

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

April 16, 2012 - 10:04 a.m.
Concord, New Hampshire

 ORIGINAL

RE: DG 12-067
ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS, INC., NHPUC APR19'12 PM 1:29
D/B/A NATIONAL GRID NH
2012 SUMMER PERIOD COST OF GAS ADJUSTMENT

PRESENT: F. Anne Ross, Hearings Examiner
Clare E. Howard-Pike - Clerk

APPEARANCES:

Representing EnergyNorth Natural Gas:
Patrick H. Taylor, Esq.

Representing PUC Staff:
Alexander Speidel, Esq.
Robert Wyatt, Gas & Water Division

COURT REPORTER: Susan J. Robidas, LCR No. 44

I N D E X

WITNESS PANEL: ANN E. LEARY
 THEODORE POE, JR.

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E X H I B I T S

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1	NGrid NH Affidavit of Publication	6
2	CONFIDENTIAL 2012 Summer Period Cost of Gas Adjustment	6
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P R O C E E D I N G S

HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Well, good morning. My name is Anne Ross. I'm going to be serving as hearings examiner and conducting the hearing this morning. You can refer to me as "Attorney Ross." We don't need to use "Your Honor" or "Madam Hearings Examiner." We will follow the normal routine for a hearing in all other respects, and at the close of the hearing I will file a report with my recommendation to the Commission, and the Commission will issue the order before your May 1st rate change deadlines so you have time to -- and are there any timing issues that we should be aware of in issuing that order?

MR. TAYLOR: None that we're aware of.

HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: All right. Let's just begin. We have no intervenors in this docket, at least none shown on the Commission's files. Is that correct?

MR. TAYLOR: That's correct.

HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: And there was an affidavit of publication. Is that

1 filed? Can we make that an exhibit?

2 MR. SPEIDEL: Yes.

3 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: In that
4 case, are there any procedural issues we need
5 to address before we move to the Company's
6 proposal?

7 MR. TAYLOR: I think this is a
8 procedural matter. We filed separate testimony
9 for each of the witnesses, but we would propose
10 to call them together as a panel, as we've done
11 in prior cost of gas hearings, if that's okay
12 with the Commission.

13 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: That
14 works best, I think. That way, whatever
15 questions come, one or the other can answer.

16 MR. TAYLOR: Very good. Thank
17 you very much.

18 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: In that
19 case, would the Company like to call its
20 witnesses and admit any exhibits for numbering
21 purposes at this point?

22 MR. TAYLOR: Certainly. And I'll
23 just give an appearance first, just so I can
24 identify myself. My name's Patrick Taylor from

1 the law firm of McLane, Graf, Raulerson &
2 Middleton, appearing on behalf of EnergyNorth
3 Natural Gas, doing business as National Grid
4 New Hampshire.

5 I'd like to call today as our
6 witnesses Ann Leary and Theodore Poe, if you
7 can take the stand.

8 And while they take the stand,
9 if I can read our exhibits into the record?

10 So, am I correct in
11 understanding that the affidavit of
12 publication will be Exhibit 1 for -- how is
13 that going to work?

14 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Yes,
15 let's make that Exhibit 1.

16 MR. TAYLOR: I'd like to mark
17 into the record as Exhibit 2 the March 15th,
18 2012 confidential cost of gas filing, and this
19 includes the testimony of both witnesses.

20 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: I have a
21 copy.

22 MR. TAYLOR: You have a copy.
23 Okay.

24 THE CLERK: Thank you.

1 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: So that
2 will be exhibit marked --

3 THE CLERK: Two.

4 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Okay.

5 MR. TAYLOR: And I'd like to mark
6 as Exhibit 3 the March 15th, 2012 redacted
7 summer cost of gas filing. And this also
8 includes the testimony of witnesses.

9 And I realize that I gave the
10 confidential -- the redacted version first,
11 We'll make the redacted version second,
12 so...

13 THE CLERK: Okay. You wish --

14 MR. TAYLOR: This is the
15 confidential version and this is the redacted
16 version.

17 THE CLERK: Okay.

18 **(The documents, as described, were**
19 **herewith marked as Exhibits 1, 2 and**
20 **3 for identification.)**

21 MR. TAYLOR: The intent of our
22 direct today is going to be to authenticate the
23 witnesses' testimony and then make them
24 available for cross-examination.

