1		STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2		PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
3		
4		<b>18</b> - 10:07 a.m.
5	Concord, New	Hampshire 1 MAY 18 px3:43
6	DF.	DG 18-052
7	К <b>Ш</b> .	LIBERTY UTILITIES (ENERGYNORTH NATURAL GAS) CORP. d/b/a LIBERTY
8		UTILITIES - KEENE DIVISION: Summer 2018 Cost of Gas.
9		Summer 2010 COSt OF Gas.
10	DDFCFN7	Chairman Martin P. Honigberg, Presiding
11	FRESERT.	Commissioner Kathryn M. Bailey Commissioner Michael S. Giaimo
12		Commissioner Michael 5. Glaimo
13		Sandy Deno, Clerk
14		
15	APPEARANCES :	Reptg. Liberty Utilities (EnergyNorth Natural Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty
16		<b>Utilities - Keene Division:</b> Michael J. Sheehan, Esq.
17		
18		Reptg. PUC Staff: Paul B. Dexter, Esq.
19		Stephen Frink, Dir./Gas & Water Div. Al-Azad Iqbal, Gas & Water Division
20		
21		
22		and the second
23	Court Repo	orter: Steven E. Patnaude, LCR No. 52
24		
		S. Samuel N.



INDEX PAGE NO. WITNESS PANEL: DEBORAH GILBERTSON CATHERINE A. MCNAMARA Direct examination by Mr. Sheehan Cross-examination by Mr. Dexter Interrogatories by Cmsr. Bailey 40, 42 Interrogatories by Chairman Honigberg Interrogatories by Cmsr. Giaimo \* \* \* CLOSING STATEMENTS BY: Mr. Dexter Mr. Sheehan QUESTIONS BY: Chairman Honigberg 

{DG 18-052} {04-25-18}

1		
2		EXHIBITS
3	EXHIBIT N	O. DESCRIPTION PAGE NO.
4	1	Summer 2018 Cost of Gas 5 Re: Liberty Utilities - Keene
5		Division, including the Direct Testimony of Deborah
6		Gilbertson and Catherine A. McNamara, with Tariff Pages,
7		Schedules, and Appendix [REDACTED - for public use]
8	2	Summer 2018 Cost of Gas Re: 5
9	2	Liberty Utilities Keene Division {CONFIDENTIAL & PROPRIETARY}
10	3	Response to Data Request 16
11	9	Number Staff 1-2
12	4	Response to Data Request 37 No. Staff 1-3
13		{CONFIDENTIAL & PROPRIETARY}
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		{DG 18-052} {04-25-18}

1	PROCEEDING
2	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: We're here this
3	morning in Docket 18-052, which is Liberty
4	Keene Division's cost of gas proceeding for the
5	summer. We have, I believe, a Motion for
6	Confidential Treatment in here as well.
7	Before we do anything else, let's
8	take appearances.
9	MR. SHEEHAN: Good morning,
10	Commissioners. Mike Sheehan, for Liberty
11	Utilities EnergyNorth Natural Gas.
12	MR. DEXTER: And for the Commission
13	Staff, Paul Dexter.
14	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Does either of
15	you know, are we expecting the OCA this
16	morning?
17	MR. SHEEHAN: You know, frankly, I
18	hadn't thought about it till I just looked and
19	see that they're not here yet. So, they have
20	not been actively playing a role in discovery
21	or anything. So, perhaps not.
22	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Dexter, do
23	you know anything?
24	MR. DEXTER: I don't know anything.
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1	Sorry.
2	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
3	Well, what do we need to do before getting to
4	the merits?
5	MR. SHEEHAN: Sure. A couple of
6	things, Mr. Chairman. We have marked two
7	exhibits. Number 1 would be the public or
8	redacted version of our filing. The second
9	would be the confidential version.
10	And I understand Staff is going to
11	introduce a single data response as
12	"Exhibit 3".
13	(The documents, as described,
14	were herewith marked as
15	Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2,
16	respectively, for
17	identification.)
18	MR. SHEEHAN: The confidential
19	material in the filing is confidential under
20	what I call the "presumed confidential rule",
21	Puc 201.06(a)(11). And we assert
22	confidentiality under that rule. Which
23	includes data responses, which were there
24	were confidential data responses provided to

Staff in this matter, and that is also 1 2 encompassed under the rule. 3 And then, the motion -- I filed the 4 motion regarding billing on a bills-rendered 5 basis or a service-rendered basis just this 6 morning. It is something that Keene Division 7 has been filing for decades. The only twist is 8 we have converted the Keene customers to our 9 system, and we may not need it this year. We 10 have been testing the billing system, and we 11 think we are ready to implement the Keene rates 12 on a service-rendered basis. 13 But I filed the motion anyway, just 14 in case there's a glitch, and we need to revert 15 to the old system one more time. 16 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I did note at 17 the end of the first paragraph of your motion 18 had the words "if necessary". 19 MR. SHEEHAN: Yes. 20 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Dexter, do 21 you have any position on that motion? 22 MR. DEXTER: Staff doesn't object to 23 either of the motions. 24 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And the first

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	[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	one really isn't a motion. I think it's just
2	the rule-based invocation of confidentiality on
3	those. That's right, Mr. Sheehan?
4	MR. SHEEHAN: Yes. And Mr. Mullen
5	just pulled up the docket sheet, and the OCA
6	did not file a letter of participation in this
7	case.
8	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you,
9	Mr. Mullen.
10	All right. So, we'll deal with the
11	motion I think in the course of issuing an
12	order of this, that's I think how we've done
13	this in the past.
14	Anything else we need to do before
15	the witnesses are sworn in?
16	MR. SHEEHAN: No, sir.
17	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Patnaude.
18	(Whereupon <b>Deborah Gilbertson</b>
19	and <b>Catherine A. McNamara</b> were
20	duly sworn by the Court
21	Reporter.)
22	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Sheehan.
23	MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you.
24	DEBORAH GILBERTSON, SWORN

