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STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**CERTIFIED  
ORIGINAL TRANSCRIPT**

October 22, 2018 - 11:14 a.m.  
Concord, New Hampshire

**RE: DG 18-137**  
**LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH**  
**NATURAL GAS) CORP. d/b/a LIBERTY**  
**UTILITIES: Winter 2018/2019 Cost of**  
**Gas and Summer 2019 Cost of Gas**  
**(Hearing on the Merits)**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding  
Commissioner Kathryn M. Bailey  
Commissioner Michael S. Giaimo

Sandy Deno, Clerk

**APPEARANCES:** **Reptg. Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth**  
**Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty**  
**Utilities:**  
Michael J. Sheehan, Esq.

**Reptg. Residential Ratepayers:**  
D. Maurice Kreis, Esq., Consumer Adv.  
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Office of Consumer Advocate

**Reptg. PUC Staff:**  
Lynn Fabrizio, Esq.  
Paul Dexter, Esq.  
Al-Azad Iqbal

**Court Reporter:** Susan J. Robidas, NH LCR No. 44

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3 WITNESS PANEL: MARY E. CASEY  
4 DEBORAH M. GILBERTSON  
5 DAVID B. SIMEK  
6 CATHERINE A. McNAMARA  
7  
8

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Good morning,  
3 everyone. Please be seated. We are here in  
4 Docket DG 18-137, which is Liberty Utilities  
5 (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Winter Cost of Gas  
6 proceeding. Before we do anything else,  
7 let's take appearances.

8 MR. SHEEHAN: Good morning,  
9 Commissioners. Mike Sheehan for Liberty  
10 Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas).

11 MR. KREIS: Good morning, Mr.  
12 Chairman, Commissioners. D. Maurice Kreis,  
13 the Consumer Advocate, here on behalf of  
14 residential utility customers. The  
15 distinguished gentleman to my left is Pradip  
16 Chattopadhyay, who is the able Assistant  
17 Consumer Advocate.

18 MS. FABRIZIO: Good morning, Mr.  
19 Chairman, Commissioners. Lynn Fabrizio, on  
20 behalf of Staff. And with me today are  
21 utility analyst, Iqbal Al-Azad, and  
22 co-counsel, Paul Dexter.

23 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right, Mr.  
24 Sheehan. I see witnesses are prepositioned.

1 We have a slew of exhibits up here on the  
2 table. What do I need to know before we  
3 proceed?

4 MR. SHEEHAN: Sure. First,  
5 clarification to your opening statement.  
6 This is both the winter and summer cost of  
7 gas in our yearly. The second, on  
8 confidentiality, just to put on the record,  
9 we have filed a confidential version of the  
10 initial filing, and we assert confidentiality  
11 under PUC 201.04(a)(5) and 201.06(a)(11). It  
12 does not require Commission action. It's  
13 just presumed confidential until someone  
14 requests them.

15 We have marked as Exhibit 1 the  
16 confidential version of the original filing;  
17 2, the redacted version of the original  
18 filing; Exhibit 3 would be the amended  
19 technical statement filed October 9. And the  
20 only difference between the amended technical  
21 statement and the original is we neglected to  
22 add the attachment. So the original  
23 amended -- the original technical statement  
24 of October 5 can be disregarded in the docket

1 book, but the October 9th amended with  
2 attachment that will be Exhibit 3. And then  
3 I have Exhibits 4 through 9 that I will walk  
4 through with Mr. Simek. He will give a brief  
5 description of each and we can take you  
6 through there.

7 (The documents, as described, were  
8 marked as Exhibits 1 through 9 for  
9 identification.)

10 MR. SHEEHAN: Briefly, the  
11 exhibits -- cost of gas rate as filed --  
12 proposed cost of gas rate as filed has not  
13 changed. The exhibits that we will walk  
14 through incorporate LDAC changes arising out  
15 of 17-048 through Friday's discussion, and  
16 final rates, including changes to  
17 distribution rates arising out of 17-048 that  
18 we proposed to put in effect on November 1.  
19 And we'll walk through with the witnesses  
20 those numbers and the exhibits that support  
21 them.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Anything else  
23 before we have the witnesses sworn in?

24 All right. Sue, would you take

1 care of that, please.

2 (WHEREUPON, MARY E. CASEY, DEBORAH M.  
3 GILBERTSON, DAVID B. SIMEK, CATHERINE A.  
4 McNAMARA were duly sworn and cautioned by  
5 the Court Reporter.)

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Sheehan.

7 MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you.

8 DIRECT EXAMINATION

9 BY MR. SHEEHAN:

10 Q. I will take you left to right.

11 Ms. Casey, please introduce yourself and  
12 your position with the Company.

13 A. (Casey) My name is Mary Casey. I'm the  
14 senior manager of environment for Liberty  
15 Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas).

16 Q. And did you prepare testimony that was filed  
17 in this docket?

18 A. (Casey) I did.

19 MR. SHEEHAN: And for the record,  
20 it appears as part of Exhibits 1 and 2 at  
21 Bates 037.

22 BY MR. SHEEHAN:

23 Q. Do you have any changes to your testimony?

24 A. (Casey) Not at this time.

1 Q. And do you adopt your written testimony as  
2 your sworn testimony here today?

3 A. (Casey) Yes, I do.

4 Q. Ms. Gilbertson, same questions. Your name  
5 and position with the Company, please.

6 A. (Gilbertson) My name is Deborah Gilbertson.  
7 I'm senior manager of energy procurement for  
8 Liberty Utilities.

9 Q. And you also filed a separate piece of  
10 testimony in this docket; is that correct?

11 A. (Gilbertson) Yes, I did.

12 MR. SHEEHAN: And for the record,  
13 that appears at Bates 021.

14 BY MR. SHEEHAN:

15 Q. Do you have any changes to your testimony?

16 A. (Gilbertson) Yes, I do. On Bates Page 034,  
17 Line 9 -- this is for the off-peak design  
18 period -- the number of 19,368,472 needs to  
19 be stricken and the number 17,220,159 therms  
20 should be in its place.

21 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Can you repeat  
22 the number, please?

23 A. (Gilbertson) 17,220,159 therms is what should  
24 be there. And on Line 11, the word "lower"



1           should be stricken, and the word "higher"  
2           should be put in place.

3    Q.    Does that change on Line 9 affect anything  
4           else in your testimony or schedules?

5    A.    (Gilbertson) No, it does not.

6    Q.    Can you just explain what that change is?

7    A.    (Gilbertson) It is the off-peak portfolio  
8           volumes for design weather. There was just a  
9           mistake made. It has no effect on the cost  
10          of gas.

