

January 5, 2009

Utah Public Service Commission
Heber M. Wells Building
160 East 300 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84114

UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

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Dear members of the Public Service Commission,

I have recently become aware of a decision made by the PSC on December 22, 2008, concerning regulation of the Questar operated compressed natural gas (CNG) refueling stations for natural gas vehicles (NGV). My understanding is that it has been decided to: 1) set NGV refueling rates at the cost of service, and 2) the cost of service will be determined by national market rates. I fail to see how these two ideas are compatible. The cost of service in Utah is not the same as the cost of service in the rest of the country! It seems perfectly reasonable to expect Utah CNG vehicle owners to pay the cost of the fuel they are using, but asking them to pay the national rates is NOT accomplishing that goal. It seems most appropriate to me, and others I have discussed this issue with, for Utah CNG rates to be based on the Wexpro gas resource. I ask you to reconsider the ruling.

I appreciate the fact that the Commission is mindful of this important topic, but I would ask you to re-open Docket 07-057-13 for public comment. I believe re-opening this docket to be absolutely necessary to fulfilling your role in providing public service. I try to stay informed on topics of local and national significance, and I was not aware that this topic was being discussed by the commission. I believe the same can be said of the great majority of other users of the NGV stations. Not only were users caught off-guard, but representatives of Questar Gas are on record (in the Deseret News) as being surprised by this decision. Your re-opening of this docket will be an appropriate gesture of willingness to listen to those most directly affected by this decision.

On a similar vein, I am concerned about the possibility of the eventual privatization of this State-managed resource. I don't believe that action would be in the State's interest. Furthermore, it seems to me that, whether or not it's technically legal, the allowance of the establishment of a non-regulated private monopoly managing Utah's CNG stations literally flies in the face of the anti-monopoly laws which were established in the USA in the beginning of the previous century! Please do not turn back the clock by allowing a private monopoly of NGV fueling stations to be established in Utah.

Thank you for your effort, time, and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Steven Hamblin