In the Matter Of:

In Re: Questar Gas Company - Vermillion Acquisition

HEARING PROCEEDINGS DOCKET NO. 17-057-01

March 09, 2017

Job Number: 369025

| To the Meti | ton of the Application of |
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| Questar Gas | ter of the Application of) s Company for Approval of) lion Acquisition as a) Docket No.17-057-0 Property) |
| | HEARING PROCEEDINGS |
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| TAKEN AT: | Utah Public Service Commission 160 East 300 South Salt Lake City, Utah |
| | March 9, 2017 9:00 a.m. |
| REPORTER: | Mary R. Honigman, R.P.R. |
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| | Job number: 369025 |

| 1 | APPEARANCES | Page 2 |
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| 2 | FOR THE UTAH PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION: | |
| 3 | Thad LeVar, Commission Chair | |
| 4 | David Clark, Commissioner | |
| 5 | Jordan White, Commissioner | |
| 6 | FOR QUESTAR GAS: | |
| 7 8 9 | Jennifer Nelson Clark, Esq. 333 South State Street P.O. Box 45433 Salt Lake City, Utah 84145 | |
| 10 | FOR THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES: | |
| 11 | Patricia E. Schmid, Esq. | |
| 12 | 160 East 300 South, Fifth Floor Salt Lake City, Utah 84114 | |
| 13 | FOR THE OFFICE OF CONSUMER SERVICES: | |
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| 15 | 170 South Main, Suite 400 Salt Lake City, Utah 84101 | |
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HEARING PROCEEDINGS DOCKET NO. 17-057-01 - 03/09/2017

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| 1 | Page 4 PROCEEDINGS |
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| 2 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: This is Public |
| 3 | Service Commission Docket #17-057-01 In the Matter |
| 4 | of the Application of Questar Gas Company for |
| 5 | approval of the Vermillion Acquisition as a Wexpro |
| 6 | II Property. Why don't we start with appearances |
| 7 | for the Utility. |
| 8 | MS. CLARK: Thank you. Jennifer |
| 9 | Nelson Clark. I'm an attorney for the applicant, |
| 10 | and I have with me Barrie McKay who is the director |
| 11 | of customer rates and regulation for Questar Gas; |
| 12 | and Brady Rasmussen, the vice president and general |
| 13 | manager of Wexpro Company. |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. |
| 15 | MS. SCHMID: Good morning. Patricia |
| 16 | E. Schmid with the Attorney General's Office |
| 17 | representing the Division of Public Utilities. With |
| 18 | me this morning as the Division's witness is Douglas |
| 19 | W. Wheelwright. Sorry, D. Wheelwright. |
| 20 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: That's an |
| 21 | important clarification. |
| 22 | MS. SCHMID: It is. |
| 23 | MR. SNARR: And my name is Steven W. |
| 24 | Snarr. I'm counsel for the Office of Consumer |
| 25 | Services. With me today is Gavin Mangelson, who is |
| I | |

| | Page 5 |
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| 1 | a utility analyst. |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Any preliminary |
| 3 | matters before we go to Ms. Clark? |
| 4 | MS. CLARK: Yes. We have a couple of |
| 5 | housekeeping issues. The first deals with |
| 6 | confidential information. The vast majority of Mr. |
| 7 | McKay's summary that he will offer today is not |
| 8 | confidential; however, there is a piece that sort of |
| 9 | fits in the middle that we'll need to treat as |
| 10 | confidential information. So for purposes of your |
| 11 | record and also if we're streaming, I wanted to note |
| 12 | that in advance. |
| 13 | And then the second matter that I |
| 14 | wanted to raise was the issue of cross-examination. |
| 15 | Counsel has spoken and if it's appropriate and if |
| 16 | you feel comfortable, we're happy to do all of the |
| 17 | summaries at the same time, and then perhaps have |
| 18 | questioning via the panel. We recognize that |
| 19 | Mr. McKay will be our only testifying witness today. |
| 20 | We've brought Mr. Rasmussen with us in anticipation |
| 21 | of questions, so if that works with the Commission, |
| 22 | we think that would be an appropriate way to |
| 23 | proceed. |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: And if there's |
| 25 | no objection from any other party and it sounds |

| 1 | Page 6 like there's not to handling any potential |
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| 2 | cross-examination, that makes sense. |
| 3 | With respect to the first issue, I |
| 4 | think the way we'll need to handle that is if at the |
| 5 | appropriate moment you want to make a motion to |
| 6 | close the proceeding to the public, there's a |
| 7 | required finding. The Commission has to find that |
| 8 | it's in the public interest to do so. So we can |
| 9 | deal with that at the appropriate time and make sure |
| 10 | that only appropriate people are in the room and the |
| 11 | streaming is discontinued for that portion. |
| 12 | MS. CLARK: That raises one other |
| 13 | question in my mind, and it is possible, I guess, |
| 14 | during cross-examination and examination by the |
| 15 | Commission that they may also raise issues that are |
| 16 | confidential and so if I interject, I will apologize |
| 17 | for the rudeness in advance. |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: If anyone asks a |
| 19 | question that you think would require any |
| 20 | confidential information, please jump in and stop us |
| 21 | before we keep going. |
| 22 | MS. CLARK: Thank you. |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Any other |
| 24 | preliminary matters? Okay, then, Ms. Clark. |
| 25 | MS. CLARK: The Company calls |
| 4 | |