11   Q.    Including that change, do you adopt your  
12          prefiled testimony as your sworn testimony  
13          here today?

14   A.    (Gilbertson) Yes.

15   Q.    Jump to Ms. McNamara because I will be  
16          spending a little time with Mr. Simek.

17                 Could you identify yourself, please, and  
18          your position with the Company.

19   A.    (McNamara) Catherine McNamara. I'm a rates  
20          analyst for rates and regulatory affairs.

21   Q.    And did you prepare with Mr. Simek testimony  
22          that was filed in this case?

23   A.    (McNamara) Yes, I did.

24   Q.    And that appears beginning at Bates Page 001.

1           Do you have any changes to your portion  
2           or the portion of the testimony for which you  
3           are responsible?

4    A.    (McNamara) No, I do not.

5    Q.    And do you adopt that testimony as your sworn  
6           testimony here today?

7    A.    (McNamara) Yes, I do.

8    Q.    Thank you.

9           Mr. Simek, your name and position with  
10          the Company.

11                           WITNESS SIMEK:

12   A.    (Simek) David Simek, manager of rates and  
13          regulatory affairs.

14   Q.    And you also with Ms. McNamara prepared that  
15          portion of Exhibit 1, beginning at Page 1;  
16          correct?

17   A.    (Simek) Correct.

18   Q.    And aside from the changes that we will talk  
19          about flowing from -- well, strike that.

20                   Did you also prepare a technical  
21          statement that we've marked as Exhibit 3?

22   A.    (Simek) Yes.

23   Q.    And putting aside the changes that we will  
24          talk about that are arising from the rate

1 case, 17-048, which I understand changed the  
2 LDAC and changed distribution rates, do you  
3 have any other changes to your testimony?

4 A. (Simek) I do not.

5 Q. Okay. And you adopt your testimony as your  
6 sworn testimony here today?

7 A. (Simek) I do.

8 Q. So I'm going to walk through with you, Mr.  
9 Simek, the exhibits, beginning with the  
10 technical statement, through Exhibit 9. And  
11 just give us a high-level description of what  
12 each of them show.

13 A. (Simek) Sure.

14 Q. So the purpose of filing the technical  
15 statement was what?

16 A. (Simek) The Company had discovered that there  
17 was a portion of energy efficiency LDAC that  
18 was counted twice in our calculation for  
19 this, for this period. So we went back and  
20 removed the double count and went ahead and  
21 calculated what the energy efficiency rate  
22 should be.

23 Q. And the numbers we'll be talking about for  
24 the rest of today include that change.

1 A. (Simek) Correct.

2 Q. Okay. Let's turn to Exhibit 4, which on the  
3 top left says "NHPUC No. 10 - Gas"; correct?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. "First Revised Page 97."

6 A. (Simek) Correct.

7 Q. What is the purpose of this document?

8 A. (Simek) No. 4, or Exhibit 4, sorry, is a  
9 summary of what the LDAC charges are. And  
10 this is taking into account not only the  
11 adjustment that was made to the technical  
12 statement in Exhibit 3, but also all LDAC  
13 changes that are accounted for in 17-048, as  
14 of changes through Friday of last week.

15 Q. And this includes the LDAC for all the  
16 various customer classes?

17 A. (Simek) Correct.

18 Q. Turning to Exhibit 5, what is that?

19 A. (Simek) So, Exhibit 5 and Exhibit 6 are the  
20 backup to the calculations of changes that  
21 happened for the LDAC for 17-048 that are  
22 included in the summary in Exhibit 4.

23 Q. Going back to Exhibit 4, is there a companion  
24 version of that in the original filing?

1 A. (Simek) Could you repeat that, please?

2 Q. Exhibit 4, Proposed First Revised Page 97,  
3 was an earlier version of that included in  
4 the original filing?

5 A. (Simek) Correct. Yes.

6 Q. So this supercedes that.

7 A. (Simek) Correct.

8 Q. Same with Exhibits 5 and 6? Are there  
9 companion versions in the original filing?

10 A. (Simek) Yes, these would supersede the  
11 original filing.

12 Q. Turning now to what's been marked as  
13 Exhibit 7, which is a five-page document,  
14 what is this?

15 A. (Simek) Exhibit 7 is the updated -- I'm  
16 sorry. Excuse me. Exhibit 7 is the updated  
17 revenue per customer, which would be used as  
18 the base for the decoupling mechanism going  
19 forward that will be part of the  
20 reconciliation in November 1st, 2019.

21 Q. So, Exhibit 7 plays no role in the rates that  
22 we're asking the Commission to set today.

23 A. (Simek) Correct.

24 Q. I think in a prior hearing it was sort of the

1 benchmark or starting point to do the future  
2 decoupling adjustment; is that correct?

3 A. (Simek) Yes, it is.

4 Q. And the purpose for filing it today was  
5 simply to put this number on the record, have  
6 it subject to review at this stage, knowing  
7 full well we'll come back to it next year.

8 A. (Simek) Correct, and to set the precedence  
9 that going forward this benchmark will be  
10 included within the cost of gas filing.

11 Q. So what we're looking at as Exhibit 7 will  
12 become a routine part of the future cost of  
13 gas filings.

14 A. (Simek) Correct.

15 Q. And what is Exhibit 8?

16 A. (Simek) Exhibit 8 shows both the winter  
17 period and summer period rates that the  
18 Company has proposed -- well, for the winter  
19 period, that the Company has proposed will be  
20 effective November 1, which takes into  
21 account the cost of gas in this proceeding;  
22 all LDAC changes, including the technical  
23 statement from this proceeding; and the LDAC  
24 changes that were through Friday of DG

1 17-048, and the distribution changes as of  
2 Friday for DG 17-048. And then for the  
3 summer period it's the same thing, with an  
4 effective date of May 1st.

5 Q. And at the end of this proceeding, is it  
6 correct that the Company's asking the  
7 Commission approve the rates that essentially  
8 appear on Exhibit 8 --

9 A. (Simek) Correct.

10 Q. -- for November 1, 2018?

11 A. (Simek) Correct.

12 Q. And last, tell us what Exhibit 9 is.

13 A. (Simek) Exhibit 9 is the residential heating  
14 customer rate comparison with all these new  
15 proposed rates combining both DG 17-048 and  
16 this proceeding. And it's a comparison for  
17 November '18 through April '19, compared to  
18 last year, November '17 through April '18  
19 actuals. And then on the right side of the  
20 exhibit is for the summer period, May '19  
21 through October '19 proposed, comparing the  
22 bill difference for actuals from May '18  
23 through October of '18.

