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- BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF UTAH -

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Application of Enbridge Gas Utah \*  
for Approval of Wexpro Horizontal \* Docket No. 26-057-03  
Drilling Pilot Program \*

\*

\* \* \* \* \*

HEARING ON A SETTLEMENT STIPULATION

April 23, 2026

9:00 a.m. to 10:18 a.m.

Hearing Room 403, Heber M. Wells Building

Reported by: Spencer Von Jarrett, RPR No. 993793

A P P E A R A N C E S

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P R O C E E D I N G S

[On the record at 9:04 a.m.]

CHAIR FENN: Well, top of the morning to everyone. Welcome. We're here on a stipulated settlement agreement, which we hope will abbreviate the hearing somewhat today.

This is Docket 26-057-03, in the matter of the application of Enbridge Gas Utah for approval of Wexpro Horizontal Drilling Pilot Program.

Let's take appearances for the record. And while we do that, let's have counsel also indicate who they will be calling to support the settlement stipulation.

Mr. Sabin, are you going be doing this hearing?

MR. SABIN: Yes. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR FENN: Good to see you again.

MR. SABIN: Good to see you.

MR. SABIN: Cameron Sabin with Mayer Brown here on behalf of the Company. And Jennifer Clark, in house counsel, is here as well.

We will have Austin Summers as our witness and we have others here available if necessary to answer questions for the Commission as well.

CHAIR FENN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Sabin.

All right. Let's go to the Division.

MR. GRECU: Good morning. Patrick Grecu, assistant attorney general representing the Division. The Division's

Hearing - April 23, 2026

1 witness today will be Ryan Daigle.

2 CHAIR FENN: Mr. Daigle, welcome.

3 Thank you, Mr. Grecu.

4 Mr. Moore.

5 MR. MOORE: Yes. Robert Moore for the Office of  
6 Consumer Services. With me here to testify is Bela Vastag of  
7 the Office.

8 CHAIR FENN: Mr. Vastag, nice to have you with us.

9 Okay. Are there any preliminary matters we need to  
10 talk about before we begin?

11 MR. SABIN: I think we have just one, Chair.

12 CHAIR FENN: Thank you.

13 MR. SABIN: In the settlement stipulation, the  
14 parties agreed that all testimony and exhibits would be  
15 admitted and that we stipulated to that. I just want to, for  
16 the record, have that done so that we don't have to take time  
17 working through the admission of anything during the hearing.

18 CHAIR FENN: Okay. So all of the exhibits that have  
19 been filed in the docket, some of which are confidential  
20 exhibits/redacted exhibits -- I reviewed the docket this  
21 morning, there are a number in there.

22 You're all familiar with all of the exhibits. Are  
23 there any objections to admitting all of the exhibits that have  
24 been filed with the Commission in this docket?

25 Seeing no objections, we will admit all of the

1 exhibits. Thank you.

2 [All testimony and exhibits admitted.]

3 Okay. Mr. Sabin, you can call your witness. You can  
4 call Mr. Summers.

5 [FOR THE COMPANY]

6 MR. SABIN: The Company calls Austin Summers to the  
7 stand.

8 CHAIR FENN: As Mr. Summers is coming up, I'll just  
9 say we, of course, recognize there are parts of the stipulation  
10 that are confidential. If we can present the information  
11 without talking about confidential information, that's great.  
12 But if you feel like you will need to mention something  
13 confidential or any counsel have questions that are going to  
14 trigger those questions, we'll move to go into a closed  
15 session. But we'll just see if that happens. Maybe we get  
16 through that without going into a closed session.

17 Okay. All right.

18 You have raised your right arm to the square, Mr.  
19 Summers. Thank you.

20 AUSTIN SUMMERS,

21 a witness herein, having been administered an oath,  
22 was examined and testified as follows.

23 EXAMINATION

24 BY MR. SABIN:

25 Q. Mr. Summers, would you state your full name for the

1 record?

2 A. Yes. My name is Austin Summers.

3 Q. And what is your position with the Company?

4 A. I'm the Director of Regulatory and Pricing for  
5 Enbridge Gas in Utah, Wyoming, and Idaho.

6 Q. Okay. You're here today to provide testimony in  
7 support of the settlement stipulation, correct?

8 A. Correct.

9 Q. Have you prepared a summary of what the stipulation  
10 consists of?

11 A. I have.

12 Q. Would you please go ahead and provide that?

13 A. Yes. This settlement stipulation resolves the issues  
14 in docket number 26-057-03 concerning Enbridge Gas Utah's  
15 request for authorization to conduct a limited horizontal  
16 drilling pilot program on existing Wexpro properties.

17 While this pilot program differs somewhat from the  
18 current Wexpro II agreement, there are protections in place to  
19 ensure Enbridge customers get the benefits of the pilot program  
20 without undue risk. The settling parties are Enbridge Gas  
21 Utah, the Utah Division of Public Utilities, the Utah Office of  
22 Consumer Services, and the Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocate.  
23 All parties agree the settlement is just and reasonable in  
24 result and in the public interest.

25 Now, Chairman Fenn discussed a little bit about

1 confidentiality in the settlement stipulation, so I just wanted  
2 to point out the things that are confidential in the  
3 settlement. There are items all throughout the docket that are  
4 confidential, but in the settlement, the info that we are  
5 considering confidential is: the area that is being drilled,  
6 the number of wells that are in the pilot, and the amount of  
7 the cap on the dry hole wells.

8 I'll focus my summary on the key terms and conditions  
9 in paragraphs 15 through 32 that the Commission is being asked  
10 to approve.

11 The settlement authorizes a narrowly defined pilot  
12 program with explicit limits on duration, geography, and cost:

13 Now, I'm sure that everybody else noticed, as I did,  
14 that there are two paragraph 15s. So starting in the second  
15 paragraph 15, it says that the pilot program may not exceed  
16 four years unless extended by further Commission order.

17 Paragraph 16 says a cap on the pilot program at \$55  
18 million and may not be increased without advance Commission  
19 approval. This paragraph also narrows the scope of the  
20 original proposed pilot by reducing the number of wells that  
21 can be drilled in the pilot. These pilot program wells would  
22 only occur in one field.

23 Paragraph 17 retains the Commission authority to  
24 discontinue the pilot at any time while allowing recovery of  
25 investment already placed in the investment base as of the

1 discontinuance date.

2           The stipulation includes layered oversight and  
3 reporting requirements designed to ensure transparency and  
4 staged decision making.

5           Paragraph 18 explains that drilling decisions under  
6 the pilot will not be based on a commercial well test  
7 consistent with a different decision framework than Wexpro II.  
8 Instead, Wexpro must consult with the hydrocarbon monitor and  
9 provide ongoing reporting to the parties.

10           Paragraph 19 says that Wexpro must file quarterly  
11 drilling reports showing actual costs, cost of service rates,  
12 drilling days, and actual versus estimated production volumes  
13 for each well.

14           Paragraph 20 says that after each pilot well is  
15 drilled, Wexpro must meet with the Division, the Office, and  
16 the Wyoming Office of Consumer Advocate before any additional  
17 horizontal well may be drilled. As a customer protection, if  
18 any of those parties object to continued drilling, they may  
19 seek Commission relief to stop further drilling under the  
20 pilot.