Page 7 Mr. Barrie L. McKay. 1 2 BARRIE L. MCKAY, 3 having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined 4 and testified as follows: BY MS. CLARK: 5 6 Q. Mr. McKay, will you state your name and business address for the record? 7 Barrie L. McKay, and I think I'm at 333 8 Α. 9 South State, Salt Lake City, Utah. 10 And are you the same Barrie McKay that 0. filed pre-filed direct testimony in this matter 11 12 along with accompanying Exhibits 2.1, 2.2, and also 13 a Supplemental Exhibit 2.2.1-S? 14 Α. Yes. Did you actively participate in this 15 Q. 16 docket and in the development of the Settlement Stipulation of this before the Commission today? 17 I did. 18 Α. 19 Q. Can you please summarize that Settlement 20 Stipulation? 21 Α. I can. Turning to the Stipulation, I want 22 to at least touch these first few paragraphs -- I 23 don't need to go through them in detail -- but I do want to recognize what's included in them. 24 25 Actually, the first paragraph in the Stipulation is

Page 8 simply recognizing that both this Commission and the 1 2 Wyoming Commission needs to approve these 3 properties, or, shall we say, at least this 4 stipulation before it becomes effective. The first numbered paragraph is a 5 reference back to Wexpro I, second one is a 6 7 reference back to Wexpro II, third paragraph is a reference to the Trail Settlement Stipulation, and 8 9 fourth paragraph is referencing the Canyon Creek Settlement Stipulation, all of which govern how we 10 11 go about having these properties approved before the 12 Commission and then develop them and the criteria 13 that must be reached in order for them to continue 14 to be part of that. 15 We then recognize that within the Wexpro 16 II agreement, there's two specific parts in paragraph 5 that we were relying on and that 17 required us to come before both the Utah Commission 18 and the Wyoming Commission. One paragraph 19 2.0 identifies that there are certain properties that we 21 shall bring before the Commission, and we have about 22 three of those -- we'll point those out in a 23 minute -- and then for the first time before any of 24 the Commissions, Questar Gas and Wexpro have brought a couple of properties where it was our choice to do 25

Page 9 1 that. 2 Then we simply summarize in paragraph 6 3 the timing of the acquisition of the Kinney Unit, 4 which was in April of 2015. Paragraph 7 identifies the Trail, Whiskey Canyon, and the Canyon Creek 5 Units and their purchase, which was in December of 6 7 Then we did make the filing before this 2015. Commission the beginning of this year, January 9th, 8 9 and we point out in this paragraph that it is the Trail, the Kinney Unit, and the Canyon Creek 10 11 Override that fell into the category that we shall 12 or that we must bring that before the Commission. 13 All of those properties were in the Development 14 Drilling Area. And then the Whiskey Canyon and the 15 Canyon Creek outside the PA -- that stands for 16 "outside the participating area" for properties that 17 was a choice or that we may bring them -- we identify them in that paragraph. We have properly 18 filed, including all of the information that was 19 20 thought of as we had the process of approving the 21 Wexpro II Agreement. The Hydrocarbon monitor 22 performed his responsibilities in reviewing all of 23 that and filing his initial report within the seven days of filing of our Application. We obviously had 24 25 some scheduling conferences, we held two technical

Page 10 conferences within the two dockets -- the one that 1 2 is of importance here would be the February 2nd one that we held in Utah -- answered numerous data 3 4 requests, filing direct testimony, and then in paragraph 14, the parties met for the first time on 5 the 23rd of February along with the Hydrocarbon 6 monitor. I want to point that out, as you'll see 7 here in a minute, we needed to rely on his expertise 8 9 and actually his third-party verification for a 10 settled-upon change of how Wexpro will be developing 11 one of the properties, and he helped in that 12 process. Then, simply, in 16 is the recognition 13 that this resolves all the issues in the docket before this Commission. 14 15 So the key things are the Terms and 16 Conditions, which begin in paragraph 17 where it's 17 identified that the Trail Unit and the Whiskey 18 Canyon Unit shall be approved as Wexpro II properties. In paragraph 18, we identify that the 19 20 Canyon Creek property, which includes the "outside" 21 the participating area" as well as the overriding 22 royalties, will be approved as a Wexpro II property, 23 subject to a change in the way that Wexpro will develop the properties. And they will replace what 24 was originally anticipated as a horizontal well with 25