24 Q. So this shows the difference between the

1 proposed rates, starting November 1 for the  
2 next year, compared to the actual rates  
3 ending November 1 of this year.

4 A. (Simek) Correct.

5 Q. Can you tell me what the -- either for you or  
6 Ms. McNamara -- what the proposed cost of gas  
7 rates are for the period beginning  
8 November 1, 2018?

9 A. (Simek) Yes. The proposed --

10 Q. And where can we find that? Where are you  
11 reading from?

12 A. (Simek) One place we can find it is on  
13 Exhibit 8. And it's in the Winter portion,  
14 and it has the Cost of Gas Rate column. And  
15 for the Residential rate, it's 0.7411 per  
16 therm.

17 Q. And you go down that same column to pick up  
18 the cost of gas rates for the other customer  
19 classes.

20 A. (Simek) Correct. For the high winter use  
21 customers, the ones in the G-40 class, it's  
22 0.7403 per therm. For the low winter use  
23 customers in the G-50 class, it's 0.7456 per  
24 therm.



1           And then we're also asking the  
2           Commission to approve the rates for May 1st  
3           for the summer, which are in the Cost of Gas  
4           Rate column under the Summer period, which  
5           has the Residential of 0.4445 per therm, and  
6           the G-40 class is 0.4417 per therm, and the  
7           G-50 class at 0.4506 per therm.

8    Q.    And can you compare that customer -- or cost  
9           of gas rate for residential customers of  
10           0.7411 to either last year's proposed or last  
11           year's actual, whichever is the appropriate  
12           comparison?

13   A.    (Simek) Yes. That's on Exhibit 9. So if we  
14           look at Exhibit 9 and we look at the left  
15           side of the page, that's the Winter  
16           comparison, with the top parts being the  
17           proposed rates. And you can see about  
18           halfway through, that's where the 0.7411 is.  
19           And I just want to state that that 0.7411 is  
20           for the non-FPO. The proposed FPO rate is 2  
21           cents higher, at 0.7611.

22           But regardless, that 0.7411 compares to  
23           the same spot on the box below which, in  
24           November, the beginning rate was 0.6445. And

1           then we have actuals going out for the  
2           remainder -- well, for all those months,  
3           which came out to a weighted average of  
4           0.7321. So I guess the comparison between  
5           our proposed November '18 of 0.7411 per therm  
6           compared to the actual weighted average of  
7           last winter of 0.7321, that difference looks  
8           like it's about \$5 over a full winter. And  
9           you can see that right below it shows for the  
10          proposed of \$470.98 compared to the \$465.28.

11        Q.    You mentioned the FPO rate is 2 cents higher  
12            than the .74 figure?

13        A.    (Simek) Correct.

14        Q.    Do you have information on the participation  
15            in the FPO program yet?

16        A.    (Simek) We do. So, I do have some  
17            information. We have that -- oh, I'm sorry.  
18            Give me one second, please.

19                       (Witness reviews document.)

20        A.    (Simek) Okay. So the enrollment letters for  
21            FPO program were mailed out on  
22            September 18th, and enrollment ended on  
23            October 18th. So they needed to be  
24            postmarked October 18. The response to date

1 has been 8,846, but we still of course have  
2 some to process from now until November 1st.  
3 And this compares to last year, as we had  
4 approximately 10,000 last year. So with this  
5 being year to date 8,846, and we still have  
6 several to process, we're assuming we're  
7 going to end up around the same level.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 MR. SHEEHAN: I think that's all I  
10 have.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Kreis.

12 MR. KREIS: I think I just have a  
13 couple of questions. My microphone is on; is  
14 it not?

15 CROSS-EXAMINATION

16 BY MR. KREIS:

17 Q. I'm looking at Ms. Gilbertson's testimony, so  
18 I guess my questions are for her.

19 On Page 7 of your testimony, which is  
20 Bates Page 29 for the record, and I believe  
21 I'm talking about Exhibit 1, you mention down  
22 on Line 16 and 17 that the Company contracted  
23 with ENGIE, which was formerly known as  
24 Distrigas --

1                   CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Off the  
2                   record.

3                   (Discussion off the record.)

4 BY MR. KREIS:

5 Q.    Okay. Ms. Gilbertson, at Line 17, you  
6           mention the ENGIE facility, formerly known as  
7           Distrigas, as a source of combination  
8           liquid/vapor service. Could you comment on  
9           what would happen if the Distrigas facility  
10          were no longer available to you?

11 A.    (Gilbertson) Well, we do have other options.  
12          They're not close by. If Distrigas went  
13          away, I think that the Company would feel it,  
14          as would any other LDC in the Northeast. We  
15          all depend somewhat on Distrigas, given the  
16          proximity that it's only in Everett. But  
17          there are other vendors that, when we solicit  
18          bids for -- it isn't just ENGIE. We have --  
19          there's a few others.

20 Q.    Are you concerned about the possible loss of  
21          that facility?

22 A.    (Gilbertson) I think everyone's concerned  
23          about the possible loss of that facility.

24 Q.    Thank you. But I guess what I'm really

1           trying to figure out is how much of a threat  
2           you regard that as.

3    A.   (Gilbertson) Well, we did meet with  
4           Constellation just a couple weeks ago,  
5           actually, and they clearly intend to honor  
6           any commitment they have with us for the next  
7           few years, anyways.  And that's really all I  
8           know.

9    Q.   And just to close that particular loop,  
10           having raised this particular subject, you  
11           just mentioned Constellation.  What's their  
12           role?

13   A.   (Gilbertson) They purchased Distrigas, or  
14           ENGIE.

15   Q.   At least they purchased the Distrigas  
16           facility --

17   A.   Correct.

18   Q.   -- not ENGIE.

19   A.   Correct.

20   Q.   Looking at Bates Page 33, which is Page 11 of  
21           Ms. Gilbertson's testimony, at the very end  
22           of that page you said, and this is at Lines  
23           19, 20 and 21, that the results of a  
24           comprehensive forecast review concluded that

1 certain customer additions forecasted for the  
2 2017-2018 plan year were being  
3 double-counted. How big of a double count  
4 was there?

5 A. (Gilbertson) There were about 300 customers.  
6 This was a result of Concord Steam, the  
7 customers behind Concord Steam and the  
8 expectation for the Windham/Pelham expansion.  
9 So about 300 customers.

10 MR. KREIS: I think those are the  
11 only questions I have.

12 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Ms. Fabrizio.

13 MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you, Mr.  
14 Chairman. I have a number of questions that  
15 are really aimed at clarifying the record,  
16 just to make sure we're all on the same page.

