

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Docket No. DG 21-XXX

Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty  
Winter 2021/2022 Cost of Gas  
Summer 2022 Cost of Gas

**DIRECT TESTIMONY**

**OF**

**DAVID B. SIMEK**

**AND**

**CATHERINE A. MCNAMARA**

September 1, 2021



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1 **I. INTRODUCTION**

2 **Q. Please state your full name and business address.**

3 A. (DS) My name is David B. Simek. My business address is 15 Buttrick Road,  
4 Londonderry, New Hampshire.

5 (CM) My name is Catherine A. McNamara. My business address is 15 Buttrick Road,  
6 Londonderry, New Hampshire.

7 **Q. Please state by whom you are employed.**

8 A. We are employed by Liberty Utilities Service Corp. (“LUSC”), which provides service to  
9 Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty (“EnergyNorth” or “the  
10 Company”).

11 **Q. Please describe your educational background and your business and professional  
12 experience.**

13 A. (DS) I graduated from Ferris State University in 1993 with a Bachelor of Science in  
14 Finance. I received a Master’s of Science in Finance from Walsh College in 2000. I also  
15 received a Master’s of Business Administration from Walsh College in 2001. In 2006, I  
16 earned a Graduate Certificate in Power Systems Management from Worcester  
17 Polytechnic Institute. In August 2013, I joined LUSC as a Utility Analyst and I was  
18 promoted to Manager, Rates and Regulatory Affairs in August 2017. Prior to my  
19 employment at LUSC, I was employed by NSTAR Electric & Gas (“NSTAR”) as a  
20 Senior Analyst in Energy Supply from 2008 to 2012. Prior to my position in Energy

1 Supply at NSTAR, I was a Senior Financial Analyst within the NSTAR Investment  
2 Planning group from 2004 to 2008.

3 (CM) I graduated from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, in 1993 with a Bachelor  
4 of Science in Management with a concentration in Accounting. In November 2017, I  
5 joined Liberty as an Analyst in Rates and Regulatory Affairs. Prior to my employment at  
6 LUSC, I was employed by Eversource as a Senior Analyst in the Investment Planning  
7 group from 2015 to 2017. From 2008 to 2015, I was a Supervisor in the Plant  
8 Accounting department. Prior to my position in Plant Accounting, I was a Financial  
9 Analyst/General Ledger System Administrator within the Accounting group from 2000 to  
10 2008.

11 **Q. Have you previously testified in regulatory proceedings before the New Hampshire  
12 Public Utilities Commission (the “Commission”)?**

13 A. (DS) Yes. I have testified on numerous occasions before the Commission.

14 (CM) Yes. I have testified on multiple occasions before the Commission.

15 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

16 A. The purpose of our testimony is to explain the Company’s proposed firm sales cost of gas  
17 rates for the 2021/2022 Winter (Peak) Period and the Company’s proposed 2021/2022  
18 Local Delivery Adjustment Clause, both effective November 1, 2021. Our testimony  
19 also explains the Company’s proposed firm sales cost of gas rates for the 2022 Summer  
20 (Off-Peak) Period.

1 **II. WINTER 2021/2022 COST OF GAS FACTOR**

2 **Q. What are the proposed firm Winter sales and firm transportation cost of gas rates?**

3 A. The Company proposes a firm sales cost of gas rate of \$0.9056 per therm for residential  
4 customers, \$0.9058 per therm for commercial/industrial high winter use customers, and  
5 \$0.9041 per therm for commercial/industrial low winter use customers as shown on  
6 Proposed First Revised Page 95 (Bates 056). The Company proposes a firm  
7 transportation cost of gas rate of \$0.0001 per therm as shown on Proposed First Revised  
8 Page 98 (Bates 058).

9 **Q. Please explain tariff page and Proposed First Revised Page 95 (Bates 056).**

10 A. Proposed First Revised Page 95 contains the calculation of the 2021/2022 Winter Period  
11 Cost of Gas Rate and summarize the Company's forecast of firm gas costs and firm gas  
12 sales. As shown on Page 95, the proposed 2021/2022 Average Cost of Gas of \$0.9056  
13 per therm is derived by adding the Direct Cost of Gas Rate of \$0.8557 per therm to the  
14 Indirect Cost of Gas Rate of \$0.0499 per therm. The estimated total Anticipated Direct  
15 Cost of Gas, derived on Page 95, is \$74,822,730. The estimated Indirect Cost of Gas,  
16 also derived on Page 95, is \$4,360,293. The Direct Cost of Gas Rate of \$0.8665 and the  
17 Indirect Cost of Gas Rate of \$0.0499 are determined by dividing each of these total cost  
18 figures by the projected winter period firm sales volumes of 87,443,741 therms.