Page 11 a vertical drilling program in an area outside the 1 2 participating area. And after those first three 3 wells are drilled, Wexpro has agreed that they will 4 bring the results, costs, the volumes that are anticipated before the parties and will not proceed 5 with further drilling until that has happened, as 6 well as the opportunity for the Hydrocarbon monitor 7 to review the results of those first three wells and 8 9 deem it reasonable in moving forward. 10 And then as we worked through this, we 11 wanted to make sure that everybody realized that we 12 are agreeing to this approach, but we are also recognizing that overarching the development of the 13 Canyon Creek Unit are still the criteria of the 14 15 issues that were settled in the Trail Stipulation, 16 as well as the Canyon Creek, which is the limiting amount of volumes that Wexpro can provide to Questar 17 18 Gas, as well as needing to meet the 5-year forward 19 curve before they drill and meeting the commerciality test. So we make a reference to that 20 21 at the end of that paragraph. 2.2 And I think, now, to provide further 23 clarity and to get some additional evidence on the 24 record, we've prepared a few, I quess we call them hearing exhibits, but those are going to be 25

Page 12 confidential. 1 2 MS. CLARK: They are, and if I can 3 approach, I'll give you copies and we can just 4 briefly make the motion and lay the reasoning for calling it confidential. 5 6 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. So you'll provide us with three copies prior to the motion and 7 8 to the two parties. Okay. Thank you. 9 MS. CLARK: The parties have them. 10 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: They already 11 have them? Okay. Thank you. 12 MS. CLARK: Now that we have them in 13 front of us, the Company would move that the hearing be closed for the portion of Mr. McKay's testimony 14 when he testifies to these four exhibits you have in 15 16 front of you. And if we can previously flip through them, I would preface it by saying these are either 17 updates or supplements to exhibits that have been 18 previously filed as confidential exhibits. You'll 19 2.0 note that the first one has some information related 21 to drilling and costs that the Company deems 2.2 confidential. The second is supplemental to Application Exhibit B. It also contains future 23 24 drilling plans which the Company deems confidential. 25 The third that you can see has to do with total gas

| 1 | Page 13 supply, and the right-hand side of that exhibit |
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| 2 | contains some forecasts; and, again, the Company |
| 3 | deems that forecast information to be confidential. |
| 4 | And, finally, Confidential Hearing |
| 5 | Exhibit 4 is the future drilling plan, Wexpro's |
| 6 | future drilling plan for these properties, and the |
| 7 | Company deems that confidential as well. The |
| 8 | Company would argue that disclosure of this |
| 9 | information would put it at a competitive |
| 10 | disadvantage for negotiations in the future, and it |
| 11 | would also cause the Company to disclose information |
| 12 | that it views proprietary. |
| 13 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. Is |
| 14 | there any objection to this motion. Ms. Schmid? |
| 15 | MS. SCHMID: No objection. |
| 16 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Mr. Snarr? |
| 17 | MR. SNARR: No objection. |
| 18 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: We find that it |
| 19 | is in the interest of the public to grant the motion |
| 20 | and to close the hearing to anyone who's not a party |
| 21 | until we complete discussion of confidential |
| 22 | information. So we will discontinue streaming at |
| 23 | this point. Is there anyone in the room I don't |
| 24 | know the names of everyone in the room, but if |
| 25 | everyone at the table is comfortable with those in |

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Page 14
     the room, then we can proceed.
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                     MS. CLARK: It's fine. I think we
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 3
     recognize everyone here.
                     COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Do we
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 5
     have the streaming turned off? Okay. Thank you.
         (The following testimony was deemed confidential. )
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| 1 | Page 18 (End of confidential testimony.) |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: We will reopen |
| 3 | the meeting then to the public. Any objection to |
| 4 | reopening the meeting? We'll start the streaming |
| 5 | again. Thank you. |
| 6 | MS. CLARK: The Company would now |
| 7 | move for the admission of Confidential Hearing |
| 8 | Exhibits 1, 2, 3, and 4. |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Any objection to |
| 10 | that motion, Ms. Schmid? |
| 11 | MS. SCHMID: No objection. |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Mr. Snarr? |
| 13 | MR. SNARR: No objection. |
| 14 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: The motion is |
| 15 | granted. Thank you. |
| 16 | BY MS. CLARK: |
| 17 | Q. Please proceed, Mr. McKay. |
| 18 | A. That gets us to paragraph 19. In |
| 19 | paragraph 19, the parties agreed that the Kinney |
| 20 | Unit at this time would be withdrawn for |
| 21 | consideration before this Commission, and then we |
| 22 | would give Wexpro the opportunity to be able to |
| 23 | prove that this unit can be economically developed |
| 24 | if they can. And based on a verification |
| 25 | recognizing that the Wexpro Agreement is |
| 1 | |