17 CROSS-EXAMINATION

18 BY MS. FABRIZIO:

19 Q. Now, we've heard and walked through Exhibit 8  
20 preliminarily. These are the rates that the  
21 Company is asking the Commission to approve;  
22 is that correct?

23 A. (Simek) Yes, it is.

24 Q. And we also heard, Mr. Simek, you spoke about

1 the fixed price option that is also up for  
2 approval.

3 A. (Simek) Yes, it is.

4 Q. Are there any other rates that the Company is  
5 asking the Commission to approve?

6 A. (Simek) Within this hearing, we asked for  
7 both LDAC and the cost of gas to be approved.  
8 And they're both included on this exhibit.

9 Q. And can I refer you to revised Page 147 in  
10 the Schedule of Administrative Fees and  
11 Charges. Are we -- are you seeking approval  
12 of changes in those fees and charges as well?

13 A. (Simek) I'm sorry. I'm not sure what page  
14 you're referring to.

15 Q. Bates Page 56 at the bottom.

16 (Witness reviews document.)

17 Q. It's labeled "Attachment B, Schedule of  
18 Administrative Fees and Charges."

19 (Witness reviews document.)

20 A. (Simek) Yes. I'm sorry. We're also asking  
21 for approval of those rates as well.

22 Q. Great. Thank you.

23 Now, you also discussed comparison of  
24 the winter and summer cost of gas rates that

1 we're looking at today and how this compared  
2 to last year. Could you point out or just  
3 sort of sum up the main reasons for these  
4 changes.

5 A. (Simek) If you look at -- I'm sorry. If you  
6 look at Exhibit 9, and again, when we were  
7 looking at the weighted average residential  
8 cost of gas rate as actuals for last winter  
9 compared to the proposed rate of this winter,  
10 it was only about a \$5 difference for the  
11 full winter. One thing I -- that difference  
12 has to do with the \$470 that's under the  
13 proposed rate, the \$470.98 around the middle  
14 of the first box towards the last column,  
15 compared to the same spot on the middle box  
16 for the weighted average actual. And one  
17 thing I -- so, again, our proposed rate is  
18 fairly close to what the weighted average  
19 weight ended up being for the cost of gas for  
20 last winter.

21 But also, one thing I just want to point  
22 out is a lot of it has to do with timing.  
23 And if you can see under the Residential  
24 Heating Rate, cost of gas for last winter



1           started at 0.6445, and for three months we  
2           stayed consistent at that rate. A lot of  
3           that has to do with the timing of when  
4           actuals come in and when we receive true  
5           signals of what's going on in the market.  
6           We're already about a month or two behind.  
7           And then when we started really getting  
8           everything, we had to jump the rate all the  
9           way up to the maximum of 0.8056, because our  
10          calculations, once we started receiving  
11          actuals, put us over the 25 percent increase  
12          from last winter, and so we kept it at the  
13          cap for the remaining three months. So,  
14          although the dollar amount really isn't that  
15          big of a difference between this winter and  
16          last winter, I believe that this just shows  
17          that there is a -- part of the way that our  
18          recovery mechanism is set up, there is a  
19          timing issue here that is really out of the  
20          Company's control.

21        Q.    Thank you.

22        A.    You're welcome.

23        Q.    Okay. What is the total anticipated capacity  
24              exempt forecast for this winter, and what is

1 the amount of the capacity exempt load  
2 expected to switch to firm sales service this  
3 winter?

4 A. (Gilbertson) The capacity exempt load is  
5 anticipated to be just what it was last year,  
6 which is about 1.2 million decatherms, or  
7 12 million therms over the course of the  
8 winter. And the expectation is that none of  
9 them will return to sales, and that's because  
10 it's a very stable program. And last year we  
11 had just one customer return, and that was  
12 because that customer went out of business  
13 and the new customer that took over the  
14 building went to sales. So the anticipation  
15 would be none will return. It's been very  
16 flat for years.

17 Q. Okay. Thank you.

18 I wanted to turn to Bates Page 33 in the  
19 original filing. This is a language  
20 clarification question.

21 On Line 15, could you read that  
22 sentence, please? I think that is Ms.  
23 Gilbertson.

24 A. (Gilbertson) Yes, Line 15. "The decline in

1 the sales forecast in general reflects the  
2 impact of increased sales due to customer  
3 growth, the inclusion of volumes from iNATGAS  
4 compressed natural gas facility and  
5 modifications which were made to the demand  
6 forecast as part of its comprehensive  
7 forecast review in two filings before the  
8 Commission: Docket DG 17-152 and Docket No.  
9 DG 17-198." It's a run-on sentence as I'm  
10 reading it.

11 Q. That's why I'm just asking for clarification  
12 for the record.

13 And the first line is the decline in the  
14 sales forecast reflects an impact in  
15 increased sales. Could you explain that  
16 language?

17 A. (Gilbertson) Right. So, over the last year  
18 the Company anticipated a 2 percent growth in  
19 its sales forecast, as well as the inclusion  
20 of iNATGAS. And because of a question that  
21 was posed at a tech conference in May, the  
22 Company had pretty much an audit performed on  
23 our demand forecast to really take a hard  
24 look at the sales and marketing forecast, and

1           that's when we discovered that there were  
2           approximately 300 customers that were  
3           double-counted. And those customers were  
4           from Concord Steam and the Windham/Pelham  
5           expansion.

6    Q.    And following up on that, how did you  
7           forecast for the iNATGAS, given the nature of  
8           its usage last year?

9    A.    (Gilbertson) Last year they burned  
10           approximately a hundred -- well, they burned  
11           121,514 decatherms last winter, and this year  
12           we have 300,000 forecasted for their usage  
13           because they have a contract with us which  
14           states that they have to pay for 300,000,  
15           whether they use it or not. And given that  
16           they did use gas last year, the expectation  
17           will be that they will use gas again this  
18           year. And that 300 equates to about  
19           2.3 percent of the overall forecast for the  
20           winter -- I mean for the year.

21   Q.    Okay. Let's see. Here's a more general  
22           question: How has your portfolio changed  
23           compared to last year?

24   A.    (Gilbertson) Well, we've added a new supply

1 path with a new contract -- a new path from  
2 Dawn, Ontario to Dracut via Union and  
3 TransCanada pipelines which connect to  
4 Portland Natural Gas Pipeline. This will  
5 allow us to purchase gas at the Dawn price  
6 point as opposed to the Dracut price point.  
7 The Dawn price is much less volatile, and  
8 it's much less expensive. The Dracut price  
9 point is very volatile and can get very  
10 expensive in the winter period. So this  
11 allows us some flexibility on purchasing. It  
12 does not allow us more entitlement at the  
13 gate, but it does give us the ability to  
14 purchase at a cheaper price point.

