

In The Matter Of:
DG 12-071
NEW HAMPSHIRE GAS CORPORATION

*HEARING RE: 2012 SUMMER PERIOD COST OF GAS
ADJUSTMENT
April 19, 2012*

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HEARING RE: 2012 SUMMER PERIOD COST OF GAS ADJUSTMENT - April 19, 2012
DG 12-071 NEW HAMPSHIRE GAS CORPORATION

<p>STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION</p> <p>April 19, 2012 - 2:00 p.m. Concord, New Hampshire</p> <p>RE: DG 12-071 NEW HAMPSHIRE GAS CORPORATION 2012 SUMMER PERIOD COST OF GAS ADJUSTMENT</p> <p>PRESENT: F. Anne Ross, Hearings Examiner Clare E. Howard-Pike - Clerk</p> <p>APPEARANCES: Representing New Hampshire Gas Corp. Meabh T. Purcell, Esquire Representing PUC Staff: Alexander Speidel, Esq. Robert Wyatt, Gas & Water Division</p> <p>COURT REPORTER: Susan J. Robidas, LCR No. 44</p>	<p>Page 3</p> <p>1 E X H I B I T S 2 3 NHGC EXHIBITS PAGE 4 5 1 2012 Proposed Summer Cost of Gas Rate filing 7 6 2 Affidavit of Publication 7 7 3 Company Data Responses to Staff 1-1 to 1-3 9 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p>
<p>Page 2</p> <p>1 I N D E X 2 3 WITNESS: BRIAN R. MALONEY 4 5 6 EXAMINATION PAGE 7 Direct Examination by Ms. Purcell 6 8 Cross-Examination by Mr. Speidel 9 9 10 11 12 13 CLOSING STATEMENTS 14 15 PAGE 16 By Mr. Speidel 13 17 By Ms. Purcell 13 18 19 20 21 22 23 24</p>	<p>Page 4</p> <p>1 P R O C E E D I N G S 2 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Good 3 afternoon. My name is Anne Ross. I'm going 4 to be serving as hearings examiner today for 5 the Cost of Gas hearing for New Hampshire Gas 6 Company -- Corporation. Excuse me. 7 We have a court reporter, so 8 this will be recorded -- or reported -- 9 excuse me. And I will make a written 10 recommendation to the Commission following 11 the hearing, and the Commission will act on 12 it before your May 1st effective date. 13 So, before we get started, are 14 there any procedural issues that we need to 15 deal with? 16 MS. PURCELL: No. I gave the 17 return of service to the clerk. 18 THE CLERK: You have a copy 19 there. 20 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Yes, I 21 do. 22 You may address me as 23 "Attorney Ross," and we'll begin by taking 24 appearances. And then, as -- I don't know</p>