Page 19 self-governing here, we know the Hydrocarbon monitor 1 2 would be reviewing their work in that area and 3 assuming that it can be economically developed, then 4 we -- Questar Gas, Wexpro -- shall bring this property back before the Commission. We're not 5 committing the Commission or any parties that it has 6 to become part of Wexpro I, but simply giving 7 parties a free option, if you will, on this. 8 9 our concern was, is that the way that the Wexpro II Agreement, I think, contemplated properties being 10 11 brought before the Commission is that you would 12 bring a property and it would either be included or 13 not included, and that's the way we would live going We didn't want that decision to have to be 14 15 made on this if the property looks promising, but there wasn't enough evidence at this time, and we 16 agreed that we would delay that official decision 17 before this Commission by us withdrawing that. And 18 19 then assuming that it's a good property and parties 20 don't want us -- if it doesn't prove to be a good 21 property -- to have us, quote, waste our time with 22 having to see that the numbers aren't good, we 23 recognize the Hydrocarbon monitor in the review of that process will be able to satisfy that concern. 24 25 But if it can be economically developed, Wexpro and

Page 20 Ouestar Gas would bring it back before the 1 2 Commission and give the parties an option to have it 3 become a Wexpro II property. 4 That leads us to paragraph 20, which they're in the process of discovery and 5 There were concerns related to at 6 negotiations. 7 least three areas, and we wanted to memorialize 8 those and agree that -- assuming approval of the 9 Settlement Stipulation in both Utah and Wyoming -the parties would meet within 45 days and discuss 10 11 the mitigation of risks associated with other 12 participating areas. Right now, our discussion has 13 been that it's not imminent, but we wanted to make sure we all had an understanding of what that might 14 be out there and provide the evidence to make sure 15 16 everyone had understanding with it. We also wanted to evaluate the -- talk 17 about and discuss the evaluating and the 18 implementing of future sale or retirement exchange 19 2.0 of Wexpro I assets as their useful life comes to an 21 end, and then specifically talk about the timing. 22 think it's a little odd -- we will freely admit 23 that -- that time that happened between Wexpro 24 acquiring these properties and then bringing them 25 before the Commission has some unique circumstances,

Page 21 but we wanted to discuss that timing which has not 1 2 been specifically addressed. 3 Then the last paragraph in the Terms and 4 Conditions is 21, and is essentially a paragraph that has existed in our other stipulations that 5 recognizes that Wexpro -- the paragraphs in the 6 Settlement Stipulation of Wexpro I are still in 7 force as it relates to regulation, or, shall we say 8 9 not regulation of Questar -- sorry, of Wexpro. 10 I'm going to make one more attempt on that. 11 paragraph refers to Wexpro and how they are not 12 considered a regulated entity, and that's spelled 13 out in the Wexpro I Agreement. The rest of this is the General Terms and 14 15 Conditions, stating that we feel that this is a just and reasonable resolution of the issues and it's in 16 the public interest. In paragraph 22, it doesn't 17 set any precedent as far as other issues bringing 18 before the Commission in the future. We'll be happy 19 20 to provide witnesses, and I think you're seeing that 21 happen today. And then, if, in fact, we're not 22 approved by the Commissions, how the parties would 23 respond and act. 24 But in summary, we feel this is an 25 excellent resolution of the issues in this case, and

| 1 | Page 22 it's just and reasonable and ought to be approved by |
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| 2 | this Commission. |
| 3 | Q. Does that conclude your summary? |
| 4 | A. Yes. |
| 5 | MS. CLARK: Before the Company |
| 6 | surrenders the floor, it would move for the |
| 7 | admission pursuant to paragraph 24 of the |
| 8 | Stipulation of those exhibits referenced in Questar |
| 9 | Gas Company's Exhibit Index. The parties and the |
| 10 | court reporter have been provided with the index, |
| 11 | and you will find it if you just open the cover of |
| 12 | the binder in front of you. It includes the |
| 13 | exhibits the Application and the exhibits that |
| 14 | accompanied it, Exhibits A through P including |
| 15 | subparts. It also includes the supplemental |
| 16 | information that was filed in this docket; the |
| 17 | direct testimony of Mr. McKay with accompanying |
| 18 | Exhibits 2.1, 2.2, and 2.2.1-S; and then also the |
| 19 | direct testimony of Brady B. Rasmussen, which is |
| 20 | Exhibit 3 with accompanying exhibits; Questar Gas |
| 21 | Exhibit 3.1, 3.2, 3.2.1-S, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, |
| 22 | and we'll just say with the subparts of 3.7. Those |
| 23 | were filed with the supplemental information and |
| 24 | 3.8. |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. |
| I | |