15 Q. Thank you.

16 Ms. Gilbertson, on Bates Page 30, you  
17 referred to "seven-day storage." Could you  
18 just explain what that refers to, the  
19 "seven-day storage requirement"?

20 A. (Gilbertson) Yes. The seven-day storage  
21 requirement is a PUC on-site storage rule  
22 that we need to follow. And it's PUC. 03  
23 [sic]. And the requirement mandates that we  
24 have to have enough supplemental supply on

1 hand, a hundred percent of our supplemental  
2 supply to meet a seven-day cold snap.

3 Q. Thank you. And did this seven-day storage  
4 requirement change this year compared to last  
5 year?

6 A. (Gilbertson) Yes, it did. What the Company  
7 does is they do a 30-year look-back on  
8 weather patterns. And up until just last  
9 winter, that weather pattern that we were  
10 modeling was in January of 2004. But last  
11 year, with the unprecedented cold that we  
12 experienced from December 27th through  
13 January, I think 4th or 5th, we have to model  
14 a new weather pattern for our supplemental  
15 requirement.

16 Q. Thank you.

17 Okay. On Schedule 7, Bates Page 94 for  
18 winter and Bates Page 223 for summer, this  
19 calculates the average Nymex futures prices  
20 for the winter months based on a 15-day  
21 average used forecast commodity cost for the  
22 upcoming winter. How do those prices compare  
23 to the most recent Nymex future prices for  
24 the winter months?

1 A. (Simek) Based on the October 18th close, the  
2 current Nymex prices are 5.36 percent higher  
3 than the winter strip. I did not run it for  
4 the summer strip.

5 Q. And if the Company were to use those more  
6 recent prices, how would that impact the cost  
7 of gas rate?

8 A. (Simek) The cost of gas rate for all three  
9 classes would go up 1.7 percent if that was  
10 the only change that we made.

11 Q. Thank you.

12 A. (Simek) You're welcome.

13 Q. And do the proposed maximum rates that you've  
14 provided allow enough flexibility to absorb  
15 this change and other normal price  
16 fluctuations through monthly rate adjustments  
17 without adjusting the rate at this time?

18 A. (Gilbertson) Are you asking if the 25 percent  
19 cap over the proposed rates is sufficient?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. (Gilbertson) Recently the National Weather  
22 Service came out with their prediction for  
23 the weather for the next winter, and they are  
24 proposing normal to above average

1           temperatures for the winter. So if that is  
2           the case, likely the prices will be moderate.  
3           But we can't say for sure. Likely it would  
4           be enough.

5    Q.   All right. Thank you. Okay. I think it's  
6           time to turn to Ms. Casey.

7                    Could you please provide a brief account  
8           of changes in environmental remediation that  
9           the Company is undertaking compared to last  
10          year.

11   A.   (Casey) This year we had some activity in  
12          Manchester. There were actual direct  
13          remediations that were done on four or five  
14          different underground structures that we had  
15          to empty materials from to keep from getting  
16          into the groundwater. So the costs incurred  
17          at Manchester reflect that and the disposal  
18          of those materials. We expect to remove this  
19          year, which will be apparent in next year's  
20          case cost of gas hearing, another, one more  
21          structure.

22                   We also, this year, reflected by the  
23          numbers that I've presented in this  
24          testimony, we installed three new groundwater



1 monitoring wells and an extraction well. So  
2 most of my active remediations have occurred  
3 in Manchester, as reflected by the numbers.

4 There's also been activity with the  
5 Concord Pond site, in that we have been  
6 working on the design ongoing. We've been  
7 working with the city and the New Hampshire  
8 Department of Transportation for access  
9 because that site does not belong to us.  
10 It's the site where contaminants were  
11 deposited from the Concord holder site across  
12 the road. So we're actively pursuing design  
13 on that, and we're finally making some  
14 headway, looking forward to doing that  
15 remediation in year 2020 during the dry  
16 season, August, September.

17 Q. Thank you. And what were the total  
18 environmental remediation costs for the year  
19 ending June 30th, 2018?

20 A. (Casey) \$591,321.

21 Q. And where in the record would we find that?

22 A. (Simek) That's on Bates Page 158.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 Now, on Bates Page 14 of the initial

1 filing, Line 10 refers to "third-party  
2 recoveries" with respect to the environmental  
3 surcharge. What does that refer to  
4 specifically?

5 A. (Casey) Those are cost-sharing agreements  
6 that we have with other utilities that were  
7 found to be cooperators of the manufactured  
8 gas plant sites. I have cost-sharing  
9 agreements for the Concord sites, the Concord  
10 Pond and the MGP site. I have a cost-sharing  
11 agreement with another utility for  
12 Manchester, and I have a cost-sharing  
13 agreement for the Nashua manufactured gas  
14 plant sites. So each quarter I bill them  
15 based on the invoices I've paid through the  
16 Company to the agreed-upon percentage in the  
17 cost-sharing agreement.

18 Q. And that's removed from the ultimate cost?

19 A. (Casey) Yeah, the number that I'm reporting  
20 are a net of.

21 Q. Great. And I think related to that on  
22 Bates 43 in your testimony, Ms. Casey, you  
23 refer -- you state on Line 11 that insurance  
24 recovery efforts are complete with respect to

1 all of the Company's former MGP sites. Could  
2 you elaborate on that statement.

3 A. (Casey) I will, yes. In the '90s, I believe  
4 it was the late '90s, when EnergyNorth went  
5 to a bunch of insurance hearings that were  
6 investigating who was responsible for the  
7 operation and cooperation of these  
8 manufactured gas plant facilities, we did  
9 have settlements, lump sum settlements in  
10 those days, and they've already been accrued.

11 Q. And were any of those recoupments gained in  
12 the past year? Are they reflected in the  
13 cost --

14 A. No, that's all --

15 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

16 Q. -- costs that we're looking at today?

17 A. (Casey) They are not.

18 Q. Great. Thank you.

19 MS. FABRIZIO: I have no further  
20 questions.

21 INTERROGATORIES BY COMMISSIONERS:

22 BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY:

23 Q. Could we go back to Bates Page 33 and follow  
24 up on a question that Ms. Fabrizio asked you

1           that I didn't understand the answer to.

2                       Line 15, the sentence says the decline  
3           in the sales forecast reflects increases.

4   A.   (Gilbertson) Well, it's a combination of  
5           increased sales of 2 percent and then the  
6           inclusion of iNatGas and then the  
7           modifications that they made, which were  
8           about 6 percent, that decreased. So, all in  
9           all, the forecast actually this year is  
10          2 percent lower than it was last year.

