

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH

In the Matter of the Application of Dominion Energy Utah to Increase Distribution Rates and Charges and Make Tariff Modifications	Docket No. 19-057-02
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**REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF ANGC WITNESS
BRUCE R. OLIVER**

ANGC EXHIBIT 2R

Phase 2

**TESTIMONY ON CLASS COST OF SERVICE
AND RATE STRUCTURE ISSUES**

December 13, 2019

Testimony on Behalf of

American Natural Gas Council

/s/Bruce R. Oliver

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ON CLASS COST OF SERVICE AND RATE STRUCTURE ISSUES**
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REBUTTAL EXHIBITS AND ATTACHMENTS

ANGC Exhibit 2.01R: Cost of Service Summary and Allocations to Rate Classes

*Page 1 - DEU's Response to **UAE** Data Request 2.01,
Attachment 5, COS Summary*

*Page 2 from DEU's Response to **USM** Data Request 2.01,
Attachment 5, COS Summary)*

ANGC Exhibit 2.02R: TS Class RORs and Revenue Deficiencies by Usage Category

Page 1 – TS Subclass Rate of Return

Page 2 – TS Subclass Revenue Deficiencies

ANGC Exhibit 2.03R: Cost of Service Summary and Allocations to Rate Classes
(From DEU's Response to UAE Data Request 2.01, Attachment 5, with Revised Weighting of Allocator 230)

ANGC Exhibit 2.04R: Rate of Return and Revenue Deficiencies by Rate Class
With and Without Revision to Allocation Factor 230 Weighting of Design Day and Annual Throughput

ANGC Exhibit 2.05R: ANGC Alternative Three-Step Revenue Increase Phase-In Scenarios

Page 1 – ANGC Proposed Three-Step Phase-in of Revenue Increase at DEU Proposed Revenue Increase with 68/32 Weighting of Allocation Factor 230

*Page 2 -- ANGC Proposed Three-Step Phase-in of Revenue Increase at a **Zero** Revenue Increase with 68/32 Weighting of Allocation Factor 230*

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I. INTRODUCTION

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Bruce R. Oliver. My business address is 7103 Laketree Drive
Fairfax Station, Virginia, 22039.

**Q. ARE YOU THE SAME BRUCE R. OLIVER WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY
SUBMITTED DIRECT TESTIMONY IN PHASES I AND II OF THIS
PROCEEDING ON BEHALF OF ANGC?**

A. Yes, I am.

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR PHASE II REBUTTAL TESTIMONY?

A. This testimony responds to the Phase II Direct Testimonies of witnesses for
DPU, OCS, FEA, USM and UAE relating to cost of service allocations, revenue
increase distribution, and rate design issues.

**Q. WERE THIS TESTIMONY AND ACCOMPANYING EXHIBITS PREPARED BY
YOU OR UNDER YOUR DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL?**

A. Yes, they were.

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II. SUMMARY

Q. WHAT IS YOUR OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF THE COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN TESTIMONY FILED BY THE DIVISION AND OTHER PARTIES TO THIS PROCEEDING ON NOVEMBER 14, 2019?

A. Although multiple parties requested DEU to prepare cost of service analyses to examine the Company’s costs of service for TSS (Transportation Small) and TSL (Transportation Large) customers separately, only ANGC has addressed those results in its direct testimony. Most parties have simply accepted DEU’s inaccurate representation that smaller TS customers are not covering their costs of service and therefore measures are needed to limit further migration of smaller customers to TS. As I further document and explain herein, TS customers that use less than 35,000 Dth per year are **NOT** the source of DEU’s under-recovery of costs from the TS class. Although there is evidence that DEU is substantially under-recovering costs from the TS class, the Company’s data request responses (particularly DEU’s response to UAE Data Request 2.01, Attachment 5) clearly indicate that TS customers using less than 35,000 Dth per year are providing the Company a significantly above system average rate of return (i.e., approximately a **9.0%** return). DEU’s under-recovery of costs from Rate

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41 Schedule TS customers is primarily, if not exclusively attributable to the
42 Company's underpricing of its service to large TS customers.¹

43 Clearly there is a need for differentiated rate treatment for large and small
44 TS customers. However, DEU's proposed minimum annual volume require-
45 ments for Rate Schedule TS and restrictions on further migration of smaller non-
46 residential customers to TS do not address the problem and are unnecessary,
47 inappropriate, and not cost-justified. In fact, the available evidence indicates
48 that the current Rate Schedule TS is better designed for smaller TS customers
49 than for high volume TS customers.²

50

51 **A. Summary of Rebuttal Findings**

52

53 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE KEY FINDINGS OF THIS REBUTTAL**
54 **TESTIMONY REGARDING DEU'S CLASS COST OF SERVICE ANALYSES**
55 **AND RATE DESIGN PROPOSALS?**

56 A. The key findings of this Rebuttal Testimony are as follow:

¹ These findings are consistent with DEU Witness Summer's observation in his Direct Testimony (page 11, lines 285-286) that a TBF customer moved to the TS class. However, his conclusion based on that observation was askew. The evidence presented herein shows that the referenced transfer of a customer from TBF to TS is the result of the large subsidies being provided **high volume** TS customers, not a subsidization of service to TS customers using less than 35,000 Dth per year.

² The phrase "*better designed for smaller TS customers*" is used to indicate that the rate of return achieved by DEU from TS customers using less than 35,000 Dth per year is closer to the system average return than the rate of return for TS customers using more than 35,000 Dth per year. This observation runs directly counter to the Company's representation that the TS class was designed for larger volume customers and does not provide a full recovery of costs from smaller TS customers. Moreover, this use of the phrase "*better designed for smaller TS customers*" is not intended to suggest that the Company's current over-collection of costs from smaller TS customers is reasonable or should be continued. Rather, the available evidence shows that a reduction of charges for Smaller TS customers is appropriate and justified.

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57 *i. Class Costs of Service*

58

59 • Cost of service results should not be clouded by non-cost-based
60 considerations. After cost responsibilities by customer class are
61 assessed, the Commission is then free to exercise reasonable
62 discretion in the determination of class revenue requirements.
63 However, the cost of service benchmark used as a guide in the
64 determination of class revenue requirements and rate designs
65 should be free of non-cost-based considerations.

66

67 • The design of distribution system facilities is driven by anticipated
68 future customer demands on the facilities being planned.
69 Distribution system design is not a function of actual customer
70 demands in any given year.

71

72 • With respect to the Company's Design Day/Throughput allocations,
73 DPU Witness Lubow ignores cost-causative considerations and
74 simply seeks to replace one arbitrary weighting of Design Day and
75 Annual Throughput with a different weighting that is more favorable
76 to lower load factor customers for non-cost-based reasons.

77

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78 • Recognition of Design Day demands in the allocation of costs for
79 IHP mains would better reflect cost causation for DEU.