21           Paragraph 21 simply points out that all natural gas  
22 produced from pilot wells will be sold to the utility at  
23 Wexpro's cost of service as defined in the Wexpro II agreement  
24 and as modified by the stipulation.

25           Paragraph 22 protects customers from excess risk by

1 crediting 100 percent of oil and natural gas liquids revenues  
2 from pilot wells to customers with no portion retained by  
3 Wexpro.

4 In order to further help balance risk between  
5 customers and Wexpro, paragraph 23 says that for non-commercial  
6 wells, customers will bear the cost. But Wexpro's return on  
7 those wells will be reduced by 50 basis points below the  
8 Commission allowed rate of return and customer risk is further  
9 offset by excluding all pilot program financial results from  
10 Canyon Creek cost savings calculations.

11 Paragraph 24 places a cap on how much the overall  
12 cost of service can increase if a pilot well is determined to  
13 be a dry hole.

14 Paragraph 25 outlines what will happen at the end of  
15 the pilot program. The parties agree that they will meet at  
16 the end of the pilot and determine if further horizontal  
17 drilling should be pursued and how that would be best  
18 accomplished. The path forward would be subject to review and  
19 approval by both Commissions.

20 Paragraph 26 says that all pilot program capital  
21 investment will be tracked in a separate well category distinct  
22 from Wexpro I and Wexpro II investments.

23 Paragraph 27 says that for commercial wells, Wexpro  
24 will earn the Commission allowed rate of return consistent with  
25 Wexpro II principles.

1 Paragraph 28 says that all pilot program financial  
2 results will be excluded from Canyon Creek cost savings  
3 calculations.

4 Paragraph 29 clarifies that the pilot program cost of  
5 service will be calculated like Wexpro II wells except where it  
6 is expressly modified in the settlement stipulation.

7 There was a lot of discussion amongst the parties  
8 about the role of the hydrocarbon monitor and paragraphs 30  
9 through 32 outline the party's understanding of the monitor's  
10 involvement and the data that will be provided to the monitor  
11 in quarterly reports.

12 In closing, this settlement offers a carefully  
13 controlled opportunity to evaluate horizontal drilling on  
14 Wexpro properties with strict cost caps, enhanced oversight,  
15 substantial customer protections and full Commission authority  
16 throughout the pilot. For these reasons, the parties  
17 respectfully request Commission approval of the stipulation as  
18 filed.

19 And that concludes my summary.

20 MR. SABIN: Thank you, Mr. Summers.

21 Chair, I don't have any further questions for him and  
22 so we will allow others or the Commission to ask questions of  
23 Mr. Summers.

24 CHAIR FENN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Summers and  
25 Mr. Sabin.

1           Let's turn to Mr. Grecu. Do you have questions of  
2 the witness?

3           MR. GRECU: No questions, thank you.

4           CHAIR FENN: Mr. Moore.

5           MR. MOORE: No questions, thank you.

6           CHAIR FENN: I just have one clarifying question  
7 before I turn to the other Commissioners. It's not in the  
8 stipulation, so I just want to make sure it's in the record.

9 BY CHAIR FENN:

10          Q. As I understand -- and I'm talking about the  
11 Commission-allowed rate of return. So in your testimony -- I  
12 think all of this is non-confidential information.

13          A. That's correct.

14          Q. -- you indicated that the current rate of return is  
15 6.86 percent.

16                 And so in paragraph 23, you talk about the reduction  
17 in the Commission-allowed rate of return minus 50 basis points.

18                 So it's correct then that the rate of return would  
19 now be 6.36 percent; is that correct?

20          A. Yes, in the current year. So that rate of return can  
21 change.

22          Q. It can fluctuate, sure.

23          A. Yes. But this year that would be 6.36; that's  
24 correct.

25          Q. Okay. All right. Thank you.

1 CHAIR FENN: All right. Let's turn to Commissioner  
2 Harvey for questions.

3 BY COMMISSIONER HARVEY:

4 Q. Good morning.

5 A. Good morning.

6 Q. I do have several questions.

7 To begin with, I'd like to ask a few questions just  
8 about Wexpro, I guess the Wexpro agreement overall. And I  
9 recognize that encompasses a lot of different specific  
10 agreements, but sort of the whole thing.

11 We've had testimony in this case that because of the  
12 current low price, market price; that the drilling plans for  
13 2026 have either been cancelled or been put on hold. Is that  
14 correct?

15 A. That's correct. And with the current Wexpro II  
16 program, any drilling program has to beat the five-year forward  
17 curve. And if it doesn't, then Wexpro doesn't drill.

18 So in the current low-price environment, the wells  
19 that were available, the vertical wells that were available  
20 just didn't meet that hurdle. So there's no drilling program  
21 in 2026.

22 Q. And would it be your expectation that if prices  
23 remain in the general neighborhood of where they are now that  
24 that would continue to be the case; that there wouldn't be any  
25 traditional directional drilling that would make economic

1 sense?

2 A. Yeah. I guess it's -- Wexpro's inventory, I think  
3 it's what the testimony says, is that Wexpro inventory is low  
4 right now. So Wexpro is always looking for opportunities for  
5 new acquisitions that might be, I guess you'd say, in the  
6 money.

7 But if prices were to stay low, then the drilling  
8 program wouldn't be able to continue as it is.

9 Q. Okay. In a purely hypothetical world, because I  
10 don't expect prices to stay low forever, but supposing they  
11 did, what's the process then of winding down Wexpro?

12 And specifically what I'm asking about is the  
13 investment that's been made: how long does that take to  
14 depreciate off the books; what's an end game for Wexpro if that  
15 future played out?

16 A. I don't know that there is a wind-down plan. I think  
17 that the way that we have always looked at this is that there  
18 are benefits to customers and that Wexpro is always trying  
19 to -- well, that Wexpro and Enbridge are trying to take  
20 advantage of the consistent prices, the natural hedging that  
21 happens because of the Wexpro agreement.

22 So I haven't heard of anything to wind down the plan;  
23 I think everything that we're looking at is to keep the  
24 benefits that the plan offers and to keep it going.

25 Q. Well, I understand that's the intent and I certainly

1 hope that's what happens. But what I'm asking about is what  
2 are ratepayers on the hook for in terms of -- just in generic  
3 terms, if an investment is made in a given year, how long is  
4 that on the books?

5 A. When investments are made, I mean, there are still  
6 plenty of Wexpro I wells that are still producing. I don't  
7 know the exact timeline. That might be a good question for Mr.  
8 Rasmussen if you wanted to bring one of the Wexpro experts up  
9 to address kind of the life of those wells.

10 Q. Well, I guess there's two aspects that I'm asking  
11 about.

12 One is, I understand for traditional vertical  
13 directional wells that the lifespan tends to be considerably  
14 longer than the lifespan for horizontal or lateral wells. But  
15 I'm asking about from a financial perspective, there are  
16 depreciation rates that are designed to recuperate investment  
17 over time and that may or may not be correlated with the actual  
18 life. Most utilities tend to ask us to make those depreciation  
19 rates faster than the actual life.