| | Page 23 |
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| 1 | Ms. Schmid, any objection to that motion? |
| 2 | MS. SCHMID: No objection. |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Mr. Snarr? |
| 4 | MR. SNARR: No objection. |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. The |
| 6 | motion is granted. Thank you. |
| 7 | MS. CLARK: Thank you. The Company |
| 8 | does not have any other witnesses to offer at this |
| 9 | time. |
| 10 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. With the |
| 11 | understanding there might be questions later, we |
| 12 | will move on to Ms. Schmid. |
| 13 | MS. SCHMID: Thank you. The |
| 14 | Division's witness this morning is Mr. Douglas D. |
| 15 | Wheelwright. Could he please be sworn? |
| 16 | DOUGLAS D. WHEELWRIGHT, |
| 17 | having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined |
| 18 | and testified as follows: |
| 19 | BY MS. SCHMID: |
| 20 | Q. Mr. Wheelwright, could you please tell us |
| 21 | by whom you are employed, your position, and your |
| 22 | business address? |
| 23 | A. Yes. I'm a technical consultant with the |
| 24 | Division of Public Utilities. My address is 160 |
| 25 | East 300 South. |
| | |

Page 24 On behalf of the Division, have you 1 0. 2 participated in this docket? 3 Α. Yes, I have. 4 0. Did that participation include preparing and causing to be filed DPU Exhibit No. 1.0 Direct, 5 along with DPU Exhibit No. 1.01 Direct, 1.02, which 6 were confidential, 1.01, 1.02 Redacted, and then DPU 7 1.0 Direct, your corrected prefiled direct testimony 8 along with redacted Exhibits 1.01 and 1.02? 9 10 Α. Yes. 11 Why was corrected prefiled direct Q. 12 testimony filed? 13 The only correction to the original filing 14 was a change in our summary. We removed some of the redacted portion of that summary. 15 MS. SCHMID: The Division would like 16 to move to admit the exhibits previously identified. 17 You also have been provided with an exhibit list. 18 19 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Mr. Snarr, any 2.0 objection to that motion? 21 MR. SNARR: No objection. 2.2 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Ms. Clark? 23 MS. CLARK: No objection. 24 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: The motion is 25 granted.

Page 25 1 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. 2. BY MS. SCHMID: Mr. Wheelwright, did you participate in 3 Q. 4 the settlement meetings? Yes, I did. 5 Α. 6 Q. Do you have summary statements to provide? Yes, I do. Α. 8 Please proceed. Q. 9 Thank you, Commissioners. The objective of the Wexpro II Agreement was to create a structure 10 11 and a mechanism that could potentially allow 12 additional properties to be included in future cost 13 of service gas production. The Vermillion Application before you today represents the third 14 time additional properties have been presented for 15 16 approval. The Original Application in this docket represented the purchase of varying ownership 17 18 interest in four separate properties identified as the Vermillion Acquisition. In direct testimony, 19 2.0 the Division recommended approval of the additional 21 interest in the Trail property and approval of the 22 Whiskey Canyon property. The Division expressed 23 concern with the original proposal for wells in Canyon Creek and concerns with the cost of service 24 from the Kinney field. In response, the Company 25

Page 26 1 prepared a modification to the proposed drilling in 2 Canyon Creek and prepared a revised cost of service 3 calculation that excluded the additional ownership 4 in the Kinney property. These two modifications to the original Application are the basis for the 5 6 Settlement Stipulation which has been signed by all the interested parties and has been outlined today 7 8 by Mr. McKay. 9 The calculations and the assumptions used 10 in the original Application and the assumptions used 11 in the Settlement Stipulation have been reviewed and 12 evaluated by Mr. David Evans, the independent Hydrocarbon monitor. The first confidential report 13 from the Hydrocarbon monitor was filed with the 14 Commission on January 19th, and the second report 15 16 was filed on February 27th. In both reports, Mr. Evans indicated that in his opinion, the reserves 17 and associated economic information represented by 18 Wexpro were reasonable. The specifics of the cost 19 20 of service price projections from this acquisition 21 are confidential, but have been included in Exhibits 22 L-1 through L-5 of the original filing and in 23 subsequent updates. A comparison of the cost of 24 service price from the Vermillion properties along 25 with the total cost of service price for all of the

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Page 28 as a Wexpro II property represents the purchase of a 1 2 long-term resource that could be advantageous to 3 ratepayers for many years. The Division believes 4 the terms of the Stipulation Agreement taken as a whole are just and reasonable and are in the public 5 interest. That concludes my summary. 6 7 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. COMMISSIONER LEVAR: That concludes 8 9 your presentation? MS. SCHMID: That concludes the 10 Division's presentation. 11 12 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. Mr. Snarr? 13 MR. SNARR: Yes. Thank you. 14 Appearing today in support of the Office of Consumer 15 16 Services is Gavin Mangelson. He has prepared testimony. May he be sworn? 17 18 GAVIN MANGELSON, 19 having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined 20 and testified as follows: 21 BY MR. SNARR: 22 Q. Mr. Mangelson, what is your name, business 23 address, and by whom are you employed? 24 My name is Gavin Mangelson. My business Α. 25 address is 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Page 29