80

81 • For both cost allocation and rate design purposes, DEU should be
82 required to divide its current GS and TS classes into two or more
83 classes in its next rate filing.³

84

85 *ii. Revenue Increase Distribution*

86

87 • Gradualism in the adjustment of class revenue requirements is
88 essential. In the context of this case, no increase for any customer
89 class should exceed 1.5 times the system average increase or 20%
90 whichever is greater.⁴

91

92 • The recommendation of UAE Witness Higgins for a three-year
93 phase-in of rate increases for the TS and TBF classes may be
94 reasonable if:

95

³ DEU's cost of service model already has the capability to examine costs separately for Residential customers in the GS class and for Non-Residential GS customers, as well as for Small and Large TS customers (i.e., TSS and TLS customers). Issues associated with interclass and intra-class rate subsidies could be more readily resolved if DEU further segmented its largest existing rate classes.

⁴ The 20% limit suggested reflects a judgmental determination based on the magnitude of individual class revenue deficiencies suggested by DEU's cost of service analyses and the Company's overall revenue increase request. If either DEU's cost of service allocations are revised or the Company's overall revenue increase request is reduced, the suggested 20% limit may also warrant reconsideration.

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96 (1) The TS class is divided into two classes for large and small
97 TS customers (i.e., TSL and TSS customers) based on a
98 usage cutoff of 35,000 Dth per year and the proposed
99 phase-in is only applied to TSL customers;

100

101 (2) The increases required to obtain full cost-base rate levels for
102 TBF and TSL customers are properly adjusted for any
103 reductions in the Company's requested rate of return and/or
104 its overall revenue increase; and

105

106 (3) The calculated class revenue deficiencies for the TBF and
107 TSL classes are adjusted to reflect Commission-adopted
108 changes in the Company's class cost of service results.

109

110 *iii. Rate Design*

111

- 112 • Gradualism and the avoidance of rate shock should be key
113 considerations for the Commission in its review of DEU's rate
114 proposals in this proceeding. DEU's efforts to inform TS customers
115 that it would seek to move to cost-based rates do not dismiss the
116 need for gradualism and rate continuity in this docket.

117

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118 • DEU’s COS analyses for subgroups of TS customers show that the
119 Company’s under-recovery of costs from the TS class is primarily
120 associated with **larger TS** customers. Thus, smaller TS customers
121 and the migration of customers from sales service to TS are **not** the
122 source of DEU’s TS class revenue recovery concerns.

123
124 • Sufficient record exists in this proceeding to justify the establish-
125 ment of separate rate classes for TS Small (“TSS”) and for TS
126 Large (“TSL”) customers.

127
128 • The existing GS rate class has produced significant intra-class
129 equity issues, and multiple parties support separation of DEU’s
130 current GS class into two more rate classes.

131

132 **B. Summary of Rebuttal Recommendations**

133

134 **Q. WHAT ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS DO YOU OFFER FOR THE**
135 **COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO THE MATTERS ADDRESSED HEREIN?**

136 **A.** On the basis of the matters addressed herein, the following additional
137 recommendations are offered for the Commission’s consideration:

138

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- 139 1. The Commission should reject calls for a moratorium on transfers
140 of customers using less than 35,000 Dth per year to the TS class.
141
- 142 2. The Commission should establish separate rate classes in this
143 proceeding for TS Small (“TSS”) customers and for TS Large
144 (“TSL”) customers.
145
- 146 3. The Commission should ensure that the principles of gradualism
147 and rate continuity are applied in the adjustment of rates and
148 charges for all rate classes.
149
- 150 4. The Commission should find that TS customers who use less than
151 35,000 Dth per year are NOT the source of DEU’s TS class cost
152 recovery concerns.
153
- 154 5. The Commission should direct DEU to use its annual system load
155 factor (i.e., 32%) to weight the Design Day and Throughput
156 components of its Allocation Factor 230.
157

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158 **III. RESPONSE TO OTHER PARTIES**

159

160 **A. Response to DPU Witness Wheelwright**

161

162 **Q. WITNESS WHEELWRIGHT PRESENTS THE DIVISION’S LIST OF “GUIDING**
163 **PRINCIPLES FOR COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN. DO YOU AGREE**
164 **WITH THOSE “GUIDING PRINCIPLES?”**

165 A. In general, I do.

166 I certainly believe that **gradualism** should be exercised in the
167 determination of class revenue requirements and the design of charges for **all**
168 **classes** of customers. As I indicated in my Phase II Direct Testimony,
169 customers often make energy investment and energy purchase decisions trusting
170 that rates approved by the Commission were deemed just and reasonable and
171 that the Commission’s ratemaking policies will exhibit reasonable continuity from
172 case-to-case. In that context, large changes in rate design, including large
173 changes in the magnitudes of charges within a rate schedule from one case to
174 the next are inappropriate and can produce significant economic dislocations for
175 customers who may be subjected to the impacts of those changes.

176 Witnesses for multiple parties in this proceeding have addressed the need
177 for greater exercise of gradualism and the avoidance of rate shock in the
178 adjustment of class revenue requirements and charges for individual rate
179 components, particularly with respect to rates for the Company’s TS and TBF

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180 rate classifications.⁵ The Commission is strongly urged to heed their concerns
181 and ensure that the bill impacts of the Company's proposals for those rate
182 classes are moderated.

183 The understandability of rates is also important. However, **simplicity** in
184 the design of rates must be balanced with efforts to design rates that reasonably
185 track individual customers' cost responsibilities. Where a class of customers is
186 reasonably homogeneous in terms of the service requirements, the development
187 and use of a simple rate structure may be appropriate. However, where a rate
188 class includes considerable diversity among the usage patterns of customers
189 within the class (i.e., as in the current GS class) a simple rate structure may not
190 reasonably and appropriately apportion cost responsibilities among customers
191 within the class.

192 Rates may also be used to provide pricing signals to customers, but the
193 proper use of rates to provide price signals often involves a more complex set of
194 considerations than many rate analysts take time to address. Moreover, the use
195 of rates to convey price signals must be balanced against rate equity consider-
196 ations. Importantly, the presentations of DEU and DPU in this proceeding are
197 devoid of either a clear statement of the price signals that should be conveyed to
198 customers in each rate class and offer no assessment of the extent to which
199 either current or proposed rates are consistent with intended price signals.

⁵ In addition to my own Phase II Direct Testimony and that of DPU Witness Wheelwright, USM Witness Swenson emphasizes that TS rate changes should be implemented to eliminate rate shock and ensure fairness. (Swenson Phase II Direct Testimony, page 1, lines 11-12). Similarly, FEA Witness Collins testifies that where movement to cost of service would cause rate shock gradualism can be used to mitigate rate impacts. (Collins Phase II Direct Testimony, page 5, lines 4-7).