20 So I'm wondering how long does it take for a given  
21 investment to be paid off from a financial perspective, not  
22 necessarily what's on the ground perspective?

23 A. Yeah, so depreciation on natural gas wells might  
24 happen --- well, it does happen differently than depreciation  
25 on, say, a natural gas main that the utility puts into the

1 ground.

2 On a natural gas main, the utility is going to  
3 estimate how long the life of it is and they'll use what's  
4 called straight line depreciation over the course of that  
5 asset's life.

6 In natural gas production, it's actually referred to  
7 as depletion. So as the volumes are depleted, they are taken  
8 off of the value. So they're kind of depreciated more heavily  
9 in the front end of it and less in the future periods because  
10 it's just they're producing more in the early life of the well.

11 So they call it the units of production method. So  
12 it just depreciates that way. So a well will be fully  
13 depreciated when it is depleted.

14 Q. So that's done well by well, not as a category?

15 A. That's right.

16 Q. Okay. So as long as there's meaningful production,  
17 there's still some meaningful investment base that the  
18 ratepayers are still paying on?

19 A. That's correct.

20 Q. But in theory then, as production tapered off in that  
21 hypothetical world, about the time it runs out is about when  
22 the ratepayers would be off the hook?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Okay. Thank you.

25 In terms of the hydrocarbon monitor, we have a

1 specific individual that does that job, what is their  
2 experience with horizontal or lateral drilling?

3 A. I guess the answer that I would give might be kind of  
4 just from my observations during this process. It might be  
5 better to -- and I don't work closely with the hydrocarbon  
6 monitor. That one might be a better question for Mr. Rasmussen  
7 so I'm not representing what he does or doesn't know.

8 Q. That's fine. Based on what I've read in the record  
9 and what outside research I've been able to do, my  
10 understanding of horizontal drilling in general is that because  
11 of the -- and basically, tell me if this is correct and then  
12 I'll ask the question.

13 Because the idea is that with using multiple very  
14 long laterals, you can cover a much larger area of a given  
15 field at the same time, you tend to get a much larger  
16 production from that well for the first two or three years but  
17 that it has a substantially faster drop-off than a traditional  
18 directionally drilled well. Is that correct from your  
19 understanding?

20 A. I'm not familiar with the life of the wells. I'm  
21 sorry, Commissioner Harvey.

22 Q. That's okay. That's all right.

23 A. Coming from an accountant, I'm going to have to pitch  
24 that one as well.

25 Q. Okay. And this might also be a question for the

1 Wexpro folks, but in terms of selecting the contractor that  
2 will actually do the horizontal drilling, how will that process  
3 be undertaken? I mean, will these be experienced operators  
4 that are --

5 A. They will be. And horizontal drilling has happened  
6 all over the country for quite some time now. I think that  
7 it's new to Wexpro but it's -- as a Company, it's like the  
8 first horizontal wells that they've drilled.

9 But there is expertise in the drilling community to  
10 be able to do these. Not only that, but there was one of the  
11 data requests that was asked about "Do Wexpro staff have the  
12 personnel, the experience in their personnel to do this?" And  
13 Wexpro was able to show the employees that are currently on  
14 their staff that have experience in doing these horizontal  
15 wells. And there's quite a bit of experience in the Wexpro  
16 organization that have had experience in other companies before  
17 they came to Wexpro drilling horizontal wells.

18 CHAIR FENN: Just let me interrupt to say, for the  
19 record, that's found on page 31 in your slide deck in the  
20 presentation.

21 THE WITNESS: Yeah. Right. Thank you.

22 Q. In terms of the design of the horizontal wells, is  
23 information like how long the laterals are expected to be and  
24 how many per well: is that confidential?

25 A. I think it is. Just because of the -- in fact, in

1 Mr. Rasmussen's rebuttal testimony, there was information there  
2 that was shaded as confidential that talked about how many  
3 wells and what they plan to do with each of those wells. I can  
4 point you to that if it's helpful.

5 Q. Yeah, that would be helpful. That's Rasmussen  
6 rebuttal?

7 A. Correct. And it is on page 5 and is lines 121  
8 through 122.

9 Q. Yeah. Okay. That's right.

10 A. And that laid out why they needed that number of  
11 wells.

12 Q. That's right. I had remembered those numbers, but I  
13 hadn't remembered whether they were shaded. So thank you.

14 A. There's a lot in here.

15 Q. Well, I'll ask a general question. And again, maybe  
16 we'll need to call a Wexpro witness.

17 But the number that's cited there in terms of the  
18 length, is that constrained by the size of the property, the  
19 boundaries of the property?

20 A. My understanding -- and this might be, like I say,  
21 another one for the Wexpro experts, but it's not necessarily a  
22 size constraint; it's just a matter of proving out the concept  
23 and then advancing once they have the information that they  
24 need and they can continue on with other wells to get more  
25 information.

1 Q. Well, I guess what I'm wondering about then is what  
2 was the process for choosing that particular lateral length:  
3 why wouldn't it be considerably longer?

4 A. I think I'd let Wexpro answer that. Let the experts  
5 on that one.

6 Q. Okay. That's fine.

7 A. I just want to make clear I'm not trying to hide from  
8 your answer; I just want somebody that's the expert to be able  
9 to give you that.

10 Q. No, I appreciate that. And that's what I would want.

11 My last area of questioning would be relating to  
12 evaluating the results. And I'm trying to figure out how to  
13 ask this without getting into confidential areas.

14 Given the number of wells that the stipulation  
15 anticipates, I would tend to characterize that as a limited  
16 sample size. How is that evaluation -- well, let me back up.

17 I can understand that for any given well they can  
18 say, "Yeah, this makes sense or not", but how do you use a  
19 limited sample size to try and estimate that distribution that  
20 you're trying to figure out?

21 A. Yeah, and that's a good question. The number of  
22 wells that are in that program -- this is difficult for both of  
23 us, just for the record.

24 The number of wells that are in there is the minimum  
25 that Wexpro felt comfortable with to be able to get enough

1 information to form that distribution, so to have enough data  
2 to say whether the pilot program was successful and they should  
3 move forward or it was not successful and maybe we should look  
4 at something else.

5 So that was kind of the bare minimum. In Wexpro's  
6 eyes, I don't think it was optimal, but when we were looking at  
7 settlement and the parties wanted a smaller program and they  
8 didn't want to be committing to as much, that number of wells  
9 was the minimum that Wexpro felt like that it could drill and  
10 still get the information that it needs.

11 Q. Okay. And then just so I understand what the  
12 testimony means: when the testimony talks about a well, is it  
13 talking about a well head that would have multiple laterals or  
14 is it talking about one lateral?

15 A. It is talking about one lateral. So it would drill  
16 down vertically into the production zone, then it would turn  
17 horizontally and you would run one lateral to get that  
18 information.

19 Q. And would the other wells that are mentioned in the  
20 stipulation, then, would they be from that same well head just  
21 in different directions or would they be a completely different  
22 well?

