

In the Matter Of:

In RE: QGC - Pass-Through and Adjustment to Imbalance Charge

HEARING- DOCKET NO. 17-057-07, 08

May 31, 2017

Job Number: 393424

1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

2

3 In the Matter of the Pass-Through Docket No. 17-057-07
4 Application of Questar Gas Company
5 for an Adjustment in Rates and
6 Charges for Natural Gas Service in
7 Utah

8 In the Matter of the Application of Docket No. 17-057-08
9 Questar Gas Company for an Adjustment
10 to the Daily Transportation Imbalance
11 Charge

12

13 HEARING PROCEEDINGS

14

15 TAKEN AT: Utah Public Service Commission
16 4th Floor
17 160 East 300 South
18 Salt Lake City, Utah

19

20 DATE: Wednesday, May 31, 2017

21 TIME: 9:00 a.m.

22 REPORTER: Mary R. Honigman, R.P.R.

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Job No. 393424

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APPEARANCES

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE:
Melanie Reif

FOR THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES:
Patricia E. Schmid
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Salt Lake City, Utah 84114

FOR QUESTAR GAS COMPANY:
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PROCEEDINGS

JUDGE REIF: Good morning, everyone. I'm Melanie Reif, the administrative law judge and counsel for the Public Service Commission. This is the date and time for the interim rates hearing in Dockets 17-057-07 and 17-057-08. These dockets are entitled, "In the Matter of the Pass-Through Application of Questar Gas Company for an Adjustment in Rates and Charges for Natural Gas Service in Utah," and the second docket is entitled, "In the Matter of the Application of Questar Gas Company for an Adjustment to the Daily Transportation Imbalance Charge." Let's begin by taking appearances, please.

MS. CLARK: Jenniffer Nelson Clark, appearing on behalf of the Company, and I have with me as witnesses Austin Summers and Jordan Stephenson.

JUDGE REIF: Okay. Thank you.

MS. SCHMID: Patricia E. Schmid with the Attorney General's office, representing the Division of Public Utilities. And with me as the Division's witness is Douglas Wheelwright.

JUDGE REIF: Thank you. And welcome, everyone. Ms. Clark, would you like to go ahead?

MS. CLARK: Yes. Thank you. We have

1 just two housekeeping issues. The first is -- I'm
2 sure you're aware -- yesterday, the Commission
3 approved the tariff that was updated to reflect the
4 Company's new name, and the tariff sheets filed in
5 these dockets reflect the old name. So I wanted to
6 alert you and also the parties that we're going to
7 need to remedy that, and our suggestion would be
8 that we simply file advice letters -- provided that
9 these dockets are approved -- submit advice letters
10 with the updated headings on the tariff sheets later
11 today if that meets with your approval and the other
12 parties agree.

13 The second issue is one that we
14 discussed before you arrived. When we filed these
15 dockets, we filed concurrently a peak-hour docket
16 charging transportation customers for peak-hour
17 services and, again, as we all know, that docket is
18 on a little longer schedule than this one. And so
19 the combined tariff sheets that Mr. Stephenson will
20 testify about today are inapplicable. We have
21 tariff sheets that are specific only to the
22 Transportation Imbalance Charge that we will be
23 addressing today. We will not be addressing those
24 combined sheets today, and Mr. Stephenson is
25 prepared to address that in his summary on the

1 record for you, but I wanted you to be aware of that
2 as well. So those are the two matters we wanted to
3 raise.

4 JUDGE REIF: Okay. That sounds
5 great. And with respect to the testimony, that
6 makes sense to me. I don't see any problem with
7 that. And is the Division in agreement with what
8 Questar is proposing?

9 MS. SCHMID: Yes, the Division is in
10 agreement.

11 JUDGE REIF: Great. All right.
12 Ms. Clark, would you like to proceed?

13 MS. CLARK: Yes, I would. Questar
14 Gas is here with two dockets before you, and I
15 presume we're taking them in succession?