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Could
2 you wait a minute and have the Clerk -- I'm
3 sorry, not the Clerk -- the Reporter swear the
4 witnesses in, please.

5 MR. TAYLOR: Of course.

6 (WHEREUPON, *ANN E. LEARY* and *THEODORE*
7 *POE, JR.* were duly sworn and cautioned
8 by the Court Reporter.)

9 ANN E. LEARY, SWORN

10 THEODORE POE, JR., SWORN

11 DIRECT EXAMINATION

12 BY MR. TAYLOR:

13 Q. Ms. Leary, please identify yourself for the
14 record.

15 A. (By Ms. Leary) Yes. My name is Ann E.
16 Leary.

17 Q. What is your position with the Company?

18 A. (By Ms. Leary) I am the manager of gas
19 pricing.

20 Q. And what is your role with regard to the
21 filing in this case?

22 A. (By Ms. Leary) I'm here today to actually
23 explain the proposed Off-Peak 2012 Cost of
24 Gas factor.

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 Q. The March 15th filing, marked as Exhibits 2
2 and 3, contains prefiled testimony bearing
3 your name. Are you familiar with that
4 testimony?

5 A. (By Ms. Leary) Yes, I am.

6 Q. Was it prepared by you or under your
7 direction?

8 A. (By Ms. Leary) Yes, it was.

9 Q. Are there any changes to your testimony that
10 you would like to make at this time?

11 A. (By Ms. Leary) Not to my testimony, but I
12 would like to make a few typographical
13 changes to one of our exhibits.

14 Q. Please explain.

15 A. (By Ms. Leary) Okay. If we could turn to
16 Summary Page 1. It should also be Bates
17 stamped No. 1 in the corner, the right-hand
18 corner of the page. And I'll walk you down
19 this exhibit.

20 On Line 46 it reads, "Currently Total
21 Anticipated Direct Cost of Gas." It should
22 read "Total Unadjusted Cost of Gas."

23 The next line item, Line Item 47,
24 currently reads, "Lead Lag Days." It should

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 read "Lead Lag Days Divided by 365."

2 Line 49 in Column B should -- it says
3 "Per GTC 16(f)." That should remain, but we
4 should also add "Line 47 Times Line 48."

5 On Line 51, Column B, it currently
6 reads "Schedule 3, Column C." It should
7 read "Schedule 3, Column D."

8 Line 56 reads "Total Anticipated Direct
9 Cost of Gas." It should read "Total
10 Unadjusted Cost of Gas."

11 And finally, on Line 60, there was a
12 mathematical error. The subtotal on Line 60
13 did not include the refunds identified up on
14 Line 57.

15 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: May I
16 ask, is it possible to substitute a corrected
17 page? There were so many changes, that I'm...

18 MS. LEARY: We were envisioning
19 that when we make our compliance filing, we
20 will have corrected all these typographical
21 errors.

22 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: So we
23 could get a new substitute page for this
24 Summary sheet?

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 MS. LEARY: Yeah, when we make --
2 we could actually do it -- if you'd like to do
3 it now, we could do it now. Or we could do it
4 as part of our compliance filing, because this
5 Summary page also is identical to, I think,
6 Tariff Page 86.

7 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Okay.
8 That's fine. If it's going to come in in that
9 form, then I'll just make a note to refer to
10 Tariff Page 86 in the compliance filing.

11 MS. LEARY: Okay.

12 MR. SPEIDEL: Excellent. Yes.

13 BY MR. TAYLOR:

14 Q. Ms. Leary, subject to those corrections that
15 you've just identified, is your testimony
16 true and correct to the best of your
17 knowledge and belief?

18 A. (By Ms. Leary) Yes, it is.

19 Q. Thank you very much.

20 Mr. Poe, please identify yourself for
21 the record.

22 A. (By Mr. Poe) My name is Theodore Poe, Jr.
23 I'm lead analyst with National Grid.

24 Q. And Mr. Poe, what is your position with the

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 Company?

2 A. (By Mr. Poe) I serve as lead analyst.

3 Q. What is your role with regard to the filing
4 in this case?

5 A. (By Mr. Poe) My role is to explain the
6 forecast that underlies the cost of gas
7 filing.

8 Q. The March 15th filing, marked as Exhibits 2
9 and 3, contains prefiled testimony bearing
10 your name. Are you familiar with that
11 testimony?

