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UTAH PUBLIC  
SERVICE COMMISSION

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From: Paul Crapo

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January 5, 2009

RE: "DOCKET NO. 07-057-13 In the Matter of the Application of Questar Gas Company to Increase Distribution Non-Gas Rates and Charges to Make Tariff Modifications: As Filed by the Commission on Monday, December 22, 2008

Dear Commissioners:

Pursuant to Utah Code § 63-46b-12, an aggrieved party may file, within 30 days after the date of this Report and Order, a written request for rehearing or reconsideration by the Commission.

I'm an aggrieved party writing to request a rehearing. I'm also a Questar customer who used natural gas to heat my home, warm my water, cook my dinner, AND run my vehicles. I understand the last use will no longer be considered "traditional" under 08-057-13 and will be charged a rate based on international, not local market prices.

Before finalizing this ruling I ask you to consider the following four points.

1) Re-Examine "Traditional" Use:

Vehicles have been operated on Natural Gas since Etienne Lenoir used it in 1890's to power one of the first internal combustion engine driven vehicles. Residential use for heating, clothes drying, etc didn't get started until some forty years later, in the 1930's.

Thankfully, wise individuals in the 1930's saw the benefits of switching from coal to "non-traditional" natural gas to heat homes. We breathe much better air today because of that choice, and your agency's continued watchfulness over the cost of that fuel. Please consider the chance you have today to promote a similar change in how vehicles are powered and how much pollution they produce.

2) Support Clean Air:

As noted above, NGV's produce significantly less air pollution than similar unleaded (and often gas/electric hybrid) vehicles of the same class. Utah urban centers NEED help with air quality. While the PSC may not directly deal with air standards, I'm sure you'll agree that helping reduce the number of "Red" air quality days is a Public Service.

Utah's EPA air quality non-attainment areas need to pursue all improvement options. NGVs help, but take away the long term cost incentive of lower fuel cost and you WILL kill a growing alternate fuel vehicle group and the associated environmental benefits.

Natural Gas systems for vehicles are expensive... state tax credits (which are being cut back this year) help, but do not cover these costs. Long term savings in fuel cost lead most owners to invest in NGVs. The significant savings seen this last year lead to unprecedented growth in this use of this fuel... this is a good thing, please don't undo it.

3) Encourage Energy Independence:

Natural Gas is plentiful and inexpensive here in Utah. Let us use this local resource in our vehicles at a local price. It will build the user base, encourage repair and retrofit industry, reduce dependence on foreign oil, and improve air quality. The closest station to my house is 24 miles. I plan my fill ups around proximity to a CNG station rather than when the tank is empty. I also cannot go on long distance trips because my vehicle only runs on CNG. People are willing to make the adjustments of shorter times between fill ups, smaller trunk space and driving additional distance to fill up if there additional incentives.

4) Consider Cost Plus Pricing:

I understand there is a cost associated with compressing natural gas and maintaining the pumps and stations. Let Questar submit a "cost plus" plan based on the local (WEXPRO) fuel cost plus a fair profit. I'm sure this will be more than the residential cost, but should be less than the global market rate and not nearly as volatile.

In closing, this affordable fuel has been a godsend to our family over the last two years. I commute to work off the standard light rail and bus lines and the cost of doing so on unleaded would have sunk our budget this year for certain... probably last year too. Providing this affordable and clean transportation fuel is a huge Public Service and I thank you and Questar for having the foresight to implement and maintain this resource during years when unleaded was relatively cheap. Please don't undo what you have accomplished so far... and the bright future this alternate transportation fuel could have here in Utah.

Respectfully,  
Paul Crâpo