7

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		CATHERINE A. MCNAMARA, SWORN
2		DIRECT EXAMINATION
3	BY N	AR. SHEEHAN:
4	Q	Ms. Gilbertson, your name and position with the
5		Company please.
6	A	(Gilbertson) I'm Deborah Gilbertson. And my
7		position with the Company is Senior Manager of
8		Energy Procurement.
9	Q	And did you prepare and file testimony in this
10		matter?
11	A	(Gilbertson) Yes, I did.
12	Q	And that was joint testimony with Ms. McNamara,
13		is that correct?
14	A	(Gilbertson) That's correct.
15	Q	And do you have any changes to that testimony
16		you'd like to make this morning?
17	A	(Gilbertson) No, I don't.
18	Q	And if I were to ask you the same questions
19		today, would your answers be the same?
20	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
21	Q	And do you adopt that written testimony as your
22		sworn testimony this morning?
23	A	(Gilbertson) I do.
24	Q	Ms. McNamara, the same questions. Your name

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		and position with the Company please.
2	A	(McNamara) Catherine McNamara. I'm a Rates
3		Analyst with Rates and Regulatory Affairs, with
4		Liberty Utilities Service Company.
5	Q	And did you also participate in the testimony
6		that has been filed as "Exhibits 1" and "2"
7		this morning?
8	A	(McNamara) Yes.
9	Q	And do you have any changes to the portions of
10		the testimony that you participated in?
11	A	(McNamara) I do not.
12	Q	And do you adopt that written testimony as your
13		sworn testimony this morning?
14	A	(McNamara) I do.
15	Q	And briefly, Ms. McNamara, could you give us a
16		high level view of the change, the rate change
17		that the Company is requesting for Keene this
18		morning, that is comparing the proposed rates
19		for Summer '18 to the proposed rates for Summer
20		17?
21	A	(McNamara) Sure. The proposed rate for May of
22		'17 was 0.6281 cents, and the proposed rate for
23		May of '18 is 0.9995, an increase of 0.3714.
24	Q	And do you have available the actual rate that

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		was paid by customers over the course of last
2		summer?
3	A	(McNamara) The weighted average rate for the
4		Summer of 2017 was 0.6887.
5	Q	And, Ms. Gilbertson, again at a high level, the
6		reason the basic reason for the increase in
7		price, can you explain that?
8	A	(Gilbertson) Yes. The spot prices for natural
9		gas I mean, for propane are much higher this
10		coming summer.
11		MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you. I have no
12		further questions.
13		CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Dexter.
14		MR. DEXTER: Thank you.
15		CROSS-EXAMINATION
16	вү м	R. DEXTER:
17	Q	Ms. McNamara, I just didn't hear that number
18		you gave for the weighted average cost of gas
19		for the actual summer. Was it 0.6877?
20	A	(McNamara) 6887.
21	Q	And that's dollars, 68 cents, basically?
22		Sixty-eight (68) cents?
23	A	(McNamara) Yes.
24	Q	So, I'd like to start by going to Bates Page
		$\{DG   18 - 052\} = \{04 - 25 - 18\}$

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		025 of the filing, which is the bill impact
2		analysis. And Bates 025 shows the Non-Fixed
3		Price Option, is that correct?
4	A	(McNamara) Correct.
5	Q	And would you indicate what the percentage
6		increase is for a Residential Heating customer
7		on their cost of gas portion of the bill?
8	A	(McNamara) The cost of gas portion is
9		45.1 percent increase.
10	Q	And this is what's projected or what's proposed
11		in this case, as compared to what from last
12		year?
13	A	(McNamara) Compared to the current rates.
14	Q	The current rate?
15	A	(McNamara) The current rates are what we use
16		for the proposed number, and actuals is what we
17		use for 2017.
18	Q	So, the top half of the box talks about 2017,
19		correct, the top half of the page?
20	А	(McNamara) Correct.
21	Q	And the base figure behind that 45 percent
22		increase is a cost of gas amount of \$109.50, is
23		that right? That's Line 14.
24	A	(McNamara) Yes.

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	Q	And the corresponding number in the case before
2		the Commission today, in the proposed rates, is
3		\$158.92, on Line 31, is that right?
4	A	(McNamara) Correct.
5	Q	And the difference between those two is a
6		45 percent increase is what you're saying?
7	A	(McNamara) Correct.
8	Q	Now, Ms. Gilbertson just testified that that
9		was due to higher spot prices. Is there any
10		more details you can give the Commission,
11		either person on the panel, as to why you're
12		projecting a 45 percent increase?
13	А	(McNamara) From my understanding, it's
14		primarily driven, like Ms. Gilbertson said, by
15		the commodity price.
16		But Ms. Gilbertson may be able to
17		elaborate on that.
18	А	(Gilbertson) The prices are much higher this
19		year, the spot prices.
20	Q	You don't have any additional details you could
21		give the Commission as to why they might be
22		higher?
23	A	(Gilbertson) I can tell you my understanding is
24		that they're higher is because of the weather.

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		The demand in March and April has been much
2		higher than normal. So, it's putting upward
3		pressure on the spot prices.
4	Q	And when was the spot price determined?
5	A	(Gilbertson) We did it twice. Well, the spot
6		price hasn't changed. So, in the summertime,
7		what we do is we get quotes from suppliers.
8		And I think it was on March 14th we made some
9		phone calls, and there was they were
10		thinking that the summer price would be about
11		\$1.08 a gallon. And then later, when there was
12		some questions, in April I went back to the
13		supplier and said "is this still holding?" And
14		the answer was "yes".
15		So, I would say that, since March 14th,
16		they have been steadily saying that it's going
17		to be about \$1.08 a gallon for the summer
18		period.
19	Q	Okay. So, I'd like to turn to Schedule C in
20		the filing please, which is Bates Page 018.
21		And which of these columns deals with the spot
22		price that you were just talking about?
23	A	(Gilbertson) It would be Column (8).
24	Q	And there's the \$1.08 that you were talking

