

**BEFORE THE
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND
AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**

IN THE MATTER OF

**The National Grid Annual
Gas Cost Recovery Charge
Filing**)
)
)

Docket No. 4097

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF WITNESS
BRUCE R. OLIVER**

On Behalf of

The Division of Public Utilities and Carriers

October 16, 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|-----------|
| I. INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| II. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES | 3 |
| A. Changes in GCR Charges and Costs..... | 4 |
| B. Natural Gas Market Considerations..... | 8 |
| C. Forecasted Sales and Throughput | 13 |
| D. GPIP Incentive Calculations | 16 |
| E. Natural Gas Portfolio Management Plan (NGPMP)..... | 22 |
| F. GCR Reconciliations | 26 |
| G. Tariff Edits and Amendments | 27 |
| III. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS..... | 28 |

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER
Docket No. 4097
October 16, 2009

1
2
3
4
5
6
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I. INTRODUCTION

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS FOR THE RECORD.

A. My name is Bruce R. Oliver. My business address is 7103 Laketree Drive, Fairfax Station, Virginia, 22039.

Q. BY WHOM AND IN WHAT CAPACITY ARE YOU EMPLOYED?

A. I am employed by Revilo Hill Associates, Inc., and serve as President of the firm. I manage the firm's business and consulting activities, and I direct its preparation and presentation of economic, utility planning, and policy analyses for our clients.

Q. ON WHOSE BEHALF DO YOU APPEAR IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. My testimony in this proceeding is presented on behalf of the Division of Public Utilities and Carriers (hereinafter "the Division").

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?

A. This testimony addresses issues relating to the National Grid (or hereinafter "the Company") Annual Gas Cost Recovery (GCR) filing. This testimony reviews and comments on the content of the September 1, 2008 direct testimony of witnesses

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 Arangio and Beland, as well as the attachments submitted in support of those
2 testimonies and the Company's responses to data requests.

3

4 **Q. WHAT EXHIBITS ARE YOU SPONSORING AS PART OF THIS TESTIMONY?**

5 A. Attached to this testimony are five exhibits. They include:

6

7 Exhibit BRO-1 Proposed Changes in GCR Charges by Rate Class

8 Exhibit BRO-2 Changes in Costs by GCR Cost Component

9 Exhibit BRO-3 U.S Natural Gas Imports (January 2000 – July 2009)

10 Exhibit BRO-4 Changes in Natural Gas Drilling Activity

11 Exhibit BRO-5 U.S. Natural Gas Storage Inventories as of October 8, 2009

12 Exhibit BRO-6 U.S. Natural Gas Use by Sector

13 Exhibit BRO-7 NYMEX Natural Gas Strip Prices for 2009-10 and 2010-11

14 Exhibit BRO-8 Changes in Forecasted Normal Weather Sales and Throughput

15 Exhibit BRO-9 Changes in Forecasted Design Winter Throughput

16 Exhibit BRO-10 Division Recommended GCR Charges

17

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 **II. DISCUSSION OF ISSUES**

2

3 **Q. HOW IS YOUR DISCUSSION OF ISSUES RELATING TO NATIONAL GRID'S**
4 **GCR FILING IN THIS PROCEEDING ORGANIZED?**

5 **A.** This discussion is presented in seven sections. **Section A** discusses the changes in
6 GCR charges by rate class that National Grid proposes and analyzes the changes in
7 costs by gas cost component that underlie the Company's proposed GCR charges.

8 **Section B** provides insight regarding current natural gas market conditions and
9 forward looking natural gas pricing considerations. **Section C** evaluates reason-
10 ableness of the forecasts of normalized sales and design winter sales that have
11 been relied upon in the development of National Grid's proposed GCR charges.

12 **Section D** presents an assessment of the Company's GPIIP performance, the
13 incentive calculations that National Grid offers for FY 2008, and the reasonableness
14 of the amount of the GPIIP incentive that National Grid seeks. **Section E** examines

15 the impacts of Natural Gas Portfolio Management Plan (NGPMP) on the costs
16 subject to recovery through the Company's proposed GCR rates. **Section F**
17 reviews National Grid's reconciliation of its GCR costs and revenue for FY 2008.

18 **Section G** addresses the Company's proposed tariff edits and amendments.

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TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 **A. Changes in National Grid's GCR Rates and Gas Costs**

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3 **Q. HOW DO THE COMPANY'S PROPOSED CHANGES IN GCR CHARGES VARY**
4 **BY RATE CLASSIFICATION?**

5 A. National Grid's filing proposes small percentage reductions in its GCR charges for
6 all rate classifications except Natural Gas Vehicles and the FT-2 Storage Service
7 Charge. As shown in **Exhibit BRO-1**, the Company's proposes to lower its GCR
8 charges for Residential Heating customers, Small and Medium C&I customers, Low
9 Load Factor Large C&I customers, and Low Load Factor Extra Large C&I customers
10 from \$1.0975 per therm to **\$1.0892 per therm**. That represents a reduction of 0.8%
11 or less than one-cent per therm. The Company's September 1, 2009 filing also
12 proposes a GCR reduction of 2.2% for Residential Non-Heating customers and High
13 Load Factor Large and Extra Large C&I customers. As a result, GCR charges for
14 those customers would be lowered from \$1.0636 per therm to **\$1.0402 per therm**.
15 The GCR rate for Natural Gas Vehicles would increase 8.4% from \$0.8388 to
16 \$0.9091, and the FT-2 Storage Charge would be lowered by 18.8% from \$0.0415
17 per therm to \$0.0337 per therm.

18
19 **Q. WHY ARE THE PERCENTAGE DECREASES IN GCR CHARGES SHOWN IN**
20 **EXHIBIT BRO-1 NOT UNIFORM ACROSS RATE CLASSES?**

21 A. Three basic factors contribute to the differences in percentage decreases in GCR
22 charges by rate class that National Grid proposes. Those are:

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

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1. Differences in the rates of change in the size of the GCR cost components; and
2. Differences in the magnitude of over- or under-collections of costs by GCR component; and
3. Differences in the manner in which the five components of GCR costs are allocated among classes.

11
12
13

Q. HOW SIGNIFICANT ARE THE DIFFERENCES IN MAGNITUDE AND DIRECTION OF CHANGES IN COSTS BY GCR COST COMPONENT THAT NATIONAL GRID PROJECTS FOR THE 2008-09 GCR YEAR?

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A. **Exhibit BRO-2, page 1**, compares the Company's updated GCR cost projections by component for the 2009-10 GCR year with the costs that National Grid projected for the 2008-09 GCR year in its October 31, 2008 Update filing in Docket No. 3982. As shown on that page, the changes in individual cost components vary widely. Although overall the Company's gas costs have declined by 4.6%, percentage changes in individual cost components range from -40.4% for Storage Variable Non-Product Costs to +24.5% for Supply Fixed Costs.

22
23

Q. DOES THE COMPANY EXPLAIN THE LARGE VARIATIONS IN THE CHANGES IN COMPONENTS OF ITS GAS COSTS?

24
25
26

A. Not directly. My review and analysis of the Company's filed testimony and exhibits finds that the increases in National Grid's Supply Fixed Costs are explained primarily by the change in the manner in which the Company's gas assets are managed.

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 However, the major factors underlying the Company's projected changes in variable
2 components of its gas supply costs are less easily identified.

3 **Exhibit BRO-2, page 1**, depicts an increase in the Company's forecasted
4 Supply Fixed Costs for the 2009-10 GCR year of \$5,777,733. That increase is
5 driven primarily by the combined effects of the termination of the Company's asset
6 management contract with Merrill Lynch and the implementation of National Grid's
7 self-management of Rhode Island's gas assets under the terms of the Natural Gas
8 Portfolio Management Plan (NGPMP). Last year in Docket No. 3982, the Com-
9 pany's October 31, 2008 Updated Attachment GLB-1 reflected capacity release
10 credits of \$11,412,686. The comparable attachment to the Company's September
11 1, 2009 filing in this proceeding projects capacity release credits of \$5,242,797.¹
12 Thus, the change in the Company's approach to asset management has resulted in
13 a significant lowering of capacity release credits. That reduction in capacity release
14 credits yields an increase of \$6,169,889 in National Grid's projected Company's
15 2009-10 Supply Fixed Costs. The difference between the \$6,169,889 reduction in
16 capacity release credits and the \$5,777,733 increase in overall Supply Fixed Costs
17 (i.e., \$392,156) is attributable to changes in other elements of the demand charges
18 that the Company expects to pay during the November 2009 through October 2010
19 period.

20

¹ Attachment EAD-1, page 1, in this proceeding also includes \$1,000,000 of NGPMP Credit, but that credit is accounted for separately in the Company's GCR determinations (Attachment GLB-1, page 2,

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 Q. DO THE COMPANY'S GAS COSTS BY COST COMPONENT SHOWN IN
2 ATTACHMENT EDA-1, PAGE 1, TIE DIRECTLY TO THE STARTING COSTS BY
3 GAS COST COMPONENT THAT ARE USED IN THE COMPUTATION OF THE
4 COMPANY'S PROPOSED GCR CHARGES ON PAGES 2-5 OF ATTACHMENT
5 GLB-1?

6 A. Yes, they do.

7

8 Q. WHY ARE THE PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS IN THE COMPANY'S PROPOSED
9 GCR CHARGES LESS THAN THE 4.6% OVERALL REDUCTION IN GAS COSTS
10 THAT SHOWN IN EXHIBIT BRO-2, PAGE 1?