16 JUDGE REIF: Yes, we will. We'll
17 start with the 07 docket first.

18 MS. CLARK: Then the Company would
19 call Mr. Austin Summers.

20 AUSTIN SUMMERS,
21 having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
22 and testified as follows:

23 BY MS. CLARK:

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

1 A. My name is Austin Summers, and my business
2 address is 333 South State Street.

3 **Q. Could you please state your title and**
4 **identify whom you represent?**

5 A. My title is Supervisor of Regulatory
6 Affairs, and I am representing Dominion Energy Utah.

7 **Q. And were the Application and its**
8 **attachments prepared by you or under your**
9 **supervision?**

10 A. Yes.

11 **Q. And would you adopt them as your testimony**
12 **today?**

13 A. Yes.

14 MS. CLARK: The Company would move
15 for the admission of the Application and attached
16 Exhibits 1.1 through 1.10.

17 JUDGE REIF: Any objection?

18 MS. SCHMID: No objection.

19 JUDGE REIF: They're admitted.

20 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

21 BY MS. CLARK:

22 **Q. Mr. Summers, would you please summarize**
23 **the relief the Company requests in this docket?**

24 A. Yes. In this Pass-through Docket, No.
25 17-057-07, Dominion Energy Utah respectfully asks

1 the Utah Public Service Commission for approval of
2 \$563,658,078 in Utah gas cost coverage. This
3 represents an overall increase of \$12,841,000. The
4 components of the increase are: first, an increase
5 of \$5,729,000 in commodity costs, and second, an
6 increase of \$7,112,000 in supplier non-gas costs.
7 This request includes an amortization of the
8 commodity portion of the actual March 2017
9 over-collected 191 account balance of \$5,419,069 by
10 a 4.894 cents per decatherm credit.

11 The Company is also requesting an
12 amortization of under-collected SNG costs. The SNG
13 balance is slightly under-collected from expected
14 levels at the end of March by \$4,714,987, which
15 leads to the debt amortization charges shown on
16 Exhibit 1.6, page 3. The cost of purchased gas was
17 developed using forecasted gas prices from both PIRA
18 Energy Group and Cambridge Energy Research
19 Associates. If this application is approved, a
20 typical Utah GS customer using 80 decatherms per
21 year would see an increase of \$9.25 for a total
22 annual increase of about 1.36 percent.

23 These rates are just, reasonable, and in
24 the public interest, and therefore we request the
25 rates proposed in commodity and SNG rates be allowed

1 to go into effect June 1, 2017. That concludes my
2 summary.

3 MS. CLARK: Mr. Summers is available
4 for questions.

5 JUDGE REIF: Any questions for Mr.
6 Summers?

7 MS. SCHMID: Nothing from the
8 Division.

9 JUDGE REIF: I do not have any
10 questions for you. Ms. Clark, did you wish to
11 present a second witness?

12 MS. CLARK: No. Mr. Stephenson is
13 here to testify to the 08 docket.

14 JUDGE REIF: And just for
15 clarification, your desire is for an effective date
16 of June 1st on this Interim Rate Application?

17 MS. CLARK: It is.

18 JUDGE REIF: Thank you. All right.
19 Ms. Schmid, would you like to call a witness?

20 MS. SCHMID: Yes. The Division would
21 like to call Mr. Douglas Wheelwright as its witness.
22 May he please be sworn?

23 DOUGLAS D. WHEELWRIGHT,
24 having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
25 and testified as follows:

1 BY MS. SCHMID:

2 Q. Good morning. Could you please state your
3 full name, title, and business address for the
4 record?

5 A. My name is Douglas D. Wheelwright. I'm a
6 technical consultant with the Division of Public
7 Utilities. My address is 160 East 300 South in Salt
8 Lake.

9 Q. In connection with your employment at the
10 Division, have you participated in Docket
11 No. 17-057-07?

12 A. Yes, I have.

13 Q. Did you prepare or cause to be prepared
14 under your direction the Division of Public
15 Utilities comments filed May 23, 2017 that addressed
16 both Dockets 17-057-07 and 17-057-08?

17 A. Yes, I did.

18 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to
19 those comments?

20 A. Yes. There are two corrections to the
21 memo that was filed. On page 2, the bold heading in
22 the second full paragraph reads "Docket 16-05-705,"
23 but should be Docket 17-057-07. And, similarly, on
24 page 9, the bold heading in the last paragraph reads
25 "Docket 16-057-06," and should be Docket 17-057-08.