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		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		about?
2	A	(Gilbertson) Correct.
3	Q	Okay. And then the rest of these columns
4		provide a breakdown of what goes into that
5		\$1.08, is that right?
6	A	(Gilbertson) That's correct.
7	Q	Okay. Now, Column (2) is entitled "Brokers
8		Fees"?
9	A	(Gilbertson) That's right.
10	Q	And I recall from this case last year that that
11		broker fee was one cent.
12	A	(Gilbertson) Uh-huh.
13	Q	And in this case it's presented as 11 and a
14		half cents, is that right?
15	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
16	Q	Could you tell the Commission the reason for
17		the increase in the broker fee?
18	A	(Gilbertson) Well, in the summertime, we
19		don't this schedule is a little bit
20		irrelevant, because, in the summertime, we take
21		quotes from the suppliers, like I said. And
22		Column (8) is the quote. It's a bundled price.
23		And it really what we try to do with this
24		schedule is kind of back into the things that

	[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	we know. We know what the PERC fee is, we know
2	what the Mont Belvieu price is, we know what
3	the we know what the cost is to get to
4	Selkirk and the trucking. So, we kind of just
5	solve for the other, the broker fee and the
6	supplier charge.
7	Again, I'm not sure that this schedule is
8	a great schedule to use in the summertime,
9	because we do ask for quotes, a bundle quote
10	from the supplier. So, again, it's a bundled
11	price, and we just try to back it into in
12	the in the winter, we don't do that. In the
13	winter, we use the schedule as it should be.
14	We take the Mont Belvieu price, and we fit in
15	all the known components, and we come up with a
16	price per gallon and price per therm. But, in
17	the summertime, it's different, because it
18	really is Column (8) that's the that's the
19	price.
20	MR. DEXTER: So, I'd like to pass out
21	a data response and mark it as "Exhibit 3"
22	please. It's Staff's Data Request 1-2. And
23	Ms. Gilbertson is the respondent.
24	[Atty. Dexter distributing
	{DG 18-052} {04-25-18}

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		documents.]
2		(The document, as described, was
3		herewith marked as <b>Exhibit 3</b> for
4		identification.)
5	BY M	R. DEXTER:
6	Q	So, on the document that I've handed out as
7		"Exhibit 3", on the second page there is what
8		appears to be an updated Schedule 3. Would you
9		agree with that characterization?
10	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
11	Q	And what's the nature of the update?
12		CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Dexter, you
13		<pre>meant "Schedule C", right?</pre>
14		MR. DEXTER: Schedule C.
15	BY T	HE WITNESS:
16	А	(Gilbertson) The nature of the update is just
17		to show that Column (8), which is the quoted
18		price from the supplier, hasn't changed. But
19		the Mont Belvieu price did change, and it went
20		up significantly. So, the broker fee took the
21		difference, which now the broker fee is at 4
22		cents. So, it kind of adds merit to the fact
23		that that supplier has foresight to know that
24		the prices are going up, and they have, but

		17 [WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		they haven't changed their quote. So, the
2		quote is still the same, because it's a bundled
3		price that they're submitting.
4	BY M	R. DEXTER:
5	Q	And could you explain what the Mont Belvieu
6		price is that went up significantly?
7	A	(Gilbertson) That's the index price for propane
8		in Texas.
9	Q	And that's different from the bundled spot
10		price?
11	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
12	Q	But it's a component of the bundled spot price?
13	A	(Gilbertson) It's a component, yes. It's what
14		the index and the rest of the the fees are
15		called the "basis". So, how much does it cost
16		to get from Texas to Keene, which includes the
17		trucking and the fees and what the broker may
18		charge or the supplier charges.
19	Q	And I think we've gone over this in past years,
20		but is it correct that the Column (6), Selkirk
21		is somewhere in New York?
22	A	(Gilbertson) Yes, it is.
23	Q	So, the first five columns are the price
24		first six columns are the price of the product

<ol> <li>to New York?</li> <li>A (Gilbertson) Uh-huh. Yes, it is.</li> <li>Q And then Column (7) is to get the product from New York to Keene?</li> <li>A (Gilbertson) Correct.</li> <li>Q And do you purchase, in Column (8), you mentioned a number of times the quote, is this from a particular supplier or do you shop that around or how does that work?</li> <li>A (Gilbertson) We ask a couple of suppliers.</li> <li>Q And were the quotes from the suppliers</li> <li>A (Gilbertson) Very close.</li> <li>Q Very close to one another?</li> <li>A (No verbal response).</li> <li>Q Okay. So, if we could move to Page 19 please. Could you explain what this page is intended to show?</li> <li>A (Gilbertson) This page, Schedule D, is the</li> </ol>
<ul> <li>3 Q And then Column (7) is to get the product from New York to Keene?</li> <li>5 A (Gilbertson) Correct.</li> <li>6 Q And do you purchase, in Column (8), you mentioned a number of times the quote, is this from a particular supplier or do you shop that around or how does that work?</li> <li>10 A (Gilbertson) We ask a couple of suppliers.</li> <li>11 Q And were the quotes from the suppliers</li> <li>12 A (Gilbertson) Very close.</li> <li>13 Q Very close to one another?</li> <li>14 A (No verbal response).</li> <li>15 Q Okay. So, if we could move to Page 19 please. Could you explain what this page is intended to show?</li> </ul>
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15 Q Okay. So, if we could move to Page 19 please. 16 Could you explain what this page is intended to 17 show?
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17 show?
18 A (Gilbertson) This page, Schedule D, is the
19 inventory balances. And there's a beginning
20 balance of what's in inventory, and then
21 purchases that we would receive to refill
22 anything we take out for sendout. So, we have
23 to keep refilling the as we take gas as
24 we take propane out, we've got to refill it.

