERIC ORTON,
9 called as a witness at the instance of the Division,
10 having been previously sworn, was examined and testified
11 as follows:

12 DIRECT EXAMINATION

13 BY MS. SCHMID:

14 Q. Good morning.

15 A. Good morning.

16 Q. Could you please state your full name,
17 employer and title for the record.

18 A. My name is Eric Orton. I work for the
19 Division of Public Utilities for the State of Utah.

20 And --

21 Q. Could you please provide the business address.

22 A. 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake.

23 Q. Have you participated on behalf of the
24 division in this docket?

25 A. I have.

1 Q. Did you participate in the preparation of the
2 division memorandum entitled Action Request Response
3 dated November 23rd, 2015, and filed in this docket?

4 A. I did.

5 Q. Do you adopt what is said therein as your
6 testimony today?

7 A. I do.

8 Q. Do you have a brief summary of the division's
9 position?

10 A. I do.

11 Q. Please proceed.

12 A. Thanks. Company is requesting an increase in
13 their infrastructure of approximately \$7.3 million.
14 That's for an investment close as the end of October
15 2015.

16 The division has reviewed the application,
17 spent time talking with company personnel, and believes
18 that this application is compliant with the commission's
19 order and that the division recommends approval of the
20 proposed rates on an interim basis until an audit can be
21 completed. At that time we will make a final
22 recommendation to the commission.

23 Q. Do you believe approval on the interim basis
24 is just, reasonable and in the public interest?

25 A. I do.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 MS. SCHMID: The division would like to move
3 for the admission of the memorandum dated November 23rd,
4 2015 and previously identified.

5 MS. NELSON CLARK: No objection.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. It will be
7 admitted.

8 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. Mr. Orton is now
9 available for questions.

10 MS. NELSON CLARK: The company has no
11 questions for Mr. Orton.

12 EXAMINATION

13 BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER:

14 Q. Mr. Orton, I have just a few things I wanted
15 to go over with you this morning.

16 A. Sure.

17 Q. And to help me do so and to help you track
18 what I am going over, if you have a copy of the
19 division's November 23rd action request response, that
20 might be helpful for you to have handy.

21 A. I have it.

22 Q. Okay, great. If you could turn to page 5 of
23 that, and my first question relates to the first full
24 sentence in that -- on that page.

25 A. Uh-huh.

1 Q. Where it states that in Exhibit 1.3 the
2 company is demonstrating that the 7.3 million revenue
3 increase is allocated according to the cost of service
4 percent ordered in the rate case. And then in parens it
5 states, "Post-bonus depreciation and the 72 percent
6 setup pertaining to the IT customers."

7 It's not clear to me or to the commission what
8 the division is referring to when it's -- when it's
9 referring to the 72 percent setup. Could you elaborate
10 on that, please.

11 A. Yes. Thank you. That's a 72 percent step-up,
12 not setup.

13 Q. Oh, I'm sorry, step-up. Yes, you're correct.

14 A. And so as we talked in the last filing, the
15 bonus depreciation was an issue, and then the IT
16 customers, according to the commission's order in the
17 last case, had a two-step increase. I just wanted to
18 make sure the commission was aware that these
19 calculations remained after that was figured into the --
20 to the rates. So that's what I was trying to bring up.

21 Q. So is it consistent -- is your explanation
22 consistent then with interpreting the sentence to mean
23 that the rates reflect that the Step 2 rate change
24 spread approved in the commission's June 6, 2014, report
25 and order, that those are the rates that are reflected?

1 A. Yeah. That would be accurate.

2 Q. Okay. In the following paragraph, the full --
3 first full paragraph on page 5 at the very end.

4 A. Uh-huh.

5 Q. That paragraph ends with, "The division will
6 audit the total spent in 2015 after the company books
7 are closed." Has the division audited the IT spend for
8 2013 and 2014?

9 A. I am not aware of that. I don't do the
10 auditing. I can't answer that. I don't know.

11 MS. SCHMID: Pardon me. Our witness who has
12 been sworn for the other docket, Ms. Roll, may have some
13 information on the audit process if you would like her
14 to answer the question.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER: That would be helpful.
16 Thank you, Ms. Roll.

17 MS. ROLL: Certainly. The procedure that we
18 go through, we have completed one audit which went
19 through 2012. And I am looking to company to make sure
20 they are agreeing with me. And then when we started
21 after the previous rate case, then everything was zeroed
22 out. And now we are into the next phase.

23 So 2013, that was basically, all those
24 moneys -- we will review them. But they were -- the
25 majority of those were included in the number that was

1 approved in the rate case. So they don't start tracking
2 until that first amount is met. And so I will audit all
3 of 2014 and '15 very soon because it needs to be done
4 before the next rate case.

5 So to answer your question, they have not been
6 done. But they will be -- that audit will be completed
7 before the next rate case.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms. Roll. And
9 to follow up on my question, how will the results of
10 those audits be communicated to the commission?

11 MS. ROLL: We, we file a report to you.

12 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

13 MS. ROLL: So this is new since -- the tracker
14 is new. So the commission has received one audit report
15 from the division. And those -- then those dollars were
16 closed out in the previous rate case, and now we will be
17 doing a second one. And then, then that will also zero
18 out as it did before, with the new -- the rate case that
19 will be filed sometime in 2016.

20 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

21 MS. SCHMID: For clarity, Judge Reif, would
22 you like to have Ms. Roll sworn in this docket and have
23 her adopt the testimony she just provided?

24 PRESIDING OFFICER: When all of the
25 individuals were sworn, it was assumed that they would

1 be sworn for the entire day for both dockets. So
2 Ms. Roll, rather than assuming, I understand that your
3 testimony is under -- for purposes of the 17 docket. Is
4 that yours as well?

5 MS. ROLL: Yes.

6 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you.

7 MS. SCHMID: Thank you for the clarification.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. Ms. Nelson, do
9 you have any follow-up with Ms. Roll?

10 MS. NELSON CLARK: I do not, thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER: Or with Mr. Orton?

12 MS. NELSON CLARK: No, I don't. Thanks.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. I think we're ready
14 to move on to Docket 18.