- 1 I'm a utility analyst for the Office of Consumer
- 2 Services.
- 3 Q. Did you submit prefiled direct testimony
- 4 in this docket?
- 5 A. Yes. On February 21st, 2017, I submitted
- 6 ten pages of confidential direct testimony.
- 7 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Mr. Snarr, I'm
- 8 sorry to interrupt, but I think you're not picking
- 9 up on our streaming. If you could maybe move the
- 10 microphone a little closer to you.
- 11 MR. SNARR: Certainly.
- 12 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you.
- 13 BY MR. SNARR:
- 14 O. How is that testimony identified in the
- 15 proceeding here today?
- 16 A. As OCS-1-D.
- 17 Q. And are there any corrections or
- 18 modifications to that testimony as you present that
- 19 today?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 MR. SNARR: We would move to have
- 22 Mr. Mangelson's previously filed testimony to be
- 23 admitted as part of the record.
- 24 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. Ms.
- 25 Schmid, do you have any objection to that?

| 1 | Page 30 MS. SCHMID: No objection. |
|----|--|
| 2 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. Ms. |
| 3 | Clark? |
| 4 | MS. CLARK: No objection. |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. The |
| 6 | motion is granted. |
| 7 | BY MR. SNARR: |
| 8 | Q. Mr. Mangelson, did you participate in the |
| 9 | settlement discussions related to the issues raised |
| 10 | in this docket? |
| 11 | A. Yes. I participated in the development of |
| 12 | the Vermillion Settlement Stipulation which has been |
| 13 | submitted to this Commission. The Office of |
| 14 | Consumer Services is a party to that agreement. |
| 15 | Q. Have you prepared a statement or summary |
| 16 | of the Office's position? |
| 17 | A. Yes, I have. |
| 18 | Q. Could you please provide that? |
| 19 | A. Thank you. Good morning, Mr. Chairman, |
| 20 | Commissioners. The Office of Consumer Services |
| 21 | conducted detailed analysis of the proposal to |
| 22 | include new properties within the Wexpro II |
| 23 | Agreement. In accordance with our statutory |
| 24 | mandate, we approached our analysis from the |
| 25 | perspective of residential and small commercial |
| | |

Page 31 1 customers who together represent a substantial 2 portion of the customers receiving cost of service 3 gas under the Wexpro Agreements. 4 The Office's direct testimony identified cost information for cost of service gas from each 5 of the four properties individually and further 6 divided those properties by existing proven 7 developed producing, or PDP wells, and future 8 development wells. We included comparisons of this 9 cost information to current market rates. 10 11 In addition to the cost analysis of the 12 proposed properties, the Office's Direct Testimony 13 identified other issues that are important to 14 consider in this and any future applications to 15 include properties under the Wexpro II Agreement. These additional issues can be summarized into three 16 17 main points. First, although a combination of existing wells and new development wells may result 18 in a combined cost of service that is below market 19 20 prices, acceptance of these wells into the agreement 21 means that ratepayers will be required to purchase 2.2 the additional volumes that come from these existing 23 wells, even though prices may be, at times, above 24 market prices. 25 Second, the cap on the level of Wexpro Gas

| 1 | Page 32 as a percentage of total gas supply established in |
|----|---|
| 2 | the Canyon Creek Stipulation is a ceiling and should |
| 3 | not be treated as a target for levels of Wexpro Gas. |
| 4 | And, third, declining volumes of Wexpro |
| 5 | Gas should be replaced only if the additional |
| 6 | volumes can be justified based on their independent |
| 7 | advantage when compared to market prices. |
| 8 | The Office believes that the Vermillion |
| 9 | Settlement Stipulation filed on March 2, 2017 in |
| 10 | this docket reasonably satisfies the issues and |
| 11 | concerns that we identified. |
| 12 | Cost information was used as the principal |
| 13 | basis for our recommendations for each individual |
| 14 | property, and cost information was the principal |
| 15 | factor in developing the terms of the Settlement |
| 16 | Stipulation. Regarding the Whiskey Canyon and Trail |
| 17 | properties, the combined cost of service gas |
| 18 | produced from PDP and development wells from these |
| 19 | properties is expected to be below current rates. |
| 20 | Therefore, the Office supports the inclusion of |
| 21 | these properties into the Wexpro II Agreement as |
| 22 | stated in paragraph 17 of the Stipulation. |
| 23 | Regarding the Canyon Creek property, I |
| 24 | will note that the Canyon Creek property referred |
| 25 | both to the overriding royalty interest of certain |