19 To calculate the total Anticipated Direct Cost of Gas, the Company adds a list of  
20 allowable adjustments from deferred gas cost accounts to the projected demand and  
21 commodity costs for the winter period supply portfolio. These allowable adjustments,  
22 shown on Page 96, total \$142,353. These adjustments are added to the Unadjusted

1 Anticipated Cost of Gas of \$74,680,377 to determine the Total Anticipated Direct Cost of  
2 Gas of \$74,822,730.

3 **Q. What are the components of the Unadjusted Anticipated Cost of Gas?**

4 A. The Unadjusted Anticipated Cost of Gas shown on Proposed Original Page 96 consists of  
5 the following components:

6	1. Purchased Gas Demand Costs		\$12,877,649
7	2. Purchased Gas Commodity Costs		53,247,154
8	3. Storage Demand and Capacity Costs		981,898
9	4. Storage Commodity Costs		5,358,244
10	5. Produced Gas Cost		<u>2,215,433</u>
11	Total		<b>**\$74,680,377</b>

12 \*\*Slightly off due to rounding

13 **Q. What are the components of the allowable adjustments to the Cost of Gas?**

14 A. The allowable adjustments to gas costs, listed on Proposed Original Page 96, are as  
15 follows:

16	1. Deferred Gas Cost Prior Period Under Collection		\$1,431,639
17	2. Interest		22,981
18	3. Fuel Inventory Revenue Requirement		335,667
19	4. Broker Revenues		(3,600)
20	5. Transportation COG Revenue		(4,622)
21	6. Capacity Release Margin		(1,676,512)
22	7. Fixed Price Administrative Cost		<u>36,800</u>
23	Total Adjustments		<b><u>\$142,353</u></b>

24 These allowable adjustments are standard adjustments made to the deferred gas cost  
25 balance through the operation of the Company's cost of gas adjustment clause. We  
26 discuss the factors contributing to the prior period under collection later in this testimony.

1 **Q. How does the proposed average cost of gas rate in this filing compare to the average**  
2 **cost of gas rate approved by the Commission in Docket No. DG 20-141 for the**  
3 **2020/2021 winter period?**

4 A. The average cost of gas rate proposed in this filing of \$0.9056 per therm is \$0.3485 per  
5 therm more than the initial rate of \$0.5571 per therm approved by the Commission in  
6 Order No. 26,419 (October 30, 2020) in Docket No. DG 20-141. The \$0.3485 per therm  
7 increase in the rate is primarily due to a \$28,544,323 increase in the Total Unadjusted  
8 Direct Cost of Gas.

9 **Q. How does the proposed firm transportation winter cost of gas rate compare to the**  
10 **rate approved by the Commission for the 2020/2021 winter period?**

11 A. The proposed firm transportation winter cost of gas rate is \$0.0001 per therm. The rate  
12 approved in Docket No. DG 20-141 was \$0.0001 per therm. There is no change in the  
13 firm transportation rate.

14 **Q. In the calculation of its firm transportation winter cost of gas rate, has the Company**  
15 **updated the estimated percentage used for pressure support purposes?**

16 A. No. The pressure support purposes rate of 8.7% stayed the same based on the marginal  
17 cost study used for the rate design approved in Docket No. DG 20-105.

18 **Q. Did the Company include a fuel inventory revenue requirement calculation in this**  
19 **filing?**

20 A. Yes (Bates 207). The Company is proposing to collect \$335,667 in fuel inventory  
21 revenue requirement consistent with the approved rate of return in Order No. 26,505

1 (July 30, 2021) in Docket No. DG 20-105. The impact of this amount to the overall Cost  
2 of Gas rate is \$0.0038 per therm which is determined by dividing the \$335,667 by the  
3 estimated November 2021 through October 2022 COG sales volumes of 87,443,741  
4 therms.

5 **Q. How was the statutory tax rate of 27.08% calculated (Bates 207)?**

6 A. The statutory rate of 27.08% was calculated by using a 21% federal tax rate and a 7.7%  
7 tax rate for the State of New Hampshire ( $0.21 + 0.077 - (0.21 \times 0.077) = 0.27083$ ).