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	Q	And I was noticing that the summer months the
2		purchases received, which I think you just
3		characterized as the refill,
4	A	(Gilbertson) Uh-huh.
5	Q	were 55,000 therms in July and August and
6		September, but only 40,000 in June. Is that
7		right?
8	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
9	Q	And could you explain why the June amount would
10		be lower than the other summer months?
11	A	(Gilbertson) Well, this is a hypothetical
12		situation, where we assume a certain beginning
13		balance and we assume a certain price. And if
14		I was to refill, I would probably refill less
15		in June, when the prices appear to be a little
16		bit higher, and then more when the prices are
17		getting a little lower. It's a plan. It's
18		given this set of circumstances. We're
19		starting with a certain amount, we're sending
20		out a certain amount, and then we're just
21		refilling.
22		It's not necessarily what's going to
23		happen, but it's an idea of what happens.
24	Q	Now, unless I'm misreading this schedule, it
		(DC 10 0E2) (04 2E 10)

	r	[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		looks like the price of the purchases received
2		are actually higher in July and August and
3		September than June. And I say that looking at
4		Lines 15, Lines 21, and Line 27, as compared to
5		the June price, on Line 9, which seems to be
6		lower. Am I misunderstanding that?
7	А	(Gilbertson) Okay. So, you're looking at the
8		June, Line 9, the \$1.25. And you're looking at
9		Line 27, 1.13. The reason for the increase in
10		the rate is because, for the first two months
11		of the summer, there's no CNG in there for
12		volumes, but there is a demand charge. And
13		that could be represented on Schedule K. We
14		start the CNG volumes in July.
15	Q	Okay. I have some questions on CNG.
16	A	(Gilbertson) Okay.
17	Q	So, I'll save that for that.
18	A	(Gilbertson) That's the reason.
19	Q	Okay. Now, if we were to go to Page 26
20		CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Dexter, I'd
21		like you to return to your questions on this
22		topic.
23		MR. DEXTER: Sure.
24		CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Because the

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		fundamental premise you started with seems at
2		odds with what I'm looking at on the page. I
3		could be mistaken, but I think you said that
4		the prices later in the summer are higher than
5		the prices in June. And that's not correct.
6		MR. DEXTER: I think I agree with
7		you, Mr. Chairman. I believe, when I asked the
8		question, I was reading the "1.13" as "1.31".
9		CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Well, that would
10		explain it.
11		MR. DEXTER: And so, I think the
12		schedule actually is consistent with Ms.
13		Gilbertson's response that the June price was
14		lower, at 1.25. I had transposed the digit
15		there, it looks like.
16		CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
17		Thank you.
18		MR. DEXTER: Sure.
19	BY M	R. DEXTER:
20	Q	So, Pages 26 and 27 of the filing deal with the
21		Stabilization Program, is that right?
22	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
23	Q	And can you, and I know you've gone through
24		this in past cases, but could you explain in

		22 [WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		general what the Propane Stabilization Purchase
2		Program is all about?
3	A	(Gilbertson) We purchase gas in the summertime
4		for the winter, for the winter. And what the
5		intent is of the Stabilization Plan is to avoid
6		the spikes, to have a more stable price in the
7		wintertime, by pre-purchasing the commodity
8		through the summer, in different strips.
9	Q	And if I look at Bates 026, which is Schedule
10		J-1, is this intended schedule intended to
11		show how the pre-purchased gallons compare to
12		what would have been purchased if the Company
13		hadn't done the pre-purchasing?
14	A	(Gilbertson) Can you say that again?
15	Q	Yes. That's a complicated question. So, I'm
16		on Page 26. And maybe you can tell he what
17		Page 26 is intended to show?
18	A	(Gilbertson) So, what it's intended to show is
19		that, in April, we plan to buy 115,000 gallons,
20		and that's under the contract volumes, or we're
21		hedging 115,000 gallons. We've already sent
22		out a request for proposal. And what the
23		request for proposal is intended to do is to
24		fix the basis. So, it will take the Mont

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		Belvieu price on a particular day, and it will
2		apply a basis to it, as opposed to having all
3		the costs broken out.
4		And what this is intended to show is that,
5		when the 115,000 gallons were purchased, which
6		is a forward strip, a little bit in November, a
7		little bit in December, a little bit, on that
8		day, the Mont Belvieu price was 70 cents, and
9		all the components that make up the basis are
10		listed as well. So, the final price at Keene
11		would have been \$1.10, as let's see. And
12		the final costs would have been \$126,000,
13		"126,783".
14	Q	And what you just described is all sort of the
15		left-hand side of the page, is that right?
16	A	(Gilbertson) Yes. Yes.
17	Q	So then, what's on the right-hand side of the
18		page?
19	А	(Gilbertson) On the right-hand side is we're
20		valuing our fixed our RFP, basically. So,
21		our RFP, request for proposal, we said to
22		the we wanted them to buy certain amounts of
23		gas in the forward strip, and the basis would
24		have to be set at a certain price. And in the

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		case of the winning bidder, it was 31 and a
2		half cents.
3		So, if I took the Mont Belvieu price, plus
4		the 31 cents, it's going to show me that this
5		was a it was lower, the 31 cent basis is
6		lower than what we would have paid if we did
7		the same exact thing, by 8 cents.
8		I know that's not flowing too well. But
9		does that make sense?
10	Q	Well, I'm with you up on the left-hand side of
11		the page, until we get to "Keene Division
12		Cost". And I think I've understood everything
13		that you've said up to that point. And I
14		understood the right-hand side of the page to
15		be a comparison to what might have happened had
16		you not pre-purchased the volumes as shown on
17		the left-hand side of the page?
18	A	(Gilbertson) Right. So, what we'd be comparing
19		is the Keene Division costs versus the Plan
20		costs. So, that's where we know how we made
21		out with the hedge.
22	Q	And so, where do the Plan costs come from?
23	A	(Gilbertson) That would be the Mont Belvieu,
24		plus the 31 and a half cents, times the volume.
		(DC 10 0E2) (04 2E 10)

		25 [WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	Q	And again, we're talking about on this whole
2		schedule last year or last Summer 2017,
3		correct?
4	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
5	Q	So, is the conclusion of this schedule what
6		is the conclusion of this schedule?
7	A	(Gilbertson) The conclusion is that the 31 cent
8		basis price was a pretty good one. It was 8.74
9		cents less than the actual basis at that time.
10	Q	Okay. So then, let's go to Schedule J-2, and
11		if you could go through a similar explanation
12		of what this schedule is intended to show
13		please.
14	A	(Gilbertson) Okay. So, this is the actual
15		price that we paid for November, all those
16		purchases throughout the summer, to come up
17		with the full November volume. The volume was
18		75,346 that we pre-purchased, at the contract
19		price, which was \$1.0285 in November. And then
20		the actual spot price that we paid in November
21		for volumes that were not hedged, and this year
22		it was very expensive, it was \$1.3388.
23		So, in this case, those volumes for
24		those volumes, the spot prices, had we bought
		(DC 10 0E2) (04 2E 10)