11 A. The difference is explained by changes in the cost adjustments that are incorporated
12 in the GCR rate calculations in Attachment GLB-1 of the Company's filing. For
13 example, **Exhibit BRO-2, page 2**, illustrates the large swings in reconciliation
14 adjustment amounts applicable to the 2008-09 and 2009-10 GCR periods. The net
15 of the reconciliation adjustments is a \$4.39 million increase in GCR costs for the
16 November 2009 to October 2010 period.

17

18 Q. ARE THE GCR CHARGES THAT NATIONAL GRID PROPOSES IN ITS
19 SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 FILING PROPERLY COMPUTED?

line 4 in this proceeding) and thus that \$1,000,000 dollars in not included in the Supply Fixed Costs that are compared in **Exhibit BRO-2, page 1**.

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 A. The methods that National Grid uses in its September 1, 2009 filing to compute the
2 GCR charges that it proposes are consistent with those the Company has used, and
3 the Commission has accepted in past GCR filings. Furthermore, the computations
4 the Company has used to derive the specific charges set forth in witness Beland's
5 testimony and attachments appear to be mathematically accurate. Thus, any issues
6 associated with the GCR charges that National Grid proposes are related to the
7 development of the data inputs and assumptions used to compute the levels of
8 those charges.

9

10 **B. Natural Gas Market Considerations**

11

12 **Q. DO YOU AGREE WITH WITNESS ARANGIO'S OBSERVATIONS REGARDING**
13 **NATURAL GAS MARKETS AT PAGES 4 THROUGH 6 OF HER SEPTEMBER 1,**
14 **2009 TESTIMONY IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

15 A. Only in part. In general, I find her portrayal of the benefits of anticipated new gas
16 supply options to be somewhat overly optimistic. Given current market conditions, I
17 do not expect significant expansion of gas supply into the Northeastern United
18 States over then next few years. Although substantial LNG import capability has
19 been added, LNG imports over the last year are down dramatically. (See **Exhibit**
20 **BRO-3.**) For the 12-month period ended July 2009 (i.e., the most recent annual
21 period for which data is available), LNG imports are at just **52.6%** of the peak LNG

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 import levels achieved in 2007 even though LNG terminal capacity in the U.S. has
2 nearly doubled since 2007.

3 Likewise, construction of the Rockies Express Pipeline may bring additional
4 gas supplies into the Central and Eastern parts of the U.S., but that increase in
5 Rocky Mountain supplies appears to be offset in part by declines in Canadian
6 imports. **Exhibit BRO-3** also depicts the decline in pipeline imports of natural gas to
7 the U.S. from Canada in recent months. Imports of natural gas to the U.S. from
8 Canada have fallen 13% since they peaked in March of 2008, and are now at their
9 lowest level since late 1999.

10

11 **Q. WILL INCREMENTAL NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION FROM THE MARCELLUS**
12 **SHALE FORMATION OR OTHER SHALE FORMATIONS IN THE U.S. LIKELY**
13 **HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON AVAILABLE GAS SUPPLY OVER THE NEXT**
14 **FEW YEARS?**

15 **A.** No. The Marcellus Shale formation that witness Arangio references certainly has
16 some potential, but the costs of developing that formation tend to be higher than
17 current market pricing will support. When gas prices were much higher in the first
18 half of 2008, near term prospects for Marcellus Shale production were much greater.
19 However, at today's market prices for natural gas, the costs of developing such
20 formations often exceed market price expectations.

21 In addition, the Barnett Shale Formation in Northern Texas, has been prolific
22 over the past several years, but in the face of the downturn in the U.S. economy,

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 decisions have been made that will substantially limit expected peak production from
2 that formation. Prior to the economic downturn in the U.S. and the dramatic fall of
3 natural gas prices, the industry anticipated that output from the Barnett Shale
4 formation would peak at 9.0-10.0 Bcf per day. However, plans for pipeline
5 expansion into that region have been trimmed back such that the maximum daily
6 supply from North Texas Barnett Shale production will be limited to roughly 4.5-5.0
7 Bcf per day. That reduction of approximately 4-5 Bcf per day is more than double
8 the amount of incremental gas supply that the Rockies Express is expected to
9 provide.

10 Furthermore, it will be difficult, if not impossible, for the U.S. to sustain current
11 levels of natural gas production without returning to the levels of drilling activity
12 achieved over the last few years. Yet, current Natural Gas drilling activity is now at
13 less than 50% of the peak level achieved in the late summer of 2008. (See **Exhibit**
14 **BRO-4**).

15

16 **Q. SHOULD FURTHER DECREASES IN NATURAL GAS COMMODITY COSTS BE**
17 **ANTICIPATED IN THE COMING MONTHS?**

18 A. Although some continuing volatility in natural gas prices can be expected, I do not
19 anticipate further dramatic declines in natural gas prices. Future price uncertainties
20 tend to be more associated with when prices will move upward again and how fast
21 and how far they will rise. Since the preparation of the Company's September 1,
22 2009 filing in this proceeding natural gas commodity prices have risen by more than

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 10% for most months in the November 2009 to October 2010 period. Still, in the
2 absence of extremely cold early winter weather, I find little likelihood of a continuing
3 resurgence of natural gas prices over the next six to eight months. As shown in
4 **Exhibit BRO-5**, the U.S. is entering this winter with record high storage inventories.

5 In general, futures prices for natural gas continue to exhibit “contango”
6 relationship with near-term prices generally lower than those for comparable months
7 in future years, and prices for periods further out in time become progressively
8 higher. That is a very different pricing structure than has typically been observed
9 over most of this decade. For most of the period since the year 2000, natural gas
10 commodity prices have reflected a “backwardized” relationship in which prices for
11 comparable months became progressively less expensive as one looked further into
12 the future. The current “contango” relationship in natural gas futures prices
13 suggests that the market believes higher natural gas prices will prevail in the future.

14 Such higher prices will most likely be the result of a rebound in natural gas demand
15 (particularly within the industrial and electric generation sectors) and/or a contraction
16 of U.S. domestic natural gas production. If reduced natural gas drilling activity leads
17 to a contraction of domestic natural gas production (which seems almost inevitable
18 given the pronounced decline in drill activity that has been experienced over the last
19 year), prices for natural gas may rise even if natural gas demand remains
20 comparatively flat.

21 Considerable uncertainty remains, however, with respect to future growth in
22 U.S. natural gas demand, and actual natural gas demand growth can be expected to

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 have substantial impact on future natural gas prices for periods beyond the next six
2 to eight months. Exhibit BRO-6 depicts changes in annual natural gas utilization by
3 end-use sector over the past decade. As illustrated in Exhibit BRO-6, Residential
4 and Commercial uses of natural gas have remained comparatively flat over the last
5 several years despite large market price fluctuations and despite the current
6 economic recession. The major drivers of changes in natural gas demand have
7 been primarily industrial natural gas use and the use of natural gas for electricity
8 generation and both of those sectors display considerable weakness.

9

10 **Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY OBSERVATIONS REGARDING THE NYMEX PRICE DATA**
11 **THAT WITNESS ARANGIO PRESENTS IN ATTACHMENT EDA-3?**

12 A. Yes. I believe that it is important to note that the August 24, 2009 NYMEX strip
13 prices reflect essentially a pattern of continually increasing pricing over the
14 November 2009 through October 2010 period. Such a pattern (without clearly
15 discernible seasonal price variations and with summer month prices that are higher
16 than those for the preceding winter months) is very atypical for the natural gas
17 industry, and it suggests an industry that is clearly in transition. **Exhibit BRO-7**
18 compares the August 24, 2009 NYMEX strip data with more recent NYMEX data for
19 the 2009-10 GCR period. It also provides recent NYMEX pricing for the 2010-11
20 GCR period in which seasonal price differences begin to reappear.

21

1 **C. Evaluation of Sales and Throughput Projections**

2

3 **Q. WHAT IS THE BASIS FOR THE FORECASTED SALES AND THROUGHPUT**
4 **VOLUMES THAT NATIONAL GRID HAS USED IN THIS PROCEEDING?**

5 A. The September 1, 2009 testimony of witness Beland at pages 12-13 describes the
6 development of National Grid's sales and throughput forecast for this proceeding.
7 As noted by witness Beland, the Company's base forecast of throughput
8 requirements was premised on regression analyses of daily sendout and degree
9 days over the May 2008 through April 2009 time period. Incremental load growth
10 was then estimated using statistical forecast models for the company's major
11 customer classifications with adjustments added to reflect projected load reductions
12 from energy efficiency programs. The results of that forecasting effort are presented
13 in Attachment GLB-1, page 14. National Grid also provides a forecast of Design
14 Winter Period Throughput on page 15 of Attachment GLB-1.

15 The Company's forecasts of Sales and Throughput forecasts are used to
16 allocate among rate classes Variable Supply Costs, Storage Variable Product Costs,
17 and Storage Variable Non-Product Costs. Forecasted Design Winter Throughput is
18 used to allocate Supply Fixed Costs and Storage Fixed Costs.