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200 Furthermore, no party has presented an assessment of DEU's marginal costs of
201 distribution service. The appropriateness of using rates for gas distribution
202 services to encourage energy conservation must also be questioned as the
203 linkage between energy conservation efforts and the Company's incurrence of
204 distribution system costs is, at best, weak. If the Commission wishes to provide
205 conservation incentives for customers who purchase sales service from DEU,
206 that can be accomplished through the use of inverted block rates for DEU's gas
207 service charges, but it is not appropriate within unbundled charges for gas
208 distribution services. In the current gas supply market, that is now characterized
209 by comparatively abundant gas supplies and low and relatively stable natural gas
210 commodity prices, the need for, and appropriateness of, energy conservation
211 incentives must be questioned.

212 With respect to rate structure, I agree with DPU Witness Wheelwright that
213 three-part rate structures that include customer, energy, and demand
214 components help to apportion costs fairly among customers within a rate class.
215 Yet, at present only the TS and TBF classes have separate demand charges.
216 None of DEU's sales service classes currently have demand charges. The same
217 principles that support DEU's application of demand charges to transportation
218 service customers apply equally to distribution service rates for non-residential
219 sales service rate classifications.⁶ I also submit, contrary to Witness

⁶ In concept, demand charges could also help to better apportion cost responsibilities for residential customers, but it is generally perceived that residential customers would not understand such charges. Thus, for residential and maybe very small commercial customers, simplicity and understandability of

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220 Wheelwright's position, that experience in other jurisdictions has demonstrated
221 that the incurrence of costs for demand meters is not a necessary requirement
222 for a gas utility to recover a portion of its revenues on a demand basis. Rather,
223 charges can be applied to those computed measures of demand for the purpose
224 of billing demand related costs. For example, each customer's average daily
225 demand can be computed for the peak month or the peak season, and a demand
226 charge can be billed on the basis of that measure of demand in each subsequent
227 month to recover demand-related costs.

228

229 **Q. WITNESS WHEELWRIGHT CITES CORRECT PRICE SIGNALS AS ONE OF**
230 **DPU'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES. IS THERE ANY EVIDENCE IN THIS PRO-**
231 **CEEDING THAT EITHER DEU'S PRESENT OR PROPOSED RATES PROVIDE**
232 **CORRECT PRICE SIGNALS TO CUSTOMERS?**

233 A. No. The record of this proceeding is devoid of discussion of the relationship
234 between DEU's current rates and/or its proposed rates and any representation of
235 what would constitute appropriate signals for DEU's gas distribution services.
236 Rather, nearly all of the evidence suggests that neither DEU's present rates nor
237 its proposed rates are designed to convey specific price signals to customers.
238 Thus, while correct price signals may be an appropriate rate design consider-
239 ation, the record of this proceeding lacks any evidence from either DEU or the

charges for those customers may override efforts to collect revenues in a manner that better tracks individual customer cost responsibilities.

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240 Division that the provision regarding what they believe a correct price signals
241 should convey to customers.

242

243 **Q. WITNESS WHEELWRIGHT TESTIFIES THAT THE PRIMARY DRIVER OF**
244 **DEU'S \$19.2 MILLION RATE INCREASE REQUEST IN THIS PROCEEDING IS**
245 **ANTICIPATED CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR MAINTAINING, UPGRADING,**
246 **AND REPLACING THE COMPANY'S AGING INFRASTRUCTURE, AS WELL**
247 **AS THE COSTS OF SERVING NEW CUSTOMERS. DO YOU AGREE?**

248 A. No, I do not. As demonstrated through my Direct Testimony in Phase I of this
249 proceeding, the **primary driver** of the Company's \$19.2 million rate increase
250 request in this proceeding is the Company's requested 10.5% return on equity
251 (ROE). Downward adjustment of the Company's requested ROE and overall
252 cost of capital to more reasonable levels, significantly lowers DEU's revenue
253 increase request. Capital additions are always an important consideration in the
254 determination of a utility's revenue requirement, but in this case the primary
255 driver of the Company's requested revenue increase is its requested ROE.
256 From a cost of service and rate design perspective, this is important since it
257 directly impacts the magnitude of the Company's computed revenue deficiencies
258 by customer class and subgroup.

259

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260 **B. Response to DPU Witness Lubow**

261

262 **Q. AT PAGE 9 OF HIS DIRECT TESTIMONY, DPU WITNESS LUBOW**
263 **SUGGESTS THAT “THE COMPANY PROPOSES NO CHANGES IN THE TS**
264 **RATE DESIGN ASIDE FROM IMPOSING A PERCENT INCREASE ACROSS**
265 **THE CURRENT RATE STRUCTURE AND BILLING DETERMINANTS.”⁷ IS**
266 **THAT AN ACCURATE REPRESENTATION?⁸**

267 **A.** No, it is not. Although it appears Witness Lubow has relied on the testimony of
268 Witness Summers, Witness Summers’ testimony is inaccurate. DEU’s proposed
269 changes in the TS rate schedule impact three separate components of that rate
270 with adjustments of **different magnitudes** and **different directions**, all of which
271 constitute rate changes of substantially greater magnitude than the Company’s
272 requested overall percentage increase.

273 DEU Exhibit 4.14 shows that the Company’s rate design proposals for TS
274 customers would **increase the TS Demand Charge** by **over 100%**. It would
275 also **increase the volumetric charge** applicable to each of the four TS monthly
276 usage rate blocks by **62.4%**. Yet, the **Basic Service Fees** are **held constant**
277 and the TS **Administrative Charge** is **lowered by 33%**. The substantial, if not

⁷ Relying on the Direct Testimony of DEU Witness Summers, FEA Witness Collins makes a similar incorrect representation at page 3, lines 23-24, of his Phase II Direct Testimony that the Company proposes no changes in its TS class rate design. Although DEU does not propose to change its block structure for volumetric charges, the Company’s changes to volumetric, demand, and administrative charges are significant.

⁸ FEA Witness Collins makes a similar representation.

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278 dramatic, nature of the changes DEU proposes in its TS rate design should be
279 obvious to even the most casual observer.

280 Thus, Witness Summers' statement that, "*DEU simply proposes that the*
281 *TS class, as a whole, be 'percentaged increased' to pay the full cost rates,*"
282 constitutes a substantial misrepresentation of the Company's proposed TS rate
283 changes.

284

285 **Q. DPU WITNESS LUBOW RECOMMENDS THAT THE TS CLASS BE SPLIT AT**
286 **35,000 DTH OF ANNUAL USE AND THAT THE COMMISSION SHOULD**
287 **FREEZE THE NON-CONFORMING CUSTOMERS. HOW DO YOU**
288 **RESPOND?**

289 A. Witness Lubow's position is presented without reference to any substantive
290 support for his position. He cites no evidence to support the appropriateness of
291 splitting the TS class at 35,000 Dth per year, and no analytic support for his claim
292 that customers using less than 35,000 Dth per year are "*non-conforming*
293 *customers.*"⁹ Moreover, that representation is particularly troublesome in the
294 context of the Company's response to DPU Data Request 11.01.

295 In that data request DPU specifically asked the Company to "*prepare a*
296 *version of the Cost of Service study in which the Transportation Service ("TS")*
297 *rate group is separated into two distinct subsets of customer classes.*" DPU's
298 request further specified that: **TS Subset 1** should include customers that **meet a**

⁹ The Direct Testimony of DPU Witness Lubow, lines 313-314.