Page 33 wells within the participating area, as well as two 1 2 additional properties outside of the current Canyon 3 Creek participating area. The Office originally 4 opposed inclusion of the Canyon Creek property into the Wexpro II Agreement based on the uncertainty of 5 resulting actual prices. During the settlement 6 7 talks, Wexpro agreed to make certain modifications 8 to the anticipated drilling plan for this property. 9 The changes to the drilling plan are explained in paragraph 18, and initially provide for three 10 11 vertical wells in lieu of the horizontal well 12 described in the Application. The revisions to 13 Wexpro's drilling plan for this property should present less risk, result in lower cost of service 14 gas from the new wells, and thereby lower the price 15 of cost of service from the property as whole. 16 17 Based on the conditions described in paragraph 18, the Office supports inclusion of the 18 19 Canyon Creek property into the Wexpro II Agreement. 20 Regarding the additional interest in the 21 Kinney property, cost of service gas from the 22 existing wells is currently above market prices, and 23 information about the single-development well provided in the Application does not produce a 24 25 resulting cost of service gas price below current

| 1 | Page 34 market rates. Parties believe that further |
|----|--|
| 2 | exploration in that field may prove additional well |
| 3 | sites that would result in a lower overall cost of |
| 4 | service price from that area. Therefore, paragraph |
| 5 | 19 provides for the withdrawal from consideration of |
| 6 | the Kinney property at this time, along with a |
| 7 | mechanism for the property to be brought before the |
| 8 | Commission under the cost circumstances described in |
| 9 | that paragraph. |
| 10 | In conclusion, the Office submits that the |
| 11 | Vermillion Settlement Stipulation to Questar's |
| 12 | request for the inclusion of additional properties |
| 13 | under the Wexpro II Agreement will result in just |
| 14 | and reasonable rates and is in the public interest |
| 15 | and recommends that the Commission approve the |
| 16 | Settlement Stipulation. |
| 17 | MR. SNARR: That concludes the |
| 18 | Office's presentation. |
| 19 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. Ms. |
| 20 | Clark, do you have any questions for any witnesses? |
| 21 | MS. CLARK: I do not. Thank you. |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. Ms. |
| 23 | Schmid? |
| 24 | MS. SCHMID: No questions. |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. Mr. |

| 1 | Page 35 Snarr? |
|----|--|
| 2 | MR. SNARR: No questions. |
| 3 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Commissioner |
| 4 | White? |
| 5 | COMMISSIONER WHITE: With respect to |
| 6 | the Kinney property, to the extent it's not |
| 7 | confidential, what is the anticipated timing of the |
| 8 | additional exploration of potential request for |
| 9 | inclusion? |
| 10 | MS. CLARK: I think the Company would |
| 11 | deem the answer to that question confidential, and I |
| 12 | think Mr. Rasmussen is probably best equipped to |
| 13 | answer it, and he needs to be sworn. |
| 14 | BRADY B. RASMUSSEN, |
| 15 | having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined |
| 16 | and testified as follows: |
| 17 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Is there any |
| 18 | objection, Ms. Schmid, from closing the hearing to |
| 19 | hear the answer to this question? |
| 20 | MS. SCHMID: No objection. |
| 21 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. Mr. |
| 22 | Snarr? |
| 23 | MR. SNARR: No objection. |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: We find it is in |
| 25 | the public interest to close this hearing to the |

| 1 | Page 36 public to receive an answer to this question. Will |
|----|--|
| 2 | you let me know if the streaming is stopped? |
| 3 | (The following portion was deemed confidential.) |
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| | Page 48 |
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| 1 | (Confidential portion ends.) |
| 2 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: We will open the |
| 3 | hearing then back to the public. Thank you. And I |
| 4 | don't have any further questions. Any final matters |
| 5 | before we adjourn? |
| 6 | MS. CLARK: Yes, thank you, |
| 7 | Commissioner. Two matters: One is that the Company |
| 8 | recognizes that we will be before the Wyoming |
| 9 | Commission on the 17th of this month; I believe |
| 10 | that's next Friday. We would request, recognizing |
| 11 | that it would be helpful to have a decision from |
| 12 | this Commission prior to that hearing, we would |
| 13 | request a bench order. We recognize that's a lot to |
| 14 | ask and if you are not prepared to do so, we would |
| 15 | simply request that we get some indication prior to |
| 16 | the Wyoming hearing. |
| 17 | The other matter would be the |
| 18 | Application did not identify an effective date. We |
| 19 | would like to treat this matter the same way we have |
| 20 | treated prior Wexpro II matters and seek an |
| 21 | effective date of the first of the same month in |
| 22 | which the hearings were held. So in this case, it |
| 23 | would be March 1st. And I think that is all the |
| 24 | Company has to add. |
| 25 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Let me ask for |
| 1 | |