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		them on the spot market, would have been
2		\$23,380 more.
3	Q	And I'm curious about Column (4) and
4		Column (6). Column (4) is entitled "Average
5		Spot Price". Where does that number come from?
6	A	(Gilbertson) That is what we actually paid.
7	Q	And then
8	A	(Gilbertson) For other volumes. For other
9		volumes that were not part of the hedge
10		program.
11	Q	Actual price paid for volumes that were not
12		hedged?
13	A	(Gilbertson) Correct.
14	Q	Okay. And so, Column (6) is entitled
15		"Hypothetical Spot Cost". And it just seems to
16		be the product of two actual numbers. And my
17		question is, why is it labeled "hypothetical"?
18	A	(Gilbertson) Because, if we didn't hedge the
19		75,346 that we did hedge, we would have bought
20		it at the average spot price, which would have
21		been 100,873, as opposed to what we did pay,
22		which was the 77,493, because of this program.
23	Q	And so, it's hypothetical in the sense that
24	A	(Gilbertson) We didn't do it.

		27 [WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	Q	you didn't do it, but it's actually based on
2		the actual
3	A	(Gilbertson) On true, yes. It's based on true
4		values.
5	Q	Very good. And so then, the point of this
6		schedule is to indicate, and again, this is
7		dealing with last winter,
8	А	(Gilbertson) Correct.
9	Q	that the hedging program reduced the cost of
10		propane by 26 percent, is that
11	A	(Gilbertson) It did this time.
12	Q	a fair conclusion?
13	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
14	Q	And none of the costs that we're talking about
15		on these two schedules are actually included in
16		the proposal before the Commission today, is
17		that right? These are winter costs?
18	A	(Gilbertson) These are from prior winter, yes.
19	Q	Right.
20	A	(Gilbertson) Oh, and they're not in here,
21		correct, for the summer.
22	Q	Okay. Just shown for illustration purposes?
23	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
24	Q	Okay. So, before I get to questions on CNG, I
		18 - 052 $104 - 25 - 18$

[WITNESS	PANEL:	Gilbertson [McNamara]
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	22		calculation that uses cents per barrel to
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	24		propane. And the calculation is 910.98, as it

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		shows here, divided by 42 barrels, equals 21.69
2		cents for transportation from Texas to New
3		York, and from there it's trucked to Keene.
4		But it's illustrated on the Schedule J-1, which
5		is Bates 026 that we just looked at. It's in
6		the "Pipeline Rate". That's where it comes
7		from.
8	Q	And again, back on Schedule 3, which is Bates
9		Page 018, Column (3) has the pipeline rate as
10		"zero". So, could you explain that?
11	A	(Gilbertson) Yes. Because it's a quoted price
12		and it's a bundled price, and we don't we
13		just typically don't put the rate in there in
14		the summer. Again, Column (8) is the price.
15	Q	So, Appendix 2 wasn't intended to be a proxy
16		for the transportation costs in the summer,
17		it's
18	A	(Gilbertson) No. It's just to show, on
19		Schedule J-1, what the basis would be for the
20		winter.
21	Q	Okay. All right. And then, on Schedule C, we
22		touched on this briefly earlier about the
23		broker fee, the footnote explaining the broker
24		fee says that it's "a generally accepted broker

		30 [WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		fee". Do you see that?
2	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
3	Q	But earlier, I think if I understood your
4		testimony, you said, at least in this schedule,
5		it sorted of acted as a balancing column?
6	A	(Gilbertson) Correct.
7	Q	So, would you agree that, if it's used as a
8		balancing column, that it's really not a
9		generally accepted broker fee?
10	A	(Gilbertson) I agree that that 11 cents isn't
11		yes. And I agree that probably should just say
12		"broker fee".
13	Q	Okay. Now, Schedule I'm sorry, Bates Page
14		014, which is the derivation of the rate,
15		there's no line numbers, but the third line
16		down says the "Total Anticipated Cost of
17		Propane Sendout", \$415,000. Do you see that?
18	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
19	Q	Does that include any CNG costs?
20	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
21	Q	And could you explain where in the filing the
22		CNG costs are detailed?
23	A	(Gilbertson) On Schedule K, on Bates 029.
24	Q	And I note that there's some confidential

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		information on this, so I'll try to ask
2		questions that don't require you to reveal it.
3		But where in this schedule does the CNG
4		information show up?
5	A	(Gilbertson) It shows up from Line 21 through
6		Line 29 is the CNG information.
7	Q	And then, on the lines below that, Lines 30
8		through 40, does that have to do with propane?
9	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
10	Q	Could you tell me roughly what percentage of
11		the projected costs back on Page 14, which are
12		actually labeled all propane, but apparently a
13		certain percentage of those are propane and a
14		certain percentage are CNG, if I understood
15		what you said. Do you have a rough idea as to
16		what percentage are propane and what percentage
17		are CNG?
18	A	(Gilbertson) CNG is about 21 percent.
19	Q	Now, on the propane section, Line 32 has a
20		bunch of rates that are redacted. And there's
21		a reference to "Schedule E". Do you see that?
22	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
23	Q	And I couldn't find those rates on Schedule E,
24		but I did find them on Schedule C. Was that
		$\int DC [18-052] \int 0/-25-18]$

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		reference supposed to be to "Schedule C"? And
2		I find them on Schedule C, in Column (8).
3	А	(Gilbertson) Yes. But I'm trying to see if
4		they're on Schedule E as well. And they're
5		not. So, yes. It should be "C". I'm sorry.
6	Q	And on Schedule C, those figures are not
7		redacted. And I don't think they have been in
8		past cases. Is that true?
9	А	(Gilbertson) They are not redacted in Schedule
10		C, that's correct. That's the quoted price.
11	Q	So, that doesn't need to be kept confidential
12		on Bates 029, is that correct?
13	A	(Gilbertson) Probably true, yes.
14	Q	So then, moving up to the CNG section, all
15		those figures are redacted. Could you explain
16		why propane prices don't need to be redacted
17		and kept confidential, but CNG prices do?
18	A	(Gilbertson) Well, I know the CNG prices have
19		to be kept confidential, because they are a
20		contracted rate. And it's possible, and I'm
21		not even 100 percent sure that propane prices
22		should not be kept confidential, because it's a
23		quoted rate and not a price from that we
24		built from the index. So, I'm not sure. I'm