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299 minimum use requirement of 120,000 Dth per year; and **TS Subset 2** should
300 include customers that **do not meet** a 120,000 Dth per year minimum usage
301 threshold. In Attachment 5 to its response to DPU Data Request 11.01,¹⁰ DEU
302 provided the requested analysis showing separately rates of return and revenue
303 deficiencies for TSL (i.e., Subset 1) customers for TSS (Subset 2) customers.
304 Apparently, DPU Witness Lubow either never reviewed the Company's response
305 to DPU Data Request 11.01 or chose to ignore its results.

306 As explained in my Direct Testimony, and document in AGNC Exhibit
307 2.02, Attachment 5 to DPU Data Request 11.01 response indicates that the TS
308 Small (TSS) customers provided the Company with a **6.24%** rate of return at
309 present rates, while the TS Large (TSL) customers provide the Company with a
310 rate of return at present rates of only **0.59%**. That attachment also indicates TSL
311 customers (i.e., customers using more than a 120,000 Dth per year minimum
312 usage requirement) accounted for a revenue deficiency of \$10.9 million or 88.9%
313 of the overall revenue deficiency for the TS class. These results clearly depict
314 the TSL subgroup the "*non-conforming*" component of the overall TS class.
315 Thus, if a freeze should be placed on any portion of the TS class, it should be a
316 freeze on the larger TSL customer subgroup.

317

318 **Q. THE ANALYSIS PRESENTED IN RESPONSE TO DPU DATA REQUEST 11.01**
319 **IS EXAMINES COSTS OF SERVICE FOR TS CUSTOMERS ABOVE AND**

¹⁰ See ANGNC Exhibit 2.01 which accompanied my Direct Testimony in this Phase II proceeding.

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320 **BELOW A 120,000 DTH THRESHOLD. CAN THAT BE RELIED UPON TO**
321 **CONCLUDE THAT CUSTOMERS BELOW THE PROPOSED 35,000 DTH**
322 **USAGE LEVEL ARE NECESSARILY CONFORMING CUSTOMERS?**

323 A. No, it only shows results for customers above and below the referenced 120,000
324 Dth usage cut-off. However, DEU's response to UAE Data Request 2.01
325 presents a similar analysis based on a 35,000 Dth per year demarcation for large
326 and small TS customers.¹¹

327

328 **Q. WHAT DO THE COST OF SERVICE RESULTS IN DEU'S RESPONSE TO UAE**
329 **DATA REQUEST 2.01 SHOW?**

330 A. DEU's response to UAE Data Request 2.01 finds that, when a 35,000 Dth per
331 year threshold is used to separate TS Small (TSS) customers from TS Large
332 (TSL) customers, the TSS subclass provides a **9.11%** rate of return at present
333 rates, while the TS Large (TSL) subclass is found to have a rate of return at
334 present rates of **0.75%**. Those COS results also indicate that the TSS subclass
335 has a negative revenue deficiency (i.e., it is over-recovering its allocated costs of
336 service) at present rates. On the other hand, the TSL subclass is under-
337 recovering its allocated costs of service by **\$13.1 million**. These results, which
338 are directly relevant to the 35,000 minimum use requirement that DEU proposes

¹¹ See the "COS SUM" worksheet in Attachment 5, to DEU's response to UAE Data Request 2.01, and **ANGC Exhibit 2.02R** (attached to this testimony) which has been extracted from that worksheet. Unfortunately, I was unaware of this response to UAE Data Request 2.01 at the time I prepared my Direct Testimony for this Phase II proceeding.

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339 and DPU Witness Lubow supports, clearly indicate that smaller TS customers
340 are **NOT** the source of DEU's TS class cost recovery concerns.

341

342 **Q. DO YOU ACCEPT 35,000 DTH PER YEAR AS A REASONABLE USAGE**
343 **THRESHOLD FOR SEGREGATING LARGE AND SMALL TS CUSTOMERS?**

344 A. Not necessarily. My Direct Testimony demonstrates that DEU's choice of 35,000
345 Dth as the basis of its proposed minimum annual usage requirement is, at best,
346 arbitrary and the analyses upon which DEU has relied to propose that minimum
347 usage threshold is premised are not well developed. Other groupings of TS
348 customers may better identify customers with similar levels of usage and similar
349 cost responsibilities. However, from a cost of service perspective, DEU's
350 response to UAE Data Request 2.01 shows a substantial difference between the
351 Company's computed rates of return for TS customers using less than 35,000
352 Dth per year and for TS customers using greater than 35,000 Dth per year.

353

354 **Q. WHAT CHANGES IN RATE DESIGN FOR GS CUSTOMERS ARE RECOM-**
355 **MENDED BY DPU WITNESS LUBOW?**

356 A. Witness Lubow recommends that no changes in the current rate structure,
357 including rate blocks, be made for Rate GS in this proceeding.

358

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359 **Q. DO YOU FIND WITNESS LUBOW'S RATE DESIGN RECOMMENDATION FOR**
360 **RATE GS REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE?**

361 A. No. Witness Summers for DEU recognizes that larger GS customers are
362 presently subsidizing smaller GS customers. Yet, DPU Witness Lubow offers his
363 GS rate design recommendation without offering any explicit discussion of those
364 Company-identified subsidies or making any effort at this time to address those
365 inequities in this case. Rather, Witness Lubow's answer is to defer efforts to
366 reform DEU's GS rates until DEU's next rate case. For larger GS customers who
367 will have to continue to contribute to those subsidies until DEU's next rate case,
368 without any viable rate alternative,¹² that is not an equitable solution.

369
370 **Q. WHAT IS THE MAGNITUDE OF THE RATE INCREASE THAT DPU WITNESS**
371 **LUBOW RECOMMENDS FOR TS CUSTOMERS IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

372 A. Witness Lubow recommends a **35% increase** for both TS and TBF customers.
373 That would raise the revenue requirement for the TS class by **\$10.1 million** and
374 increase the TBF revenue requirement by **\$559,131**.

375
376 **Q. DOES WITNESS LUBOW EXPLAIN HOW HE RECONCILES THOSE**
377 **COMPARATIVELY LARGE PERCENTAGE INCREASES FOR TS AND TBF**
378 **CUSTOMERS WITH THE DIVISION'S GUIDING PRINCIPLES?**

¹² As noted above, DPU Witness Lubow advocates that the existing option for GS customers to transfer to Rate TS should be eliminated by "freezing" the availability of TS service for existing sales service customers who use less than 35,000 Dth annually.

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379 A. No. Although DPU Witness Wheelwright cites “**gradualism**” as one of the
380 **Division’s “guiding principles,”** Witness Lubow offers no recognition of that
381 “**guiding principle**” when presenting his recommended revenue increases for
382 TS and TBS customers. I recognize that DEU’s cost of service analyses suggest
383 that large adjustments to the revenue requirements for those classes may be
384 required, but even accepting **arguendo** DEU’s COS results, adjustment for
385 revenue deficiencies that have been allowed to grow over a number of years do
386 not justify turning a blind-eye to gradualism considerations.