15 MS. NELSON CLARK: The company will call
16 Mr. Kelly B. Mendenhall.

17 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

18 KELLY B. MENDENHALL,
19 called as a witness at the instance of Questar Gas
20 Company, having been first duly sworn, was examined and
21 testified as follows:

22 DIRECT EXAMINATION

23 BY MS. NELSON CLARK:

24 Q. Mr. Mendenhall, would you please state your
25 name and business address for the record.

1 A. My name is Kelly B. Mendenhall. My business
2 address is 333 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah.

3 Q. Thank you. Would you please identify your
4 employer and what position you hold there.

5 A. I am the general manager of regulatory affairs
6 for Questar Gas Company.

7 Q. Mr. Mendenhall, was the application in this
8 matter prepared by you or under your direction?

9 A. Yes, it was.

10 Q. And I'd like to refer you to Questar Gas
11 Company's reply comments that were also filed in this
12 docket on the 25th of November. Were those reply
13 comments also prepared by you or under your supervision?

14 A. Yes, they were.

15 Q. And do you adopt the contents of both of these
16 documents and their attachments as your testimony today?

17 A. Yes.

18 MS. NELSON CLARK: The company would move for
19 the admission of the application and its attached
20 exhibits, as well as Questar Gas Company's reply
21 comments and the attached exhibits.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. Any objection?

23 MS. SCHMID: No objection.

24 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. They are
25 admitted.

1 MS. NELSON CLARK: Thank you.

2 Q. (By Ms. Nelson Clark) Mr. Mendenhall, can you
3 please summarize the relief the company is seeking in
4 this docket.

5 A. Yes. In Docket No. 1505718, the application
6 of Questar Gas Company to amortize the demand side
7 management, energy efficiency deferred account balance,
8 the company proposes to continue to utilize the
9 amortization rate currently approved by the commission.

10 The company took the balance in the account at
11 the time of the filing and estimated the costs would be
12 coming into the account and the amount of reimbursement
13 that would be coming back from customers if the 24 cent
14 amortization rate was continued through the test period.

15 Based on these estimates, the company believes
16 it can collect the correct amount of revenue using the
17 existing rate, while at the same time keeping interest
18 costs to a minimum.

19 The commission issued an action request in
20 this docket asking the division to investigate certain
21 accounting differences between the filing and financial
22 statements. On November 25th, 2015, the company
23 prepared corrected exhibits and answers to the
24 commissioner questions.

25 At quarter end the accountants make estimates

1 for costs that are known but have not yet been accounted
2 for. An example of this would be a large vendor invoice
3 that is to be expected to be paid but has not been
4 received. These accruals are required by GAP accounting
5 principals, and the company makes these account -- these
6 entries. But in this filing, we omitted a few of them
7 because they could not be categorized into any
8 particular DSM program.

9 Going forward, we are working with the
10 accounting department to make this process a little more
11 clear for -- for us for purposes of our filing, as well
12 as for them for the accounting rules they need to
13 follow.

14 There was one question in this filing about
15 whether our exhibits with discrepancies had any impact
16 on interest expense, and the interest expense was
17 calculated correctly. It was just a matter of us
18 omitting some entries on our filing and our exhibits.
19 So those have been corrected in the -- in the reply
20 comments. And now they should tie to the financial
21 statements.

22 So the company requests that the commission
23 authorize Questar Gas to continue to collect energy
24 efficiency costs using the current amortization rates,
25 and that concludes my comments.

1 MS. NELSON CLARK: Mr. Mendenhall is available
2 for further questioning.

3 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. Ms. Schmid,
4 any questions?

5 CROSS-EXAMINATION

6 BY MS. SCHMID:

7 **Q. Just to make it clear, did the company's reply**
8 **comments change the effect in this docket?**

9 A. No. Because as I mentioned earlier, we
10 feel -- we felt that by leaving the rate where it was
11 currently at, we would be able to collect the correct
12 amount without an impact on the interest expense. So
13 really the, the exhibits were just for illustrative
14 purposes and had no impact on how the rate was
15 calculated.

16 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. That was all the
17 division's questions.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you, Ms. Schmid.

19 EXAMINATION

20 BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER:

21 **Q. Mr. Mendenhall, I have some questions for you**
22 **as well.**

23 A. Okay.

24 **Q. And I'd like to begin by addressing the**
25 **commission's request, the amended action request that**

1 was issued on the 30th of November. And I think that
2 this is in part related to the question that Ms. Schmid
3 has asked, but in particular it relates to the last part
4 of the request involving Exhibit 1.3.

5 And when looking at the electronic filing, it
6 appears that -- well, let me just ask you. In looking
7 at the Exhibit 1.3, in particular cell C-5, is that
8 correct, Mr. Mendenhall?

9 A. Without knowing what is in cell C-5, I am --
10 do you know what -- what number is in that cell?

11 Q. Okay. Yes.

12 A. I have it printed out, but I don't know what
13 the columns and rows are.

14 Q. Yes. The C-5, my understanding is, C-5 is a
15 reflection of the forecast amortization volumes for
16 December 15 through November 16.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And it -- if it helps, in looking at the
19 information that was submitted in the shadow portion of
20 the exhibit below that information, it's not clear to
21 the commission that the amount listed under the
22 amortization volumes in fact reflects December 15
23 through November 16.

24 A. Okay. So I think I understand what you are
25 asking. So this number should be -- and I am assuming

1 it's correct. I could be wrong. Those should be the
2 forecasted IRP volumes that, that we have -- that we
3 would normally use in pass-through filings or that we
4 would have used in the feeder line tracker filing. Or
5 infrastructure replacement tracker filing, Docket 17.

6 **Q. Okay. So just to make this easier for**
7 **everyone to understand --**

8 A. Yes.

9 **Q. And perhaps if there is a correction that**
10 **needs to be made.**

11 A. Yeah.

12 **Q. It appears that the number does not reflect**
13 **the 12 month volumes. Is that what you are agreeing**
14 **with?**

15 A. If, if the commission has reviewed those and
16 compared them to the IRP volumes and they are not
17 matching them, subject to check I would agree that a
18 correction needs to be made in this exhibit.