Page 49 one clarification. If our Commission were to grant 1 2 a bench ruling today with an effective date of 3 March 1st and then subsequently issue a written 4 order confirming that, and if the Wyoming Commission were to do a bench ruling with a subsequent written 5 order, just looking at paragraph 20, when the 45 6 days -- and that's not based on effective date but 7 on Commission approval -- was it anticipated that 8 9 that would run beginning with the first -- I'm sorry, with the second bench ruling or with the 10 11 final written order? 12 MS. CLARK: I think as a technical 13 matter, it is intended to run with the final ruling that makes all of this effective. That said, I can 14 tell you and assure you that the Company and the 15 16 parties have already been talking. The Company is conducting analysis, and we will be prompt about 17 18 that. 19 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: When you say 2.0 final written ruling --21 MS. CLARK: I think it would be the 2.2 final bench ruling. If we were to get, for example, 23 a bench ruling from Wyoming on the 17th, we would deem the clock to begin running that day. 24 25 COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Okay. Any

| | Page 50 |
|---------------|---|
| l diffe | erence of opinion, Ms. Schmid? |
| 2 | MS. SCHMID: The Division would |
| 3 suppo | ort the issuance of a bench order. |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. Mr. |
| 5 Snarr | · ? |
| 6 | MR. SNARR: We would agree with the |
| 7 runni | ng of the date as Ms. Clark has described. |
| 8 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Do you have any |
| 9 posit | ion on a bench ruling today? |
| 10 | MR. SNARR: It would be nice to have |
| 11 it. | We're here just to facilitate this process. |
| 12 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. Any |
| 13 quest | ions from Commissioner Clark or Commissioner |
| 14 White | e on the motion for bench ruling? |
| 15 | COMMISSIONER WHITE: Just to clarify, |
| 16 is th | ere any opposition to the effective date moving |
| 17 to th | e first of the month? Does that change the |
| 18 posit | ion of the Office or the Division? |
| 19 | MS. SCHMID: It does not change the |
| 20 posit | ion of the Division. |
| 21 | MR. SNARR: There's no objection to |
| 22 that. | |
| 23 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Why don't we |
| 24 then | take a brief five-minute or so recess. If we |
| | |

| 1 | Page 51 room to let you know that we might need longer. |
|----|---|
| 2 | Thank you. |
| 3 | (A brief recess was taken.) |
| 4 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: We find that the |
| 5 | Settlement Stipulation presented in this docket is |
| 6 | just and reasonable and in the public interest, and |
| 7 | we conclude that it is consistent with the relevant |
| 8 | statutes and the previous Agreements and previous |
| 9 | Wexpro matters. We approve the Settlement |
| 10 | Stipulation with one change, and please let me know |
| 11 | if I have this change correct. On the first page of |
| 12 | the Settlement Stipulation where it says, near the |
| 13 | bottom of page 1, "This Settlement Stipulation shall |
| 14 | be effective upon the entry of final order of |
| 15 | approval by both Commissions," I think we're |
| 16 | changing that sentence to say, "It will be effective |
| 17 | March 1, 2017 contingent on approval by those two |
| 18 | Commissions." Please indicate to me if that change |
| 19 | is consistent with everybody's understanding. |
| 20 | MS. SCHMID: Consistent with the |
| 21 | Division's understanding. |
| 22 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Mr. Snarr? |
| 23 | MR. SNARR: Yes, it's consistent. |
| 24 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: With that |
| 25 | change, we approve the Settlement Stipulation and we |
| 1 | |

| 1 | Page 52 will, subsequent to this hearing, issue a written |
|----|---|
| 2 | order confirming that bench ruling. Any other |
| 3 | matters before we adjourn? |
| 4 | MS. CLARK: No. Thank you. |
| 5 | MS. SCHMID: Nothing further from the |
| 6 | Division. |
| 7 | MR. SNARR: Nothing further from the |
| 8 | Office. |
| 9 | COMMISSIONER LEVAR: Thank you. |
| 10 | We're adjourned. |
| 11 | (The proceedings concluded at 10:05 a.m.) |
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| 1 | Page 53 |
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| 2 | REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE |
| 3 | STATE OF UTAH) |
| 4 | COUNTY OF SUMMIT) |
| 5 | |
| 6 | I, Mary R. Honigman, a Registered |
| 7 | Professional Reporter, hereby certify: |
| 8 | THAT the foregoing proceedings were |
| 9 | taken before me at the time and place set forth in |
| 10 | the caption hereof; that the witness was placed |
| 11 | under oath to tell the truth, the whole truth, and |
| 12 | nothing but the truth; that the proceedings were |
| 13 | taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter my |
| 14 | notes were transcribed through computer-aided |
| 15 | transcription; and the foregoing transcript |
| 16 | constitutes a full, true, and accurate record of |
| 17 | such testimony adduced and oral proceedings had, and |
| 18 | of the whole thereof. |
| 19 | I have subscribed my name on this |
| 20 | 20th day of March, 2017. |
| 21 | Mary Torigman |
| 22 | Mary R. Honigman |
| 23 | Registered Professional Reporter |
| 24 | |
| 25 | |

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