12 A. (By Mr. Poe) Yes, I am.

13 Q. Was it prepared by you or under your
14 direction?

15 A. (By Mr. Poe) Yes, it was.

16 Q. Are there any corrections or changes to that
17 testimony that you'd like to make at this
18 time?

19 A. (By Mr. Poe) No, there are none.

20 Q. Then, is that testimony true and correct, to
21 the best of your knowledge and belief?

22 A. (By Mr. Poe) Yes, it is.

23 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you. That
24 concludes my direct examination of the witness.

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 I'll make them available for cross-examination.

2 MR. SPEIDEL: Thank you very
3 much.

4 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

5 **BY MR. SPEIDEL:**

6 Q. Good morning. My name is Alexander Speidel,
7 and I am the Staff attorney representing
8 Commission Staff in this case. And I have
9 with me Robert Wyatt of the Gas and Water
10 Division. I would like to ask a few
11 questions of Ms. Leary, if it's possible.

12 Ms. Leary, beginning on Page 6, Line 6
13 of your testimony in the filing, Exhibits 2
14 and 3, you reference the supplier refund
15 estimate that is related to the Tennessee
16 Gas Pipeline rate case in FERC Docket
17 RP 11-1566.

18 MR. SPEIDEL: And at this time, I
19 would like to approach the Bench and provide
20 Attorney Ross with a copy of my questions so
21 that she may take notes as appropriate.

22 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Thank
23 you.

24 **BY MR. SPEIDEL:**

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 Q. So, you reference the supplier refund
2 estimate that is related to the Tennessee
3 Gas Pipeline rate case in FERC Docket
4 RP 11-1566. Has the Company received the
5 actual refund from Tennessee?

6 A. (By Ms. Leary) Yes, the Company has received
7 the actual refund.

8 Q. Was the actual amount of the refund similar
9 to the estimate used in this cost of gas
10 forecast?

11 A. (By Ms. Leary) Yes. In total, the actual
12 refund that we received was identical to the
13 total amount that we had estimated in this
14 cost of gas filing.

15 Q. Will the actual refund amount be included in
16 an updated monthly cost of gas over/under
17 calculation?

18 A. (By Ms. Leary) There's -- well, two things.
19 There really shouldn't be any variance from
20 what was included in this off-peak cost of
21 gas filing because the actual did agree with
22 the estimate.

23 The only outstanding issue -- and we
24 had kind of addressed it at the technical

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 session -- is the fact that we received the
2 entire refund. So what happened is, if you
3 had marketers last year who, through our
4 Customer Choice Program under the Mandatory
5 Capacity Release Program, they did not
6 receive the refund. The refund came to the
7 Company. So we are currently, right now --
8 it's an issue both in Massachusetts and New
9 Hampshire -- looking at how we are going to
10 identify or carve out the piece that should
11 belong to the marketer.

12 What we did in this filing, for
13 estimation purposes, is we looked at the
14 amount of capacity release that we had
15 allotted to these customers and made the
16 assumption that that same portion of the
17 refund will also be allotted to the
18 marketers. As I mentioned, we're in the
19 process right now of going through all the
20 marketer bills and kind of deciding how
21 we're going to recalculate it and
22 determine -- and we will include in any
23 future trigger filing -- once we've kind of
24 itemized and kind of identified the specific

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[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 number, we'll include that in any updates to
2 trigger filings throughout the off-peak
3 period.

4 Q. Thank you.

5 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: May ask
6 a question just so that I understand as we go
7 forward?

8 This pro rata estimate that
9 you're doing with regard to the refund, you
10 indicated it was based on capacity release?
11 Is that what I heard?

12 MS. LEARY: This has to do
13 with -- this is a refund that we're getting
14 from Tennessee because of rates they put in
15 effect last June.

16 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: And
17 rates are calculated on how much capacity in
18 the pipeline you're using; is that correct?

19 MS. LEARY: Correct. I mean,
20 there's two components of the rates that we pay
21 to our pipelines. There will be what they call
22 a reservation charge, which is based on the
23 capacity, and then there's a volumetric charge
24 based on the commodity that we use.