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<p>1 of any intervenors. Is that correct? No</p> <p>2 one's intervened in this?</p> <p>3 MS. PURCELL: No.</p> <p>4 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: And the</p> <p>5 only filing that I have a record of is the</p> <p>6 Summer Cost of Gas filing itself, as well as</p> <p>7 the affidavit. Is there anything else?</p> <p>8 MS. PURCELL: That's right. We</p> <p>9 didn't have any updates this year.</p> <p>10 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: No</p> <p>11 updates. All right. Let's begin by taking</p> <p>12 appearances.</p> <p>13 MS. PURCELL: Thank you. Good</p> <p>14 afternoon. My name is Meabh Purcell from the</p> <p>15 law firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf in Boston,</p> <p>16 representing New Hampshire Gas Corporation.</p> <p>17 MR. SPEIDEL: Good afternoon.</p> <p>18 My name is Alexander Speidel, and I'm</p> <p>19 representing Staff. And I have with me Bob</p> <p>20 Wyatt of the Gas and Water Division.</p> <p>21 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Thank</p> <p>22 you. You'll have an opportunity for closing</p> <p>23 statements. The Company will go last on that.</p> <p>24 And I see we have a witness.</p>	<p>1 for the cost of gas rate for the summer</p> <p>2 period May through October, 2012.</p> <p>3 Q. Thank you. And since your initial filing,</p> <p>4 have you made any revisions to the proposed</p> <p>5 COG rate?</p> <p>6 A. No updates were required.</p> <p>7 MS. PURCELL: Attorney Ross, I</p> <p>8 ask that this be marked as New Hampshire</p> <p>9 Exhibit No. 1.</p> <p>10 And let me suggest that we</p> <p>11 mark the Affidavit of Publication as No. 2</p> <p>12 for identification.</p> <p>13 (NHGC 1, 2 marked for identification.)</p> <p>14 MS. PURCELL: And Attorney Ross,</p> <p>15 you don't need a copy; is that correct?</p> <p>16 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: I have</p> <p>17 one. Thank you.</p> <p>18 BY MS. PURCELL:</p> <p>19 Q. Okay. Mr. Maloney, do you have any</p> <p>20 corrections to make to either the testimony</p> <p>21 or the proposed COG filing?</p> <p>22 A. No.</p> <p>23 Q. And were the documents that have been marked</p> <p>24 collectively as New Hampshire Gas Exhibit</p>
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<p>1 MS. PURCELL: Yes, Mr. Maloney.</p> <p>2 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Will</p> <p>3 the court reporter swear the witness in,</p> <p>4 please.</p> <p>5 (WHEREUPON, BRIAN R. MALONEY was duly</p> <p>6 sworn and cautioned by the Court</p> <p>7 Reporter.)</p> <p>8 BRIAN R.MALONEY, SWORN</p> <p>9 DIRECT EXAMINATION</p> <p>10 BY MS. PURCELL:</p> <p>11 Q. Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Maloney.</p> <p>12 Could you please state your full name, your</p> <p>13 position and your business address for the</p> <p>14 record.</p> <p>15 A. My name is Brian Maloney, lead analyst at</p> <p>16 Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation in</p> <p>17 Rochester, New York. RG&E provides</p> <p>18 affiliate services to New Hampshire Gas</p> <p>19 Corporation.</p> <p>20 Q. Thank you. I'm showing you a copy of a</p> <p>21 filing under cover letter of Dewey &</p> <p>22 LeBoeuf, dated March 19th. Could you</p> <p>23 identify this document, please.</p> <p>24 A. Yes. This is the New Hampshire Gas filing</p>	<p>1 No. 1 prepared by you or under your</p> <p>2 direction and supervision?</p> <p>3 A. Yes, they were.</p> <p>4 Q. And do you adopt your testimony as your</p> <p>5 sworn testimony in this proceeding?</p> <p>6 A. Yes.</p> <p>7 Q. And where -- just briefly, can you point to</p> <p>8 us in the proposed -- in the filing in New</p> <p>9 Hampshire Gas Exhibit 1 where we would find</p> <p>10 the Company's proposed COG rates.</p> <p>11 A. The proposed rate is 1.7884, and it can be</p> <p>12 found on Schedule B, Line 9.</p> <p>13 Q. Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>14 A. It can also be seen on the Proposed Tariff</p> <p>15 page.</p> <p>16 Q. And have you done any analysis of the impact</p> <p>17 of the proposed rate on a typical</p> <p>18 residential gas customer?</p> <p>19 A. Yes. There's two schedules, Schedules I-1</p> <p>20 and I-2, that are bill impact analyses</p> <p>21 compared to the prior year. And in there,</p> <p>22 there is a line that shows that the average</p> <p>23 residential summer period bill will decrease</p> <p>24 by 7.1 percent compared to last year.</p>