8 **Q. How was the common equity pre-tax rate of 6.640% calculated (Bates 207)?**

9 A. The common equity pre-tax rate of 6.640% was calculated by dividing the 9.30% rate of  
10 return on common equity, approved in Docket No. DG 20-105, by 0.72917 ( $1 - 0.27083$ )  
11 [statutory tax rate – see previous question]) and multiplied by 52.00% (equity component  
12 of the capital structure approved in DG 20-105) [ $0.093 / 0.72917 \times 0.5200 = 0.06664$ ].

13 **Q. Has the bad debt percentage in this filing of 0.700% changed from the bad debt  
14 percentage calculated in the Winter 2020/2021 Cost of Gas Reconciliation?**

15 A. Yes. The bad debt percentage of 0.70% used in this filing is the calculated rate for the  
16 period of May 2020–April 2021. The bad debt percentage that was calculated in the  
17 Winter 2020/2021 Cost of Gas Reconciliations for the period of May 2019–April 2020  
18 was 1.1%.



1 **Q. What was the actual weighted average firm sales cost of gas rate for the 2020/2021**  
2 **winter period?**

3 A. The weighted average cost of gas rate was \$0.5100 per therm (Bates 104, Line 54). This  
4 was calculated by applying the actual monthly cost of gas rates for November 2020  
5 through April 2021 to the monthly therm usage of an average residential heating  
6 customer using 667 therms for the six winter period months.

7 **Q. What is the current percentage used to calculate the maximum increase to the Cost**  
8 **of Gas rate?**

9 A. The current percentage used to calculate the maximum allowed increase to the Cost of  
10 Gas rate is 25% for both Winter and Summer period Cost of Gas rates.

11 **Q. Is the Company requesting an increase to the percentage used to calculate the**  
12 **maximum allowed Cost of Gas Rate?**

13 A. Yes, the Company is requesting that the percentage used to calculate the maximum  
14 allowed cost of Gas rate be increased for the Summer period of May through October.  
15 The Company is not requesting a change to the maximum allowed percentage increase  
16 applicable to the Winter period.

17 **Q. Why is the Company asking to increase the percentage used to calculate the**  
18 **maximum allowed cost of Gas rate be increased for the summer period of May**  
19 **through October?**

20 A. In the past eighteen summer months (i.e., the last three Summer periods) the Company  
21 has been at the maximum allowed rate for twelve of those months. In the summer of

1 2021, the Company has been at the maximum allowed rate for all six months. The under  
2 collected balance has grown to approximately \$4.5M. That under collection is the  
3 beginning balance for the summer portion of this filing. In the summer of 2020, the  
4 Company's calculated Cost of Gas rate was at the maximum allowed rate for three out of  
5 the six months and the under collected balance grew to \$3.5M but was primarily offset by  
6 an out of period accounting adjustment. Given these circumstances, the Company feels  
7 the 25% used to calculate the maximum allowed Cost of Gas rate is insufficient. While  
8 the 25% maximum increase was appropriate in prior years when there was a separate  
9 filing for the Summer Cost of Gas rate, once the Winter and Summer periods were  
10 combined into one filing, the amount of time between the filing and the effective date for  
11 the Summer Cost of Gas rate increased by six months, thus increasing the likelihood of  
12 the forecasted Summer Cost of Gas rate differing significantly from the market  
13 conditions during the applicable summer period. One of the reasons for having a  
14 "trigger" adjustment to the Cost of Gas rate it to try to reduce potential under collections  
15 at the end of the rate period. As shown by the size of the under collections during the  
16 recent summer periods, the 25% limit has been insufficient to serve for that purpose.

17 **Q. What percentage used to calculate the maximum allowed Summer Cost of Gas Rate**  
18 **is the Company asking for approval of?**

19 A. The Company is asking for the percentage used to calculate the maximum allowed  
20 Summer Cost of Gas rate to be increased from 25% to 40%.

1 **Q. How did the Company determine that an increase of the maximum allowed Summer**  
2 **Cost of Gas from 25% to 40% was appropriate?**

3 A. The Company did an analysis of the past four years. We started with the original summer  
4 cost of gas monthly adjustment filings, removed out of period adjustments and then  
5 calculated what the four-year average increase would have been if we were able to  
6 increase the rates beyond 25%. The average increase was 47.2%. We then rounded  
7 down to 40%.