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: And the
2 marketers are entitled to what portion?

3 MS. LEARY: Well, under the
4 Capacity Release Program that we have right
5 now, anyone who decides to become a
6 transportation customer purchased their gas
7 from a third-party or a marketer. They will
8 get -- that marketer will get their, you know,
9 pro rata share of the capacity -- of the
10 Company's capacity.

11 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: And that
12 was charged at a different rate, and the refund
13 will now go back at a current capacity?

14 MS. LEARY: Well, it's not that
15 it was charged at a different rate. What
16 happened is they paid for the capacity. So
17 last summer there were Tennessee rates in
18 effect that were not final approved rates.
19 They were -- so they put them in effect in
20 June, okay. Both the Company and the marketer
21 paid the same rates for the capacity. In
22 November, the final rates were approved,
23 similar to New Hampshire, when we do the
24 temporary rates and the final rates.

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[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Right.

2 MS. LEARY: So the final rates
3 were approved. Tennessee calculated the refund
4 the Company was entitled to from the period of
5 the, called them "temporary rates," that were
6 in effect from June of '11 through October of
7 '11. They calculated the refund and then came
8 back and said we're not determining how much of
9 the refund goes to which marketer. You're the
10 owner of the capacity. Regardless, if you
11 release the capacity, you're the owner of the
12 capacity. You get the entire check back. They
13 gave us the entire check back. We're now in
14 the process of going through and saying, out of
15 this money that we received, let's go back, and
16 how much of that money really belonged to the
17 marketer, because he was paying for that
18 capacity last summer.

19 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: And when
20 will this issue actually be resolved?

21 MS. LEARY: We're working on it
22 now. I mean, there's a question of having to
23 go back. As I said, it's both an issue in
24 Massachusetts and New Hampshire, that we have

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 to go back, figure out how much capacity was
2 assigned to the marketers, how much they paid
3 under all the different tariff rates.

4 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Okay.

5 MS. LEARY: So, let's hope that
6 it will be resolved in the next few months.

7 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Okay.
8 I'll listen to the rest of Staff's questions,
9 and hopefully by then I will have caught up
10 with what we're doing on this issue.

11 MR. SPEIDEL: Attorney Ross, if I
12 may just mention one fact. Staff uses these
13 cost of gas proceedings as a way of checking in
14 on the status of various things happening with
15 the Company's operations. So, often we're told
16 that this is in process or we're working on
17 resolving this. And Staff raises these issues
18 not from a problematic standpoint, but from an
19 informational standpoint. So we use these cost
20 of gas proceedings in a way to check in on the
21 Company twice a year. So, Staff is satisfied
22 with the Company's explanation of the current
23 status.

24 And also, another thing that

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 comes to mind in connection with these is
2 that often we ask for clarifications just
3 for our own information and not necessarily
4 to address a problem.

5 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Thank
6 you. And before the hearing is over, if I
7 could know from Staff whether you support the
8 Company's current refund amounts that are
9 placed in rates in this cost of gas hearing,
10 that would be helpful, too.

11 MR. SPEIDEL: Yes, we will do so.

12 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Okay.
13 Sorry for the diversion, but that's what
14 happens when you get a rookie up here.

15 BY MR. SPEIDEL:

16 Q. Ms. Leary, would you be able to tell us as
17 to whether any of the refund amount will be
18 applied to the winter cost of gas period via
19 deferral?

20 A. (By Ms. Leary) Yes, there will be a portion
21 of this refund that will be applied to the
22 winter period. What we're able to do is --
23 actually, when Tennessee identified the
24 refund, they identified the refund per

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 contract. The way our cost of gas factor
2 works right now, certain contracts, supply
3 contracts we have for the capacity, is
4 allocated to the winter period. I mean,
5 those would be the capacity associated
6 with -- you know, it was our storage gas.
7 So, we were -- take a proportion and
8 actually will be allocating that to the peak
9 period.

10 MR. SPEIDEL: And just as an
11 aside, "peak period in autumn," those are
12 interchangeable references. So, sometimes if
13 you hear "peak," think fall; and if you hear
14 "fall," think peak.