19 **Q. Okay. Do you have the exhibit handy?**

20 A. I have the -- yes. I have the hard copy of
21 the exhibit handy.

22 **Q. Okay. If it helps you, Mr. Mendenhall, and in**
23 **part what I think would be helpful for the commission is**
24 **if you do agree that there is a change that needs to be**
25 **made --**

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. -- if Questar would be willing to file a hard
3 copy and an electronic -- amended hard copy and amended
4 hard copy. I think that would be helpful.

5 A. Sure.

6 Q. But if it's helpful to you, in reviewing the
7 exhibit that was submitted, the information that's
8 listed under the amortization volumes for December 15
9 through December 16.

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. That amount there is listed at 91 thousand
12 595,025. So I guess that's 91 million 925 and 25
13 dollars.

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. So the -- the shaded portion below that seems
16 to reflect a different time period. It appears that
17 it's January through December 6 -- it appears to be
18 January 16 through December 16.

19 A. Oh, okay.

20 Q. But the amortization volume says December 15
21 through November 16. So I think there's a slight --

22 A. So we just need to shift those volumes. So
23 what you are saying is, by month the volumes are
24 correct, but we are picking up the wrong 12 month period
25 in the 91 million number above.

1 Q. It appears that way. But --

2 A. Okay.

3 Q. -- I wanted to confirm that with you. Is
4 that, is there a discrepancy in either the amortization
5 volume month? Or is there possibly a discrepancy in how
6 the shaded portion is listed?

7 A. It's probably a discrepancy in the test period
8 we chose.

9 Q. Okay.

10 A. But I would probably need to go double-check
11 that, and if there is a discrepancy, I don't think the
12 company would have a problem of filing a corrected
13 version of this exhibit, as you mentioned in hard copy
14 and electronic. That wouldn't be a problem.

15 Q. Okay.

16 A. And we could do that today.

17 Q. Okay. Thank you very much. That would be
18 very helpful. I have one other question for you if you
19 will give me one moment to --

20 A. Sure.

21 Q. Okay. My next question relates to Exhibit
22 1.1.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. And this relates to the exhibit that's
25 attached to your most recent --

1 A. Reply comments.

2 Q. -- reply on the 25th of November.

3 A. Okay.

4 Q. There is an increase from the original
5 application to the reply comments in the category of the
6 September 2015 accrual amounts.

7 A. So we're comparing the original filing with
8 the corrected one?

9 Q. Correct. And I was hoping you could help me
10 understand that.

11 A. Sure.

12 Q. The in -- the difference is an increase of
13 269,000.

14 A. Yes. So that is, is an accrual, I believe.
15 Let me pull up the amended action request just to make
16 sure. Yeah. So because this is an end of -- end of
17 quarter, on September is the end of the third quarter,
18 the difference there is that accrual amount.

19 So as I mentioned earlier, at the end of every
20 quarter, our accounting group likes to make an accrual
21 for anticipated costs. And so what happened here is, we
22 did not pick that accrual up in the original filing. In
23 the corrected exhibit we have picked it up, and so the
24 numbers in the corrected Exhibit 1.1 for September are
25 correct.

1 Q. Okay.

2 A. And they should match the financial
3 statements.

4 Q. Thank you, Mr. Mendenhall.

5 A. So the original filing, we were just missing
6 that accrual.

7 Q. Okay.

8 PRESIDING OFFICER: All right. Any follow-up
9 for Mr. Mendenhall?

10 MS. NELSON CLARK: No, thank you.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER: Ms. Schmid, I'm sorry.
12 Any cross?

13 MS. SCHMID: No.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you,
15 Mr. Mendenhall.

16 THE WITNESS: Yeah, thank you.

17 MS. SCHMID: The division would like to call
18 Ms. Carolyn Roll as its witness.

19 CAROLYN ROLL,
20 called as a witness at the instance of the Division,
21 having been first duly sworn, was examined and testified
22 as follows:

23 DIRECT EXAMINATION

24 BY MS. SCHMID:

25 Q. Good morning.

1 A. Good morning.

2 Q. Could you please state your full name,
3 employer and title for the record.

4 A. Carolyn Roll. I work for the Division of
5 Public Utilities. I am a technical consultant.

6 Q. Could you please provide a business address
7 for the division.

8 A. 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

9 Q. Have you participated in this Docket 150657-18
10 on behalf of the division?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Did you participate in the preparation of the
13 action request response filed with the commission on
14 November 23rd --

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. -- 2015? Do you adopt that as your testimony
17 today?

18 A. I do.

19 MS. SCHMID: The division would like to move
20 for the admission of that amended -- sorry, of that
21 action request response.

22 MS. NELSON CLARK: No objection.

23 Q. (By Ms. Schmid) Do you have a summary to
24 provide today?

25 A. Very brief. In reviewing this application

1 from the company, as Mr. Mendenhall stated, the company
2 is asking to maintain the current amortization rate.
3 And in doing that, for the energy efficiency, the rates
4 that are collected and the moneys that are spent are
5 estimated for the next year.

6 And it -- as you can see from the exhibit, the
7 spending is very volatile. So after the winter season,
8 we will look again at what has been spent to see if
9 there needs to be an adjustment to the rate. But at
10 this time the division agrees with the request from the
11 company to maintain the current rate. And that is my
12 summary.

13 **Q. Have you had a chance to review the company's**
14 **reply comments?**

15 A. Yes. As Mr. Mendenhall stated, these don't
16 affect what they are requesting in maintaining the
17 current rate. The division supports that these will be
18 interim rates, and all of the entries that the company
19 makes in the energy efficiency account is reviewed
20 before -- by the division when they do their audit. And
21 at that time the rates will be asked -- will be -- we
22 will request that the rates are final.

23 So all of those will be -- all of those
24 entries are reviewed as part of the audit. So
25 preliminarily we had looked at them and are in

1 agreement. But they will be further reviewed when the
2 audit is complete. And it currently is -- 2014 is being
3 reviewed.

4 Q. Is it your testimony that the rates, if
5 implemented on an interim basis and subject to audit,
6 would result in rates that are just, reasonable and in
7 the public interest?

8 A. Yes.

9 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. Ms. Roll is now
10 available for questions.