1 Those are the changes.

2 **Q. After incorporating those changes, do you**
3 **adopt the Division's memorandum dated May 23rd, 2017**
4 **as your testimony insofar as it addresses Docket**
5 **No. 17-057-07?**

6 A. Yes.

7 **Q. Do you have a summary to provide?**

8 A. Yes, I do.

9 **Q. Please proceed.**

10 A. Thank you. Docket No. 17-057-07, known as
11 the 191 Pass-through Application, asked for
12 Commission approval for an increase of \$5.7 million
13 in the commodity component and a \$7.1 million
14 increase in a supplier non-gas component of the
15 natural gas rates for a net increase of
16 \$12.8 million. The primary reason for the increase
17 in the commodity cost is due to the reduction in the
18 amortization of the previously over-collected
19 balance in the 191 account. The majority of the
20 over-collection has now been credited to customers,
21 and the amortization is being reduced in this
22 filing. The reduction in the credit to customers
23 for the over-collection results in an increase in
24 the commodity costs for the test period.

25 The increase in the supplier non-gas

1 portion of the rate is due to an increase in the
2 cost for transportation services and the inclusion
3 of additional costs for proposed natural gas storage
4 in the Ryckman facility. Transportation contracts
5 with Kern River were recently renegotiated and a new
6 peak-hour transportation contract has been included
7 in this filing. It is anticipated that the
8 peak-hour contract will be discussed in greater
9 detail in Docket 17-057-09.

10 For the test year, it is anticipated that
11 approximately 57 percent of the total gas
12 requirement will be satisfied from Wexpro cost of
13 service gas production, and 43 percent will be
14 purchased through existing and future contracts
15 along with spot market purchase transactions. If
16 this docket is approved, a typical GS customer will
17 see an increase in their annual bill of \$9.25 or an
18 increase of 1.36 percent.

19 The Division recommends that the proposed
20 rate be approved on an interim basis until a full
21 audit of the 191 account can be completed. That
22 concludes my summary.

23 **Q. Mr. Wheelwright, is it your testimony on**
24 **behalf of the Division, then, that, if accepted, the**
25 **proposed rate changes will result in just,**

1 **reasonable rates that are in the public interest --**

2 A. Yes.

3 **Q. -- on an interim basis? Yes.**

4 MS. SCHMID: With that, the Division
5 would like to move for the admission of its
6 memorandum dated May 23rd, 2017 addressing Dockets
7 17-057-07 and 17-057-08.

8 JUDGE REIF: Thank you. Any
9 objection?

10 MS. CLARK: No objection.

11 JUDGE REIF: It's admitted.

12 MS. SCHMID: Thank you.

13 Mr. Wheelwright is now available for questions.

14 JUDGE REIF: Thank you. Any
15 questions, Ms. Clark?

16 MS. CLARK: The Company does not have
17 any questions.

18 JUDGE REIF: Mr. Wheelwright, just
19 one question of clarification for you, please. You
20 emphasized the change that a typical GS customer
21 will experience as a result of this rate change.
22 Just for clarification, that is on an annual basis,
23 correct?

24 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

25 JUDGE REIF: Thank you. That's all I

1 have for you. Ms. Schmid, do you have anything
2 further?

3 MS. SCHMID: Nothing further from the
4 Division.

5 JUDGE REIF: Okay. Ms. Clark.

6 MS. CLARK: With respect to Docket
7 17-057-08, the Company calls Jordan Stephenson.

8 JUDGE REIF: Just for clarification,
9 we are finished with Docket 07 and we're going to
10 move on to Docket 08 now. This is the Daily
11 Transportation Imbalance Charge, and,
12 Mr. Stephenson, I'll go ahead and swear you in.

13 JORDAN STEPHENSON,
14 having been first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
15 and testified as follows:

16 BY MS. CLARK:

17 **Q. Mr. Stephenson, will you please state your**
18 **full name and address for the record?**

19 A. Yes. Jordan Stephenson, 333 South State,
20 Salt Lake City.

21 **Q. Can you please state your title and**
22 **identify who you represent?**

23 A. I am the Senior Regulatory Affairs Analyst
24 representing Dominion Energy Utah.

25 **Q. Mr. Stephenson, did you prepare the**

1 **Application and attached exhibits, or were they**
2 **prepared under your direction?**

3 A. Yes.

4 **Q. And do you adopt them as your testimony**
5 **today?**

6 A. Yes.

7 MS. CLARK: The Company would move
8 for the admission of the Application in 17-057-08
9 with the attached Exhibits 1.1 through 1.3.