[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson|McNamara] 1 thinking maybe it's proper to have them 2 confidential for the -- for the propane price. 3 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Sheehan, do you want to step in here? 4 5 MR. SHEEHAN: Yes. We're thinking 6 The reason we redacted what's on through. 7 Schedule K was to prevent the backing into what is a contracted price with a particular 8 9 provider. 10 And as always, we get to these 11 hearings, we sometimes start rethinking "is that necessary?" We're happy to do that here 12 13 as. There's no prohibition speaking the 14 numbers on the record today. We would just 15 have Mr. Patnaude redact as necessary. 16 But we can certainly refile these 17 with less redactions again, if that's the 18 appropriate way to go. 19 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I mean, it does 20 seem that those same numbers weren't redacted 21 on Schedule C. So, --22 MR. SHEEHAN: The starting point is, 23 frankly, the contract with the provider has 24 that provider's specific mark-up for the CNG,

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## [WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson | McNamara]

	[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	and that's really what is commercially
2	sensitive. The final price may be less so.
3	And again, the risk is, from that provider's
4	point of view, if we know what the market
5	price, if you will, is, and you know what the
6	price being charged here is, you can back into
7	his particular fee.
8	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right.
9	MR. SHEEHAN: And that was the
10	motivation for the redactions.
11	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And that deals
12	with Lines 21 through 29. I don't think it
13	deals with the spot purchases of propane, which
14	are redacted on K, but not on C. So,
15	MR. SHEEHAN: Agreed. Agreed.
16	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: So, I think
17	we're going to need a new K to fix whatever
18	doesn't need to be redacted, and obviously also
19	to fix the cross reference to the correct
20	schedule on Line 32.
21	MR. SHEEHAN: We will do that. Thank
22	you.
23	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: And Mr. Dexter
24	was asking your witness a number of questions
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1	[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	about why things are confidential. Those are
2	things that it may be as appropriate for you to
3	respond as it may be for your witness. To the
4	extent that she knows, that's great. But, in
5	some cases, you've got to make legal arguments.
6	MR. SHEEHAN: Correct.
7	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Dexter, I'm
8	sorry for breaking the flow.
9	MR. DEXTER: No. I don't have any
10	more questions on confidentiality. I would
11	just ask the witness to excuse me just a
12	moment while I reference the testimony.
13	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Sheehan,
14	while Mr. Dexter is doing that, just to be
15	clear, you're also going to go back and see
16	what, if anything else on that schedule we were
17	just looking at, Page 29, might not be
18	confidential. You speculated about the CNG
19	information.
20	MR. SHEEHAN: Yes. And again, the
21	concern of the number on Line 40 is we're
22	always thinking is "can someone back into the
23	confidential information?" And sometimes we'd
24	be redacting stuff that may not otherwise be

<pre>1 confidential, because it's added to a 2 confidential number, it would be simple to 3 determine.</pre>	
3 determine.	
4 So, to the extent it sometimes loo	oks
5 like there's over redaction, that is the	
6 thinking behind it. But, yes, we will	
7 reevaluate the whole document.	
8 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: I mean, I car	l
9 envision 39 and 40 both being confidential,	
10 while 33 is not, for the reason you just	
11 stated. But, again, you're also going to be	) )
12 taking a look at the information in the sect	cion
13 just above that, on "CNG Deliveries"? I mea	an,
14 you speculated about that, but I don't think	c we
15 closed the loop on that.	
16 MR. SHEEHAN: Yes.	
17 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay.	
18 MR. DEXTER: And on the topic of	
19 Schedule K, in a data request Staff had aske	∍d
20 the Company to provide an updated city gate	
21 price for CNG, which they did. And I'm goin	ıg
22 to hand that out as an exhibit now. But it	
23 does have confidential information in it.	30,
24 we'll just I haven't marked it as such, b	out

1 maybe the Clerk could help me out with that. 2 MS. DENO: I will. 3 MR. SHEEHAN: And the assertion of	
3 MR. SHEEHAN: And the assertion of	
4 confidentiality is the same as I made at the	
5 outset of today's hearing.	
6 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay. This	
7 going to be "Exhibit 4", Mr. Dexter?	
8 MR. DEXTER: Yes.	
9 [Atty. Dexter distributing	
10 documents.]	
11 (The document, as described,	was
12 herewith marked as <b>Exhibit 4</b>	for
13 identification.)	
14 BY MR. DEXTER:	
15 Q Now, Ms. Gilbertson, would you agree that	
16 Page 2 of Exhibit Page 3 of Exhibit 4 is	an
17 updated Schedule K?	
18 A (Gilbertson) Yes.	
19 Q Could you explain the nature of the update?	
20 A (Gilbertson) The update was to update the	
21 Algonquin Citygate index price.	
22 Q And where does that appear on this schedule?	
23 A (Gilbertson) It's at the bottom of the page,	to
24 the left, under "Algonquin Citygate Index",	

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		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		starts in July, "\$2.57".
2	Q	Is there a line number that you could point me
3		to?
4	A	(Gilbertson) On the data request? There is
5		no
6	Q	I was looking at the confidential Schedule K.
7	A	(Gilbertson) Oh. Sorry. Okay. There isn't,
8		because it's pulling from a cell that isn't
9		represented on the schedule.
10	Q	Could you indicate
11	A	(Gilbertson) So that would be the price the
12		price would be on Line 24, but that also
13		includes an adder.
14	Q	Sure. So, if I understand what you're saying,
15		Line 24, on the updated Schedule K, is the
16		would reflect the updated price?
17	A	(Gilbertson) It would, yes.
18	Q	Okay. Now, as a result of the updated price,
19		did you recommend that the proposed rate back
20		on Page 14 be updated for this change?
21	A	(Gilbertson) No, because it was really small.
22		It's a very, very small change from the city
23		gate price this March.
24	Q	In the course of revising the Schedule K for

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		the reasons that Attorney Sheehan and the
2		Chairman were talking about, would you
3		recommend that this updated Schedule K be
4		substituted as well?
5		MR. SHEEHAN: We would agree to do
6		that.
7	BY M	R. DEXTER:
8	Q	And finally well, I should never say
9		"finally". Additionally, in your testimony on
10		Page 9 I'm sorry, Bates Page 010, you
11		indicate that the CNG projected price sorry,
12		that the CNG price is projected to be lower
13		than the projected cost of spot propane. Is
14		that right?
15	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
16	Q	And the reflection of CNG in this proposal is
17		as of July 1st, is that right?
18	A	(Gilbertson) Yes. But the demand charges are
19		as of May.
20	Q	As of May.
21	A	(Gilbertson) Uh-huh.
22	Q	And if service if CNG service were not
23		introduced in this period, how would you
24		recommend that that be handled?