23 A. My understanding is that they would be different, but  
24 that might be another one for Wexpro to clarify.

25 Q. Okay.

1 COMMISSIONER HARVEY: I think that's my questions for  
2 the EGU witness. Can I call on the Wexpro witness?

3 CHAIR FENN: We can, but let's finish with Mr.  
4 Summers first.

5 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Okay. I didn't know what the  
6 procedure was. Thank you.

7 CHAIR FENN: We'll see if Commissioner Clark has any  
8 questions.

9 COMMISSIONER CLARK: I have a question or two.

10 BY COMMISSIONER CLARK:

11 Q. Mine relate to paragraph 17. And although this is on  
12 yellow paper, I think this particular paragraph does not have  
13 any confidential material in it, is that correct?

14 A. That's correct.

15 Q. So my question relates to the phrase, "Any investment  
16 already placed in the investment base as of the date of any  
17 discontinuance of the pilot program."

18 And I just hope that you could review for me the  
19 accounting mechanics of when an investment is placed in the  
20 investment base, how that relates to the process of drilling  
21 and costs that might have been incurred for a partially drilled  
22 well, for example; when discontinuance, if that were to occur,  
23 was directed.

24 So I'm just wondering where those costs would land.

25 A. Where it lands.

1 Q. For partially completed work.

2 A. Yeah, and I might have Mr. Rasmussen speak to what is  
3 placed in the investment and when. In the utility, an asset is  
4 considered -- you know, we can place that into investment base  
5 when the asset is used and useful.

6 Q. Right.

7 A. And so my understanding is that a well would fit that  
8 same standard on Wexpro's side.

9 What I'm not certain of is if there are certain steps  
10 during that process. Like if they get the pad set up, is that  
11 now placed in service or does the entire facility, the entire  
12 well, need to be done before it is placed in service?

13 So I know that Mr. Rasmussen would probably be able  
14 to shed some light on when those happen.

15 Q. Okay. Thank you.

16 A. Sure.

17 Q. That's the only area of inquiry I have for you,  
18 Mr. Summers.

19 A. Thanks.

20 BY CHAIR FENN:

21 Q. Mr. Summers, I think I can ask this question to try  
22 to understand why footnote 17 is included.

23 Tell me if this is an accurate interpretation: that  
24 footnote 17 is to identify for the Commission the Company's  
25 position with respect to a minimum number of wells that they

1 felt would be necessary to obtain sufficient information, which  
2 is a position that they've compromised on.

3 Is that correct?

4 A. Yeah, I'm just reading the footnote. And I'll note  
5 that I think that we missed a shading on that footnote. So  
6 we'll get that fixed.

7 Yeah, the point of that footnote was just to refer to  
8 the rebuttal testimony. And I think we had kind of gone over  
9 that with Commissioner Harvey to point out that there was  
10 reason for that number of wells.

11 Q. Right.

12 A. That each well would have a purpose in the overall  
13 program.

14 Q. And this was the Company's position as to the minimum  
15 number of wells needed?

16 A. That's right.

17 Q. Which reflects back to the language in paragraph 16  
18 as to what the parties stipulated to, which was different than  
19 the Company's position.

20 A. That's correct.

21 Q. Okay. That's all I wanted to ask on that.

22 Just give me your sense of optimism with respect to  
23 this program. In your presentation at the technical conference  
24 it was indicated that more than 90 percent of natural gas  
25 production in the US comes from horizontal wells.

1           So looking forward, you're doing this program because  
2           you think it's going to be successful and it's going to result  
3           in significant benefits to customers; is that correct?

4           A.    Yeah, I think it's -- we know that there are  
5           hydrocarbons in the ground.  And it's in the ground that  
6           customers already own.  I mean, it's gas that's sitting there.

7           And if we can get that out for them at a reasonable  
8           price, then I think that's going to be a benefit for customers.  
9           We've seen just really consistent pricing from Wexpro over the  
10          years.  Currently I think it's a good -- well, this year has  
11          been a really low price, but in normal times I think it's been  
12          a really competitive price.

13          So I think that it's beneficial for the Company to  
14          figure out a way to get that gas out of the ground, that asset  
15          that can benefit customers.

16          From my involvement as an outsider to Wexpro but  
17          being involved in all of the settlement conversations and  
18          seeing the questions that have been asked by the Division and  
19          the Office and Wyoming personnel, the answers that I've seen do  
20          give me confidence that this is going to be something that's  
21          beneficial for customers in the long term.

22          So I think that's my comments.

23          Q.    So is it a logical conclusion to make that the reason  
24          90 percent of natural gas production in the United States comes  
25          from horizontal wells is because it's been determined that

1 that's economically more efficient?

2 A. That's correct. Well, and I think that it depends on  
3 the rock that they're drilling in.

4 Q. Yeah.

5 A. There is production that's still available that may  
6 be economic to get through a vertical drilling, but just the  
7 amounts of gas that come through one horizontal well -- through  
8 a program, I guess I should say, of horizontal wells has proven  
9 to be a more efficient way of getting that gas.

10 Q. And can lead to a significant reduction in cost of  
11 service?

12 A. That's correct.

13 Q. Okay. So you have the risk that you'll have dry  
14 holes and it may not be successful but the Company is engaging  
15 in this pilot program because they have an optimism that this  
16 pilot program will prove successful and it will become an  
17 ongoing program?

18 A. I don't know if I could say it better than that  
19 myself. So I will agree with the statement that you just said.

20 Q. Okay. Well, I was just trying to make sure that we  
21 all understood why you're pursuing this.

22 You're not currently doing horizontal drilling, or  
23 Wexpro isn't doing horizontal drilling at all now; is that  
24 correct?

25 A. That's correct. And just to clarify too, Wexpro is a

1 going concern. I mean, Wexpro wants to stay in business.

2 Q. Sure.

3 A. There's something about that, but Wexpro also can't  
4 stay in business unless it is providing gas that is a good deal  
5 for customers.

6 So this whole horizontal program, I don't think it's  
7 a selfish thing for Wexpro to be doing; I think that it is  
8 genuinely benefiting Enbridge Gas customers to be able to go  
9 out and prove out this concept.

10 Q. Okay. That's all the questions I have.

11 CHAIR FENN: Thank you very much for your summary and  
12 your testimony today in support of the stipulation.

13 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

14 CHAIR FENN: We'll excuse you.

15 It appears that at least Commissioner Harvey has some  
16 questions of Mr. Rasmussen. I suppose you didn't have him  
17 prepare a summary, but if you have, you can give that. If not,  
18 we can call you and you can respond to questions.

19 MR. SABIN: We'll have him come up and have him  
20 address whatever questions you have.

21 CHAIR FENN: Okay. Thank you.

22 Welcome, Mr. Rasmussen. We're sorry if you weren't  
23 expecting to be called as a witness but you're probably used to  
24 this.

25 //

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BRADY RASMUSSEN,

a witness herein, having been administered an oath,  
was examined and testified as follows.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. SABIN:

Q. Just for the record, Mr. Rasmussen, would you state  
your full name for the court reporter.

A. Brady Rasmussen.

Q. Okay. Mr. Rasmussen, what's your role with Wexpro?

A. I am Vice President of Wexpro Enbridge.

Q. Okay.

MR. SABIN: I think that's all we need to do with  
him. If you want to just ask questions, we can jump right into  
that.