8 **Q. Why should the Commission increase the percentage used to calculate the maximum**  
9 **allowed Cost of Gas rate for the Summer period?**

10 A. When the Company reaches the maximum allowed rate, the under collected balance  
11 continues to grow. In the summer of 2021, the projected under collected balance is  
12 \$4,472,186. Based on the 2021 estimated summer therms of 36,033,006, the rate for next  
13 summer will be starting with an increase of \$0.1241 per therm just to recover that under  
14 collection. The Commission should approve the increased percentage used to calculate  
15 the maximum allowed Summer Cost of Gas because the only other option is the  
16 Company would be forced to file for additional rate increase approvals which would  
17 defeat the purpose of having a single annual Cost of Gas filing

18 **Q. Why doesn't the Company make an interim filing when the maximum allowed Cost**  
19 **of Gas is reached?**

20 A. An additional filing would be an administrative burden for all parties. The primary  
21 reason for combining the winter and summer filing into one, was to reduce this  
22 administrative burden.

1 **Q. Is the 25% used to calculate the maximum allowed Cost of Gas sufficient, for the**  
2 **Winter period?**

3 A. Yes, the 25% used to calculate the maximum allowed Cost of Gas increase, in the winter  
4 period, is sufficient. The volume of therms sold is approximately 40% higher than the  
5 amount of therms sold during the summer months. The same \$4.5M under collection  
6 referenced above would cause an automatic increase of only \$0.0519 per therm during  
7 the winter. Also, rates for the Winter Cost of Gas are calculated using more near-term  
8 market information than those for the future Summer period.

9 **III. PRIOR WINTER PERIOD UNDER-COLLECTION**

10 **Q. Please explain the prior period under collection of \$1,431,639.**

11 A. The prior period under-collection is detailed in the 2020/2021 winter period  
12 reconciliation that was filed with the Commission on July 29, 2021. The \$1,431,639  
13 under-collection is the sum of the deferred gas cost, bad debt, and working capital over-  
14 and under-collection balances as of April 30, 2021. The under-collection was driven  
15 mainly by the lag in the timing of monthly cost of gas rate adjustments as compared to  
16 changes in the underlying costs.

17 **IV. FIXED PRICE OPTION**

18 **Q. Has the Company established a winter period fixed price pursuant to its Fixed Price**  
19 **Option Program?**

20 A. Yes. Pursuant to Order No. 24,515 in Docket No. DG 05-127, the Fixed Price Option  
21 Program (“FPO”) rates are set at \$0.0200 per therm higher than the initial proposed COG  
22 rate. Proposed First Revised Page 94 (Bates 055) contains the FPO rate for the

1 2021/2022 winter period, which is \$0.9256 per therm for residential customers. This  
2 compares to the FPO rate approved for the 2020/2021 winter period of \$0.5771 per therm  
3 for residential customers. This represents a \$0.3485 per therm or 60.4% increase in the  
4 residential FPO rate. The total bill impact on the winter period bills for an average FPO  
5 heating customer using 667 therms is an increase of approximately \$305.01 or 34.4%  
6 compared to last winter. The estimated winter period bill for an average residential  
7 heating customer opting for the FPO would be approximately \$13.34 (or 1.12%) higher  
8 than the bill under the proposed cost of gas rates, assuming no monthly adjustments to the  
9 COG rate during the course of the winter. Schedule 23 (Bates 204) contains the historical  
10 results of the FPO program.

11 **V. LOCAL DELIVERY ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE (“LDAC”)**

12 **Q. What are the surcharges that will be billed under the LDAC?**

13 A. As shown on Proposed First Revised Page 101 (Bates 061), the Company is submitting  
14 for approval an LDAC of \$0.1733 per therm for the residential non-heating class and  
15 residential heating class, and \$0.0860 per therm for the commercial/industrial bundled  
16 sales classes, effective November 1, 2021. The surcharges proposed to be billed under  
17 the LDAC are the Energy Efficiency Charge, the Revenue Decoupling Adjustment  
18 Factor, the Environmental Surcharge for Manufactured Gas Plant (“MGP”) remediation,  
19 the Residential Gas Assistance Program charge, and the rate case expense reconciliation  
20 surcharge from Docket No. DG 20-105.