19

20 **Q. DOES THE COMPANY EXPLAIN THE MANNER IN WHICH IT DETERMINES**
21 **FORECASTED DESIGN WINTER THROUGHPUT REQUIREMENTS?**

22 A. No, it does not.

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

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2 **Q. HOW DO NATIONAL GRID'S FORECASTS OF NORMAL WEATHER**
3 **THROUGHPUT AND DESIGN WINTER THROUGHPUT COMPARE WITH THE**
4 **FORECASTS IT PRESENTED IN ITS LAST GCR PROCEEDING?**

5 **A. Exhibit BRO-8, pages 1 and 2,** provide comparisons of the Company's forecasts of
6 Normal Weather Sales and Throughput as filed in this proceeding with its compar-
7 able forecast data from Docket No. 3982. Those comparisons show an overall
8 increase in throughput volume of **2.5%** which is the product of a **0.1%** increase in
9 Firm Sales service volumes and a **70.7%** increase FT-2 annual throughput require-
10 ments. In addition, **Exhibit BRO-8, page 1,** displays some rather large variations in
11 projected sales and throughput growth by rate class. Residential Heating sales are
12 forecasted to decline by 5.0% on an annual weather-normalized basis while sales
13 for most other classes show double digit increases. Likewise, **Exhibit BRO-8, page**
14 **2,** reflects an irregular pattern of increases and decreases in forecasted weather-
15 normalized sales volumes across the months of the year, including an unexplained
16 11.3% increase in forecasted requirements for the month of October.

17 Design Winter throughput forecasts are compared in **Exhibit BRO-9.** Once
18 again, aggregate changes in forecasted requirements are comparatively small (i.e.,
19 an overall increase of 1.2%). However, the comparisons on **Exhibit BRO-9** also
20 depict substantial shifts in the monthly distribution Design Winter Sales and
21 Throughput requirements. More than **2,000,000 dekatherms** or roughly **10%** of
22 forecasted Design Winter Sales requirements are shifted from the months of

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 January, February and March to the months of November and December. Although
2 I would anticipate that such a shift would have a noticeable impact on the
3 Company's planning and operations for the coming winter, if not longer-term as well,
4 the implications of this pronounced change in the pattern of forecasted Design
5 Winter requirements is not discussed anywhere in the Company's filing. It seems
6 inconceivable that such a large shift in the monthly distribution of Design Winter
7 requirements would have no impact on either the Company's Design Day Peak
8 and/or Cold Snap requirements which in the past have been portrayed as key
9 considerations in the Company's gas supply planning. Yet, the impacts of these
10 changes are not addressed in National Grid's filed testimony and attachments.

11

12 **Q. SHOULD THE COMMISSION QUESTION THE REASONABLENESS OF THE**
13 **COMPANY'S FORECASTED DESIGN WINTER REQUIREMENTS?**

14 A. Yes. The forecasted changes in Design Winter requirements that National Grid
15 presents are not adequately explained or justified. Moreover, they appear
16 inconsistent with the Company's forecasted changes in Normal Weather
17 Throughput. As shown in below, the changes in monthly throughput requirements
18 that National Grid projects under normal and design conditions are often move in
19 opposite directions and are of significant magnitude for the Company's winter
20 months.

21

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

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2 **Table 1**
3 **Forecasted Percentage Changes in Throughput Requirements**

| 4 | | Normal | Design |
|----|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5 | | Weather | Winter |
| 6 | <u>Month</u> | <u>Throughput</u> | <u>Throughput</u> |
| 7 | | | |
| 8 | November | -1.0% | +54.1% |
| 9 | December | -2.5% | +31.0% |
| 10 | January | +7.5% | -7.7% |
| 11 | February | +4.6% | -9.8% |
| 12 | March | -1.2% | -25.4% |
| 13 | | | |

14 These results are counter-intuitive and raise concerns regarding the
15 consistency of the forecast models from which they were derived. As a result, the
16 Commission must question the confidence it can place in the reasonableness and
17 appropriateness of the Company's allocations of GCR costs among rate classes
18 unless the Company can provide further explanation and justification for the
19 changes observed within its forecasted data.

20
21 **D. GPIP Incentive Calculations**

22
23 **Q. DOES THE COMPANY SEEK APPROVAL OF A GAS PROCUREMENT INCEN-**
24 **TIVE FOR THE 12 MONTH PERIOD ENDED JUNE 2009?**

25 A. Yes. The September 1, 2009 testimony of witness Gary Beland presents National
26 Grid's request for approval of an incentive of at least **\$1,000,000**. The Company
27 actually computes an incentive of **\$1,097,727** for FY 2009, but it suggests that some
28 uncertainty exists regarding whether the total amount of incentives for the Company

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 for any fiscal year remains capped at \$1,000,000. Support for the Company's
2 requested incentive amount is presented in Attachment GLB-9.

3

4 **Q. DO YOU FIND ANY REASON TO QUESTION THE ACCURACY OR APPRO-**
5 **PRIATENESS OF THE COMPANY'S INCENTIVE COMPUTATIONS?**

6 A. No, I do not. I have reviewed the supporting detail for the Company's mandatory
7 and discretionary gas purchases for FY 2009, and I find that the Company's
8 calculation of the requested incentive appears to be consistent with the terms of the
9 Gas Procurement Incentive Plan (GPIP). However, my review of the gas purchase
10 data upon which the Company's GPIP incentive is determined indicates that further
11 revisions to the current incentive structure should be considered at this time.

12

13 **Q. SHOULD THE COMPANY BE GRANTED THE FULL AMOUNT OF THE**
14 **INCENTIVE THAT IT COMPUTES IN ATTACHMENT GLB-9?**

15 A. No. If the Company felt that there was ambiguity regarding the continued
16 application of the \$1,000,000 cap on incentive payments that is specified in the
17 GPIP, it should have raised those well in advance of its request for approval of an
18 incentive in excess of that amount. Furthermore, I do not support the Commission's
19 a waiver of the incentive cap specified in the GPIP either for this one-time event or
20 on a more permanent basis. When the \$1,000,000 cap was adopted, it was
21 intended to address both gas purchasing and asset management incentives. With
22 the implementation of the new Natural Gas Portfolio Management Plan in the spring

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 of 2009, asset management incentives are now addressed through a separate
2 mechanism that is not subject to an upper bound or cap on achievable incentives for
3 the Company. As a result, application of the \$1,000,000 cap to only GPIP
4 incentives already represents a somewhat generous interpretation of the present
5 incentive structure.

6 In addition, it is my assessment that most if not all of the Company's
7 computed incentive in this proceeding represents derives from the dramatic
8 downturn in market prices over the last year. Given the prolonged period of
9 comparatively sharp declines in natural gas prices that has been experienced over
10 the last 12-15 months, National Grid was able to achieve incentives without
11 significant risk and without the requirements for the demonstration of particular
12 expertise or acumen in gas procurement.

13

14 **Q. GIVEN ACTUAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE GPIP OVER THE LAST COUPLE OF**
15 **YEARS, ARE ANY FURTHER MODIFICATIONS OF THE GPIP NECESSARY OR**
16 **APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME?**

17 A. Yes, I believe they are. The intent of the GPIP was to incent the Company to make
18 gas purchases that it would not otherwise make to reduce the costs of gas billed to
19 its firm sales service customers. The last two years have shown, however, that the
20 discretionary purchases for which the Company seeks incentives are primarily
21 purchases that it would have undertaken in a declining price market regardless of
22 whether the current gas procurement incentives were in place. As a result, firm

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 sales service customers have been unnecessarily denied a portion of the benefits
2 that they otherwise could have reasonably expected in the absence of the current
3 incentive structure.

4 Actual experience under the GPIIP to date has shown that National Grid has
5 generally only made significant discretionary purchases late in the purchasing cycle
6 for each supply month when the Company could be certain that it would receive
7 incentives for making such purchases even though the Company most likely would
8 have had to make similar purchases to fulfill its firm sales service requirements in
9 the absence of incentives.

10 Although the GPIIP was modified last year to provide increased incentives for
11 the Company to make discretionary purchases early in the procurement cycle for
12 each gas supply month, National Grid has not taken advantage of such
13 opportunities. Rather, as I observed in Docket No. 3982, the focus of National
14 Grid's **discretionary** gas purchases has once again been on capturing the "**low**
15 **hanging fruit**" (i.e., easily obtained savings that reveal themselves after the
16 average cost of discretionary purchases is sufficiently known to substantially
17 eliminate any risk the Company might otherwise face related to discretionary
18 purchase decisions). Such purchasing adds little of value for ratepayers and does
19 not justify the payment of significant incentives to the Company. I do not fault
20 National Grid for its highly risk-adverse approach to discretionary purchases under
21 the current gas purchasing incentive program, but it has become apparent that the

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 Company approach to discretionary gas purchases substantially dilutes the value
2 that firm gas sales service customers derive from the offered incentives.

3 For these reasons, I recommend that the gas purchasing incentives presently
4 provided the GPIP should either be eliminated or substantially reduced.

5

6 **Q. SHOULD THE ENTIRE GPIP BE ELIMINATED?**

7 A. No. Although I encourage reduction or elimination of the current GPIP purchasing
8 incentives, I support continuation of the “dollar cost averaging” elements of the
9 current gas purchasing program. The elements of the current plan which identify
10 monthly mandatory purchasing requirements starting two-years in advance of each
11 gas supply month have generally served Rhode Island ratepayers well by providing
12 comparative rate stability in the face of highly volatile markets. Those elements of
13 the current GPIP should be continued.

14

15 **Q. HOW WOULD YOU RESPOND TO THOSE WHO MIGHT ARGUE THAT**
16 **ELIMINATION OF THE INCENTIVES CURRENTLY PROVIDED UNDER THE**
17 **GPIP WILL BE DISADVANTAGEOUS FOR RATEPAYERS IF AND WHEN GAS**
18 **PRICES TURN UPWARD ONCE AGAIN?**

19 A. The current incentives did not work as intended when we had a rising price market
20 in the past, and I find no reason to believe that they would produce any better
21 results in the future.