10 JUDGE REIF: Any objection?

11 MS. SCHMID: No objection.

12 JUDGE REIF: They are admitted.

13 MS. CLARK: Thank you.

14 BY MS. CLARK:

15 **Q. Mr. Stephenson, would you please summarize**
16 **the relief the Company seeks today?**

17 A. Yes. In this docket, the Company seeks to
18 update the Daily Transportation Imbalance Charge
19 using the historical data for the 12 months ended
20 March 31st, 2017. This update is done pursuant to
21 paragraph 4J of the Utah Public Service Commission
22 order dated November 9, 2015 in Docket 14-057-31.

23 Based on the most recent historical data,
24 the Company is proposing to slightly increase the
25 rate from the 8.1 cents to 8.5 cents per decatherm.

1 This will be assessed to daily imbalances outside of
2 a 5 percent tolerance. The Company is proposing
3 that this rate be made effective June 1, 2017. The
4 Company also notes that Exhibit 1.3 of the filed
5 Application provided combined tariff sheets for the
6 convenience of the Commission that included both the
7 Transportation Imbalance Charge in this docket, as
8 well as a peak-hour charge proposed in Docket
9 17-057-09. The peak demand charge is not being
10 considered in today's hearing unless Exhibit 1.3 is
11 no longer relevant to this proceeding. If approved,
12 the tariff sheets shown in Exhibit 1.2 would take
13 effect.

14 And this concludes my summary.

15 MS. CLARK: Mr. Stephenson is
16 available for further questions.

17 JUDGE REIF: Any questions?

18 MS. SCHMID: No questions.

19 JUDGE REIF: Mr. Stephenson, I think
20 this question might be better directed at your
21 counsel, but my question is inasmuch as the Exhibit
22 1.3 doesn't pertain to this docket addressing the
23 Daily Transportation Imbalance Charge, do you wish
24 to withdraw that exhibit from your application?

25 MS. CLARK: I think we would like to

1 keep the Application comprehensive. Mr. Stephenson,
2 I think, wants to recognize, however, that the only
3 relief the Company requests today would be the
4 approval of this Application and those tariff sheets
5 shown in Exhibit, I believe, 1.2.

6 JUDGE REIF: Okay.

7 MS. CLARK: The third exhibit is
8 really for the Commission's convenience.

9 JUDGE REIF: Okay. All right. Very
10 good. Thank you. Anything further, Ms. Clark?

11 MS. CLARK: No, nothing further.

12 JUDGE REIF: Ms. Schmid.

13 MS. SCHMID: The Division would like
14 to call Mr. Douglas Wheelwright as its witness in
15 this docket. Could he please be sworn in this
16 docket?

17 JUDGE REIF: Mr. Wheelwright, you are
18 already sworn, so with that in mind, please proceed.

19 BY MS. SCHMID:

20 Q. Mr. Wheelwright, in your -- in connection
21 with your employment representing the Division of
22 Public Utilities, did you prepare or cause to be
23 prepared the Division's memorandum dated May 23,
24 2017 addressing both the prior Dockets 17-057-07 and
25 this Docket 17-057-08?

1 A. Yes, I did.

2 Q. In the previous docket, you made two
3 corrections to titles changing 16-057-05 to
4 17-057-07 on page 2 of the memorandum and then later
5 in the memorandum changing Docket No. 16-05-706 to
6 17-057-08 on page 9; is that correct?

7 A. That's correct.

8 Q. With those changes, do you adopt the
9 Division's memorandum as your testimony in this
10 docket?

11 A. Yes, I do.

12 MS. SCHMID: Just to be safe, the
13 Division would like to request that the Division's
14 memorandum previously discussed be admitted in this
15 docket as well.