387

388 **Q. AM I CORRECT THAT BOTH YOU AND DPU WITNESS LUBOW**
389 **RECOMMEND THAT THE GS CLASS BE DIVIDED INTO TWO OR MORE**
390 **NEW RATE CLASSES IN THE COMPANY’S NEXT RATE CASE?**

391 A. Yes. It appears that our recommendations on this matter are similar. However,
392 we may differ on how rates for non-residential GS customers should be
393 segmented. Witness Lubow suggests a segregation of Residential GS
394 customers from Commercial GS customers¹³ and then possibly a further separ-
395 ation of GS commercial customers into **large** and **small** rate classifications.
396 Alternatively, I suggest that, as a first cut, GS commercial customers may be
397 appropriately divided into heating and non-heating subclasses and then possibly
398 further divided by size or other characteristics.

399

¹³ This may be more appropriately identified as a non-residential customer classification since it includes governmental, institutional, and smaller industrial customers, as well as commercial customers.

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400 **Q. IS WITNESS LUBOW'S OFFER OF SUPPORT FOR DEU'S PROPOSED**
401 **TARIFF CHANGES REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE?**

402 A. Most of the tariff changes proposed by the Company are non-controversial,
403 mostly representing grammatical and punctuation corrections, format changes,
404 changes to referenced tariff provisions, and the removal of outdated provisions.
405 However, DEU's proposed addition of a minimum usage requirement for TS
406 customers represents a substantive change which will directly impact both
407 existing and potential new TS customers. Witness Lubow offers no supporting
408 discussion of that important change or any supporting rationale for that change.
409 This is particularly critical given the COS results I discuss in this testimony and in
410 my Phase II Direct Testimony which indicate that DEU's own COS analyses
411 demonstrate that the smaller TS customers are not the source of DEU's TS class
412 cost recovery concerns.

413

414 **C. Response to OCS Witness Daniel**

415

416 **Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH OCS WITNESS DANIEL'S RECOMMENDATION THAT**
417 **DEU SHOULD DIVIDE ITS CURRENT GS CLASS INTO TWO OR MORE RATE**
418 **CLASSES IN ITS NEXT GENERAL RATE FILING?**

419 A. Yes. I also suggest that to ensure the proper development of rates for such new
420 rate classifications, a process should be established now for determining the
421 structure of the classes for which DEU will be expected to allocate costs and

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422 design rates in its next rate proceeding. The parties should be given an
423 opportunity to work together to define the classes to be used. If the parties
424 cannot reach agreement within a reasonable period of time on the structure and
425 definition of new rate classes that would replace the current GS class, the
426 Commission should establish another phase of this proceeding to resolve issues
427 associated with the restructuring of the GS class well in advance of the
428 Company's next rate filing. By doing so, the Commission can facilitate the
429 implementation of new rate classes in that case. It can also avoid the potential
430 for confusion that could result from the array of different restructuring proposals
431 for the current GS class in the next case that could result if restructuring of the
432 GS class is not resolved prior to the Company's next rate case.

433

434 **Q. SHOULD THE COMMISSION ACCEPT OCS WITNESS DANIEL'S RECOM-**
435 **MENDATION THAT DEU'S RATE DESIGN CHANGES FOR RATE GS**
436 **SHOULD BE REJECTED DUE TO ANTICIPATED CUSTOMER MIGRATION**
437 **AND ITS IMPACTS ON GS CLASS COMPOSITION?**

438 A. No. His argument is a "red herring." Regardless of the Commission's
439 determinations on matters that may affect migration among customer classes,¹⁴
440 anticipated levels of customer migration do not impact the overall composition of
441 the GS class to the extent that potential customer migration represents a

¹⁴ The migration of customers from the GS class to the TS class will be affected by this Commission's determinations regarding DEU's proposed changes in Rate TS component charges and the Company's proposed implementation of a minimum usage requirement for TS customers. If the Company's proposals are approved.

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442 sufficient impediment to GS class rate development for that to be a driving
443 consideration in the Commission's consideration of DEU's proposed rate design
444 changes. This position is not intended to reflect support for DEU's GS rate
445 design proposals. Rather, it offers recognition of other important factors that
446 should be weighed by the Commission in its evaluation of rate design proposals
447 for the current GS class.

448 Moreover, the Company's anticipated migration in 2020 is small in terms
449 of both numbers of customers and Dth relative to the overall size of the GS class.
450 The Attachment to DEU's response to ANGC Data Request 1.04 indicates that
451 the Company expects **110 customers** to migrate from GS to TS service, and that
452 migration would lower GS class annual throughput by **837,883 Dth**.¹⁵ Those
453 changes represent only **0.01%** of the total number of GS customers and less
454 than **0.8%** of total annual gas use for GS class. These comparatively small
455 impacts on the numbers of customers and annual throughput for the GS class do
456 not significantly impede efforts to adjust charges for the GS class in this
457 proceeding and should not be accepted by the Commission as justification for
458 Witness Daniel's deferral of all rate design adjustments to rates for GS cus-
459 tomers until the Company's next rate case.

460

¹⁵ The Commission should also note that DEU's estimates of migration do not appear to consider either: (1) the impacts of the Company's proposed restrictions on migration to the TS class by customers using less than 35,000 Dth per year; or (2) any price elasticity response to the large percentage increases DEU proposes in TS demand and throughput charges. Thus, if the Company's proposals for rate schedule TS are approved, (an action I do not recommend), the impacts of customer migration on the composition of the GS class may be substantially less than DEU has projected.

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461 **D. Response to UAE Witness Higgins**

462

463 **Q. DO YOU SUPPORT UAE WITNESS HIGGINS' PROPOSED WEIGHTING OF**
464 **DEU'S ALLOCATION FACTOR 230 BASED ON THE SYSTEM LOAD**
465 **FACTOR?**

466 A. Yes, I made a similar recommendation in my Phase II Direct Testimony. Thus,
467 we appear to be in agreement that the weighting of design day and annual
468 throughput requirements in Factor 230 should be based on the Company's
469 annual system load factor. **ANGC Exhibit 2.03R** provides summary COS results
470 with a load factor weighting of Design Day and Annual Throughput requirements.

471

472 **Q. UAE WITNESS HIGGINS SUGGESTS THAT A MORTORIUM ON NEW**
473 **MIGRATION TO TS BY CUSTOMERS USING LESS THAN 35,000 DTH PER**
474 **YEAR MAY BE APPROPRIATE. DO YOU AGREE?**

475 A. No. His recommendation with respect to a moratorium on transfers of customers
476 using less than 35,000 Dth per year is **unfounded**. UAE Witness Higgins states,
477 *"I see no convincing evidence that small TS customers are creating an intra-class*
478 *subsidy problem."*¹⁶ I further note that, although Witness Higgins offers no
479 explicit reference to the Company's response to UAE Data Request 2.01, that
480 response, as previously discussed herein, indicates that TS customers using
481 below 35,000 Dth per year (i.e., TSS customers) are providing an **above system**

¹⁶ The Direct Testimony of UAE Witness Higgins, page 16, lines 302-303.