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1

2 **Q. DOES THE COMPANY PROPOSE ANY CHANGES IN THE GPIP?**

3 A. Yes. The September 1, 2009 testimony of witness Beland indicates that “the
4 Company is requesting that it be allowed to recover its short term borrowing cost,
5 less any interest earnings it may receive on collateral from the party requiring the
6 posting of collateral, currently the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX).

7

8 **Q. IS THE COMPANY’S REQUEST FOR RECOVERY OF SHORT-TERM BORROW-**
9 **ING COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS ON FINAN-**
10 **CIAL HEDGES REASONABLE?**

11 A. In concept, I believe the Company’s request is reasonable as long as the terms of
12 such cost recovery are balanced with provisions that provide ratepayers the benefit
13 of interest earned on collateral received from other parties. However, before
14 rendering a final opinion I would like to review the specific tariff language that the
15 Company intends to use to implement that request. In addition, the Commission
16 should consider requiring that recovery of short term borrowing costs only be
17 allowed where collateral is provided in the form of cash. In some commercial
18 transactions letters of credit or other instruments can be substituted for the provision
19 of cash. If and when a letter of credit is used in place of the posting of cash as
20 collateral for a gas purchase transaction, then the costs subject to recovery should
21 be the lesser of (1) the costs of securing and maintaining the letter of credit or (2)
22 the costs of an equivalent amount of short-term borrowing.

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 **E. Natural Gas Portfolio Management Plan (NGPMP)**

2

3 **Q. IS THE COMPANY'S NGPMP WORKING AS ANTICIPATED?**

4 A. To date there is not sufficient experience under that plan to fully evaluate its
5 operations and effectiveness. However, I find no reason at this time to question the
6 reasonableness of the structure of that plan.

7

8 **Q. DOES THE NATURAL GAS PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT PLAN (NGPMP) HAVE**
9 **ANY IMPACT ON THE DETERMINATION OF GCR CHARGES IN THIS**
10 **PROCEEDING?**

11 A. Yes. The NGPMP is reflected in the Company's GCR rate determinations in two
12 places. First, a prorated portion of the annual \$1.0 million minimum credit is
13 reflected for each month of FY 2009 in which the NGPMP was in effect (i.e., the
14 months of April through June of 2009). Second, NGPMP credits are reflected in an
15 adjustment to National Grid's projected Supply Fixed Costs for the 2009-2010 GCR
16 period. (See Attachment GLB-1, page 2, line 3.)

17

18 **Q. WHAT IS THE DOLLAR MAGNITUDE OF NGPMP IMPACT ON THE COMPANY'S**
19 **GAS COST RECONCILIATION RESULTS?**

20 A. The Company's recognition of a prorated portion of the minimum annual NGPMP
21 credit for FY 2009 results in a \$250,000 credit against FY 2009 Supply Fixed Costs
22 as shown in Attachment GLB-2, Schedule 2, page 1 of 2, on the line labeled "Less

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 Credits from Insourcing” in National Grid’s “Annual Gas Cost Recovery
2 Reconciliation Report.”

3

4 **Q. HOW DOES THE NGPMP IMPACT NATIONAL GRID’S ESTIMATED GAS COSTS**
5 **FOR THE 2009-2010 GCR PERIOD?**

6 A. Due to uncertainties regarding value of future asset management transactions,
7 National Grid has conservatively included only the \$1.0 million of guaranteed
8 NGPMP benefit in its development of proposed GCR charges for this proceeding.

9

10 **Q. HOW DOES THE LEVEL OF NGPMP CREDIT INCLUDED IN THE COMPANY’S**
11 **GCR FILING IN THIS PROCEEDING COMPARE TO THE CAPACITY CREDITS**
12 **THAT NATIONAL GRID REFLECTED IN ITS OCTOBER 31, 2008 FILING IN**
13 **DOCKET NO. 3982?**

14 A. It is significantly smaller.

15 Last year in Docket No. 3982, the Company’s Supply Fixed Costs reflected
16 the benefit of capacity release credits totaling \$11,412,686. The majority of those
17 credits were attributable to the Company’s former asset management arrangement
18 with Merrill Lynch which provided ratepayers with an assured level of annual asset
19 management benefit.

20 In this proceeding, the Company’s cost estimates for the 2009-10 GCR
21 period reflect credits for capacity released to marketers of \$5,242,797 as well as
22 \$1,000,000 million credit for its in-sourced asset management activities under the

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 NGPMP. Thus, total capacity release credits for the 2009-10 GCR year equal
2 \$6,242,797. However, that amount is \$5,169,889 or 45% less than the level of
3 credits forecasted for the 2008-09 GCR year.

4

5 **Q. IS IT LIKELY THAT THE COMPANY'S ACTUAL NET ASSET MANAGEMENT**
6 **REVENUE FROM THE NGPMP FOR 2009-10 GCR YEAR WILL EXCEED \$1.0**
7 **MILLION?**

8 A. Although I do not presume to be able to accurately predict the Company's actual net
9 asset management revenue from the NGPMP program for the coming GCR period, I
10 assess that it is reasonable to anticipate that National Grid will achieve net asset
11 management revenue in excess of the minimum annual guarantee.

12

13 **Q. IF NET ASSET MANAGEMENT REVENUE IN EXCESS OF THE MINIMUM**
14 **ANNUAL GUARANTEE IS ACHIEVED, WHAT PORTION OF ANY EXCESS IS**
15 **CREDITED TO RATEPAYERS?**

16 A. Under the new NGPMP the level of annual guaranteed benefit is set at \$1.0 million,
17 but ratepayers will receive 80% of all asset management revenue that the Company
18 derives in excess of \$1.0 million. .

19

20 **Q. WHAT LEVEL OF NGPMP CREDITS SHOULD BE ASSUMED IN THE DEVELOP-**
21 **MENT OF PROPOSED GCR CHARGES FOR THE 2009-10 GCR PERIOD?**

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 A. I encourage the Commission to assume annual NGPMP credits to ratepayers of not
2 less \$3.4 million annually. A \$3.4 million annual credit is consistent with the
3 achievement of \$4.0 million of annual net asset management revenue. Further-
4 more, \$4.0 million of annual NGPMP credits represents a reasonable compromise
5 between (1) the NGPMP guaranteed minimum credit and (2) the level of credit
6 obtained previously through the Company's third party asset manager.

7 The Company's estimate of NGPMP credits in the filing is essentially the
8 most conservative estimate possible. Even in the current market I assess that it is
9 reasonable to expect that annual NGPMP credits will exceed the established \$1.0
10 million minimum guarantee. Although I recognize that the level of credit formerly
11 obtained through the Merrill Lynch contract may not be achievable given current
12 market conditions, I find the assumption of only \$1.0 million of NGPMP credit for the
13 2009-10 GCR period unnecessarily and inappropriately limits the level of benefit that
14 will be conveyed to the Company's firm service customers over the coming GCR
15 year. I assess that the assumption of \$4.0 million of net asset management revenue
16 and \$3.4 million of NGPMP credits for the Company's ratepayers is more
17 reasonable.

18

19 **Q. WOULD THE ASSUMPTION OF \$3.4 MILLION OF NGPMP CREDITS EFFEC-**
20 **TIVELY RAISE THE GUARANTEED MINIMUM ANNUAL CREDIT FOR RATE-**
21 **PAYERS SET FORTH IN THE PROVISIONS OF THE NGPMP?**

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 A. No. If the \$3.4 million of credits is not achieved, the Company can recover any
2 deficiency plus interest through the GCR reconciliation process. The effective
3 minimum annual credit guarantee remains \$1.0 million, and nothing in my proposal
4 is intended to increase the dollar amount of credits for which the Company is at risk.

5

6 **F. Gas Cost Reconciliations**

7

8 **Q. HAVE YOU REVIEWED THE COMPANY'S RECONCILIATION OF GAS COSTS**
9 **FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2009?**

10 A. Yes, I have. Attachment GLB-2 submitted with witness Beland's September 1, 2009
11 testimony in this proceeding provides the Company's "Annual Gas Cost Recovery
12 Reconciliation." In that reconciliation report, the Company presents its costs and
13 revenue collections by month for each of the major components of its Gas Supply
14 Costs for the twelve months ended June 30, 2009. I have reviewed that document
15 in detail. I have also reviewed additional detail upon which the Company has relied
16 to support those reconciliations that was obtained through discovery. Although my
17 review must not be considered a comprehensive audit of National Grid's gas cost
18 and revenue reconciliations, my review has, for the most part, provided me with
19 reasonable comfort regarding the accuracy and reliability of those reconciliations.

20

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 Q. SHOULD THE COMMISSION ACCEPT THE COMPANY'S ANNUAL GAS COST
2 RECOVERY RECONCILIATION AS FILED?

3 A. Yes.

4

5 **G. Tariff Edits and Amendments**

6

7 Q. HAVE YOU REVIEWED THE TARIFF EDITS AND AMENDMENTS THAT
8 WITNESS BELAND PRESENTS ON BEHALF OF THE COMPANY?

9 A. Yes, I have.

10

11 Q. WHAT IS THE NATURE OF THE TARIFF CHANGES THAT THE COMPANY
12 ASKS THIS COMMISSION TO APPROVE IN THIS PROCEEDING?

13 A. At page 17 of witness Beland's September 1, 2009 testimony, he lists five proposed
14 changes to National Grid's gas tariff. The first two changes provide recognition of
15 already approved changes in the Company's asset management activities and
16 incentives. The next three address aspects of the Company's provision of gas
17 transportation services.