CHAIR FENN: All right. Well, let's see if -- I  
don't anticipate this, but we'll give first an opportunity to  
Mr. Grecu and Mr. Moore if they have any questions of  
Mr. Rasmussen.

MR. GRECU: No questions. Thank you.

MR. MOORE: No questions. Thank you.

CHAIR FENN: Okay. I probably knew that but I just  
thought it would be the appropriate thing to ask you.

All right. Well, we know somebody who does have some  
questions so we'll turn to Commissioner Harvey.

//

1 BY COMMISSIONER HARVEY:

2 Q. Good morning.

3 A. Good morning.

4 Q. Maybe start with how Wexpro, just give me some  
5 general terms here, has gone about estimating what they think  
6 is available in terms of the gas that's hoped to be tapped by  
7 this horizontal program.

8 A. So we have certain zones in our footprint, existing  
9 footprint, that has been efficient. It's stack pay, so, you  
10 know, vertically. So it makes sense to go in and complete  
11 those vertically on a vertical basis.

12 But we have the other zones in our footprint that the  
13 pay spreads out at the same level for multiple miles and it's  
14 not stacked. So that's where horizontal makes sense.

15 So as we've drilled wells in our footprint, we've  
16 obtained information of where that exists and we think it's a  
17 very significant footprint that could be the benefit of the  
18 customers. And those reserves are owned by the customers. So  
19 I think it's our duty to efficiently try to produce those for  
20 customers. It's a huge resource.

21 Q. Okay. And then in your testimony -- and this is a  
22 confidential number, so you don't need to worry about the  
23 number itself, but just in general -- you've provided an  
24 estimate of what you think the cost of service result might end  
25 up being. And I want to find out a little bit more about how

1 you got that estimate, both from a geologic perspective in  
2 terms of how you evaluate what you think you can get at what  
3 cost, but also what contractual basis in terms of it sounds  
4 like a Wexpro II strategy doesn't work, so what assumptions  
5 were made about, I guess a potential Wexpro III, in developing  
6 that estimate?

7 A. Okay. On a geological basis, we used analog wells in  
8 very similar fields that are very close to the field that we've  
9 picked to do this pilot program in. And so we've had on an  
10 analog basis, we've been able to fairly predict, if this is  
11 successful, what those wells may look like. They look very  
12 similar to the wells in the general area.

13 So we have a lot of data on those wells. That's  
14 public information. We can go out there and put our decline  
15 curves to it, put our production forecasts and also costs to  
16 that, what that would be, to figure out what the cost of  
17 service would end up being in those fields.

18 Q. And then in terms of the factors like how drilling  
19 costs are shared, revenues are shared, cost savings: what type  
20 of assumptions were made there?

21 A. It works very similar to what's in Wexpro II. So  
22 you've got in your cost structure of the cost of service,  
23 you've got the depreciation, so that is related to the cost of  
24 the well; you've got the return that's a return on that cost.  
25 And then you look at royalties and taxes, and that's just a

1 function of how much volume is produced from each well, and  
2 that's a per unit cost out there. And you've got gathering and  
3 you've got operating expenses out there.

4 A horizontal well on an operating basis will be more  
5 efficient because you can have one person man that well, after  
6 it's all said and done, that monitors that well over much more  
7 production. So your denominator is much bigger so your  
8 operating cost per unit is much smaller on a horizontal well  
9 because you have bigger reserves and more production.

10 Q. But in terms of the -- well, my understanding is the  
11 reason that this wasn't just proposed as a Wexpro II property  
12 was that the dry hole aspect was a big concern for Wexpro.

13 So when you talk about that cost of service gas, is  
14 that assuming that all potential drilling costs, whether it's  
15 dry holes or not, were being charged to the customer, or was it  
16 assumed to be a sharing like under the Wexpro II?

17 A. Yeah, the big differences between -- our past wells:  
18 very predictable. That vertical drilling was very predictable.  
19 So we knew the risk of what a dry hole may -- you know, what  
20 percentage of wells would be a dry hole.

21 With this horizontal, with any horizontal program  
22 anywhere in the nation, you're going to have a bunch of wells  
23 that are non-economical and then some very good producing wells  
24 that are very, very economical. And when you average that  
25 together, you get a very economic field, which means very good

1 cost of service. And so that's how we've decided to go forward  
2 with that.

3 Q. Well, right, I understand that aspect. What I'm  
4 asking about is for this number that's been cited as the  
5 potential cost of service, was that the paradigm that you're  
6 assuming, dry hole or not, rate payers are paying all of that?

7 A. Oh, I'm following you now. Yeah, that does include  
8 any dry holes assumed in that. So that overall cost of service  
9 forecast does assume those uneconomic wells. We keep calling  
10 them dry holes, but they still may very well produce, they're  
11 just uneconomic.

12 Q. Right. I shouldn't say dry.

13 A. And so that does include the uneconomic wells/dry  
14 holes included in that; that's not just the good wells.

15 Q. Okay. So thinking back to the technical conference  
16 where Wexpro presented information, they talked about a  
17 distribution of potential wells and had a nice diagram and had  
18 used the public data that you cited to sort of plot out what  
19 that curve might look like.

20 My understanding is there are companies that are  
21 doing horizontal drilling in the Pinedale area already. Is  
22 that correct?

23 A. Yeah, there have been horizontals in the Pinedale  
24 area.

25 Q. All right. Has Wexpro been able to -- well, I guess

1 is any of the information from those companies' wells public or  
2 is that private?

3 A. Yeah, most of it is public. Most of that is kept  
4 non-public for six months, companies keep that under wraps for  
5 six months. But after six months, all that data is public.

6 Q. Okay. So how many wells in terms of that data set  
7 has Wexpro looked at then in terms of results?

8 A. Well, with Pinedale, it's not a very good analog.

9 Q. It's not a good analog?

10 A. It's not very close to this area. So we haven't used  
11 many.

12 Q. Okay. So for the area that you're in, then -- my  
13 geography was off, sorry -- are there any companies doing  
14 horizontal in the general area?

15 A. Yes, there is.

16 Q. And have you used any of that data?

17 A. Yes, those are the analogs we've used.

18 Q. And how many wells are we talking about there?

19 A. You're probably talking at least in the area -- I  
20 don't know the number right off the bat, but you're probably at  
21 least a minimum of 20 out there.

22 Q. And going back to one of my questions to Austin, is  
23 that a wellhead with multiple laterals or just 20 laterals?

24 A. It's one wellhead only has one lateral, but on a pad,  
25 you have multiple laterals within a pad. So you could have one

1 wellhead right next to another wellhead that just goes off in  
2 another direction. So it's on the same pad but it's not  
3 connected to the same wellhead.

4 Q. Right. Sorry I got my terminology wrong. But each  
5 wellhead, then, is a specific lateral, but a given pad can have  
6 multiple?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. So maybe I asked the wrong question to Austin, but  
9 for the pilot that's being proposed in this limited form now in  
10 the settlement, would all of the laterals that are anticipated  
11 be from the same pad or from a different pad?