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482 **average rate of return**. It also indicates the current revenue deficiency for the
483 overall TS class is the result of the Company’s substantial **under-recovery** of
484 costs **for TSL customers** (i.e., TS customers using greater than 35,000 Dth per
485 year). When TSS customers are found to provide a greater than system average
486 rate of return (i.e., an over-recovery of their allocated costs of service), there is
487 no reason for implementing a ***moratorium*** to limit further transfers to TS by
488 customers who use less than 35,000 Dth per year.

489

490 **Q. IS A MORATORIUM ON TRANSFERS OF CUSTOMERS USING LESS THAN**
491 **35,000 DTH PER YEAR EITHER NECESSITATED OR JUSTIFIED BY**
492 **WITNESS HIGGINS’ PROPOSED THREE-STEP PHASE-IN TO FULL COST-**
493 **BASED RATES FOR THE TS CLASS?**

494 A. No. Witness Higgins also provides no compelling case for linking his proposed
495 “*three-step phase-in to full cost of service rates for TS*” to a ***moratorium*** on
496 transfers of customers below 35,000 Dth per year to TS. Based on the cost of
497 service results presented in DEU’s response to UAE Data Request 2.01,
498 Attachment 5, an argument can be made that, if there is a need for a moratorium
499 on customer migration, it should be applied to larger TS customers for which the
500 Company’s under-recovery of costs is particularly acute.

501

502 **Q. ARE YOU SUPPORTIVE OF WITNESS HIGGINS’ THREE-STEP PHASE-IN TO**
503 **FULL COST-BASED RATES FOR RATE TS?**

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504 A. Only in part. A phase-in of a large percentage increase could mitigate rate shock
505 for affected customers and provide a measure of gradualism in the adjustment of
506 rates. However, I cannot support his approach to the adjustment of volumetric
507 charges for TS customers. Witness Higgins' proposal to proportionately increase
508 the rate for each block of the TS volumetric charges in Step 1 fails to address the
509 very different rates of return for TSS and TSL customers. With TSS customers
510 already providing an over-recovery of their allocated costs and TSL customers
511 substantially under-recovering their allocated costs, Witness Higgins' proposal for
512 a proportionate increase to each volumetric rate block must be rejected.

513 In addition, the cost of service analysis presented in DEU's response to
514 UAE Data Request 2.01 clearly indicates that small TS customers that use less
515 than 35,000 Dth per year are providing the Company a greater than system
516 average rate of return, while large TS customers that use greater than 35,000
517 Dth per year provide the Company with a substantially below average rate of
518 return. In the context of those results, TS customers using less than 35,000 Dth
519 per year should be exempted from any revenue increase in this proceeding, and
520 Witness Higgins' proposed three-step phase-in of the revenue increase should
521 be limited to TBF and Large TS customers in an effort to address the significant
522 revenue deficiencies associated with those customer groups.

523

524 **Q. HOW WOULD A CHANGE IN THE WEIGHTING OF THE DESIGN DAY AND**
525 **THROUGHPUT COMPONENTS OF DEU'S ALLOCATOR 230 ALTER THE**

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554 **Q. UAE WITNESS HIGGINS ALSO SUGGESTS THAT “IT MAY BE REASON-**
555 **ABLE TO RESTRUCTURE THE RATE INCREASE IN THE VOLUMETRIC**
556 **CHARGES IN STEPS 2 AND 3 [OF HIS PROPOSED THREE-STEP PHASE-IN**
557 **OF THE TS RATE INCREASE] TO SPREAD THE OVERALL RATE INCREASE**
558 **MORE PROPORTIONATELY THROUGHOUT THE CLASS.”¹⁸ DO YOU**
559 **SUPPORT THAT UAE RECOMMENDATION?**

560 A. No, I do not. As explained above, the COS analysis, that UAE requested the
561 Company to prepare for TS customers above and below 35,000 Dth per year,¹⁹
562 does not support his position. DEU’s COS analysis for TSS and TSL customers
563 indicates that any revenue increase for the TS class should be borne by Large
564 TS customers using more than 35,000 Dth per year. His suggestion that the rate
565 increase should be spread “*more proportionately throughout the TS class*” is
566 **inconsistent** with the Company’s cost of service results for the TSS and TSL
567 subclasses when the dividing line for those classes is set at 35,000 Dth per year.

568
569 **Q. IS THERE A MORE APPROPRIATE ALTERNATIVE FOR ADJUSTING**
570 **CHARGES FOR TS CUSTOMERS?**

571 A. Yes, I believe there is. As previously discussed, the cost of service evidence
572 provided by DEU in Attachment 5 to its response to UAE Data Request 2.01,
573 highlights a significant difference in the performance of TSS customers (i.e., less
574 than 35,000 Dth per year) and TSL customers (i.e., customer using more than

¹⁸ The Direct Testimony of UAE Witness Higgins, page 15, lines 275-278.

¹⁹ See the “COS Sum” worksheet in Attachment 5, to DEU’s response to UAE Data Request 2.01.

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575 35,000 Dth per year). Based on those results, the Commission should find
576 comfort in dividing the current TS class into two rate classes (i.e., a TSS class
577 and a TSL class). The **TSS class**, having an above system average rate of
578 return, would be treated as the Company proposes to treat other over-earning
579 classes and would receive no rate increase.²⁰ The **TSL class** would, at least
580 initially, maintain its full current block structure for volumetric charges and the
581 three-step phase-in to full cost rates, discussed by Witness Higgins, would be
582 applied to the new TSL class with proportionate increases to all volumetric block
583 charges.

584

585 **Q. HAVE YOU COMPUTED REVENUE INCREASES BY CLASS UNDER YOUR**
586 **PROPOSAL FOR A THREE-STEP PHASE-IN OF REVENUE ADJUSTMENTS?**

587 **A.** Yes. **ANGC Exhibit 2.05R** provides revenue adjustments by class for each step
588 of a three-step phase-in under two scenarios. **ANGC Exhibit 2.05R, page 1,**
589 shows revenue adjustments by class based on the Company's full \$19.2 million
590 revenue increase request in this proceeding. **ANGC Exhibit 2.05R, page 2,**
591 provides a similar analysis showing class revenue adjustments under a three-
592 step phase-in assuming the Company's approved overall revenue increase is
593 zero. Increases are phased-in for both TSL and TBF customer classes.
594 Revenue deficiency amounts not recovered in the first step adjustments for the

²⁰ An overall rate decrease may be justified for TSS customers at the Company's full revenue request in this proceeding. However, the establishment of a separate rate class for TSS customers is an important first step, and any reduction of the TSS revenue requirement could be conditioned on a reduction in the Company's overall revenue increase request.