1 **Q. Which customers are billed an LDAC?**

2 A. All EnergyNorth customers including those in Keene are billed an LDAC charge. When  
3 calculating the LDAC charge, the November 1, 2021, through October 31, 2022,  
4 forecasted Keene therm sales of 1,405,237 are added to the EnergyNorth therm sales  
5 forecast of 181,424,635 for a total therm sales forecast of 182,829,872.

6 **Q. Please explain the Energy Efficiency Charge.**

7 A. The Energy Efficiency Charge is designed to recover the projected expenses associated  
8 with the Company's energy efficiency programs for the November 2021 through  
9 October 2022 period. In the calculation of the Energy Efficiency Charge, the Company  
10 has also included the projected prior period under-recovery of the Company's  
11 residential and commercial energy efficiency programs as of October 2021. As shown  
12 on Schedule 19 Energy Efficiency (Bates 132–134), the proposed Energy Efficiency  
13 charge is \$0.0861 per therm for residential customers and \$0.0408 per therm for  
14 commercial and industrial customers.

15 **Q. Please explain the Revenue Decoupling Adjustment Factor ("RDAF").**

16 A. The purpose of the RDAF is to recover or refund, on an annual basis, the difference  
17 between the Actual Base Revenue per Customer and the Benchmark Base Revenue per  
18 Customer. Schedule 19 RDAF (Bates 130) shows the prior period difference (September  
19 2020 through August 2021) between the proposed Actual Base Revenue per Customer  
20 and the Benchmark Base Revenue per Customer calculation of a total under-collection of  
21 \$2,426,364. Schedule 19 RDAF (Bates 129) also includes a reconciliation of the amount  
22 of prior refunds (accumulated through October 2020 and refunded November 2020

1 through August 2021) of \$969,938 remaining to be refunded. New to this filing and  
2 pursuant to the Settlement Agreement in Docket No. DG 20-105 (Order No. 26,505) is  
3 the prior period reconciliation of the Gas Assistance Program (previously the Residential  
4 Low-Income Program) customers allowed revenue, as shown on Schedule 19 RDAF  
5 (Bates 131). The Gas Assistance Program (“GAP”) revenue per customer used in the  
6 allowed revenue calculations are no longer different from residential customers not  
7 categorized as GAP.<sup>1</sup> The allowed revenue correction allows the Company to recover  
8 \$4,024,830 which was improperly refunded to residential customers over the past two  
9 years. The Company is also proposing to recover the \$4,024,830 over the next two years  
10 since the issue occurred over a two-year period. As shown on Schedule 19 RDAF (Bates  
11 128), the proposed RDAF charge is \$0.0459 per therm for residential customers and  
12 \$0.0039 per therm for commercial and industrial customers.

13 **Q. What is the proposed Gas Assistance Program charge?**

14 A. As shown on Schedule 19 Gas Assistance (Bates 135–136), the proposed GAP charge is  
15 \$0.0138 per therm. It is designed to recover administrative costs, revenue shortfall, and  
16 the prior period reconciliation adjustment relating to this program. For the 2021/2022  
17 winter period, the Company is providing a 45% base rate and cost of gas discount,  
18 consistent with the settlement agreement approved by the Commission in Order No.  
19 26,397 (August 27, 2020) in Docket No. DG 20-013. The proposed Residential Gas  
20 Assistance charge is designed to recover \$2,526,541, of which \$2,318,301 is for the

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<sup>1</sup> This issue was discovered as part of the Company’s recent rate case, Docket No. DG 20-105.

1 revenue shortfall resulting from 5,320 customers receiving a 45% discount off their base  
2 and cost of gas rates, and \$208,239 for the prior year reconciling adjustment.

3 **Q. In Order No. 24,824 (Feb. 29, 2008) in Docket No. DG 06-122 relating to short-term**  
4 **debt issues, the Company agreed to adjust its short-term debt limits each year as**  
5 **part of the Company's Winter Period Cost of Gas filing. Did the Company**  
6 **calculate the short-term debt limit for fuel and non-fuel purposes in accordance**  
7 **with this settlement?**

8 A. Yes, the Company included in Schedule 24 (Bates 205) the short-term debt limit for fuel  
9 and non-fuel purposes for the 2021/2022 winter period. As shown, the short-term debt  
10 limit for fuel inventory financing for the period November 1, 2021, through October 31,  
11 2022, is calculated to be \$23,754,907 and the limit for non-fuel purposes is calculated to  
12 be \$115,471,436.