12 A. Within the number that we've suggested to use, some  
13 of them will be on the same pad, but not all.

14 Q. Well, in terms of the limited number that's in the  
15 stipulation, is that answer still the same?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Okay. All right.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. And then in terms of the cost per lateral, does the  
20 cost change much whether it's on the same pad or not?

21 A. Yes. When you go into your optimizing phase, when  
22 you're doing multiple wells on the same pad at the same time,  
23 you don't have those mob and demob costs each time to put up  
24 the rig and lay down the rig. So when you can do multiple at a  
25 time, that obviously saves you costs.

1           But if you come back -- let's say you do one well on  
2 a pad one year and you come back the next year and do another  
3 one, you do save some costs because you've already created that  
4 pad; you've already done the construction for the pad; you  
5 won't have to have multiple pad constructions. You save it  
6 because you're going from the same pad; you've already incurred  
7 those costs. So there's some efficiencies that way.

8           But the most efficient way is when you go into  
9 optimizing phase where you're doing multiple wells at the same  
10 time on the same pad and you can just skid that rig from  
11 wellhead to wellhead instead of mob and demob each time.

12          Q.    Okay. So assuming long term that it works, that it's  
13 a good idea and we end up going full bore, how many laterals  
14 would you expect in an optimized program coming per pad?

15          A.    About four.

16          Q.    And if the pilot's successful, would you anticipate  
17 then a need for a Wexpro II or at least an amendment to Wexpro  
18 II to deal with the non-economic wells?

19          A.    Whatever gets -- yeah, we've decided at the end of  
20 this it will be discussed how to go forward on that.

21                I wouldn't anticipate a need for Wexpro III; I think  
22 it can be done with changes within the Wexpro II agreement that  
23 identifies those wells at a certain rate of return or whatever  
24 is decided. We can treat those -- we have multiple wells with  
25 different categories that earn different rates of return and we

1 can just make a category for that type of well, whatever is  
2 decided.

3 Q. I guess I'm trying to wrap my head around as if we're  
4 trying to come up with a program that says "Here's a category  
5 with cost sharing", it just seems like the number of wells in  
6 the stipulation isn't enough to really give us information  
7 about what that long term distribution looks like.

8 A. We believe it is. With the number of wells, if you  
9 look at the distribution and if you do those number of wells,  
10 you have a pretty good idea of what you're going to get field-  
11 wise on that.

12 So we believe we can get there with that number of  
13 wells and have a pretty technical idea of what the whole field  
14 would look like. And then based on that we can decide on how  
15 to go forward. You can get an average rate of return for the  
16 field and all that type of data that you would need to  
17 determine how to go forward with any agreement/stipulation.

18 Q. All right. Not referring to any numbers in the  
19 stipulation at all, but just thinking about the pure statistics  
20 of it, if I drill one well, statistically you have to assume  
21 that's the P50 well.

22 A. Yep.

23 Q. And that technically would fit with an infinite  
24 number of distributions because you could have them as wide or  
25 as skinny as -- right?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So when you drill two wells, you have to then use  
3 your assumptions that are based on these other data you have to  
4 say, "Where do we think these two fit on a distribution?" And  
5 you could assume they're on the same side, that they straddle  
6 the distribution.

7 By the time you get three wells, if one of them is  
8 higher than the others in terms of volumes, you could assume  
9 something about the thing, but it just seems like you either  
10 have to have really impressive prior information or it seems to  
11 me you have to have a number of data points.

12 I guess I'm asking you how do you get that kind of  
13 certainty from a small number of data points?

14 A. With every well you drill, you'll know that  
15 distribution better and better and better. But with the number  
16 that we've recommended here, I think we're going to have a very  
17 decent idea what that distribution looks like.

18 Q. All right. I think that's my questions. Thank you.

19 CHAIR FENN: Commissioner Clark.

20 COMMISSIONER CLARK: Thanks.

21 BY COMMISSIONER CLARK:

22 Q. Mr. Rasmussen, I'm going to just take you again to  
23 paragraph 17 of the stipulation. And you heard Mr. Summers and  
24 I discuss this. I desire to have a better understanding of  
25 what happens to investment in the event of a discontinuation of

1 the pilot.

2 The paragraph notes that the Commission could require  
3 that and that as of that date, costs will be either not  
4 recoverable or recoverable depending upon this phrase,  
5 "investment already placed in the investment base." And I want  
6 to understand better what that means.

7 A. That's a good question.

8 So if you go back to the existing Wexpro agreement,  
9 we do not include -- you know, when we start spending dollars  
10 on a well, that goes into our AFUDC account and does not get  
11 included in the investment base. What triggers that into the  
12 investment base is it becomes a paying well. There's an  
13 economic test that's done on it and then on that day, it goes  
14 back and is put in investment base. But there's AFUDC  
15 calculated from every dollar that was spent up until the time  
16 it was put in investment base and there's a return that's  
17 placed on that and that gets included in investment base too.

18 Where this program, where there's no paying well  
19 determination because there's no dry hole risk to the Company,  
20 any dollar that was spent would immediately go into the  
21 investment base. So if we pulled down the whole program a  
22 third of the way into maybe well number two, that third of that  
23 second well would be already in investment base.

24 Q. Thank you. So it operates differently than it would  
25 under the agreement and that's directly related to the transfer

1 of the dry hole risk to customers?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. Okay. Thanks very much.

4 BY CHAIR FENN:

5 Q. Mr. Rasmussen, what's the range of time that you  
6 anticipate that you would begin the drilling of the first well?

7 A. Here in a few months.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Okay. So if the Commission, hypothetically, if they  
11 approved the settlement agreement in two weeks, you're still  
12 out a couple of months before you would begin drilling?

13 A. Yeah, we've got the permit and everything ready to  
14 go.

15 Q. Okay. All right. Thank you. I have no more  
16 questions.

17 CHAIR FENN: Thank you very much. We appreciate you  
18 being here and able to answer those questions.

19 Mr. Sabin, does that conclude your witnesses?

20 MR. SABIN: Yes.

21 CHAIR FENN: Okay. Let's turn to Mr. Grecu.

22 [FOR THE DIVISION]

23 MR. GRECU: Thank you. The Division calls Mr. Ryan  
24 Daigle.

25 CHAIR FENN: Mr. Daigle, welcome.

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RYAN DAIGLE,

a witness herein, having been administered an oath,  
was examined and testified as follows.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. GRECU:

Q. Good morning, Mr. Daigle.

A. Good morning.

Q. Could you please state and spell your name for the  
record.

A. Ryan Daigle; R-Y-A-N, D-A-I-G-L-E.

Q. By whom are you employed and what is your position?

A. The Division of Public Utilities and I'm a utility  
technical consultant.

Q. What is your business address?

A. 160 East, 300 South, Salt Lake City, Utah 84114.

Q. And have you participated in this docket on behalf of  
the Division?

A. Yes, I have.

Q. Did you review the Company's application, supporting  
exhibits, testimony, and responses to data requests along with  
the testimony of other parties in this case?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you attend the technical conference held on March  
24th, 2026?