18

19 Q. SHOULD THE COMMISSION APPROVE THE COMPANY'S PROPOSED TARIFF
20 EDITS AND AMENDMENTS AS PRESENTED?

21 A. Yes. I find the proposed tariff changes to be reasonable and appropriate.

22

1 **III. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

2

3 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE RECOMMENDATIONS THAT YOU HAVE**
4 **PRESENTED IN THIS TESTIMONY.**

5 A. My recommendations to the Commission in this proceeding include the following:

6

7 1. The Commission should reduce or eliminate the current GPIIP
8 purchasing incentives, while maintaining the “dollar cost averaging”
9 elements of the current gas-purchasing program.

10

11 2. The Commission should assume annual NGPMP credits to ratepayers
12 of not less than \$3.4 million for the 2009-10 GCR period and reduce
13 the Company's GCR charges accordingly.

14

15 3. The Commission should require the Company to more fully document
16 and explain year to year changes in its forecasted Normal Weather
17 and Design Winter Sales and Throughput requirements in all future
18 GCR proceedings. It should also require the Company to address
19 the implications of changes in its annual throughput and design winter
20 forecasts on both its near-term and long-term gas supply planning
21 with particular focus on the expected availability of capacity resources
22 for release or use in the production of asset management credits.

TESTIMONY OF BRUCE R. OLIVER

Docket No. 4097

October 16, 2009

1 4. The Commission should accept as reasonable the Company's annual
2 gas cost recovery reconciliations.

3

4 5. The Commission should approve the Company's proposed tariff edits
5 and amendments.

6

7 **Q. HAVE YOU COMPUTED PROPOSED GCR CHARGES BASED ON YOUR**
8 **RECOMMENDED INCREASE IN THE ASSUMED LEVEL OF NGPMP CREDITS?**

9 A. Yes, I have. The development of the GCR charges that result from my recom-
10 mendation regarding NGPMP credits is presented in **Exhibit BRO-10**. With the
11 change that I recommend, the GCR charges for all major classes of customers
12 would be further reduced. The GCR charge for Residential Heating, Small C&I,
13 Medium C&I, Large Low Load Factor, and Extra Large Low Load Factor customers
14 would fall to **\$1.0801** per therm, while GCR charges for Residential Non-Heating,
15 Large High Load Factor, and Extra Large High Load Factor customers would be set
16 at **\$1.0338** per therm.

17

18 **Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?**

19 A. Yes, it does.

20

21

22

National Grid - RI Gas

Docket No. 4097

Company Proposed Changes in GCR Charges by Rate Class

Based on NG's Currently Effective Rates and September 1, 2009 GCR Filing

| Rate Classification | Current GCR Rate (\$/Therm) | NGrid Proposed GCR Rate (\$/Therm) | Increase (Decrease) | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------|--------|
| | | | \$ (\$/Therm) | % |
| Residential | | | | |
| Non-Heating | \$1.0636 | \$1.0402 | (\$0.0234) | -2.2% |
| LI - Non-Heating | \$1.0636 | \$1.0402 | (\$0.0234) | -2.2% |
| Heating | \$1.0975 | \$1.0892 | (\$0.0083) | -0.8% |
| LI - Heating | \$1.0975 | \$1.0892 | (\$0.0083) | -0.8% |
| Commercial & Industrial | | | | |
| Small | \$1.0975 | \$1.0892 | (\$0.0083) | -0.8% |
| Medium | \$1.0975 | \$1.0892 | (\$0.0083) | -0.8% |
| Large Low Load Factor | \$1.0975 | \$1.0892 | (\$0.0083) | -0.8% |
| Large High Load Factor | \$1.0636 | \$1.0402 | (\$0.0234) | -2.2% |
| Extra Large Low Load Factor | \$1.0975 | \$1.0892 | (\$0.0083) | -0.8% |
| Extra Large High Load Factor | \$1.0636 | \$1.0402 | (\$0.0234) | -2.2% |
| Natural Gas Vehicles | \$0.8388 | \$0.9091 | \$0.0703 | 8.4% |
| FT-2 Storage Service Charge | \$0.0415 | \$0.0337 | (\$0.0078) | -18.8% |

National Grid - RI Gas*Docket No. 4097***Changes in Costs by GCR Cost Component***Based on National Grid's October 31, 2008 GCR Update Filing and September 1, 2009 GCR Filing*

| GCR Cost Component | Forecasted | Forecasted | Change | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| | Annual Cost 2008-09 ^{1/} | Annual Cost 2009-10 ^{2/} | \$ | % |
| Supply Fixed Costs | \$ 23,566,240 | \$ 29,343,973 | \$ 5,777,733 | 24.5% |
| Storage Fixed Costs | \$ 9,338,117 | \$ 10,450,090 | \$ 1,111,973 | 11.9% |
| Supply Variable Costs | \$ 213,390,438 | \$ 196,408,852 | \$ (16,981,586) | -8.0% |
| Storage Variable Product Costs | \$ 38,902,803 | \$ 36,624,047 | \$ (2,278,756) | -5.9% |
| Storage Variable Non-Product Costs | \$ 1,893,321 | \$ 1,128,324 | \$ (764,997) | -40.4% |
| TOTAL | \$ 287,090,919 | \$ 273,955,286 | \$ (13,135,633) | -4.6% |
| Total Fixed Costs | \$ 32,904,357 | \$ 39,794,063 | \$ 6,889,706 | 20.9% |
| Total Variable Costs | \$ 254,186,562 | \$ 234,161,223 | \$ (20,025,339) | -7.9% |

1/ Source: Docket No. 3982, Updated Attachment GLB-1, October 31, 2008, page 1.

2/ Source: Docket No. 4097, Attachment EDA-1, September 1, 2009, page 1.

National Grid - RI Gas

Docket No. 4097

Changes in Reconciliation Amounts by Gas Cost Component

Based on National Grid's October 31, 2008 GCR Update Filing and September 1, 2009 GCR Filing

| GCR Cost Component | Forecasted | Forecasted | Change | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| | Annual Cost 2008-09 | Annual Cost 2009-10 | \$ | % |
| Supply Fixed Costs | \$ (2,232,818) | \$ 1,584,026 | \$ 3,816,844 | 170.9% |
| Storage Fixed Costs | \$ (865,243) | \$ 1,211,860 | \$ 2,077,103 | 240.1% |
| Supply Variable Costs | \$ 19,257,064 | \$ 45,481,451 | \$ 26,224,387 | 136.2% |
| Storage Variable Product Costs | \$ (7,421,641) | \$ (31,689,296) | \$ (24,267,655) | -327.0% |
| Storage Variable Non-Product Costs | \$ (1,423,487) | \$ (4,883,861) | \$ (3,460,374) | 243.1% |
| TOTAL | \$ 7,313,875 | \$ 11,704,180 | \$ 4,390,305 | 60.0% |
| Total Fixed Costs | \$ (3,098,061) | \$ 2,795,886 | \$ 5,893,947 | 190.2% |
| Total Variable Costs | \$ 10,411,936 | \$ 8,908,294 | \$ (1,503,642) | -14.4% |

1/ Source: Docket No. 3982, Updated Attachment PCC-1, October 31, 2008, pages 2-5.

2/ Source: Docket No. 4097, Attachment GLB-1, September 1, 2009, pages 2-5.

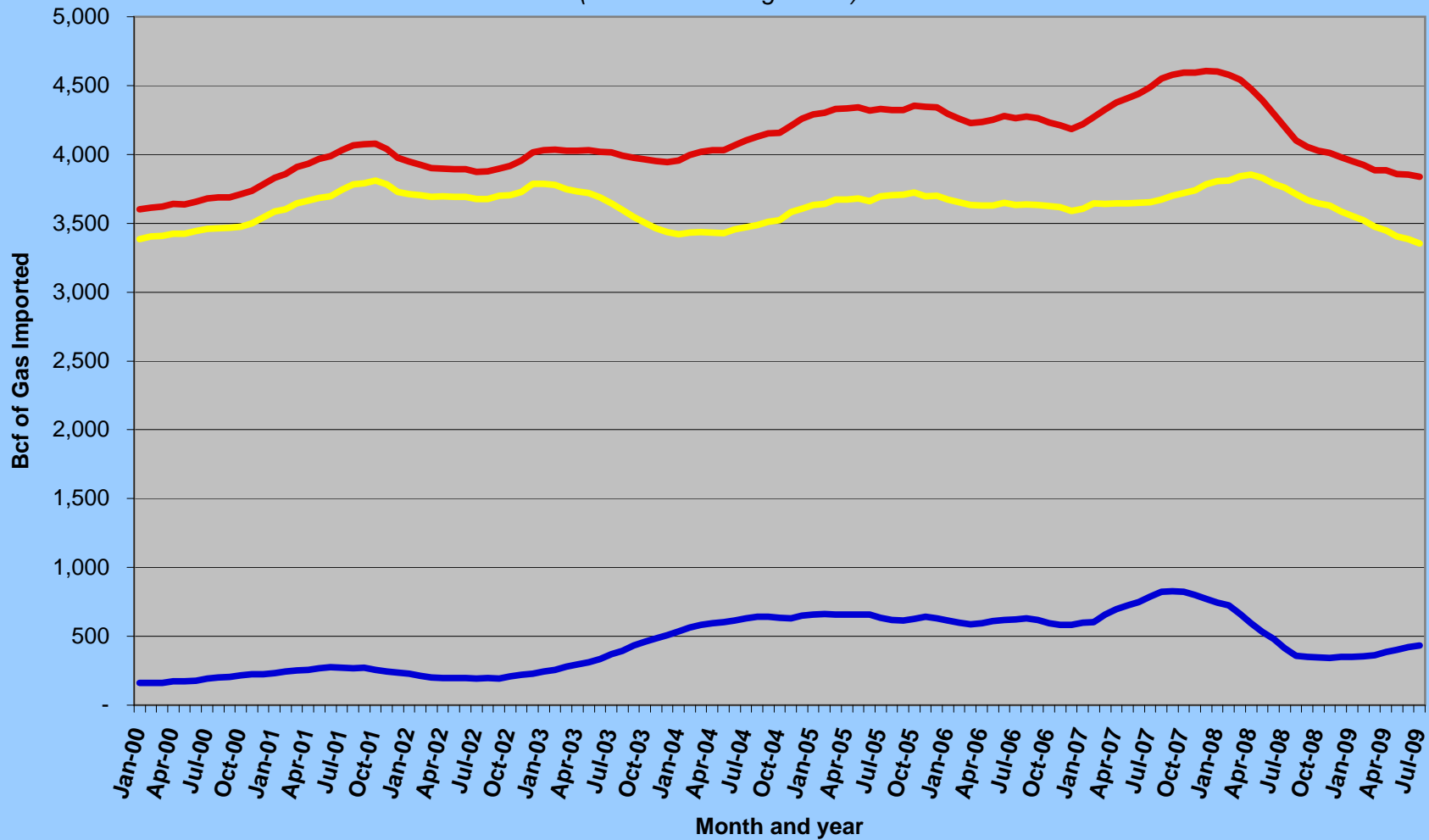
National Grid - RI Gas*Docket No. 4097***Changes in Other Adjustment Amounts by Gas Cost Component***Based on National Grid's October 31, 2008 GCR Update Filing and September 1, 2009 GCR Filing*