13 **Q. Has the Company updated the Environmental Surcharge (Tariff Page 95)?**

14 A. Yes, it has. The costs submitted for recovery through the MGP remediation cost recovery  
15 mechanism, as well as the third-party recoveries, are included in the Environmental Cost  
16 Summary in Schedule 20 (Bates 138) of this filing. The environmental investigation and  
17 remediation costs that underlie these expenses are the result of efforts by the Company to  
18 respond to its legal obligations with regard to these sites, as described by Ms. Casey in  
19 her pre-filed direct testimony in this proceeding and as set forth in the MGP site  
20 summaries included in this filing under Schedule 20. The Summary included in Schedule  
21 20 shows the remediation cost pools for the Concord Pond, Concord MGP, Manchester,



1 Nashua, and Laconia sites, and a General Pool for costs that cannot be directly assigned  
2 to a specific site.

3 A summary sheet and detailed backup spreadsheets that support the 2020/2021 costs are  
4 provided in Schedule 20 of this filing. Ms. Casey's testimony describes the Company's  
5 activities with regard to all five sites.

6 **Q. Please describe how the Company calculated the Environmental Surcharge included**  
7 **in this filing.**

8 A. The proposed Manufactured Gas Plant Remediation surcharge for the period beginning  
9 November 1, 2021, and ending October 31, 2022, is \$0.0155 per therm. Consistent with  
10 filings made over the past few years, this surcharge will recover a total of \$2,833,284 in  
11 amortized remediation costs. The amortized actual to forecast true-up recovery costs  
12 through June 2019 of \$341,389 (total amount is \$1,024,167 which is amortized over three  
13 years). The \$1,024,167 is the amount approved by Order No. 26,419 in Docket No. DG  
14 20-141. Also, the actual to forecast true-up recovery cost for the period July 2020  
15 through June 2021 is \$140,090. The costs submitted for recovery are shown in the  
16 Environmental Cost Summary included in Schedule 20 of this filing.

17 **Q. Did the Company include a Rate Case Expense (RCE) surcharge in this filing?**

18 A. Yes. As shown on Schedule 19 RCE (Bates 126–127), the Company is proposing to  
19 collect \$2,214,505 in uncollected rate case and recoupment expense consistent with  
20 Order No. 26,505 (July 30, 2021) in Docket No. DG 20-105. The RCE rate of \$0.0121

1 per therm is determined by dividing the \$2,214,505 by the estimated November 2021  
2 through October 2022 sales volumes of 182,829,875 therms.

3 **Q. Has the Company also updated its Company Allowance percentage for the period**  
4 **November 2021 through October 2022 in accordance with Section 8 of the**  
5 **Company's Delivery Terms and Condition?**

6 A. Yes, in Schedule 25 (Bates 206) the Company has recalculated its Company Allowance  
7 for the period November 2021 through October 2022. The Company calculated the  
8 Company Allowance of 1.22% based on sendout and throughput data for the twelve-  
9 month period ending June 2021. The Company proposes to apply this recalculated  
10 Company Allowance to all supplier deliveries beginning in November 2021.

11 **VI. CUSTOMER BILL IMPACTS**

12 **Q. What are the estimated impacts of the proposed firm sales cost of gas rate and**  
13 **proposed LDAC surcharges on an average heating customer's winter bill as**  
14 **compared to the winter rates in effect last year?**

15 A. The bill impact analysis is presented in Schedule 8 (Bates 104) of this filing. These bill  
16 impacts reflect the implementation of the increases approved in Docket No. DG 20-105  
17 effective August 1, 2021, relating to the EnergyNorth distribution rate case. The total bill  
18 impact over the winter period for an average residential heating customer is an increase  
19 of approximately \$336.41 or 39.52%. The total bill impact over the winter period for an  
20 average commercial/industrial G-41 customer is an increase of approximately \$843.54 or  
21 39.34% (Bates 105). Schedule 8 of this filing provides more detail of the impact of the  
22 proposed rate adjustments on heating customers.

1 **VII. OTHER TARIFF CHANGES**

2 **Q. Is the Company updating its Delivery Terms and Conditions in the filing?**

3 A. Yes. The Company is submitting Proposed First Revised Page 153 (Bates 062) relating  
4 to Supplier Balancing and Peaking Demand Charges and Proposed First Revised Page  
5 154 (Bates 063) relating to Capacity Allocation.