11   Q.   And basically that's because of the  
12          modifications in the demand forecast from  
13          17-152 and 17-198 --

14   A.   (Gilbertson) Yes.

15                       (Court Reporter interrupts.)

16   Q.   From 17-152 and 17-198.

17   A.   Yes.

18   Q.   Okay. Thank you.

19                       CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And just to  
20          close the loop, it's because those decreases  
21          are larger than the increases that are  
22          described in the first two clauses of the  
23          long sentence.

24                       WITNESS GILBERTSON: Correct.

1 BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY:

2 Q. Did iNatGas meet its threshold last year?

3 A. (Gilbertson) No.

4 Q. But they paid?

5 A. (Gilbertson) They did.

6 Q. Because they had a one-time "get out of jail  
7 free card." Did they use that the year  
8 before where --

9 A. (Gilbertson) I don't know. I know that we --  
10 last year we didn't have them included  
11 because they hadn't burned the year before or  
12 the year before that. So I'm not sure when  
13 the "get out of jail free card" came to play.  
14 But my understanding is that they've been  
15 paying the 300,000 at least last year and  
16 plan to this year, too.

17 Q. Okay. So they used 121,000 and they paid for  
18 300,000.

19 A. (Gilbertson) Correct.

20 Q. Okay. Thanks.

21 Do you know, can you tell me what  
22 percentage of your supply you get from  
23 Distrigas, from Dawn, and from Dracut?

24 A. (Gilbertson) Dracut is almost 50 percent of

1 the portfolio. Probably more. It's 50,000  
2 decatherms at Dracut. And the pipeline  
3 altogether is 79,000.

4 Q. Which pipeline? The pipeline from Dracut?

5 A. (Gilbertson) From Tennessee. Our  
6 entitlements.

7 Q. Okay.

8 A. (Gilbertson) Our entitlements for strictly  
9 pipeline from the Gulf and from Dracut is  
10 about 79,000, 50,000 of which is located in  
11 Dracut. So a big portion of our pipeline is  
12 at a price point that is very expensive.

13 Q. I get that. That's why I'm asking the  
14 question.

15 A. (Gilbertson) Yes.

16 Q. Okay. How much do you get from Dawn? Or how  
17 much can you get from Dawn? Because that's  
18 coming up a different route; right?

19 A. (Gilbertson) We get, on our existing Canadian  
20 contract, we get 4,000. That's the contract  
21 that goes Union, TransCanada to Iroquois,  
22 where we pick up on the U.S. border 4,000.  
23 And then this new one, this new path is going  
24 to be Union, TransCanada to Portland. It's

1           phased in over five years. It's supposed to  
2           be 5,000 at the end of the three years. Did  
3           I say five years? I mean three years. Three  
4           years, 5,000. This year, Phase 1, it's 1855  
5           is what we can get. Next year, I'm not sure  
6           what it is. But by the end the third year it  
7           should be 5,000.

8                         COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Go ahead.

9                         COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Just to  
10           clarify, so what comes in through Portland  
11           does not get delivered to Dracut?

12                        WITNESS GILBERTSON: It will get  
13           delivered to Dracut. Yes, it will. It will  
14           go from Union, TransCanada to Portland, and  
15           then to Dracut, the new contract.

16                        COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: The new  
17           contract will still be delivered to Dracut.

18                        WITNESS GILBERTSON: Yes.

19                        COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: But the price  
20           point will be at Dawn.

21                        WITNESS GILBERTSON: Correct.

22                        COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Thus avoiding  
23           the premiums or the volatility associated  
24           with Dracut.

1 WITNESS GILBERTSON: Correct.

2 COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Thank you.

3 BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY:

4 Q. But only for 10 percent of what you normally  
5 get at Dracut.

6 A. (Gilbertson) Right.

7 Q. Can you increase that capacity or -- go  
8 ahead.

9 A. (Gilbertson) They have open seasons with this  
10 is what we could get, how much we could get.  
11 And as I said, it's going to be a -- it's  
12 phased in over three years. I don't even  
13 think the pipeline is built yet for the full  
14 expansion of it.

15 COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Is this a  
16 different project that's colloquially  
17 referred to as the "Sea to Sea Project"? It  
18 may be a different project. I'm asking.

19 WITNESS GILBERTSON: I'm thinking  
20 no. I think this is the Portland Xpress  
21 Project.

22 BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY:

23 Q. And how much do you get from Distrigas?

24 A. (Gilbertson) Distrigas, with the combination



1 package, we can get either 7,000 trucked or  
2 7,000 vapor. So six is guaranteed. The  
3 seven -- the extra is if they can do it.

4 Q. Okay. Say that again. You said 7,000  
5 trucked.

6 A. (Gilbertson) It's 7,000 per day. Either we  
7 can take it by truck or we can take it by  
8 pipe.

9 Q. Oh, either/or.

10 A. (Gilbertson) Either/or. Correct. But if I  
11 take it by pipe, they don't guarantee the  
12 extra thousand. But you could get it  
13 trucked. So, in other words, 7,000 a day.

14 Q. Okay. So you can get 6,000 by pipe and a  
15 1,000 by truck.

16 A. (Gilbertson) Correct.

17 Q. All right. Six thousand by pipe --

18 A. (Gilbertson) Correct.

19 Q. -- and an additional thousand by truck --

20 A. (Gilbertson) Correct.

21 Q. -- or 7,000 trucked --

22 A. (Gilbertson) Correct.

23 Q. -- every day.

24 A. (Gilbertson) Yes.

1 Q. Okay. How often do you need that?

2 A. (Gilbertson) Like all the time. It's fairly  
3 reasonably priced. We typically -- anything  
4 that we use out of the facility has to be put  
5 right back in out of the three tanks that we  
6 have. The tanks only hold 12,400, the three  
7 tanks. It's not a lot. So we're constantly,  
8 as we're, you know, vaporizing out of the  
9 tanks, we're trucking it right back in.

10 Q. Okay. Mr. Simek, what was the summer rate  
11 based on?

12 A. (Simek) The summer cost of gas rate that  
13 we're proposing in this filing?

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. (Simek) It was based on the future look at  
16 the time we did the filing, based on our  
17 existing over/under balance that we have on  
18 the books for the summer period, and then we  
19 just plug everything into the model. And the  
20 outcome that we got was the 0.4445 per therm  
21 proposal for the residential customer.

22 Q. Okay. And if the Nymex prices go down over  
23 the next six months, you have the authority  
24 to decrease that rate to only collect what

1           you think you need to collect.