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	A	(Gilbertson) We would just use propane. It
2		would be spot propane.
3	Q	And to the extent the propane was more
4		expensive, because you projected that the CNG
5		was going to be less expensive,
6	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
7	Q	how would that be handled? How would those
8		costs be recovered?
9	A	(Gilbertson) I would assume through the
10		true-up. The customers would only pay for what
11		we use. They wouldn't pay for the CNG, if we
12		weren't using it. And they wouldn't benefit
13		from that reduced price.
14		MR. DEXTER: Okay. So, that's all
15		the questions Staff has. Thank you.
16		CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner
17		Bailey.
18		CMSR. BAILEY: Good morning. I think
19		most of my questions have been asked.
20	BY C	MSR. BAILEY:
21	Q	But just a clarifying question, on Bates Page
22		018, about the broker fee that, in this
23		schedule, is a reconciling number.
24	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	Q	You said I thought you said that, in the
2		winter, that rate or that component is known.
3		Did I hear you right?
4	A	(Gilbertson) It's not known, but I guess we
5		always put in like a penny. In the wintertime,
6		we use all of these columns, including the
7		pipeline rate, and we try to build a price that
8		we feel will reflect what the cost is going to
9		be.
10		In the summertime, we don't do that. So,
11		I'm just trying to back into everything, and it
12		probably doesn't look right.
13		And I would say, in the wintertime, we
14		stick to a penny for the broker fee, and that
15		really is a generally accepted broker fee.
16		Does that make sense?
17	BY C	HAIRMAN HONIGBERG:
18	Q	It's still your educated guess as to what you
19		think the broker fee is, isn't that right?
20	A	(Gilbertson) I think that the problem the
21		trouble here is that it doesn't really it's
22		not even relevant. This whole schedule isn't.
23		The quote is a bundled price that they're going
24		to give us.

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	Q	Is it a bundled
2	A	(Gilbertson) And I'm trying to just use this
3		schedule because it's always been used.
4	Q	Is it a bundled price in the winter?
5	A	(Gilbertson) No. It's not.
6	Q	But what you just said is that you just put in
7		a penny, because that's an accepted number.
8		So, I'm uncertain as to whether that's a
9		whether you actually know that?
10	А	(Gilbertson) I don't know. I don't know
11		exactly what the broker what their piece is,
12		and I don't know what the supplier charge is
13		either. Those are the two that are pretty much
14		unknown.
15	BY CI	MSR. BAILEY:
16	Q	In the winter, when you have this schedule, do
17		you know the Mont Belvieu price?
18	А	(Gilbertson) Yes. And I know it now, too.
19	Q	So, those numbers are known.
20	A	(Gilbertson) We do know those numbers.
21	Q	And then the pipeline rate in the winter, do
22		you know that?
23	А	(Gilbertson) Yes. Yup.
24	Q	And do you know the

		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	A	(Gilbertson) I know the PERC fee, and I know
2		the trucking fee. The only two that I really
3		don't know is the broker fee and the supplier
4		charge, don't know those.
5	Q	And you don't know those in the winter either?
6	A	(Gilbertson) No. I don't know what they're
7		building into it.
8	Q	But you do know what the price per gallon that
9		they're going to sell it to you at is?
10	A	(Gilbertson) We ask them ahead of time, before
11		they deliver, "what are you going to charge?"
12	Q	But not when you file this schedule?
13	A	(Gilbertson) Well, we don't know the day of.
14		These are it changes every single day. So,
15		we really don't know what the price is when we
16		buy spot, when we're buying on the spot market.
17		CMSR. BAILEY: Okay. Thank you.
18		CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Commissioner
19		Giaimo.
20		CMSR. GIAIMO: Good morning.
21	BY C	MSR. GIAIMO:
22	Q	So, on Bates 018, what I thought I heard you
23		just say was that Line 3, the pipeline rate,
24		would be known in the winter?

		44 [WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1	A	(Gilbertson) Yes.
2	Q	But right now it's not known?
3	A	(Gilbertson) Well, because it's a bundled
4		price, in the summertime, we don't include it.
5	Q	Is the zero number a function of a
6		non-constrained pipeline as well, and the very
7		minimal pipeline costs in the summer?
8	A	(Gilbertson) Well, in the summertime, we call
9		the suppliers and we ask them "what's it going
10		to" "what are you going to charge to deliver
11		it to Keene? What is the cost?" So, whereas
12		it's just a delivered price. There is no pipe.
13	Q	I understand that. I was just
14	A	(Gilbertson) It's whatever is in their
15		inventory, I guess.
16	Q	Okay. What I thought I heard you say was that
17		the high cost of propane is the key and
18		basically only major factor that explains the
19		50 percent increase in the cost of gas per
20		therm over last summer, is that right?
21	А	(Gilbertson) That's correct.
22	Q	I just wanted to hear you make sure I heard
23		that properly. Sorry.
24		On Bates 027, the bottom right corner says
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		[WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		"\$162,454". That's the amount that was saved
2		as a result of the volumes that were hedged
3		last year?
4	A	(Gilbertson) That's the price differential,
5		yes. That it was less than, yes.
6	Q	And what I think your testimony said was that
7		last year you used that approximately
8		63 percent of your sales were hedged?
9	A	(Gilbertson) Correct.
10	Q	Where is that 63 percent from then?
11	A	(Gilbertson) That's from this Stabilization
12		Program, as well as the Amherst storage.
13		That's on-site storage that we refill in the
14		summertime.
15	Q	Okay. I guess my question was, how do you
16		determine what the proper number should be?
17		Why was that 63 percent?
18	A	(Gilbertson) Sixty-three (63) percent is
19		generally a good range to be in, because you
20		don't want to over hedge. If you there's no
21		guarantees that the hedged volumes are going to
22		be lower price. We're just trying to stabilize
23		the price.
24	Q	So, you stabilize the price by purchasing