11 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

12 MS. NELSON CLARK: Company has no questions.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you.

14 EXAMINATION

15 BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER:

16 Q. Ms. Roll, I have just a few things I wanted to
17 follow up with you on. You were here, correct, when I
18 asked Mr. Mendenhall for clarification?

19 A. (Witness nods.)

20 Q. Is there anything about the clarification
21 that's been provided that you have a concern with or are
22 in disagreement with?

23 A. No.

24 Q. Okay. Thank you. One other thing is, one of
25 the goals in the method developed in 2014 and used to

1 establish the DSM rate in this case is to minimize
2 interest expense. To some extent you might have
3 addressed this in your discussion about audit, but I
4 just want to be absolutely sure that the commission and
5 I both understand this issue.

6 Has the division reviewed the data from the
7 last year to determine if the goal is being -- if this
8 goal is being achieved?

9 A. We believe it is. They -- we looked at this
10 very closely the last -- at this time last year, and I
11 think the result shows that the company is doing a good
12 job of maintaining a low amount of interest. I mean,
13 it's under a hundred thousand for the account, and so we
14 believe that they are doing a good job of maintaining
15 the balance in that account and having the amortization
16 rate achieve that.

17 We know it will never be zero, but we feel
18 that they are doing a good job of managing the interest
19 that is charged in that account.

20 Q. Thank you. And I assume this is an ongoing
21 review.

22 A. Absolutely. And that's why I mentioned
23 earlier, with the energy efficiency account, you just
24 never know what -- how the spending will -- will be over
25 the course of the year. And so that gives us another

1 opportunity in the spring, if we feel like the rate
2 needs to be adjusted so that we can maintain that.

3 It's cyclical, as you can see in the exhibit.
4 And there's months where it's -- the company owes rate
5 payers, if you will, and the opposite is true in other
6 months. And so the goal is to try and have that kind of
7 balance out over the year. And if it was absolutely
8 perfect, then the interest would be at zero, so we feel
9 like they are doing a good job. And yes, it will be
10 continued -- we will continue to monitor it.

11 **Q. Okay. And when you mention that the balance**
12 **is at a hundred thousand dollars, is that the result of**
13 **the audit?**

14 A. No. That -- that's what they have booked so
15 far into that account, and so then, yes, that will be
16 part of the review as well that they are -- that they
17 are booking. It's based on what -- the monthly balance
18 in the account, so once the account is verified, then
19 that calculation is done, and then also verifying that
20 the correct rate is being used. That's all part of the
21 audit review.

22 **Q. Okay. And is your audit review related to the**
23 **DSM and prudency review?**

24 A. That is -- that is --

25 **Q. Okay.**

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Just wanted to make sure we were talking about
3 exactly the same thing. Okay.

4 A. Yes, you are.

5 Q. Okay. Very good. All right. Well, thank you
6 very much, Ms. Roll.

7 PRESIDING OFFICER: Unless there are follow-up
8 questions.

9 MS. SCHMID: Nothing from the division.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay.

11 MS. NELSON CLARK: The company does not have
12 any follow-up questions for Ms. Roll.

13 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you,
14 Ms. Roll.

15 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

16 MS. NELSON CLARK: Mr. Mendenhall and I have
17 conferred briefly, and he believes he has reviewed the
18 exhibit you were questioning him about earlier and that
19 he can give some definitive answers that may eliminate a
20 need for filing an amended exhibit or an updated exhibit
21 if you would indulge him for a moment.

22 PRESIDING OFFICER: Let's go off the record
23 for a moment.

24 (Discussion off the record.)

25 PRESIDING OFFICER: We're back on the record.

1 MS. NELSON CLARK: Thank you. After further
2 conferring with Mr. Mendenhall, we will submit updated
3 exhibits as discussed -- 1.3, as discussed earlier in
4 this hearing. We're happy to do that. And given that,
5 it probably isn't necessary that he offer further
6 testimony.

7 In addition, the company would request a bench
8 order in both dockets if the commission has received
9 adequate evidence to support such.

10 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. Before
11 addressing that issue, Ms. Nelson, Ms. Schmid, do you
12 have anything to add?

13 MS. SCHMID: The division would have no
14 objection to a bench order.

15 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Very good. We'll
16 be in recess for a few minutes and off the record.

17 (Recess from 10:39 a.m. to 10:44 a.m.)

18 PRESIDING OFFICER: We're back on the record.
19 It is the decision of the commission to grant the
20 request for a bench order today, and given that this
21 matter is uncontested and the division agrees that -- or
22 doesn't object to a bench order, and there's been no
23 opposition filed in the docket, the commission grants
24 the bench order in Docket 15057-17.

25 The bench order is approved and confirmed by

1 the commission and will be issued in a written order
2 memorializing the bench order following this hearing.
3 And to that extent, the application as filed, and as
4 further clarified today, will be approved.

5 Similarly, in 15057-18, it is the decision of
6 the commission to grant the bench order in light of
7 there being no opposition in this docket, and that the
8 division does not oppose issuing the bench ruling. The
9 bench ruling is approved and confirmed by the commission
10 and will be memorialized in a written order to follow
11 this hearing.

12 Are there any further questions?

13 MS. NELSON CLARK: No. Thank you.

14 PRESIDING OFFICER: Okay. Thank you very
15 much.

16 MS. SCHMID: Nothing from the division. Thank
17 you.

18 PRESIDING OFFICER: Thank you. Have a very
19 nice day.

20 MS. SCHMID: Thank you.

21 MS. NELSON CLARK: Thank you.

22 (The proceedings in this matter concluded at
23 10:45 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF UTAH)
COUNTY OF SALT LAKE)

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me, Teri Hansen Cronenwett, Certified Realtime Reporter, Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Utah.

That the proceedings were reported by me in Stenotype, and thereafter transcribed by computer under my supervision, and that a full, true, and correct transcription is set forth in the foregoing pages, Volume 2, numbered 3 through 31 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.

WITNESS MY HAND and official seal at Salt Lake City, Utah, this 8th day of December, 2015.