2       A.     (Simek) Correct.

3       Q.     Okay. All right. I want to go to Exhibit 8,  
4           I think it is. No, it's the exhibit that  
5           shows the revenue per customer calculation.

6       A.     (Simek) Okay. I believe that's 7.

7       Q.     No. 7. I'll put my glasses on so I can read  
8           it. Can you walk me through that, please.  
9           Actually, what I want to understand is what  
10          the benchmark base revenue per customer that  
11          you're going to use in next year's filing is,  
12          based on this exhibit.

13      A.     (Simek) Sure. If you look at Page 5 of 5,  
14          the last page --

15      Q.     Okay.

16      A.     (Simek) -- for the total residential line  
17          that's bolded there, the third line -- or the  
18          fourth line down, and then the Total C/I one  
19          is bolded. Those will be what we're  
20          proposing to use for the base revenue per  
21          customer.

22      Q.     But that's not a revenue per customer.  
23          That's revenue for a customer group or --

24      A.     (Simek) Per customer group. Correct. And

1           then above that you can see the calculation  
2           per customer class.

3   Q.    Show me that.

4   A.    (Simek)The R-1 customer 26.012.

5   Q.    I see that number.  But don't you have to  
6           calculate -- in order to come up with the  
7           revenue decoupling adjustment factor, you  
8           calculate the actual compared to the base  
9           revenue per customer?

10  A.    (Simek)Correct.

11  Q.    But this is not per customer, is it?

12  A.    (Simek) For the R-3 customers, they would all  
13           have the same benchmark.

14  Q.    So let's use R-3.  For January, is that 88  
15           dollars and 80 point [sic] 1 cents --

16  A.    (Simek) Correct.

17  Q.    -- or is that \$88 --

18  A.    (Simek) No, no, it's \$88.

19  Q.    Oh, okay.  I couldn't tell if that was a  
20           period or --

21  A.    (Simek) I had the same issue at first.

22  Q.    Okay.  So in January, for an R-3 customer  
23           that's a residential heating customer, you  
24           would expect to collect \$88.80?

1 A. (Simek) In distribution revenue. Correct.

2 Q. In distribution revenue. And that's based on  
3 the fixed charge and the --

4 A. (Simek) Volumetric charge, yes.

5 Q. -- volumetric charge.

6 Can you tell me what the difference  
7 between the RDAC and the RDAF, R-D-A-F, is?

8 A. (Simek) Without having it in front of me, I  
9 believe RDAC is the -- I'd have to look at  
10 the formula. I have it on my -- I can just  
11 grab it if you'd like.

12 Q. That would be helpful if you can 'cause I  
13 don't --

14 MR. SHEEHAN: Want me to --

15 WITNESS SIMEK: I can grab it. I  
16 have it sitting right there.

17 (Pause)

18 A. (Simek) So the RDAF includes what would be  
19 the revenue decoupling adjustment plus the  
20 prior year over/under, I believe. And then  
21 we just divide that by the projected therms  
22 to come up with the factor.

23 Q. That's the factor?

24 A. (Simek) Yeah. And the other part of your

1 question was?

2 Q. What's the RDAC? What's the clause? How  
3 does the RDAF fit into the RDAC?

4 A. (Simek) Yeah, I understand your question now,  
5 I believe. It really references the clause  
6 and talks about the clause, but really the  
7 outcome is RDAF. Is that --

8 Q. So it's the same thing?

9 A. (Simek) Yeah, I believe so.

10 Q. So maybe we can get rid of the "clause."

11 A. (Simek) Okay. Yes.

12 Q. And the RDAF, the factor, would be included  
13 in the LDAC.

14 A. (Simek) Correct.

15 Q. Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Except I think  
17 for you guys the C in LDAC is "clause," isn't  
18 it? There's a charge that results from  
19 implementing the clause.

20 WITNESS SIMEK: It is the clause,  
21 yeah.

22 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We talked  
23 about this before.

24 WITNESS SIMEK: It is. But the

1 different factors that are made up within the  
2 LDAC are not all necessarily called a  
3 "clause." There's the --

4 BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY:

5 Q. But it all results in one charge.

6 A. (Simek) Correct. But I guess to your point,  
7 we could change it, I believe, to the RDAF  
8 for the revenue decoupling piece that will  
9 roll up to the LDAC because there would be no  
10 difference as the RLIAP for the residential  
11 low income or any of these, really. The  
12 conservation charge for EE, none of them  
13 you're using "clause" in their name, so --

14 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: You won't get  
15 any argument here. If you can clarify the  
16 language so that it linguistically makes  
17 sense, that would be a good thing.

18 WITNESS SIMEK: Okay.

19 BY COMMISSIONER BAILEY:

20 Q. So you have all these elements that add up to  
21 a charge.

22 A. (Simek) Correct.

23 Q. And you call it a "clause."

24 A. (Simek) Correct.

1 Q. Yeah, so if you could change that to  
2 "charge," we'd appreciate that, too. The  
3 RDAC could be "charge" instead of "clause."  
4 But that's, you know, another day, I guess.  
5 But...

6 A. (Simek) Yeah, we'll work on cleaning that all  
7 up.

8 Q. It's really confusing. Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: I think  
10 that's all I have. Thanks.

11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner  
12 Giaimo.

13 COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: I'm  
14 ill-prepared because I thought Commissioner  
15 Bailey was going to go a little longer.

16 COMMISSIONER BAILEY: Sorry.

17 COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: That's okay.

18 BY COMMISSIONER GIAIMO:

19 Q. For the fixed price offering, what I thought  
20 I heard you say, Mr. Simek, is that you have  
21 about 8800 now, and last year you had about  
22 10,000. You expect that number to be  
23 similar. You expect 10,000 when everything  
24 gets processed from what gets received that



1 was postmarked as of the 18th.

2 A. (Simek) Correct.

3 Q. Okay. And what percent of the total is that?

4 Is it 19 percent, 20 percent? Do you know?

5 A. (Simek) I don't know off the top of my head.

6 I'll find out.

7 Q. Okay. I only mention that because I believe

8 that number was bantered about in our prior

9 docket.

10 Okay. Ms. Gilbertson, you and the  
11 Consumer Advocate had a discussion about the  
12 value of Dstrigas, and I just want to  
13 clarify here.

14 Your comments that the Company is  
15 concerned came from an LDC perspective with  
16 respect to getting enhanced reliability for  
17 the local distribution network, the gas  
18 network, not necessarily a larger statement  
19 by the Company with respect to fuel and  
20 regional availability in the larger bulk  
21 power system sense.