15 BY MR. SPEIDEL:

16 Q. Going on with our questions, let's see here.
17 On Page 7 of your testimony, you attribute
18 .0639 dollars of the overall .2208 dollars
19 per therm decrease in the proposed 2012
20 off-peak cost of gas rate directly to the
21 Tennessee Gas Pipeline rate case settlement,
22 compared to the tariff rates in effect in
23 the 2011 off-peak cost of gas period. Is
24 that correct?

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 A. (By Ms. Leary) Yes, this is correct.

2 Q. Thank you. Beginning on Page 6, Line 17 of
3 your testimony, you reference the six-month
4 NYMEX future strip as of March 7th, 2012.
5 Is the NYMEX strip you reference here the
6 most recent 15-day average of NYMEX
7 settlement prices at that point?

8 A. (By Ms. Leary) It is the most recent 15 days
9 at that point in time. But the Company has
10 taken a look at the most recent 15-day NYMEX
11 as of April 11. As you're well aware, the
12 NYMEX is still continually dropping. So we
13 took a look at how our cost of gas factor
14 would have changed if we used the most
15 recent 15-day NYMEX ending April 11th. It
16 would go down around 3 cents. The Company
17 has decided, since we have the ability in
18 each trigger filing to continue to decrease
19 our cost of gas without getting approval,
20 and it wasn't a huge change at this point,
21 that we'll wait until our first trigger
22 filing to reflect that decrease.

23 Q. Thank you. So I think we can skip forward
24 to the following question: Beginning on

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 Page 8, Line 5 of your testimony, you note
2 that there was a revision to the off-peak
3 2011 cost of gas reconciliation related to
4 the PUC audit that resulted in a small
5 change in the prior period over collection.

6 With that small adjustment, can you
7 confirm that the PUC Audit Staff is
8 satisfied with the prior period off-peak
9 2011 cost of gas results?

10 A. (By Ms. Leary) Yes, they issued a report and
11 indicated that was the only change that they
12 had identified.

13 Q. Thank you.

14 MR. SPEIDEL: Staff has no
15 questions for Mr. Poe at this time.

16 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: All
17 right. Thank you.

18 **INTERROGATORIES BY HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS:**

19 Q. I just have a few. Some of them have been
20 answered. And this may be a really naive
21 question.

22 But the NYMEX strip -- the cost on the
23 NYMEX strip is, you know, .28 cents per
24 therm, whereas your cost of gas is

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 considerably higher. Why is there such a
2 spread between your cost of gas and what
3 sort of the current market rate looks like?

4 A. (By Ms. Leary) Oh, a couple of things.

5 First, the NYMEX is just the NYMEX. That
6 does not include the cost of gas to the --
7 the cost to actually deliver the supply to
8 the city gates. So there's a cost of that.
9 We also talked a little bit earlier about
10 the reservation charges, the demand charges
11 that we pay on a pipeline to deliver the
12 gas. That, too, is not included. There are
13 also issues like -- we have some, well, I
14 think they're actually credits.

15 (Witness reviews document.)

16 Q. So, in terms of magnitude, would you say
17 delivery and reservation costs are the major
18 drivers in that spread between the commodity
19 and the actual cost of gas?

20 A. (By Ms. Leary) Yes, I would say that. And
21 we did have a little bit of hedging. We do
22 hedge a little bit of our supplies in month
23 of May and October. And the hedging rate
24 that was locked in, because it was locked in

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 in a prior -- like about 18 months prior is
2 higher than that current NYMEX rate.

3 Q. So there are some long-term contracts that
4 you've entered into for this gas supply,
5 like the hedging contracts?

6 A. (By Ms. Leary) Correct.

7 Q. In your Asset Management Gas Supply
8 Agreement, you mentioned that it's price
9 indexed. What is it indexed to?

10 A. (By Mr. Poe) The contract you're referring
11 to, I believe, is the BG contract?

12 Q. That's correct.

13 A. (By Mr. Poe) And it would be indexed to
14 NYMEX also. So everything is market driven.

15 Q. I think I might be in your testimony, Mr.
16 Poe.

17 Why is the 2012 forecast substantially
18 higher than the 2011 forecast? You
19 mentioned the economic factors. But has
20 there been that marked change in the
21 economy, or are you expecting that much?