A. Yes, I did.

1 Q. Did you also participate in settlement negotiations?

2 A. Yes, I did.

3 Q. And did you prepare and cause to be filed your direct  
4 testimony, DPU Exhibit 1, and DPU Exhibit 2, which were filed  
5 on April 3rd, 2026?

6 A. Yes, I did.

7 Q. Do you have any changes or corrections to those  
8 filings?

9 A. No, I do not.

10 Q. And if I asked you the same questions posed in that  
11 testimony today, would you provide the same answers?

12 A. Yes, I would.

13 Q. And do you adopt the contents of that testimony as  
14 part of your testimony today?

15 A. Yes, I do.

16 Q. Did you also review the settlement stipulation filed  
17 in this docket?

18 A. Yes, I did.

19 Q. Is it the Division's position that the settlement  
20 stipulation is just and reasonable in result and approval is in  
21 the public interest?

22 A. Yes, it is.

23 MR. GRECU: At this point, because I don't think  
24 we've done it yet, I'd like to admit the settlement  
25 stipulation.

1 CHAIR FENN: Okay. Let's do that. I guess we could  
2 have assumed that when we admitted all of the documents and  
3 exhibits, but I have no problem with admitting that  
4 specifically.

5 So Mr. Grecu has asked that we admit the settlement  
6 stipulation, confidential settlement stipulation in the docket.  
7 I'm pretty sure I don't need to ask the question if there are  
8 any objections, because that's why we're all here, so it is  
9 admitted. Thank you.

10 [Settlement Stipulation Admitted]

11 Q. Mr. Daigle, do you have a summary to share outlining  
12 the Division's support for approval of the settlement  
13 stipulation?

14 A. Yes, I do.

15 Q. Please proceed.

16 A. On February 27th, 2026, the Company filed its  
17 application for approval of Wexpro Horizontal Drilling Pilot  
18 Program. In accordance with the scheduling order, the Division  
19 and the Office of Consumer Services each filed direct testimony  
20 on April 3rd, 2026. The Company filed the rebuttal testimonies  
21 of Austin Summers and Brady Rasmussen on April 10th, 2026.

22 In the Company's application, it seeks approval of a  
23 five-year horizontal drilling pilot program with a capital  
24 investment of \$150 million to drill between 8 and 12 wells.  
25 The Division noted several concerns with the proposed program

1 that were in contrast to the terms of the Wexpro I and Wexpro  
2 II agreements, including the cost of a dry hole being  
3 completely borne by ratepayers and that the proposed wells were  
4 not required to meet the forward price curve test. However,  
5 customers would receive the benefit of all revenues from the  
6 sale of oil or natural gas liquids produced from the wells in  
7 the pilot program.

8 The parties met on several occasions to gain greater  
9 clarification and understanding of the risk and opportunity of  
10 a horizontal drilling program. On April 21st, 2026, the  
11 Company filed the settlement stipulation in this docket, which  
12 resulted from several rounds of settlement negotiations between  
13 the Company, the Division, the OCS, and the Wyoming Office of  
14 Consumer Advocate.

15 The stipulation reflects a more limited pilot program  
16 than the Company's original proposal. The stipulation limits  
17 the capital investment in the pilot program to \$55 million over  
18 a period of four years to drill fewer wells.

19 Those changes, as well as the informational  
20 provisions and recognition of the Commission's ability to halt  
21 the program at any time, help confine the risk ratepayers face  
22 in determining the extent of the resources available to meet  
23 future needs. Additionally, the potential reduction in return  
24 for certain unsuccessful wells can help mitigate the cost of an  
25 unsuccessful program. The stipulation presents an opportunity

1 to better discover resources effectively owned by ratepayers  
2 and evaluate their economical production.

3 The Division concludes that the settlement  
4 stipulation is just and reasonable in result and approval is in  
5 the public interest and recommends the Commission approve the  
6 settlement stipulation.

7 This concludes my summary.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 MR. GRECU: The witness is available for cross-  
10 examination and questions from the Commission?

11 CHAIR FENN: Thank you, Mr. Daigle. We appreciate  
12 your summary.

13 Let's turn to Mr. Sabin.

14 MR. SABIN: No questions.

15 CHAIR FENN: Okay. Mr. Moore.

16 MR. MOORE: No questions. Thank you.

17 CHAIR FENN: Okay. Let's turn to Commissioner  
18 Harvey.

19 BY COMMISSIONER HARVEY:

20 Q. Good morning.

21 A. Good morning.

22 Q. In looking at your direct testimony on page 12, line  
23 264 --

24 A. I'm there.

25 Q. You have a question there that asks for how to

1 mitigate the issues that you see in the application or, I think  
2 by extension, with the proposed pilot. I mean, you list a  
3 number of things there, some of which are in the stipulation  
4 but some of which are not.

5 Would you agree with that characterization?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Can you just give me a general feel from the  
8 Division's perspective as to why the ones that are in the  
9 settlement stipulation are valuable enough to the ratepayers to  
10 offset the ones that aren't?

11 A. Yes. The stipulation attempts to balance the  
12 ratepayers' interest in the long-term supply of gas and the  
13 development of resources that can help mitigate price  
14 volatility while enabling Wexpro to discover and develop the  
15 resources without undue risk. Also, the Commission as well as  
16 the DPU would be able to suspend the program at any time.

17 So even with those specific criteria being removed,  
18 there still is the ability to cancel the program at any time.

19 Q. So when you use the word risk, it sounds to me like  
20 what you're referring to is the amount of money that the  
21 ratepayers may be on the hook for but you're not talking about  
22 any inherent properties of the drilling program itself or the  
23 field or whether it's going to pan out or not.

24 A. I would agree with that statement.

25 Q. Okay. So when you talk about minimizing risk, what

1 you're saying is that at any given moment we can say "We've  
2 spent as much as we want, we're going to stop."; is that what  
3 you mean by minimizing the risk?

4 A. I would agree with that statement.

5 Q. You did hear the answer to the question about the  
6 investment base that any money that's been spent will  
7 automatically be in the investment base, correct?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. All right. I think that's all my questions.  
10 Thanks.

11 CHAIR FENN: Thank you Commissioner Harvey.  
12 Commissioner Clark.

13 COMMISSIONER CLARK: I don't have any questions.  
14 Thank you.

15 CHAIR FENN: Mr. Daigle, I don't have any questions  
16 either. You may be excused. Thank you very much for your  
17 testimony.

18 THE WITNESS: Thank you.

19 CHAIR FENN: Let's turn to Mr. Moore.

20 [FOR THE OFFICE]

21 MR. MOORE: The Office of Consumer Services calls  
22 Bela Vastag and asks that he be sworn.

23 CHAIR FENN: Welcome.

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Hearing - April 23, 2026

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BELA VASTAG,

a witness herein, having been administered an oath,  
was examined and testified as follows.

EXAMINATION

BY MR. MOORE:

Q. Could you please state and spell your name for the record.

A. My name is Bela Vastag. That's B-E-L-A, V-A-S-T-A-G.

Q. How are you employed and what is your business address?

A. I am a utility technical consultant for the Office of Consumer Services. And our address is this building, 160 East 300 South, Salt Lake City.