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595 TSL and TBF classes are initially recovered from the GS class,²¹ but those
596 amounts are offset by increases to the TSL and TBF classes and decreases for
597 the GS class in the second and third step revenue adjustments. Since the IS and
598 TSS classes have significantly above system average rates of return at present
599 rates, those classes receive revenue reductions. However, as explained above,
600 the first step adjustment for TSS customers is zero, and the cost-based reduction
601 for that class is implemented through the second and third step revenue
602 adjustments.

603 A cap of 20% was placed on the increase that could be applied to any
604 class of service in each step of the revenue adjustment phase-in. That cap
605 greatly constrains the ability of the Company to move toward fully cost-based
606 rate levels for the TBF class. Also, both revenue adjustment phase-in scenarios
607 would impose increases of roughly 17% in each step for TSL customers.
608 Although those 17% increases are below the 20% cap on increases, the
609 Commission may wish to consider a more gradual revenue adjustment process
610 for TSL customers.

611
612 **Q. DO YOU RECOMMEND ANY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE RATE DESIGN FOR**
613 **TSS CUSTOMERS?**

²¹ Consideration was given to spreading the under-recoveries of full cost revenue requirements for the TSL class to the FS and NGV classes, as well as the GS class. However, the amounts that would be distributed to those classes would be quite small and were judged not sufficient to warrant the added complexity.

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614 A. Yes. Contrary to the testimony of DEU Witness Summers, we know that TSS
615 customers have performed well under the current TS rate. Thus, I recommend
616 continuing the current TS rates and charges for TSS customers with three minor
617 adjustments. The three adjustments I would recommend for the TSS rate
618 design are: (1) elimination of the current TS tail block rate for usage over 198,000
619 Dth; (2) re-define the third volumetric block to be applicable to all TSS usage in
620 excess of 2,000 Dth per month; and (3) substantially reduce or eliminate the
621 Administrative Charge for all TSS and TSL. This approach to the adjustment of
622 TSS charges should provide the Commission with substantial confidence that the
623 new TSS class will continue to perform reasonably.

624

625 **E. Response to USM Witness Swenson**

626

627 **Q. WHAT POSITION DOES USM WITNESS SWENSON TAKE WITH RESPECT**
628 **TO ADJUSTMENT OF RATE FOR THE TS CLASS?**

629 A. Witness Swenson agrees that “*rates should track cost of service in a reasonable*
630 *manner for all customers.*”²² In that context, he does not oppose efforts to move
631 the TS class to cost-based rates. However, he submits that, if a rate increase in
632 TS rates is approved by the Commission, the approved increase should be
633 implemented in a manner that eliminates rate shock and ensures fairness.²³

634

²² The Phase II Direct Testimony of USM Witness Swenson, page 1, lines 16-17.

²³ Ibid., page 1, lines 11-12.

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635 **Q. DOES WITNESS SWENSON SUGGEST THAT DEU HAS PROVIDED**
636 **ADEQUATE NOTICE OF ITS PROPOSED INCREASE IN THIS CASE?**

637 A. No. His testimony highlights large differences between the impacts of the rate
638 increases that DEU proposed for TS customers in its 2016 rate case and the rate
639 increases TS customers would experience under the Company's proposals in
640 this case. In fact, Witness Swenson testifies that he was "very surprised" by the
641 rate increases for TS customers that DEU is proposing in this case.

642
643 **Q. WHAT IS THE MAGNITUDE OF THE RATE INCREASE FOR TS CUSTOMERS**
644 **THAT WITNESS SWENSON CITES?**

645 A. At page 5, lines 81-84, of his Direct Testimony, Witness Swenson provides a
646 chart that shows DEU's proposed movement to full cost of service rates would
647 **raise all of the TS volumetric charges by 62.408%**. Witness Swenson also
648 suggests that high-volume TS customers like USMag "*... would be hard hit by*
649 *DEU's proposal in this docket.*"²⁴ He also states, "[The Company's] *proposed*
650 *rate design would result in an extraordinary increase in rates to USMag and*
651 *stands in stark contrast to all of the information DEU provided regarding*
652 *expected rate increases based on the 2016 rate case...*"²⁵

653

²⁴ Ibid., page 1, lines 12-13.

²⁵ Ibid., page 6, lines 88-90.

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654 **Q. DOES WITNESS SWENSON'S DISCUSSION OF DEU'S PROPOSED RATES**
655 **FOR TS CUSTOMERS ADDRESS ALL OF THE CHANGES THE COMPANY**
656 **SEEKS IN THOSE RATES?**

657 A. No. He only discusses the **62.4% increase** that DEU proposes for each of the
658 TS volumetric rate blocks. The Company also proposes a **101% increase** in the
659 TS Demand Charge and a 33% decrease in the Administrative Charge for TS
660 customers. But, neither of those changes is referenced by Witness Swenson.
661 From ANGC's perspective, the demand charge increase is particularly important
662 because it has a greater impact on the bills of smaller, lower load factor, TS
663 customers than on larger volume, higher load factor, customers within the TS
664 class. Although Witness Swenson brings focus to the volumetric charge
665 increases for TS customers, the Company's proposed increase in the TS
666 Demand Charge equates to 44% of the total TS class revenue increase and falls
667 disproportionately on smaller customers. The revenue impact of DEU's
668 proposed Demand Charge increase is more than 3.5 times greater than the
669 magnitude of the proposed Administrative Charge reductions.

670 I accept that the Company's proposed TS rates can be expected to have
671 significant adverse impacts on large volume customers such as USMag, but I
672 submit that smaller TS customers are also likely to experience very large
673 percentage increases. Smaller customers can be expected to receive the full
674 impact of the 62.4% volumetric rate increase as well a disproportionate share of
675 the 101% TS Demand Charge increase.

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676 In addition, many smaller customers currently in the TS class will not meet
677 DEU's proposed 35,000 Dth minimum annual usage requirement, and that could
678 impose even greater rate increases on those customers if they continue to take
679 service under the TS rate schedule. The only alternative for most of those
680 customers is to return to GS class where they will pay still higher distribution
681 rates to subsidize smaller GS customers and pay DEU more for the gas they
682 consume than they would have paid to a competitive gas supplier. Thus, many
683 smaller current TS customers will face a "lose-lose" situation despite the fact that
684 they are already paying more than their allocated costs of service.

685

686 **Q. WOULD A UNIFORM PERCENTAGE INCREASE FOR ALL TS CUSTOMERS**
687 **BE MORE EQUITABLE?**

688 A. No. Given that the cost of service analyses prepared by DEU for this proceeding
689 show small TS customers providing a greater than system average rate of return
690 and larger TS customers providing below average rates of return, a uniform
691 percentage increase for all TS customers would not represent an equitable
692 result.