| GCR Cost Component | Forecasted | Forecasted | Change | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | Annual Cost 2008-09 | Annual Cost 2009-10 | \$ | % |
| Supply Fixed Costs | \$ 93,193 | \$ (781,773) | \$ (874,966) | -938.9% |
| Storage Fixed Costs | \$ 101,707 | \$ 203,923 | \$ 102,216 | 100.5% |
| Supply Variable Costs | \$ (1,689,863) | \$ (203,832) | \$ 1,486,031 | 87.9% |
| Storage Variable Product Costs | \$ 2,212,821 | \$ 2,875,223 | \$ 662,402 | 29.9% |
| Storage Variable Non-Product Costs | \$ 2,507,713 | \$ 1,660,598 | \$ (847,115) | 33.8% |
| TOTAL | \$ 3,225,571 | \$ 3,754,139 | \$ 528,568 | -16.4% |
| Total Fixed Costs | \$ 194,900 | \$ (577,850) | \$ (772,750) | -396.5% |
| Total Variable Costs | \$ 3,030,671 | \$ 4,331,989 | \$ 1,301,318 | 42.9% |

1/ Source: Docket No. 3982, Updated Attachment PCC-1, October 31, 2008, pages 2-5.

2/ Source: Docket No. 4097, Attachment GLB-1, September 1, 2009, pages 2-5.

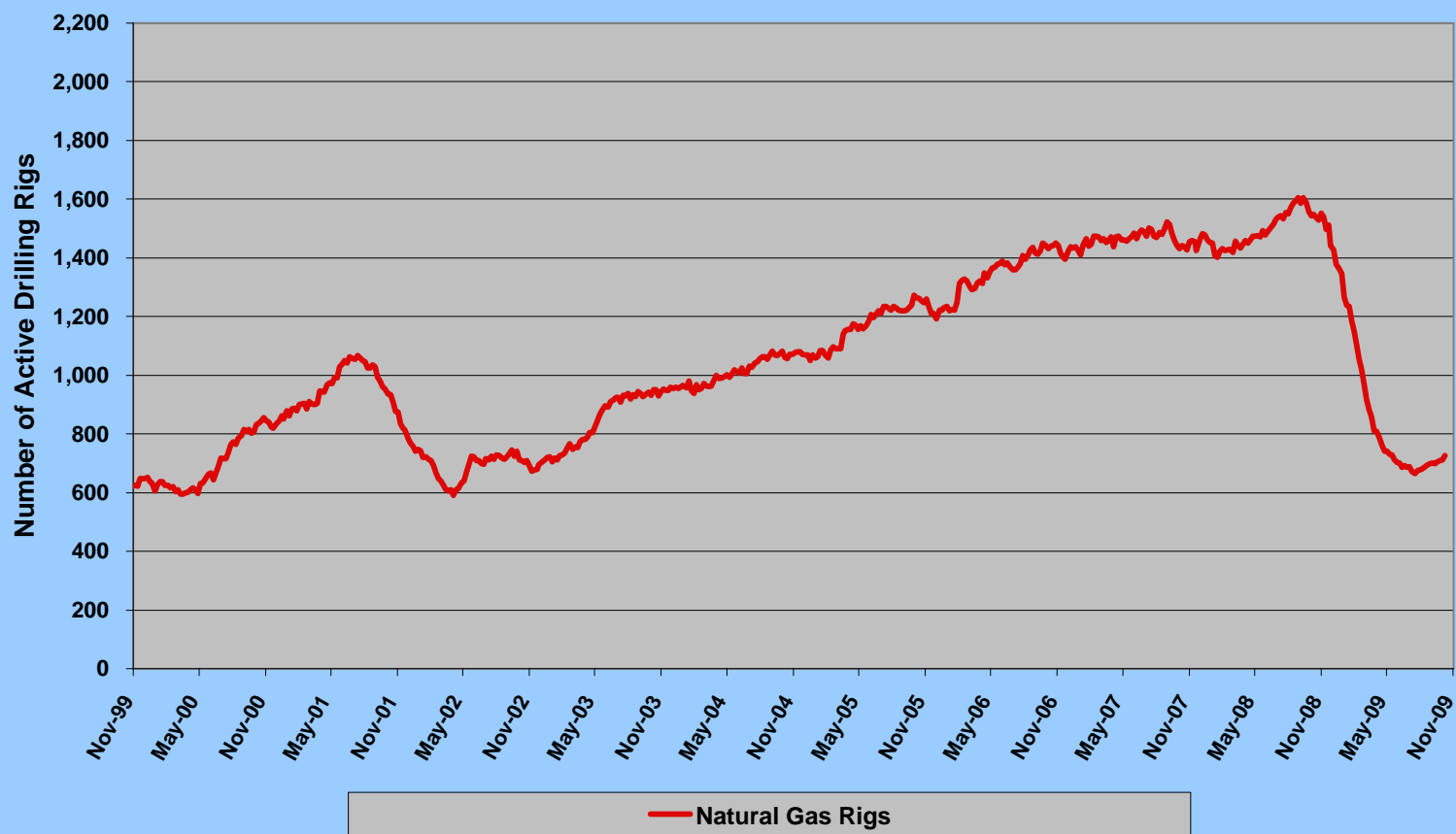
U.S. Imports of Natural Gas
January 2000 - July 2009
(12-Month Rolling Totals)