Teri Hansen Cronenwett

Teri Hansen Cronenwett
License No. 91-109812-7801

My commission expires:
January 19, 2019

<hr/> \$ <hr/>	25	71 6:13	action 8:2 9:19	17:25 20:3
\$12.7 6:11	2015 3:1 6:5	72 10:5,9,11	15:19 17:25	22:15 24:20
\$7.3 6:9 8:13	8:3,15 9:4 11:6	<hr/> 8 <hr/>	22:15 24:13,21	29:20
<hr/> 1 <hr/>	15:22 22:6		address 5:3	amortization
1.1 21:22 22:24	24:16	8 6:13	7:21 13:25	15:9,14 16:24
1.3 10:1 18:4,7	2016 12:19	80 6:14	14:2 24:6	18:15,22 20:8,
10:02 3:1	23rd 8:3 9:3,19	<hr/> 9 <hr/>	addressed	20 21:4 25:2
12 19:13 20:24	24:14		27:3	27:15
15 12:3 18:16,	24 6:8 15:13	91 20:11,12,25	addressing	amortize 3:10
22 20:8,20	25 20:12	925 20:12	17:24	15:6
15057-17 3:23	25th 14:12	<hr/> A <hr/>	adjust 6:2	amount 12:2
6:1	15:22 22:2		adjusted 28:2	15:12,16 17:12
15057-18 3:24	269,000 22:13	a.m. 3:1	adjustment	18:21 20:11
1505717 3:6	<hr/> 3 <hr/>	absolutely	25:9	22:18 27:12
1505718 3:6	30 3:1	27:4,22 28:7	Adjustments	amounts 22:6
15:5	300 7:22 24:8	account 3:12	3:9	analyst 5:9
150657-18 24:9	30th 18:1	15:7,10,12	admission	annual 6:10
16 18:16,23	31st 6:5	16:5 25:19	5:18 9:3 14:19	answers 15:23
20:9,18,21	333 5:4 14:2	27:13,15,19,23	24:20	29:19
160 7:22 24:8	<hr/> 5 <hr/>	28:15,18	admitted 5:21	anticipated
17 4:2 6:25 7:4	5 6:12 9:22	accountants	9:7 14:25	22:21
13:3 19:5	11:3	15:25	adopt 5:14 8:5	appearances
18 7:1 13:14	595,025 20:12	accounted	12:23 14:15	3:14
<hr/> 2 <hr/>	<hr/> 6 <hr/>	16:1	24:16	appears 18:6
2 10:23	6 6:7 10:24	accounting	affairs 14:5	19:12 20:16,17
2012 11:19	20:17	15:21 16:4,10,	affect 25:16	21:1
2013 11:8,23	<hr/> 7 <hr/>	12 22:20	agree 19:17,24	application
2014 10:24	7.3 10:2	accrual 22:6,	agreeing 11:20	3:8,10 5:11,14,
11:8 12:3 26:2,		14,18,20,22	19:13	18,25 8:16,18
		23:6	agreement	14:7,19 15:5
		accruals 16:4	26:1	22:5 24:25
		accurate 11:1	agrees 25:10	approval 8:19,
		achieve 27:16	ahead 4:1,3,19	23
		achieved 27:8	allocated 10:3	approved 6:12
			amended	10:24 12:1
				15:9
				approximately
				8:13

assume 27:20	begin 17:24	16:7	collected 25:4	complete 26:2
assumed 12:25	behalf 3:16,20 7:23 24:10	category 22:5	columns 18:13	completed 8:21 11:18 12:6
assuming 13:2 18:25	believes 8:17 15:15 29:17	cell 18:7,9,10	comings 6:7	compliant 8:18
attached 5:18 14:19,21 21:25	bonus 10:15	cent 15:13	comments 14:11,13,21 16:20,25 17:8 22:1,5 25:14	concern 26:21
attachments 14:16	booked 28:14	cents 6:13	commission 8:22 10:7,18 12:10,14 15:9, 19 16:22 18:21 19:15,23 24:13 27:4	conclude 6:15
attorney 3:20	booking 28:17	change 3:8 10:23 17:8 19:24	commission's 8:18 10:16,24 17:25	concludes 6:16 16:25
audit 8:20 11:6,13,18 12:2,6,14 25:20,24 26:2, 5 27:3 28:13, 21,22	books 11:6	chance 25:13	commissioner 15:24	conferred 29:17
audited 11:7	briefly 29:17	charged 27:19	communicated 12:10	confirm 21:3
auditing 11:10	bring 10:20	check 19:17	company 3:8, 10,16 4:12,23 5:7,17,24 6:1, 24 8:12,17 9:10 10:2 11:6, 19 13:15,20 14:6,18 15:3,6, 8,10,15,22 16:5,22 21:12 25:1,11,18 26:12 27:11 28:4 29:11	consistent 10:21,22
audits 12:10	business 5:2 7:21 13:25 14:1 24:6	chose 21:8	clarification 13:7 26:18,20	consultant 24:5
authorize 16:23	C	City 5:5 14:2 24:8	clarity 4:3 12:21	contents 5:14 14:15
aware 10:18 11:9	C-5 18:7,9,14	clarification 13:7 26:18,20	Clark 3:15 4:12 5:1,17,22,23 6:17,24 9:5,10 13:10,12,15,23 14:18 15:1,2 17:1 23:10 24:22 26:12 29:11,16	continue 15:8 16:23 28:10
B	calculated 16:17 17:15	clarification 13:7 26:18,20	clarity 4:3 12:21	continued 15:14 28:10
back 15:13 29:25	calculation 28:19	clarity 4:3 12:21	company's 6:9 14:11,20 17:7 25:13	copy 9:18 19:20 20:3,4 21:13
balance 3:12 15:7,10 27:15 28:7,11,17	calculations 10:19	Clark 3:15 4:12 5:1,17,22,23 6:17,24 9:5,10 13:10,12,15,23 14:18 15:1,2 17:1 23:10 24:22 26:12 29:11,16	company's 6:9 14:11,20 17:7 25:13	correct 10:13 15:16 17:11 18:8 19:1 20:24 22:9,25 26:17 28:20
based 15:15 28:17	call 7:6 13:15 23:17	clear 10:7 16:11 17:7 18:20	compared 19:16	corrected 15:23 16:19 21:12 22:8,23, 24
basically 11:23	called 4:22 7:9 13:19 23:20	close 8:14	comparing 22:7	correction 19:9,18
basis 8:20,23 26:5	calls 4:13	closed 11:7 12:16		
	Carolyn 3:23 23:18,19 24:4	closely 27:10		
	case 10:4,17 11:21 12:1,4,7, 16,18 27:1	collect 15:16 16:23 17:11		
	categorized			