		46 [WITNESS PANEL: Gilbertson McNamara]
1		approximately 60 percent, or two-thirds,
2		anywhere between
3	A	(Gilbertson) In the summertime, and then the
4		rest we do on the spot market.
5	Q	Okay. Just as a point of clarification, I
6		thought I heard you earlier say the spot price
7		doesn't change, but what you were referring to
8		there was the quote that you got has not
9		spot price has not changed significantly, based
10		on the quote you received?
11	A	(Gilbertson) The quote yes. The quote
12		hasn't changed. Now, when the time comes, it
13		may go lower or it may go higher, but at this
14		time this is what they believe is going to be
15		the price.
16		CMSR. GIAIMO: Okay. Those are all
17		the questions I got. Thank you.
18		CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All the
19		substantive questions I might have asked have
20		been asked and answered.
21		I guess my comment for the Company
22		generally, on Schedule C, is that it seems to
23		call out either for a revamping for the summer
24		months or at least relabeling, so it's apparent

1 what is a known quantity and what's a derived or estimated quantity based on experience. 2 3 Because I'm not sure why this hasn't been an 4 issue in the past, but it certainly added many, 5 many minutes to this hearing, because, although 6 it doesn't seem to be used or significant, it 7 raised questions. 8 Mr. Sheehan, do you have any follow-up for the witnesses? 9 10 MR. SHEEHAN: I do not. Thank you. 11 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: All right. 12 Thank you, ladies. I think you can probably 13 stay where you are. 14 If there's nothing else, without 15 objection, we'll strike ID on Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 16 and four. 17 And I'll ask the parties to sum up. 18 Mr. Dexter. 19 MR. DEXTER: Thank you. I'm sorry. 20 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. 21 With the -- Staff supports the filing 22 of the updated Schedule K, because we think it 23 will improve the presentation. 24 With respect to Page 14, again,  $\{DG \ 18 - 052\} \ \{04 - 25 - 18\}$ 

1	there's no line numbers, but the total
2	anticipated cost of propane sendout is listed
3	as \$415,000. And we've learned at the hearing
4	that that actually is made up of over 20
5	percent CNG. So, we would recommend that, in
6	future filings, if there is CNG in there, that
7	it not be labeled "propane", because that we
8	found that to be a bit confusing.
9	With those two items noted, and we
10	also agree with the Chairman about the possible
11	reworking of Schedule C, we think that would
12	improve the filing.
13	But, in terms of the rate proposed,
14	Staff supports the rate in its filing.
15	CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Thank you, Mr.
16	Dexter. Mr. Sheehan.
17	MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you. On the
18	schedules, we will certainly revisit Schedule
19	C. I can tell you that over the years we often
20	have conversations about how to either
21	eliminate or rework schedules, and sometimes
22	it's more difficult than it may seem to
23	eliminate or change them. But, given this
24	hearing, I think we'll have some good impetus

1 as to Schedule C. As to the confidentiality, just to 2 3 illustrate the conundrum sometimes faced, the 4 first page of Exhibit 4, if you look at the 5 shaded piece, under the column "Adder", that is the confidential element here. That is the 6 7 supplier's magic number. And you can see how every number after that we had to redact, 8 because otherwise you could back into the 9 10 confidential adder. 11 Now, we may have overdone that on the 12 other documents you looked at. But that's the 13 thinking that we have, and that's why these are 14 more complicated than it may sometimes appear. On the substance, the only thing I 15 16 wanted to address, and Ms. Gilbertson did say 17 it, is we understand that we do not have the 18 Commission authority yet to provide CNG. We 19 have planned as of July 1 in this filing, and 20 that's the numbers that are in front of you. 21 If we don't get that approval, as Ms. 22 Gilbertson said, we will not serve CNG. We 23 will replace it with propane at a slightly 24 higher price, and there will be the usual

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1 monthly reconciliations to cover those costs as 2 they occur. 3 Otherwise, we ask the Commission to 4 approve the rates as filed. 5 CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Mr. Sheehan, 6 what is the status of the discussions with, I 7 assume it's with the Safety Division, on CNG? 8 MR. SHEEHAN: As you'll recall, the Commission's order from October, in 17-068, 9 10 directed us not to serve CNG until the Safety 11 Division files a report saying X, Y, and Z. We 12 went back and forth with the Safety Division 13 through the end of the year, but we are now 14 waiting for the report. 15 We have heard informally that it is 16 imminent, but we have no more concrete 17 information as to that. When it's filed, if it 18 says we're good to go, great. We would expect 19 the Commission to approve that. If there are 20 things we need to correct, and I suspect they would be in the nature of minor modifications 21 22 to whatever manuals or procedures we have, we 23 will make those promptly, and again, hopefully 24 get to being able to use the CNG.

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1 The other issue out there is the modest tariff charge in the related docket that 2 3 would allow the Keene tariff to include CNG 4 measurement. So, that's sort of the companion 5 that is still out there as well. 6 So, our hope is, frankly, that the 7 Safety Division files its report, we can 8 respond quickly, and Staff can make a recommendation as to the tariff. 9 10 The concern we have primarily is, 11 assuming this is going to happen, it is the 12 Monadnock Marketplace customers that need to be 13 converted to allow the shutdown of the blower 14 And if this stretches too long, we system. 15 will run into the trouble of it getting cold, 16 and it's difficult to convert the Monadnock 17 Marketplace when it's cold, because these are 18 restaurants and commercial buildings. 19 So, ideally, we have the okay this 20 summer, we can get the conversions done in good weather, and we'll be good to go for this 21 22 And then the long-term plan is to winter. 23 address the permanent facility we're planning 24 now, that would be for '19.

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CHAIRMAN HONIGBERG: Okay. Thank you. If there's nothing else, then we will adjourn the hearing, take the matter under advisement, and issue an order as quickly as we can. (Whereupon the hearing was adjourned at 11:04 a.m.)