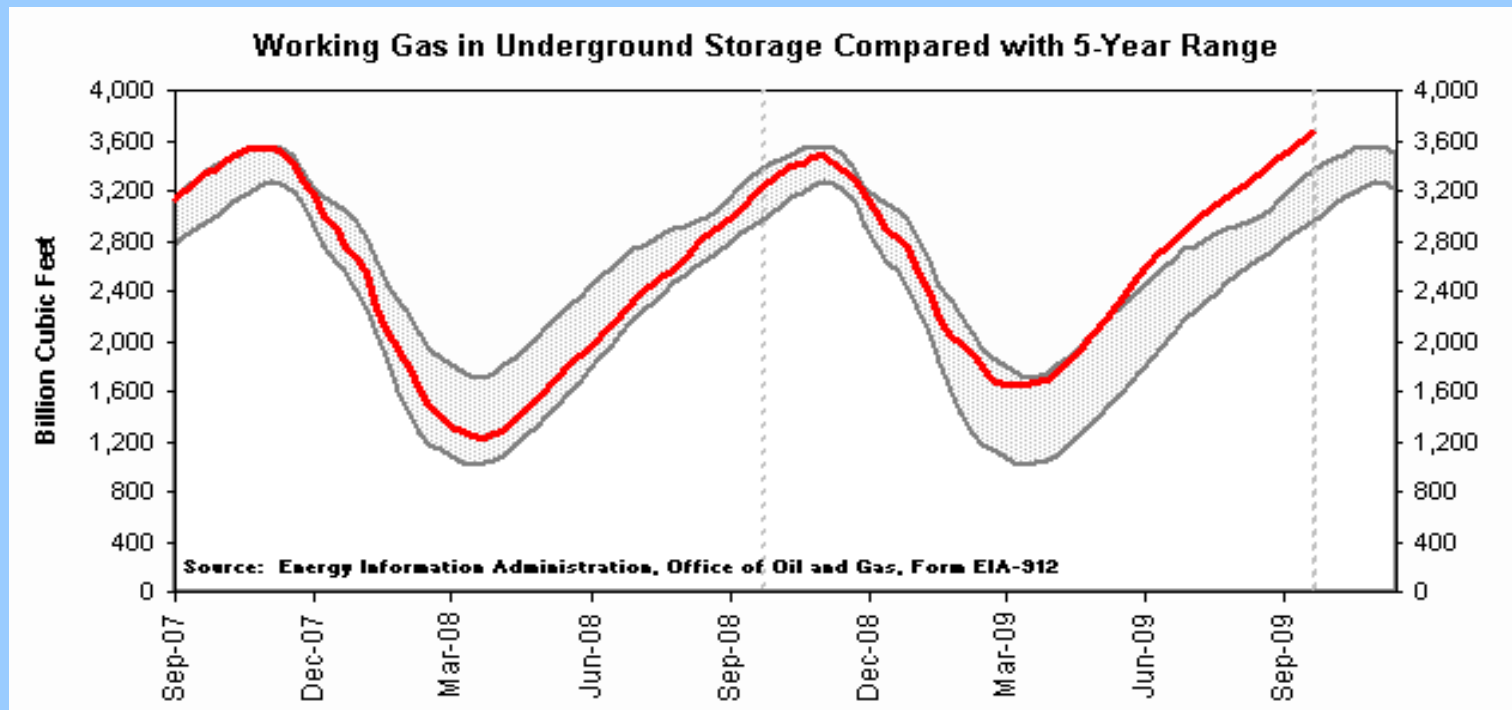


— Total U.S. NG Imports
 — NG Imports from Canada
 — LNG Imports

U.S. Natural Gas Drilling Activity

November 1999 to October 2009

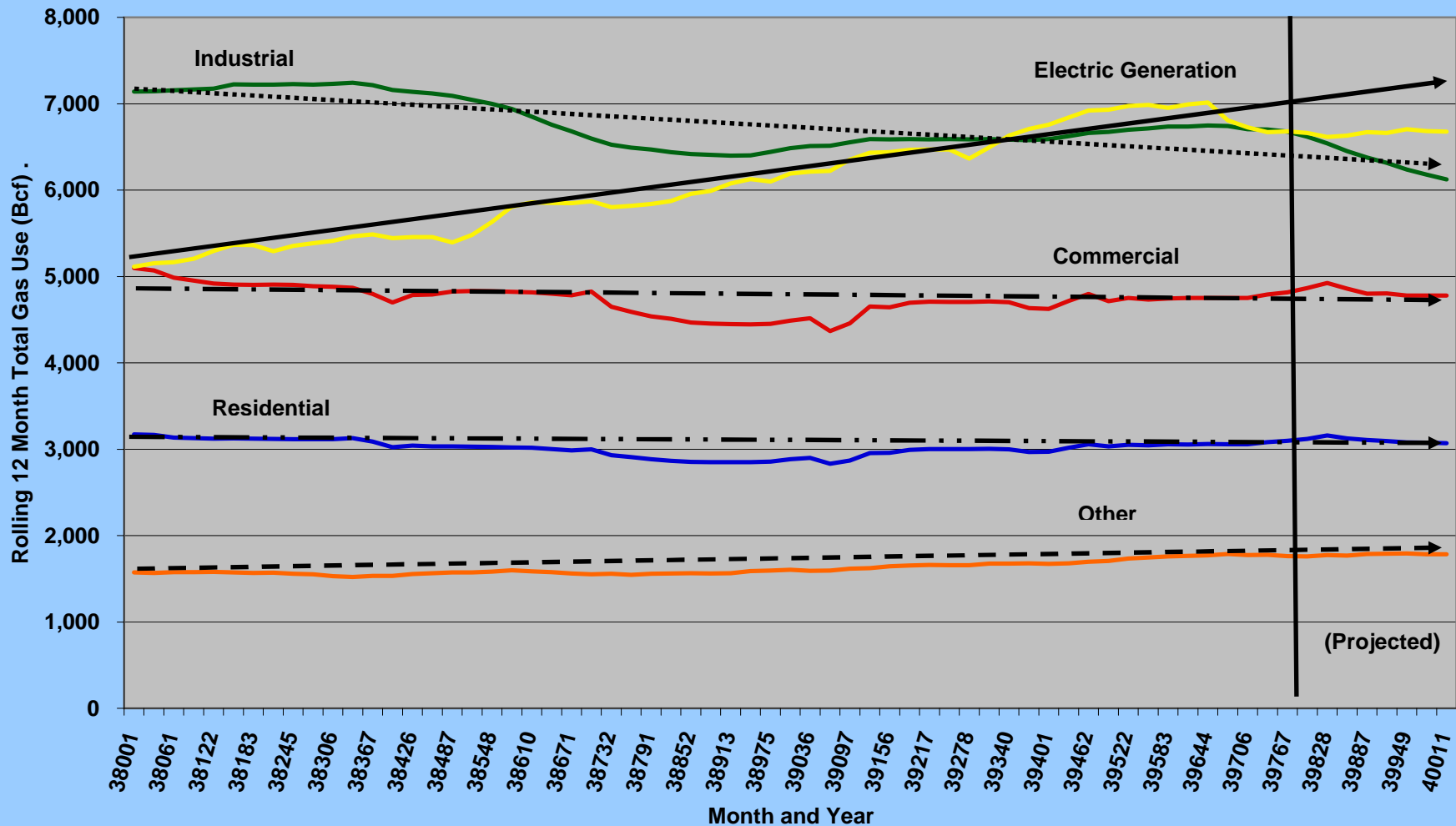


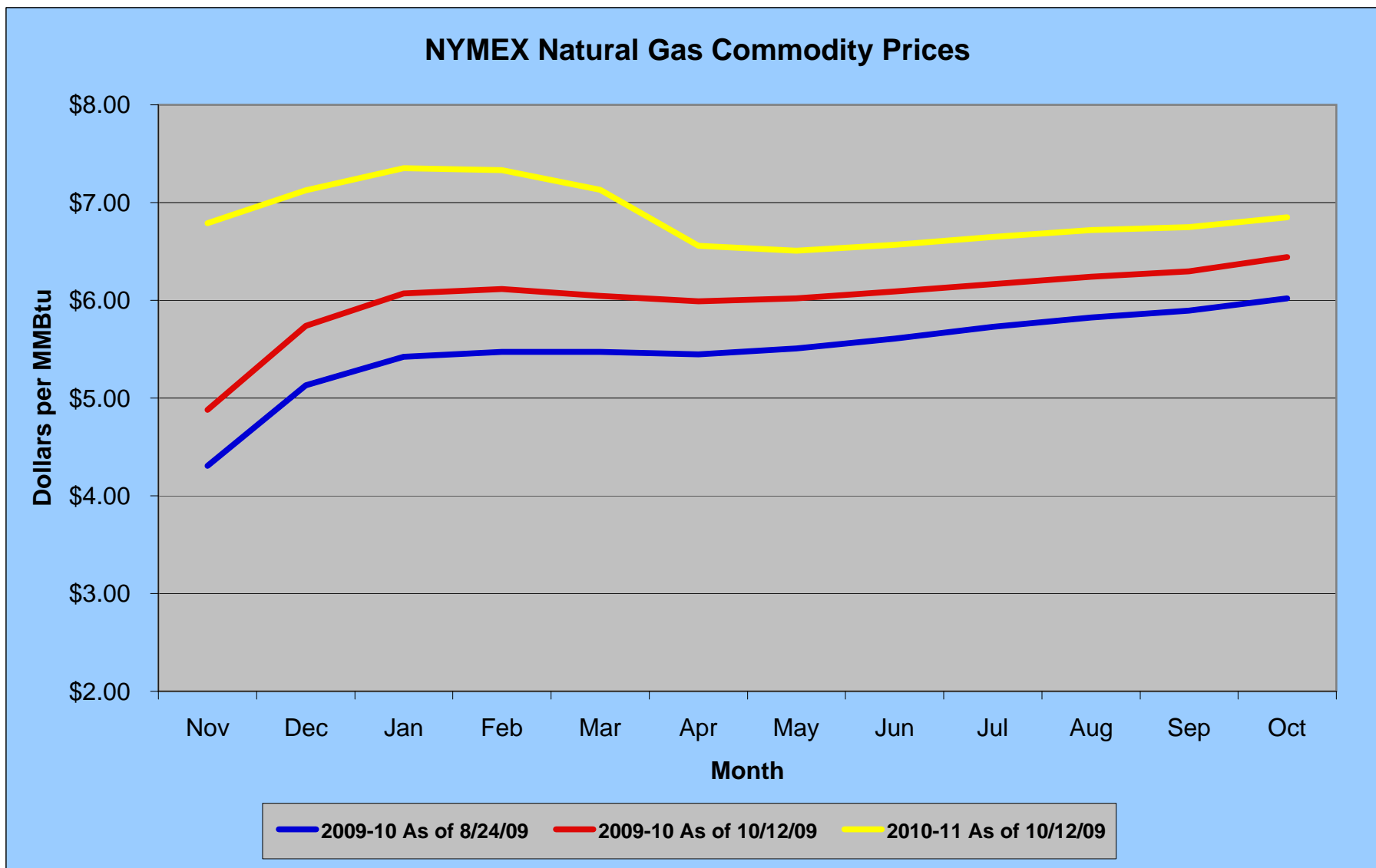


| Region | Stocks in Billion cubic feet (Bcf) | | | Historical Comparison | | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-----------------------|--------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | 10/02/09 | 09/25/09 | Change | Year Ago (10/02/08) | | 5-Year (2004-2008) Average | |
| | | | | Stocks (Bcf) | Change | Stocks (Bcf) | Change |
| East | 1,992 | 1,955 | 37 | 1,893 | 5.2% | 1,854 | 5.2% |
| West | 497 | 489 | 8 | 431 | 15.3% | 427 | 15.3% |
| Producing | 1,169 | 1,145 | 24 | 862 | 35.6% | 897 | 35.6% |
| Total | 3,658 | 3,589 | 69 | 3,185 | 14.9% | 3,178 | 14.9% |