correctly 16:17	depreciation 10:5,15	13:3,14 14:12 15:4,5,20 17:8 19:5 24:9	end 8:14 11:3 15:25 22:16, 17,19	expense 16:16 17:12 27:2
cost 10:3	desk 4:7,14	dockets 3:6,7 13:1	ends 11:5	explanation 10:21
costs 15:11,18 16:1,24 22:21	determine 27:7	documents 14:16	energy 3:11 15:7 16:23 25:3,19 27:23	extent 27:2
cross 23:12	developed 26:25	dollars 6:12 12:15 20:13 28:12	entire 13:1	<hr/> F <hr/>
CROSS- EXAMINATION 17:5	difference 22:12,18	double-check 21:10	entitled 3:7 8:2	fact 18:22
current 16:24 25:2,11,17	differences 15:21	DSM 16:8 27:1 28:23	entries 16:6,18 25:18,24	feeder 6:7 19:4
customer 6:14	DIRECT 4:25 7:12 13:22 23:23	duly 4:23 13:20 23:21	Eric 3:21 7:6,8, 18	feel 17:10 27:17 28:1,8
customers 10:6,16 15:13	direction 14:8	<hr/> E <hr/>	establish 27:1	felt 17:10
cyclical 28:3	disagreement 26:22	earlier 17:9 22:19 27:23 29:18	estimated 15:11 25:5	figured 10:19
<hr/> D <hr/>	discrepancies 16:15	ease 4:2	estimates 15:15,25	file 12:11 20:2
data 27:6	discrepancy 21:4,5,7,11	easier 19:6	EXAMINATION 4:25 7:12 9:12 13:22 17:19 23:23 26:14	filed 8:3 12:19 14:11 24:13
dated 8:3 9:3	discussion 27:3 29:24	East 7:22 24:8	examined 4:23 7:10 13:20 23:21	filing 6:7 10:14 15:11,21 16:6, 11,14,18 18:5 19:4,5 21:12 22:7,22 23:5 29:20
day 13:1	division 3:20 7:4,5,9,19,24 8:2,16,19 9:2 10:8 11:5,7 12:15 15:20 23:17,20 24:4, 7,10,19 25:10, 17,20 27:6 29:9	effect 17:8	exhibit 10:1 18:4,7,20 19:18,19,21 20:7 21:13,21, 24 22:23,24 25:6 28:3 29:18,20	filings 19:3
decatherms 6:14	division's 3:22,23 8:8 9:19 17:17	efficiency 3:11 15:7 16:24 25:3,19 27:23	existing 15:17	final 8:21 25:22
December 18:16,22 20:8, 9,17,18,20	docket 3:5,6, 22,24 4:2 6:1, 25 7:4,24 8:3 11:12 12:22	elaborate 10:9	expected 16:3	financial 15:21 16:20 23:2
deferred 3:11 15:7		electronic 18:5 20:3 21:14		follow 12:9 16:13 26:17
definitive 29:19		eliminate 29:19		follow-up 13:9 23:8 29:7,12
demand 3:11 15:6		employer 7:17 14:4 24:3		forecast 18:15
demonstrating 10:2				forecasted 19:2
department 16:10				forward 16:9

<p>full 7:16 9:23 11:2,3 24:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <hr/> <p>GAP 16:4</p> <p>Gas 3:8,10,16 4:22 5:7 13:19 14:6,10,20 15:6 16:23</p> <p>general 14:5</p> <p>general's 3:20</p> <p>give 4:5 21:19 29:19</p> <p>goal 27:7,8 28:6</p> <p>goals 26:25</p> <p>good 3:4 7:14, 15 23:25 24:1 27:11,14,18 28:9 29:5</p> <p>great 9:22</p> <p>group 22:20</p> <p>guess 20:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <hr/> <p>hand 4:6</p> <p>handy 9:20 19:19,21</p> <p>happened 22:21</p> <p>hard 19:20 20:2,3,4 21:13</p> <p>hearing 3:4,5</p> <p>helpful 9:20</p>	<p>11:15 19:23 20:4,6 21:18</p> <p>helps 18:18 19:22</p> <p>high 6:3,4</p> <p>hold 5:8 14:4</p> <p>hoping 22:9</p> <p>hundred 27:13 28:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <hr/> <p>identified 9:4</p> <p>identify 14:3</p> <p>illustrative 17:13</p> <p>impact 16:15 17:12,14</p> <p>implemented 26:5</p> <p>include 6:3</p> <p>included 11:25</p> <p>increase 6:10, 12 8:12 10:3, 17 22:4,12</p> <p>incremental 6:6</p> <p>individuals 12:25</p> <p>indulge 29:21</p> <p>information 11:13 18:19,20 20:7</p> <p>infrastructure 3:9 6:2,4 8:13 19:5</p>	<p>instance 4:22 7:9 13:19 23:20</p> <p>intend 4:5</p> <p>interest 8:24 15:17 16:16 17:12 26:7 27:2,12,18 28:8</p> <p>interim 8:20,23 25:18 26:5</p> <p>intermediate 6:4</p> <p>interpreting 10:22</p> <p>investigate 15:20</p> <p>investment 6:3,6,10 8:14</p> <p>invoice 16:2</p> <p>involving 18:4</p> <p>IRP 19:2,16</p> <p>issue 10:15 27:5</p> <p>issued 15:19 18:1</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">J</p> <hr/> <p>January 20:17, 18</p> <p>Jennifer 3:15</p> <p>job 27:12,14,18 28:9</p> <p>Jordan 3:17 4:13,21 5:4</p>	<p>Judge 12:21</p> <p>June 10:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">K</p> <hr/> <p>keeping 15:17</p> <p>Kelly 3:17 13:16,18 14:1</p> <p>kind 28:6</p> <p>kindly 4:6</p> <p>knowing 18:9</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">L</p> <hr/> <p>Lake 5:4 7:22 14:2 24:8</p> <p>large 16:2</p> <p>leaving 17:10</p> <p>likes 22:20</p> <p>listed 18:21 20:8,11 21:6</p> <p>looked 25:25 27:9</p> <p>low 27:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">M</p> <hr/> <p>made 19:10,18, 25</p> <p>maintain 25:2, 11 28:2</p> <p>maintaining 25:16 27:12,14</p> <p>majority 6:6 11:25</p> <p>make 4:8 8:21</p>	<p>10:18 11:19 15:25 16:10 17:7 19:6 22:15,20 29:2</p> <p>makes 16:5 25:19</p> <p>management 3:11 15:7</p> <p>manager 14:5</p> <p>managing 27:18</p> <p>match 23:2</p> <p>matching 19:17</p> <p>matter 3:7,9 5:11 14:8 16:17</p> <p>Melanie 3:4</p> <p>memorandum 8:2 9:3</p> <p>Mendenhall 3:17 13:16,18, 24 14:1,7 15:2 17:1,21 18:8 19:22 23:4,9, 15 25:1,15 26:18 29:16</p> <p>mention 28:11</p> <p>mentioned 17:9 21:13 22:19 27:22</p> <p>met 12:2</p> <p>method 26:25</p> <p>microphone 4:8</p> <p>million 6:9,11 8:13 10:2</p>
---	---	---	---	--

