


CARBON COUNTY
Chamber of Commerce UTAH PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

2006 DEC 12 A 9 09

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December 7, 2006

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Utah Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 45585
Salt Lake City, Utah 84145-0585

RE: Docket 06-057-T04

To Whom It May Concern:

We strongly support the proposal to remove GSS and EAC rates from Questar Gas Company's tariff. Natural gas service has clearly benefited rural Utah. We appreciate the accommodations made several years ago to bring gas to areas of rural Utah. However, the various arrangements made to cover the cost of bringing that service to rural Utah have resulted in some areas receiving economic development advantages over others.

GSS and EAC rates were tools that allowed rapid expansion of a critical service. But these arrangements favored faster growing communities. Those communities have been able to join Utah's economic mainstream faster. Higher rates in Emery and Beaver Counties only keep us from catching up, or even competing. For the benefit of the whole state, it's time to level the playing field. Removing the extra charges from our rates will help accomplish this.

Economic development in rural Utah will benefit all of Utah. It will take pressure off the Wasatch Front and Washington County. It will provide more options to businesses and industries considering relocating to Utah. It will provide jobs and income beyond agriculture and the service sector. More competitive natural gas rates will provide the jumpstart we need.

The minimal cost of this jumpstart was the rationale used by the legislature to help some communities receive gas service in the first place. Because of 1998's HB 180, all Questar Gas customers pay a few cents extra every month to cover the costs of taking gas service to Panquitch, Cedar Fort and Brian Head. This is a good example of the type of cooperation and compromise we are requesting. We urge the PSC to approve the proposal.

Sincerely,



Shane Baggs, 2006 President
Carbon County Chamber Of Commerce

cc: File

81
90 North 200 East, #3 • Price, Utah 84501
Telephone (435) 637-2788 • Fax (435) 637-7010 • Email ccchamber@priceutah.net