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<p>1 Q. Thank you.</p> <p>2 MS. PURCELL: I have nothing</p> <p>3 further at this time. Mr. Maloney is</p> <p>4 available for examination by Staff.</p> <p>5 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Thank</p> <p>6 you.</p> <p>7 MR. SPEIDEL: Thank you,</p> <p>8 Attorney Purcell.</p> <p>9 If I may introduce into the</p> <p>10 record the Company's data responses, with a</p> <p>11 cover letter dated April 16, 2011, as</p> <p>12 Exhibit 3. I don't see any need to refer to</p> <p>13 them specifically, but they provided useful</p> <p>14 explanations to certain technical concerns</p> <p>15 that Staff had. And so I will provide that</p> <p>16 to the clerk and to the hearings examiner.</p> <p>17 THE CLERK: Thank you.</p> <p>18 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Thank</p> <p>19 you.</p> <p>20 (NHGC 3 marked for identification.)</p> <p>21 CROSS-EXAMINATION</p> <p>22 BY MR. SPEIDEL:</p> <p>23 Q. All right. Mr. Maloney, are any of the gas</p> <p>24 supplies in this off-peak cost of gas</p>	<p>1 influence on that percentage. It's more of</p> <p>2 a typical fluctuation that is seen in that</p> <p>3 type of measure on a year-to-year basis.</p> <p>4 Q. On Page 4, Line 13 of your testimony that is</p> <p>5 presented within Exhibit 1, there's a</p> <p>6 reference there to Schedule C, specifically</p> <p>7 spot propane unit cost. The spot propane</p> <p>8 unit cost purchase now includes a new cost</p> <p>9 item identified as a supplier charge. Can</p> <p>10 you explain what the supplier charge</p> <p>11 represents and whether or not it is a new</p> <p>12 charge?</p> <p>13 A. Yes. The supplier charge is an -- our</p> <p>14 estimate of the mark-up embedded by our</p> <p>15 supplier for their supplied procurement</p> <p>16 services into the spot market price of our</p> <p>17 propane. It is not a new charge; rather, it</p> <p>18 is a new addition to this projection exhibit</p> <p>19 that is an effort to make the projection of</p> <p>20 our spot market prices more reflective of</p> <p>21 what we ultimately will get charged by the</p> <p>22 supplier for those spot purchases.</p> <p>23 Q. So it's a form of forecasting or</p> <p>24 prediction --</p>
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<p>1 forecast hedged, pre-purchased or otherwise</p> <p>2 tied to a predetermined fixed price?</p> <p>3 A. No, they are not.</p> <p>4 Q. Okay. Would you happen to know if the Audit</p> <p>5 Staff has completed its review of the cost</p> <p>6 of gas reconciliation from last summer?</p> <p>7 A. They have completed the review.</p> <p>8 Q. Are you aware of any issues resulting from</p> <p>9 the Audit Staff's review of the cost of gas</p> <p>10 reconciliation from 2011?</p> <p>11 A. After some clarifying communications with</p> <p>12 Audit Staff, no exceptions were noted in the</p> <p>13 audit.</p> <p>14 Q. Is the Company anticipating any new load</p> <p>15 growth opportunities this year that would be</p> <p>16 reflected in the upcoming winter cost of gas</p> <p>17 forecast?</p> <p>18 A. No, no specific known growth opportunities</p> <p>19 are known to us at present.</p> <p>20 Q. Does the Company attribute the slight</p> <p>21 increase in its unaccounted-for losses to</p> <p>22 any particular operational issues during the</p> <p>23 past year?</p> <p>24 A. No, we would not say that had a significant</p>	<p>1 A. Yes.</p> <p>2 Q. -- in one way?</p> <p>3 A. Enhancement in the forecasting process.</p> <p>4 Q. Thank you. On Page 6, Line 12 of your</p> <p>5 testimony, you note that the estimated</p> <p>6 premium associated with pre-purchased</p> <p>7 volumes is \$.0772 per gallon. Can you</p> <p>8 explain what this premium represents, and is</p> <p>9 this charge similar or in addition to the</p> <p>10 supplier charge that is applied to spot</p> <p>11 propane purchases?</p> <p>12 A. This total premium -- I'm sorry. The</p> <p>13 estimated premium that is listed here is</p> <p>14 our -- again, our estimate of the supplier</p> <p>15 mark-up embedded in the total premium</p> <p>16 charged to us on our spot purchases -- I'm</p> <p>17 sorry -- on our pre-purchased volumes.</p> <p>18 Q. Okay. Did --</p> <p>19 A. Oh, and the second part of your question, is</p> <p>20 it similar to the spot market premium? Yes,</p> <p>21 it's very similar to that, in that it covers</p> <p>22 same types of services provided by that</p> <p>23 supplier.</p> <p>24 Q. Hmm-hmm. Excellent. Well, thank you very</p>

1 much, Mr. Maloney.
2 MR. SPEIDEL: Staff has no
3 further cross questions.
4 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Does
5 the Company have any redirect?
6 MS. PURCELL: No, I do not.
7 Thank you.
8 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: In that
9 case, thank you for your testimony. You're
10 excused. Would the Staff like to make a
11 closing statement?
12 MR. SPEIDEL: Indeed it would.
13 Staff recommends approval of New Hampshire Gas
14 Company's proposed 2012 summer period cost of
15 gas rate. The Commission Audit Staff reviewed
16 the 2011 summer season reconciliation and
17 found the cost to be materially accurate. The
18 sales forecast and supply planning appear to
19 be consistent with recent cost of gas
20 forecasts.
21 Actual 2012 summer gas costs and revenues
22 will be reconciled prior to the 2013 cost of
23 gas, and any concerns that may arise will be
24 addressed in that proceeding. Thank you.

1 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Thank
2 you. The Company.
3 MS. PURCELL: Thank you. New
4 Hampshire Gas Corporation respectfully
5 requests approval of the proposed summer 2012
6 COG rate of \$1.7884 cents per therm by
7 May 1st, 2012.
8 And as always, the Company
9 appreciates Staff's efforts in this
10 proceeding in conducting its review and
11 appreciates its support. Thank you.
12 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Thank
13 you. I think that concludes our hearing.
14 This might be the quickest Cost of Gas hearing
15 on record.
16 MS. PURCELL: We pride ourselves
17 on that.
18 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: I will
19 take all of this under advisement and will be
20 issuing my written recommendation shortly.
21 Thank you all.
22 MS. PURCELL: Thank you very
23 much.
24 (WHEREUPON the hearing concluded at 2:14 p.m.)

1 C E R T I F I C A T E
2 I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed
3 Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public
4 of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby
5 certify that the foregoing is a true and
6 accurate transcript of my stenographic
7 notes of these proceedings taken at the
8 place and on the date hereinbefore set
9 forth, to the best of my skill and ability
10 under the conditions present at the time.
11 I further certify that I am neither
12 attorney or counsel for, nor related to or
13 employed by any of the parties to the
14 action; and further, that I am not a
15 relative or employee of any attorney or
16 counsel employed in this case, nor am I
17 financially interested in this action.
18
19

20 Susan J. Robidas, LCR/RPR
21 Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter
22 Registered Professional Reporter
23 N.H. LCR No. 44 (RSA 310-A:173)
24

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