16 JUDGE REIF: Any objection?

17 MS. CLARK: No objection.

18 JUDGE REIF: It's admitted.

19 BY MS. SCHMID:

20 Q. Mr. Wheelwright, do you have a summary?

21 A. Yes, I do.

22 Q. Please proceed.

23 A. Thank you. Docket No. 17-057-08, where
24 the Transportation Imbalance Charge was established
25 to charge transportation customers for the supplier

1 non-gas services that are being used on the
2 Company's gas distribution system, the calculation
3 of this rate is based on the methodology approved in
4 Docket 14-057-31 and is to be adjusted with each
5 pass-through application and in the next general
6 rate case.

7 The proposed change represents an increase
8 from 8.125 cents per decatherm to 8.457 cents per
9 decatherm and is calculated based on the actual
10 volumes for the 12 months ending March 2017. This
11 rate applies to transportation customers that are
12 taking service under MT, TS, and FT-1 rate schedules
13 and any amount collected under this rate is credited
14 to the GS customers through the 191 account. This
15 rate applies only if the customer's daily nomination
16 is outside the plus or minus 5 percent tolerance
17 limit.

18 Transportation customers can minimize and
19 possibly avoid this charge through accurate daily
20 nominations. This imbalance charge has only been in
21 place since February 2016, and it does appear that
22 nominations for many customers have become more
23 accurate since this rate was imposed.

24 The Division recommends the proposed rate
25 be approved on an interim basis until a full audit

1 of the 191 account can be completed. That concludes
2 my summary.

3 Q. So, Mr. Wheelwright, it is your testimony
4 on behalf of the Division that on an interim basis,
5 if approved, the changes to the Daily Transportation
6 Imbalance Charge will result in just and reasonable
7 rates that are in the public interest?

8 A. Yes.

9 MS. SCHMID: Thank you. That
10 concludes Mr. Wheelwright's testimony and there is
11 nothing further from the Division, but he's
12 available for questions.

13 JUDGE REIF: Thank you. Ms. Clark,
14 any questions?

15 MS. CLARK: The Company has no
16 questions.

17 JUDGE REIF: Mr. Wheelwright, just to
18 clarify what you have stated in your written report,
19 it is your recommendation that the effective date of
20 the interim rates take effect June 1st, 2017, which
21 is the date the Company is requesting; is that
22 correct?

23 THE WITNESS: That's correct.

24 JUDGE REIF: Thank you. No further
25 questions. Ms. Schmid, do you have anything

1 further?

2 MS. SCHMID: Nothing further.

3 JUDGE REIF: Ms. Clark?

4 MS. CLARK: Nothing further. Thank
5 you.

6 (A brief recess was taken.)

7 JUDGE REIF: We're back on the record
8 and prepared to make a ruling, a bench ruling,
9 concerning the request for a bench ruling in both of
10 these dockets, and the Commission makes the
11 following bench ruling: Based on the Application,
12 the recommendations of the Division, and the
13 testimony presented at today's hearing, the
14 Commission approves the rates in Docket numbers
15 17-057-07 and 17-057-08 on an interim basis
16 effective June 1, 2017 pending the completion and
17 review of audits by the Division.

18 Pertaining to the non-substantive
19 request to file an advice letter addressing the
20 tariffs, we look forward to receiving that at your
21 convenience. That concludes this hearing, and have
22 a very nice rest of your day.

23 (The proceedings concluded at 9:25 a.m.)

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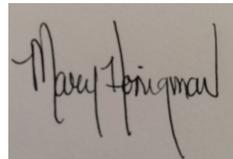
REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF UTAH)
COUNTY OF SUMMIT)

I, Mary R. Honigman, a Registered Professional Reporter, hereby certify:

THAT the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place set forth in the caption hereof; that the witness was placed under oath to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; that the proceedings were taken down by me in shorthand and thereafter my notes were transcribed through computer-aided transcription; and the foregoing transcript constitutes a full, true, and accurate record of such testimony adduced and oral proceedings had, and of the whole thereof.

I have subscribed my name on this 2nd day of June, 2017.



Mary R. Honigman
Registered Professional Reporter

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\$12,841,000 8:3	16-05-705 10:22	<hr/> 4 <hr/>	addressing 5:23 13:6 16:22	anticipated 12:7,10
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