693

694 **Q. WHAT DOES WITNESS SWENSON SEE AS THE CAUSE OF THE LARGE**
695 **INCREASE DEU PROPOSES FOR HIGH VOLUME TS CUSTOMERS?**

696 A. From Witness Swenson's perspective, USMag's problem with the Company's TS
697 rate design proposal results from unaddressed intra-class subsidies which DEU

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698 does not propose to address until its next base rate filing in three years. In
699 support of those concerns Witness Swenson cites a highly inaccurate and
700 misleading portion of the Direct Testimony of DEU Witness Summers in which
701 Witness Summers states:

702
703 *The Company's proposed rate design will solve the inter-class*
704 *subsidies. While it will not resolve the intra-class subsidies, it will*
705 *move the Company towards that result. The Company performed*
706 *an extensive rate design analysis that showed many small TS*
707 *customers are receiving service in a rate class not designed for*
708 *them. Their usage is not high enough to cover the fixed costs*
709 *associated with TS service; costs that are easily paid for by larger*
710 *TS customers. The movement of these small customers into the TS*
711 *class has created very large inter-class and intra-class subsidies*
712 *that need to be addressed.*
713

714 This statement misrepresents the true cause of DEU's TS class revenue
715 deficiency which is the Company's underpricing of service to large volume
716 customers. As I have previously explained herein, multiple cost of service
717 analyses performed by DEU for this proceeding demonstrate that the Company's
718 TS revenue deficiency is primarily, if not exclusively, associated with larger TS
719 customers, while smaller TS customers (i.e., TS customers using less than
720 35,000 Dth per year) are paying more than their full costs of service.²⁶

721

²⁶ See ANGC Exhibits 2.01R, 2.02R and 2.03R, as well as cost of service summaries that show separate cost allocation results to TSS and TSL customers in the "COS Sum" worksheets found in DEU's responses to:

- (1) UAE Data Request 2.01, Attachment 5,
- (2) DPU Data Request 11.01, Attachment 5; and
- (3) USM Data Request 2.01, Attachment 5.

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722 **Q. HOW DOES WITNESS SWENSON PROPOSE TO ADDRESS TS RATE**
723 **ISSUES IN THIS CASE?**

724 A. Witness Swenson suggests an approach that has three key elements:

- 725
- 726 i. An emphasis on the need for gradualism in the Company's
727 adjustment of rates for TS customers;
- 728
- 729 ii. More timely efforts to address intra-class rate subsidies; and
- 730
- 731 iii. A break up of the TS class into a small customer TS class and a
732 large customer TS class.
- 733

734 In concept, I support each of these elements of his proposed approach to
735 TS rate design. However, I find no need to defer the creation of separate classes
736 for large and small TS customers. There is more than adequate evidence in the
737 record of this proceeding to justify creation of separate rate classes for TS Large
738 and TS Small customers. Moreover, there is no reason to believe that further
739 delay in addressing this long-standing question will produce a better result for
740 any party.

741

742 **F. Response to FEA Witness Collins**

743

744 **Q. WHAT IS FEA WITNESS COLLINS' POSITION REGARDING THE DESIGN OF**
745 **RATES FOR THE TS CLASS?**

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746 A. Witness Collins states: “According to the testimony of Mr. Summers, DEU does
747 not propose any changes in the rate design for the TS class.”²⁷ He also indicates
748 that his “revenue allocation proposal results in no changes to the current rates of
749 the TS class at the Company’s fully requested revenue requirement.” Thus,
750 Witness Collins recommends no change in the TS class rate design, unless
751 DEU’s overall revenue requirement is reduced. If DEU’s overall revenue
752 requirement is reduced, Witness Collins would propose that all elements of the
753 TS rate design should be reduced by the same percentage.

754

755 **Q. IS WITNESS COLLINS’ PROPOSAL FOR THE ADJUSTMENT OF TS RATES**
756 **REASONABLE?**

757 A. No. I find it inappropriate for a number of reasons.

758 First, as I have previously discussed as part of my response to DPU
759 Witness Lubow, the referenced portion of the testimony of DEU Witness
760 Summers is at best misleading.²⁸ Although DEU does not propose to change the
761 volumetric block structure for TS customers, the Company seeks very large
762 percentage changes in the relative magnitudes of its Demand, Throughput, and
763 Administrative charges. It also seeks to introduce a new Minimum Annual Usage
764 Requirement which could have very significant rate impacts for large numbers of
765 existing TS customers who use less than the proposed Minimum Annual Usage
766 Requirement.

²⁷ The Phase II Direct Testimony of FEA Witness Collins, page 24, lines 18-19.

²⁸ See Section B of this Rebuttal to Other Parties and Footnote 3 included in my response to Witness Lubow.

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767 Second, while Witness Collins' cost allocations are quite favorable for the
768 TS class, I do not support the notion that Interruptible customers should be
769 exempted from all responsibility for the costs of mains because they are not on
770 the system during peak times. A portion of the Company's mains plays an
771 essential role in the delivery of gas to interruptible customers throughout the
772 year, and that must be recognized in the Company's allocation of mains. If all
773 customers used gas at perfectly uniform rates throughout the year, the sizing of
774 mains would need to directly reflect Interruptible customer requirements.
775 However, few customers, if any, take gas volumes from the system on a perfectly
776 uniform basis throughout all the days of a year, even if days of service
777 interruption are exempted from consideration. To the extent that individual
778 customers' load factors deviate from a perfect 100% load factor the sizing must
779 be increased. Moreover, the Company's distribution mains must be sized **at the**
780 **time they are constructed** to meet a customer's full **potential** demand require-
781 ments in each of the **localized** main segments through which the customer is
782 served. A Peak and Average (or Design Day/Throughput) allocation weighted by
783 the system load factor provides an appropriately balanced weighting of design
784 day and throughput considerations. Interruptible customers should share in the
785 throughput component of a Design Day/Throughput allocation (e.g., DEU's
786 Allocation Factor 230), but they should have no responsibility for design day peak
787 demand requirements.

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788 Third, without reliance of cost allocations that determine customers' cost
789 responsibilities for large diameter mains and feeder mains **solely** on a design
790 day basis, Witness Collins' proposed distribution of the Company's requested
791 revenue increase among rate classes cannot be justified, and adjustment of all
792 charges for the TS class by a uniform percentage cannot be supported.

793 Fourth, Witness Collins' proposal to apply a uniform percentage increase
794 to all elements of the TS class rate design ignores the substantial reduction in the
795 Administrative Charge that DEU proposes. My Direct Testimony does not accept
796 the accuracy and appropriateness of the Administrative Cost analysis presented
797 in DEU Exhibit 4.12, and my criticisms of that analysis would further reduce the
798 costs that DEU would recover through its TS Administrative Charge. Thus,
799 Witness Collins' overly simplistic approach to the adjustment of TS charges
800 would eliminate the substantial Administrative Charge reduction DEU has
801 proposed when a further downward adjustment to the Company's proposed
802 Administrative Charge is justifiable on the basis of the Company's costs.

803

804 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY?**

805 A. Yes. It does.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Direct Testimony of Bruce R. Oliver for the American Natural Gas Council in Phase 2 of Docket No. 19-057-02 was served by email this 13th day of December 2019 on the following:

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