Q. In your capacity as a technical consultant, have you reviewed the application, testimony, discovery requests and answers and did you attend a technical conference in this docket?

A. Yes, I did.

Q. Did you prepare on April 3rd, 2026, and caused to be filed, redacted and confidential direct testimony in Exhibit OCS D1?

A. Yes.

Q. Have you any changes you'd like to make to this written testimony at this time?

A. No, none.

1 Q. If I asked you the same questions that are contained  
2 in your written testimony, would your answers be the same?

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Did you participate in the negotiations that led to  
5 the settlement stipulation that is the subject of this hearing?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Have you reviewed the final version of the  
8 stipulation?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Have you prepared a statement summarizing the Office  
11 of Consumer Services' position on the settlement?

12 A. I have.

13 Q. Please proceed.

14 A. Good morning, commissioners.

15 The settlement stipulation before the Commission  
16 today provides a framework for Wexpro to initiate a horizontal  
17 drilling pilot program which has the potential to provide  
18 ratepayers a significant amount of new natural gas supply at  
19 very reasonable cost of service prices. The parties to this  
20 settlement agreement, Enbridge Gas Utah, EGU, the Utah Division  
21 of Public Utilities, or DPU, the Wyoming Office of Consumer  
22 Advocate, or OCA, and the Utah Office of Consumer Services, or  
23 OCS, have worked collaboratively to develop the agreed upon  
24 terms in the horizontal drilling pilot program settlement  
25 stipulation.

1           On April 3, 2026, I filed direct testimony explaining  
2           that the OCS generally supported the proposed pilot program in  
3           order to help sustain the supply of gas from the Wexpro  
4           drilling program. Due to fewer opportunities currently for  
5           Wexpro to drill new vertical wells, Wexpro's cost of service  
6           gas production has fallen to about 45 percent of EGU's annual  
7           gas supply, which is well below the 55 percent cap set in the  
8           Canyon Creek stipulation. I believe it is an important benefit  
9           for ratepayers that Wexpro continue to supply significant  
10          amounts of cost of service gas as a physical hedge against  
11          natural gas market price spikes, and against supply disruptions  
12          in the market.

13                 In my direct testimony, I also raised concerns that  
14          the design of the proposed pilot program as outlined in EGU's  
15          application shifted too much risk to ratepayers. However,  
16          through the settlement process, the parties have agreed to  
17          reduce the size of the pilot program to incorporate additional  
18          safeguards and limit ratepayers' cost exposure for dry holes.  
19          These changes and additional protections have mitigated my  
20          concerns about the amount of risk being borne by ratepayers for  
21          the pilot program. However, ratepayers will still bear the  
22          financial risk of the pilot program failing, but conversely,  
23          ratepayers also bear the risk of losing an important natural  
24          gas physical hedge if Wexpro volumes from its vertical drilling  
25          program continue to decline.

1 If successful, the pilot program has the potential to provide  
2 significant amounts of economical cost of service gas over the  
3 long term.

4 I believe that the settlement stipulation to initiate  
5 a Wexpro horizontal drilling pilot program is just and  
6 reasonable in result and in the public interest. The OCS  
7 recommends that the Commission approve it.

8 And that concludes my statement.

9 CHAIR FENN: Thank you, Mr. Vastag.

10 Mr. Sabin, any questions?

11 MR. SABIN: No questions, thank you.

12 CHAIR FENN: Okay. Mr. Grecu, any questions?

13 MR. GRECU: No questions, thank you.

14 CHAIR FENN: All right. Let's turn to Commissioner  
15 Harvey.

16 BY COMMISSIONER HARVEY:

17 Q. Good morning.

18 A. Good morning.

19 Q. Could you turn in your direct testimony to line 101  
20 and then review that question and answer.

21 A. Okay.

22 Q. Thank you. Tell me if you agree that I understand  
23 this correctly or not -- or not if you agree: tell me if I  
24 understand this correctly or not.

25 Based on what you're saying here about dry hole risk,

1 whether the pilot is successful or not, that doesn't change the  
2 fundamental issue as to why Wexpro may or may not want to do  
3 horizontal drilling, does it, in terms of that dry hole risk?

4 A. Yeah, I think under the current Wexpro II framework,  
5 they don't want to do it under those conditions, under those  
6 terms.

7 Q. Okay. So assume a hypothetical world where the pilot  
8 goes well and that we get at least some wells that are  
9 productive and it seems like it would justify going into  
10 regular production. Your understanding of this issue then  
11 would still be that there would need to be a different  
12 treatment of the uneconomic well risk in order for that to go  
13 forward; that the pilot itself wouldn't necessarily solve that  
14 question, it would just say whether or not you need to address  
15 it. Am I thinking about that correctly?

16 A. It's not known what terms may be required after we  
17 evaluate the pilot, so I can't say for sure that it would be  
18 similar. It may, depending on how successful and how risky, I  
19 suppose, the program shows that it is or is not.

20 If it is successful and there is a permanent program,  
21 I'm not sure how we would structure it. But I agree that still  
22 is probably an issue that remains on the dry hole risk and that  
23 will have to be addressed.

24 Q. Thank you, that's all the questions I have.

25 CHAIR FENN: Thank you, Commissioner Harvey.

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1 Commissioner Clark.

2 COMMISSIONER CLARK: I don't have any questions,  
3 thank you.

4 CHAIR FENN: Thank you, Mr. Vastag, I don't have any  
5 questions either. You may be excused.

6 All right, are there any other matters that need to  
7 come before the Commission on this matter?

8 MR. SABIN: None from the Company.

9 CHAIR FENN: Mr. Grecu?

10 MR. GRECU: Nothing further from the Division.

11 CHAIR FENN: Mr. Moore.

12 MR. MOORE: Nothing further from the Office.

13 CHAIR FENN: I just want to note: I'd like to  
14 compliment the Company and the Office and the Division for  
15 their collaboration in working together to compromise on issues  
16 and arrive at this stipulation.

17 We'll take this matter under advisement and this  
18 hearing is concluded. Thank you.

19 MR. SABIN: Thank you very much.

20 [Adjourned at 10:18 a.m.]

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

STATE OF UTAH )  
SALT LAKE COUNTY )

I, Spencer Von Jarrett, a Certified Shorthand Reporter, Registered Professional Reporter, hereby certify:

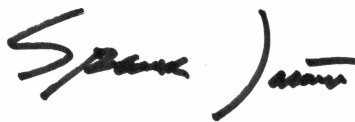
THAT the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place set forth in the caption hereof;

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 30th day of April, 2026.



Spencer Von Jarrett

Registered Professional Reporter #993793

[1 - additional]

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[concerns - customers]

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[further - hole]

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**[perspective - program]**

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[two - wells]

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[wexpro - zones]

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Utah Rules of Civil Procedure  
Part V. Depositions and Discovery

Rule 30

(E) Submission to Witness; Changes; Signing.

Within 28 days after being notified by the officer that the transcript or recording is available, a witness may sign a statement of changes to the form or substance of the transcript or recording and the reasons for the changes. The officer shall append any changes timely made by the witness.

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OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

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