22 A. (By Mr. Poe) The answer would be B, we are
23 expecting that.

24 In my testimony on Page 10, Line 7, in

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 the prior off-peak period we had been
2 forecasting roughly 20 million therms of
3 load. In the preliminary analysis of what
4 it actually turned out to be, on Line 9 I
5 indicate that it was 19.6 million therms.
6 Our economic models continue to say that,
7 because of the huge difference between gas
8 and oil prices, and the recovery of the U.S.
9 economy, we anticipate that we will return
10 back to what used to be the off-peak load.
11 We're still below what we had been prior to
12 several years ago, so we're -- the models
13 keep indicating that we should be returning
14 to the load levels that we had seen several
15 years ago.

16 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Okay.
17 Those are all the questions I have.

18 Do you have any redirect?

19 MR. TAYLOR: I have no further
20 questions for the witnesses at this time.

21 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: And then
22 I would like -- I would appreciate at least
23 Staff's position on the filing before we close
24 the hearing.

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 MR. SPEIDEL: Yes, I would be
2 happy to provide that, Attorney Ross. And if
3 it's all right, I'll also provide a run-off of
4 Staff's closing statement directly after the
5 hearing for your reference.

6 Staff has completed its review of the
7 filing, including Company responses to Staff
8 data requests in a technical session, and
9 recommends approval of National Grid New
10 Hampshire's proposed 2012 summer cost of gas
11 rates. The sales forecast for the 2012
12 summer period appears to be consistent with
13 past experience. The supply plan integrates
14 actual cost for hedge supplies and recent
15 NYMEX futures average prices for non-hedge
16 supplies.

17 The Commission Audit Staff has reviewed
18 the 2011 summer cost of gas reconciliation
19 and found it to be generally accurate, with
20 necessary adjustments made by the Company.

21 There will be a reconciliation of 2012
22 projected and actual gas costs. And any
23 concerns that may arise related to the 2012
24 summer gas planning and dispatch may be

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 raised and addressed in the 2013 summer cost
2 of gas proceeding.

3 Staff also supports the refund amount
4 related to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline rate
5 case estimated by the Company for this cost
6 of gas proceeding, as it has proven to be
7 equal to the actual refund. We will review
8 the reconciliation of the Company's
9 allocated amounts to the supplies when the
10 data is available. Thank you.

11 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Thank
12 you. And would the Company like to have a
13 closing statement?

14 MR. TAYLOR: Yes. Thank you very
15 much.

16 The Company, first of all,
17 appreciates the cooperation of the Staff in
18 this proceeding, and continues to be
19 appreciative of the advance guidance it
20 receives from Staff through the technical
21 sessions in these matters.

22 At this point, we would ask
23 the Commission to approve the Company's
24 proposed summer cost of gas rates as just

[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

1 and reasonable. Thank you.

2 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Thank
3 you.

4 Before we close, is there any
5 objection to moving the exhibits as fully
6 admitted?

7 MR. TAYLOR: No objection.

8 HEARINGS EXAMINER ROSS: Okay.
9 In that case, they are admitted.

10 That does it for today. Thank
11 you very much for your cooperation in
12 presenting this.

13 MR. TAYLOR: Thank you.

14 MR. SPEIDEL: Thank you.

15 **(Whereupon the hearing was adjourned at**
16 **10:26 a.m.)**

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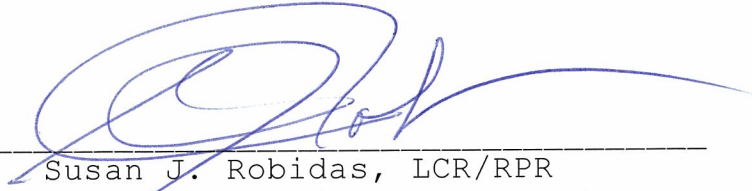
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[WITNESS PANEL: Leary|Poe]

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24**C E R T I F I C A T E**

I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed Shorthand Court Reporter and Notary Public of the State of New Hampshire, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate transcript of my stenographic notes of these proceedings taken at the place and on the date hereinbefore set forth, to the best of my skill and ability under the conditions present at the time.

I further certify that I am neither attorney or counsel for, nor related to or employed by any of the parties to the action; and further, that I am not a relative or employee of any attorney or counsel employed in this case, nor am I financially interested in this action.



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