

From: David W. Parker
To: mlivingston@utah.gov
Date: January 7, 2009
Subject: NGV rate hike
Docket: 07-057-13

UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

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

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Dear Commissioners:

I am an aggrieved person from the decision in the above matter and request a re-hearing or reconsideration of the decision concerning the astronomical rate hike of over 140% to natural gas vehicle users. I sincerely believe the decision was short-sighted, based upon improper information and is pre-mature to making such a drastic change in policy.

I am a Natural Gas Vehicle owner. My decision to purchase a Natural Gas Vehicle was quite complex. Contrary to the Committee's contention that we only have two reasons to purchase such a vehicle (low gas prices and protecting air quality) it was much more than that. The Committee needs to realize several aspects that a Natural Gas Vehicle has significant differences from a normal "gas" vehicle. These include:

- There are only a few Natural Gas Stations in the Salt Lake Valley and throughout the State. Our legislature recognized the need to have additional stations and opened up the State stations to the public.
- Natural Gas Vehicles has significantly smaller travelling capacity on a tank of gas. My vehicle will only allow an 8 gallon tank and therefore, my range is about 190 miles per tank. It just isn't feasible to use the vehicle for long distance travel. It is only a commuter type vehicle.
- The ability to fill a tank is dependent upon many factors such as temperature, pressure, use of service and refill rate. Further, to fill my tank takes approximately twice the time to fill a normal gas vehicle.
- Service on the vehicle is much more expensive as fuel filters need to be changed repetitively. The tanks also need to be inspected.
- The vehicles made by manufacturers (Honda and Chevrolet) are basic cars. You don't get the opportunity to have any luxury items. These are not vehicles that you are going to be travelling long distances because they are basic, the range is relatively low and the difficulty of filling the vehicles.

To say that the only reason to purchase a NGV is based on natural gas prices or being friendly to the environment is extremely short-sighted and not correct. Had the Committee investigated the issue, it would realize the issues are much more complex.