6 **Q. Please describe the changes to tariff Page 153.**

7 A. In Proposed First Revised Page 153, the Company is updating the Peaking Demand  
8 Charge from \$17.32 per MMBtu of Peak MDQ to \$56.10 per MMBtu of Peak MDQ.  
9 This calculation is also presented in Schedule 21 (Bates 187–197).

10 **Q. Please describe the changes to tariff Page 154.**

11 A. Proposed First Revised Page 154 updates the Capacity Allocator percentages used to  
12 allocate pipeline, storage, and local peaking capacity to high and low load factor  
13 customers under the mandatory capacity assignment requirement for firm transportation  
14 service. Schedule 22 (Bates 198–203) contains the six-page worksheet that backs up the  
15 calculations for the updated allocators.

16 **VIII. SUMMER 2021 COST OF GAS FACTOR**

17 **Q. What are the proposed 2022 summer firm sales cost of gas rates?**

18 A. The Company proposes a firm sales cost of gas rate of \$0.5002 per therm for residential  
19 customers, \$0.5007 per therm for commercial/industrial high winter use customers, and  
20 \$0.4994 per therm for commercial/industrial low winter use customers as shown on  
21 Proposed First Revised Page 92 (Bates 211).

1 **Q. Please explain tariff pages Proposed First Revised Page 91 and Proposed First**  
2 **Revised Page 91.**

3 A. Proposed First Revised Page 91 (Bates 210) and Proposed First Revised Page 92 (Bates  
4 211) contain the calculation of the 2022 Summer Period Cost of Gas Rate and summarize  
5 the Company's forecast of firm gas sales, firm gas sendout, and gas costs. On Proposed  
6 First Revised Page 89, the 2022 Average Cost of Gas of \$0.5002 per therm is derived by  
7 adding the Direct Cost of Gas Rate of \$0.4958 per therm to the Indirect Cost of Gas Rate  
8 of \$0.0044 per therm. The estimated total Anticipated Direct Cost of gas is \$13,447,446  
9 and the estimated Indirect Cost of Gas is \$120,343. The Direct Cost of Gas Rate and the  
10 Indirect Cost of Gas Rates are determined by dividing each of these total cost figures by  
11 the projected Summer firm sales volumes of 27,125,444 therms. Proposed First Revised  
12 Page 92 further shows that the Residential Cost of Gas Rate of \$0.5002 per therm is equal  
13 to the Average Cost of Gas for all firm sales customers. It also shows the calculation of  
14 the Commercial/Industrial High Winter Use Cost of Gas Rate of \$0.5007 per therm and  
15 the Commercial/Industrial Low Winter Use Cost of Gas Rate of \$0.4994 per therm.

16 The calculation of the Anticipated Direct Cost of Gas is shown on Proposed First Revised  
17 Page 91. To derive the total Anticipated Direct Cost of Gas of \$13,447,446, the  
18 Company starts with the Unadjusted Anticipated Cost of Gas of \$8,755,985 and adds the  
19 Net Adjustment totaling \$4,691,461.

1 **Q. What are the components of the Unadjusted Anticipated Cost of Gas?**

2 A. The Unadjusted Anticipated Cost of Gas consists of the following:

3	1. Purchased Gas Demand Costs	\$3,276,842
4	2. Purchased Gas Supply Costs	5,393,517
5	3. Produced Gas Costs	<u>85,626</u>
6	Total Unadjusted Anticipated Cost of Gas	<u>\$8,755,985</u>

7 **Q. What are the components of the adjustments to the cost of gas?**

8 A. The adjustments to gas costs, listed on proposed First Revised Page 88, are as follows:

9	1. Prior Period (Over)/Under Collection	\$4,472,186
10	2. Interest	<u>219,275</u>
11	Total Adjustments	<u>\$4,691,461</u>

12 **Q. How does the proposed average Residential Summer cost of gas rate in this filing**  
13 **compare to the initial cost of gas rate approved by the Commission for the 2021**  
14 **Summer Period?**

15 A. The cost of gas rate proposed in this filing is \$0.1854 per therm higher than the initial rate  
16 approved by the Commission for the 2020 Summer Period (\$0.3148 vs. \$0.5002)  
17 (Schedule 8, Bates 232). This increase is primarily due to a \$4,472,186 estimated under-  
18 collection compared to the under-collection from the prior summer period. There was  
19 such a large under collection due to an increase in commodity costs since the original  
20 filing. The Company was at the maximum allowed rate all six summer months.

1 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

2 **A.** Yes, it does.