<p>20:12,25</p> <p>minimize 27:1</p> <p>minimum 15:18</p> <p>missing 23:5</p> <p>moment 21:19 29:21,23</p> <p>moneys 11:24 25:4</p> <p>monitor 28:10</p> <p>month 19:13 20:23,24 21:5</p> <p>monthly 28:17</p> <p>months 28:4,6</p> <p>morning 3:4,6 7:14,15 9:15 23:25 24:1</p> <p>move 7:4 9:2 13:14 14:18 24:19</p> <p>moves 5:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">N</p> <hr/> <p>Nelson 3:15 4:11,12 5:1,17, 22,23 6:17,24 9:5,10 13:8,10, 12,15,23 14:18 15:1,2 17:1 23:10 24:22 26:12 29:11,16</p> <p>nods 26:19</p> <p>November 3:1 8:3 9:3,19 14:12 15:22 18:1,16,23</p>	<p>20:21 22:2 24:14</p> <p>number 11:25 18:10,25 19:12 20:25</p> <p>numbers 22:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">O</p> <hr/> <p>objection 5:19, 20 9:5 14:22, 23 24:22</p> <p>October 6:5 8:14</p> <p>office 3:20</p> <p>officer 3:3,5, 18,25 4:11,16, 18 5:19,21 6:19,21 7:3 9:6,13 11:15 12:8,12,20,24 13:6,8,11,13, 17 14:22,24 17:3,18,20 23:8,11,14 26:11,13,15 29:7,10,13,22, 25</p> <p>omitted 16:6</p> <p>omitting 16:18</p> <p>ongoing 27:20</p> <p>opportunity 28:1</p> <p>opposite 28:5</p> <p>order 4:1 8:19 10:16,25</p> <p>ordered 10:4</p> <p>original 22:4,7,</p>	<p>22 23:5</p> <p>Orton 3:21 7:6, 7,8,18 9:8,11, 14 13:11</p> <p>owes 28:4</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">P</p> <hr/> <p>paid 6:13 16:3</p> <p>paragraph 11:2,3,5</p> <p>Pardon 11:11</p> <p>parens 10:4</p> <p>part 18:2,3 19:23 25:24 28:16,20</p> <p>participate 8:1 24:12</p> <p>participated 7:23 24:9</p> <p>pass-through 19:3</p> <p>Patricia 3:19</p> <p>payers 28:5</p> <p>percent 6:13 10:4,5,9,11</p> <p>perfect 28:8</p> <p>period 15:14 20:16,24 21:7</p> <p>personnel 8:17</p> <p>pertaining 10:6</p> <p>phase 11:22</p> <p>pick 22:22</p> <p>picked 22:23</p>	<p>picking 20:24</p> <p>portion 18:19 20:15 21:6</p> <p>position 5:8 8:9 14:4</p> <p>possibly 21:5</p> <p>Post-bonus 10:5</p> <p>prefer 6:25</p> <p>preliminarily 25:25</p> <p>preparation 8:1 24:12</p> <p>prepare 5:10</p> <p>prepared 5:11 14:8,13 15:23</p> <p>PRESIDING 3:3,18,25 4:11, 16,18 5:19,21 6:19,21 7:3 9:6,13 11:15 12:8,12,20,24 13:6,8,11,13, 17 14:22,24 17:3,18,20 23:8,11,14 26:11,13,15 29:7,10,13,22, 25</p> <p>pressure 6:3,4</p> <p>previous 11:21 12:16</p> <p>previously 7:7, 10 9:4</p> <p>principals 16:5</p> <p>printed 18:12</p>	<p>problem 21:12, 14</p> <p>procedure 11:17</p> <p>proceed 7:1 8:11</p> <p>process 11:13 16:10</p> <p>program 16:8</p> <p>projects 6:5,8</p> <p>proposed 8:20</p> <p>proposes 15:8</p> <p>provide 7:21 24:6,24</p> <p>provided 12:23 26:21</p> <p>prudency 28:23</p> <p>public 3:21 7:19 8:24 24:5 26:7</p> <p>pull 22:15</p> <p>purposes 13:3 16:11 17:14</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Q</p> <hr/> <p>quarter 15:25 22:17,20</p> <p>Questar 3:8, 10,16 4:22 5:7 13:19 14:6,10, 20 15:6 16:23 20:2</p> <p>question 9:23 11:14 12:5,9 16:14 18:2</p>
--	--	---	---	---