22 A. (Gilbertson) I'm not sure I understand what  
23 you --

24 Q. There was discussion going on about the value

1 of Distrigas to the bulk power system, and by  
2 that I mean the regional electric grid. It  
3 sounded like your comments, when you said --  
4 I think you said something to the effect that  
5 you'd be very concerned with Distrigas  
6 leaving in the long run. Your comments were  
7 gas-related --

8 A. (Gilbertson) Correct.

9 Q. -- not necessarily a larger, holistic energy  
10 fuel availability situation for power plants.

11 A. (Gilbertson) Correct. That's right.

12 Q. Okay. It was just a subtle distinction which  
13 I thought needed to be noted. So, thank you.

14 A. (Gilbertson) Okay.

15 Q. So can we go to Page 10 of the initial  
16 filing. Mr. Simek, I'm guessing this is  
17 coming to you, so I'll take my cue from the  
18 head nod.

19 A. (Simek) One of us, yes.

20 Q. Sounds good. Okay.

21 So, right around Lines 4 and 5, you talk  
22 about the three months within a six-month  
23 period from last year that was higher than  
24 the 25 percent increase. Can you articulate

1           what those months were, and were they a  
2           function of the significant cold that came in  
3           January and February?

4    A.    (McNamara) It was for the last three months  
5           of the winter period.

6    Q.    So that's March, April -- February, March  
7           April?

8    A.    (McNamara) Correct.

9    Q.    Is there a lag? Is the lag as a result of  
10           the cold from the prior months? Or the cold  
11           has nothing to do with it?

12   A.    (McNamara) Correct. The actual is about two  
13           months later than the date when we can file  
14           for a rate.

15   Q.    Forgive me for my naiveté of not knowing.  
16           But where does that 25 percent cap come from?  
17           Is it just an agreed-upon number that's been  
18           historically accepted? Is there a specific  
19           reason for that or just it is what it is?

20   A.    (Simek) I'm sorry. I know in it's our  
21           tariff. Where it actually came from, I'm not  
22           sure, initially.

23                           CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: It goes in  
24           each of the orders that we issue in these

1 docket. I don't know if there's a -- I'm  
2 sure there's some history there. They can  
3 take and adjust the price on a monthly basis  
4 as they need to up to a cap of 25. They can  
5 go down as far as they need to.

6 COMMISSIONER GIAIMO: Great.

7 I think that's all I have. Thank  
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I have no  
10 questions that haven't already been answered.

11 Mr. Sheehan, do you have any  
12 questions for your panel?

13 MR. SHEEHAN: I would just like Ms.  
14 Gilbertson to clarify the obvious, which I  
15 think is obvious to everyone.

16 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

17 BY MR. SHEEHAN:

18 Q. But all of our pipeline gas goes through  
19 Dracut; is that correct? Not priced there.  
20 But it physically travels through Dracut on  
21 to the Concord Lateral --

22 A. (Gilbertson) That's correct.

23 (Court Reporter interrupts.)

24 Q. To the Concord Lateral.

1 A. (Gilbertson) Oh, no. Wait a minute. Say  
2 that again?

3 Q. We have pipeline gas that we buy.

4 A. (Gilbertson) Correct.

5 Q. All of that pipeline gas has to physically go  
6 through Dracut to get onto the Concord  
7 Lateral?

8 A. (Gilbertson) Yes, it does. Sorry.

9 Q. And the whole discussion of where is that  
10 pipeline priced, some of it is priced at  
11 Dracut and some is priced at other places.

12 A. (Gilbertson) Correct.

13 Q. And right now a large chunk of our gas is  
14 priced at Dracut.

15 A. (Gilbertson) That's right.

16 Q. And the ability to get away from that and get  
17 pricing at other locations is a function of  
18 what contracts were available and can we sign  
19 up for them over the years.

20 A. (Gilbertson) That's right.

21 Q. Okay. And the Company explores when it can  
22 moving away from Dracut-priced gas to  
23 other-priced gas.

24 A. (Gilbertson) Yes.

1 Q. And any chance we get, we avoid Dracut.

2 A. (Gilbertson) We try.

3 Q. Okay.

4 MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you. That's  
5 all.

6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. If  
7 there's nothing else -- and there are no  
8 other witnesses; correct?

9 [No verbal response]

10 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Seeing none,  
11 that's where we'll go. We're done with  
12 witnesses.

13 Without objection, we'll strike  
14 I.D. in Exhibits 1 through 9 and have the  
15 parties sum up.

16 Mr. Kreis, why don't you start us  
17 off.

18 MR. KREIS: Sure.

19 CLOSING STATEMENTS

20 MR. KREIS: So, LDAC and LDAF,  
21 whether it's "clause," "factor" or "charge,"  
22 is an interesting example of a mixed acronym  
23 and abbreviation, just to be clear about  
24 that. But we support the Commission's effort

1 to clarify the somewhat muddy distinction  
2 that one sees sometimes between "factors,"  
3 "clauses" and "charges." And I agree with  
4 the Commissioners, that anything that the  
5 Company can do to make the tariffs and  
6 everything that emanates from the tariffs  
7 more clear and comprehensible to consumers  
8 and everybody else who has to read this stuff  
9 would be really helpful.

10 Apart from that, the record deduced  
11 today amply demonstrates that the proposed  
12 charges that are reflected in the Company's  
13 filing and technical statement are just and  
14 reasonable and should be approved by the  
15 Commission. So that is what the OCA  
16 recommends the Commission do.

17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you, Mr.  
18 Kreis.

19 Ms. Fabrizio.

20 MS. FABRIZIO: Thank you, Mr.  
21 Chairman. Staff also supports the proposed  
22 cost of gas rates as revised by the amended  
23 technical statement filed on October 9th and  
24 as revised by the exhibits that we received

1           today.

2                         Thank you, Ms. Fabrizio.

3                         Mr. Sheehan.

4                         MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you. I  
5           e-mailed quickly Commissioner Giaimo's  
6           question about percentage, and someone  
7           responded that we have about 77,000  
8           residential customers. So the 10 is whatever  
9           percentage that works out to be.

10                        Otherwise, we ask the Commission to  
11           approve the rates as set forth in, try to say  
12           the right exhibit, Exhibit 8, and the charges  
13           on Bates Page 56. We thank you for your time  
14           today.

15                        CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.  
16           Thank you. We will close the hearing and  
17           take the matter under advisement and issue an  
18           order as quickly as we can. We are  
19           adjourned.

20                        (Where upon the Hearing was adjourned  
21                        at 12:18 p.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Susan J. Robidas, a Licensed  
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