<p>21:18,21</p> <p>questioning 6:18 17:2 29:18</p> <p>questions 6:19,20 9:9,11 15:24 17:4,17, 21 26:10,12 29:8,12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">R</p> <hr/> <p>raise 4:6</p> <p>rate 3:9 6:3 10:4,23 11:21 12:1,4,7,16,18 15:9,14,17 17:10,14 25:2, 9,11,17 27:1, 16 28:1,4,20</p> <p>rates 8:20 10:20,23,25 16:24 25:3,18, 21,22 26:4,6</p> <p>ready 13:13</p> <p>reasonable 8:24 26:6</p> <p>received 12:14 16:4</p> <p>recent 21:25</p> <p>recommendati on 8:22</p> <p>recommends 8:19</p> <p>record 3:3 5:3 7:17 13:25 24:3 29:22,24, 25</p>	<p>refer 14:10</p> <p>referring 10:8, 9</p> <p>reflect 10:23 19:12 20:16</p> <p>reflected 10:25</p> <p>reflection 18:15</p> <p>reflects 18:22</p> <p>regulatory 5:9 14:5</p> <p>Reif 3:4 12:21</p> <p>reimbursement 15:12</p> <p>related 6:3,10 18:2 28:22</p> <p>relates 9:23 18:3 21:21,24</p> <p>relief 5:24 15:3</p> <p>remained 10:19</p> <p>replacement 6:2,4 19:5</p> <p>reply 14:11,12, 20 16:19 17:7 22:1,2,5 25:14</p> <p>report 10:24 12:11,14</p> <p>request 8:2 9:19 15:19 17:25 18:4 22:15 24:13,21 25:10,22</p> <p>requesting 6:9 8:12 25:16</p>	<p>requests 16:22</p> <p>required 16:4</p> <p>requirement 6:11</p> <p>response 8:2 9:19 24:13,21</p> <p>result 6:12 26:6 27:11 28:12</p> <p>resulting 6:11</p> <p>results 12:9</p> <p>revenue 6:10, 11 10:2 15:16</p> <p>review 11:24 25:13 27:21 28:16,21,22,23</p> <p>reviewed 8:16 19:15 25:19,24 26:1,3 27:6 29:17</p> <p>reviewing 20:6 24:25</p> <p>Roll 3:23 11:12,16,17 12:8,11,13,22 13:2,5,9 23:18, 19 24:4 26:9, 16 29:6,12,14</p> <p>rows 18:13</p> <p>rules 16:12</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">S</p> <hr/> <p>Salt 5:4 7:22 14:2 24:8</p> <p>Schmid 3:19 5:20 6:19,20</p>	<p>7:5,13 9:2,8 11:11 12:21 13:7 14:23 17:3,6,16,18 18:2 23:11,13, 17,24 24:19,23 26:9 29:9</p> <p>season 25:7</p> <p>seat 4:7,19</p> <p>seeking 5:24 15:3</p> <p>seeks 6:2</p> <p>senior 5:9</p> <p>sentence 9:24 10:22</p> <p>September 22:6,17,24</p> <p>service 6:5 10:3</p> <p>setup 10:6,9, 12</p> <p>shaded 20:15 21:6</p> <p>shadow 18:19</p> <p>shift 20:22</p> <p>shows 27:11</p> <p>side 3:11 15:6</p> <p>slight 20:21</p> <p>South 5:4 7:22 14:2 24:8</p> <p>speak 7:1</p> <p>spend 11:7</p> <p>spending 25:7 27:24</p>	<p>spent 8:17 11:6 25:4,8</p> <p>spread 10:24</p> <p>spring 28:1</p> <p>start 3:13 12:1</p> <p>started 11:20</p> <p>starting 4:2</p> <p>state 5:2,4 7:16,19 13:24 14:2 24:2</p> <p>stated 25:1,15</p> <p>statements 15:22 16:21 23:3</p> <p>states 10:1,5</p> <p>Step 10:23</p> <p>step-up 10:11, 13</p> <p>Stephenson 3:17 4:13,21 5:4,10,23 6:17, 22</p> <p>Street 14:2</p> <p>subject 19:17 26:5</p> <p>submitted 18:19 20:7</p> <p>summarize 5:24 15:3</p> <p>summary 6:16 8:8 24:23 25:12</p> <p>supervision 5:12 14:13</p> <p>supports 25:17</p>
--	---	---	--	--

<p>swear 4:9</p> <p>sworn 4:3,18, 23 7:7,10 11:12 12:22,25 13:1,20 23:21</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">T</p> <hr/> <p>taking 3:13</p> <p>talked 10:14</p> <p>talking 8:17 29:2</p> <p>technical 24:5</p> <p>test 15:14 21:7</p> <p>testified 4:24 7:10 13:21 23:21</p> <p>testify 4:7</p> <p>testimony 4:5 5:15 6:22 8:6 12:23 13:3 14:16 24:16 26:4</p> <p>thing 26:24 29:3</p> <p>things 9:14 26:16</p> <p>thousand 20:11 27:13 28:12</p> <p>tie 16:20</p> <p>time 4:4 8:17, 21 15:11,17 20:16 25:10,21 27:10</p> <p>title 7:17 24:3</p> <p>today 4:5,15</p>	<p>5:15 8:6 14:16 21:16 24:17,24</p> <p>total 11:6</p> <p>track 9:17</p> <p>tracker 6:2,7 12:13 19:4,5</p> <p>tracking 12:1</p> <p>true 28:5</p> <p>truth 4:9</p> <p>turn 9:22</p> <p>two-step 10:17</p> <p>typical 6:13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">U</p> <hr/> <p>Uh-huh 9:25 11:4 20:10</p> <p>understand 13:2 18:24 19:7 22:10 27:5</p> <p>understanding 18:14</p> <p>updated 29:20</p> <p>Utah 5:5 7:19 14:2 24:8</p> <p>Utilities 3:21 7:19 24:5</p> <p>utilize 15:8</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">V</p> <hr/> <p>vendor 16:2</p> <p>verified 28:18</p> <p>verifying 28:19</p>	<p>version 21:13</p> <p>volatile 25:7</p> <p>volume 20:20 21:5</p> <p>volumes 18:15,22 19:2, 13,16 20:8,22, 23</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">W</p> <hr/> <p>wanted 9:14 10:17 21:3 26:16 29:2</p> <p>winter 25:7</p> <p>witnesses 3:16,22 4:10 6:25</p> <p>work 5:6 7:18 24:4</p> <p>working 16:9</p> <p>wrong 19:1 20:24</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Y</p> <hr/> <p>year 6:13,14 25:5 27:7,10, 25 28:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">Z</p> <hr/> <p>zeroed 11:21</p>
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