US Natural Gas Use by Sector

(EIA Actuals through July 2009; Linear Trend Lines through March 2010)





National Grid - RI Gas

Docket No. 4097

**Changes in Forecasted Sales and Throughput Volumes by Rate Class
For November through October (12 Months)**

| | Forecasted 2008-09 Sales 1/ <u>(MMBtu)</u> | Forecasted 2009-10 Sales 2/ <u>(MMBtu)</u> | Forecasted Sales Increase <u>(MMBtu)</u> | % Increase <u></u> |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------|
| Sales | | | | |
| Residential Non-Heat | 569,704 | 650,517 | 80,813 | 14.2% |
| Residential Heat | 18,015,743 | 17,121,459 | (894,284) | -5.0% |
| Small C&I | 2,366,018 | 2,672,144 | 306,126 | 12.9% |
| Medium C&I | 4,087,667 | 4,405,703 | 318,036 | 7.8% |
| Large LLF | 1,290,082 | 1,419,227 | 129,145 | 10.0% |
| Large HLF | 483,166 | 437,759 | (45,407) | -9.4% |
| Extra Large LLF | 133,086 | 234,991 | 101,905 | 76.6% |
| Extra Large HLF | 272,903 | 312,750 | 39,847 | 14.6% |
| Total Sales | <u>27,218,369</u> | <u>27,254,552</u> | <u>36,183</u> | 0.1% |
| FT-2 Throughput | | | | |
| Medium C&I | 530,261 | 738,021 | 207,760 | 39.2% |
| Large LLF | 287,703 | 621,927 | 334,224 | 116.2% |
| Large HLF | 87,013 | 126,864 | 39,851 | 45.8% |
| Extra Large LLF | 14,031 | 16,538 | 2,507 | 17.9% |
| Extra Large HLF | 17,040 | 94,578 | 77,538 | 455.0% |
| Total FT-2 Throughput | <u>936,048</u> | <u>1,597,928</u> | <u>661,880</u> | 70.7% |
| Total Throughput | 28,154,417 | 28,852,480 | 698,063 | 2.5% |

1/ Source: November 2008 from Schedule PCC-7, page 12, filed September 2, 2008, in Docket No. 3982;
Dec 2009 - Nov 2009 from Updated Schedule PCC-7, page 12, filed October 31, 2008, Docket No. 3982.

2/ Source: Schedule GLB-1, page 14, filed September 1, 2009 in Docket No. 4097.

National Grid - RI Gas

Docket No. 4097

Forecasted Weather Normal Sales & Throughput by Month

| | Forecasted 2008-09 Sales (MMBtu) | Forecasted 2009-10 Sales (MMBtu) | Forecasted Sales Increase (MMBtu) | % Increase |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|--|---------------|
| | 1/ | 2/ | | |
| Sales | | | | |
| November | 1,749,934 | 1,696,390 | (53,544) | -3.1% |
| December | 3,237,563 | 3,092,425 | (145,138) | -4.5% |
| January | 4,307,201 | 4,535,743 | 228,542 | 5.3% |
| February | 4,579,592 | 4,690,914 | 111,322 | 2.4% |
| March | 4,201,508 | 4,061,612 | (139,896) | -3.3% |
| April | 3,173,214 | 2,970,754 | (202,460) | -6.4% |
| May | 1,830,600 | 1,889,993 | 59,393 | 3.2% |
| June | 1,142,202 | 1,147,972 | 5,770 | 0.5% |
| July | 753,365 | 788,472 | 35,107 | 4.7% |
| August | 633,220 | 672,664 | 39,444 | 6.2% |
| September | 734,503 | 733,349 | (1,154) | -0.2% |
| October | 875,466 | 974,264 | 98,798 | 11.3% |
| Total Sales | 27,218,368 | 27,254,552 | 36,184 | 0.1% |
| FT-2 Throughput | | | | |
| November | 60,053 | 95,791 | 35,738 | 59.5% |
| December | 103,814 | 167,042 | 63,228 | 60.9% |
| January | 147,377 | 252,279 | 104,902 | 71.2% |
| February | 141,316 | 244,941 | 103,625 | 73.3% |
| March | 132,799 | 220,406 | 87,607 | 66.0% |
| April | 101,904 | 185,264 | 83,360 | 81.8% |
| May | 69,299 | 126,591 | 57,292 | 82.7% |
| June | 49,972 | 86,855 | 36,883 | 73.8% |
| July | 31,443 | 49,149 | 17,706 | 56.3% |
| August | 27,024 | 50,766 | 23,742 | 87.9% |
| September | 32,903 | 48,629 | 15,726 | 47.8% |
| October | 38,143 | 70,215 | 32,072 | 84.1% |
| Total FT-2 Throughput | 936,047 | 1,597,928 | 661,881 | 70.7% |
| Total Sales & Throughput | | | | |
| November | 1,809,987 | 1,792,181 | (17,806) | -1.0% |
| December | 3,341,377 | 3,259,467 | (81,910) | -2.5% |
| January | 4,454,578 | 4,788,022 | 333,444 | 7.5% |
| February | 4,720,908 | 4,935,855 | 214,947 | 4.6% |
| March | 4,334,307 | 4,282,018 | (52,289) | -1.2% |
| April | 3,275,118 | 3,156,018 | (119,100) | -3.6% |
| May | 1,899,899 | 2,016,584 | 116,685 | 6.1% |
| June | 1,192,174 | 1,234,827 | 42,653 | 3.6% |
| July | 784,808 | 837,621 | 52,813 | 6.7% |
| August | 660,244 | 723,430 | 63,186 | 9.6% |
| September | 767,406 | 781,978 | 14,572 | 1.9% |
| October | 913,609 | 1,044,479 | 130,870 | 14.3% |
| Total Throughput | 28,154,415 | 28,852,480 | 698,065 | 2.5% |

1/ Source: November 2008 from Schedule PCC-7, page 12, filed September 2, 2008, in Docket No. 3982;
Dec 2009 - Nov 2009 from Updated Schedule PCC-7, page 12, filed October 31, 2008, Docket No. 3982.

2/ Source: Schedule GLB-1, page 14, filed September 1, 2009 in Docket No. 4097.

National Grid - RI Gas

Docket No. 4097

Forecasted Design Winter Sales & Throughput by Month

| | Forecasted 2008-09 Sales ^{1/} (MMBtu) | Forecasted 2009-10 Sales ^{2/} (MMBtu) | Forecasted Sales Increase (MMBtu) | % Increase |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|---------------|
| Sales | | | | |
| November | 1,749,934 | 2,696,056 | 946,122 | 54.1% |
| December | 3,422,185 | 4,482,493 | 1,060,308 | 31.0% |
| January | 5,283,194 | 4,876,345 | (406,849) | -7.7% |
| February | 5,136,327 | 4,630,437 | (505,890) | -9.8% |
| March | 4,997,229 | 3,728,166 | (1,269,063) | -25.4% |
| Total Sales | 20,588,869 | 20,413,497 | (175,372) | -0.9% |
| FT-2 Throughput | | | | |
| November | 60,053 | 149,266 | 89,213 | 148.6% |
| December | 108,848 | 240,503 | 131,655 | 121.0% |
| January | 178,075 | 260,528 | 82,453 | 46.3% |
| February | 156,942 | 246,806 | 89,864 | 57.3% |
| March | 155,868 | 202,149 | 46,281 | 29.7% |
| Total FT-2 Throughput | 659,786 | 1,099,252 | 439,466 | 66.6% |
| Total Throughput | 21,248,655 | 21,512,749 | 264,094 | 1.2% |

1/ Source: Schedule PCC-1, page 13, filed October 31, 2008.

2/ Source: Schedule GLB-1, page 13, filed September 1, 2006.

National Grid - RI Gas

Docket No. 4097

Division Recommended Gas Cost Recovery (GCR) Charges

Factors Effective November 1, 2009

(\$ per Dth)

| <u>Line No.</u> | <u>Description</u> (a) | <u>Reference</u> (b) | <u>Residential Non-Heat</u> (c) | <u>Residential Heating</u> (d) | <u>Small C&I</u> (e) | <u>Medium C&I</u> (f) | <u>Large LLF</u> (g) | <u>Large HLF</u> (h) | <u>Extra Large LLF</u> (i) | <u>Extra Large HLF</u> (j) | <u>FT-2 Marketer</u> (k) | <u>NGV</u> (l) |
|-----------------|--|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Supply Fixed Cost Factor | pg. 2 | \$ 0.7137 | \$ 1.0345 | \$ 1.0345 | \$ 1.0345 | \$ 1.0345 | \$ 0.7137 | \$ 1.0345 | \$ 0.7137 | n/a | |
| 2 | Storage Fixed Cost Factor | pg. 3 | \$ 0.2886 | \$ 0.4186 | \$ 0.4186 | \$ 0.4186 | \$ 0.4186 | \$ 0.2886 | \$ 0.4186 | \$ 0.2886 | \$ 0.4015 | |
| 3 | Supply Variable Cost Factor | pg. 4 | \$8.8677 | \$8.8677 | \$8.8677 | \$8.8677 | \$8.8677 | \$8.8677 | \$8.8677 | \$8.8677 | n/a | \$8.8677 |
| 4a | Storage Variable Product Cost Factor | pg. 5 | \$ 0.2866 | \$ 0.2866 | \$ 0.2866 | \$ 0.2866 | \$ 0.2866 | \$ 0.2866 | \$ 0.2866 | \$ 0.2866 | n/a | |
| 4b | Storage Variable Non-product Cost Factor | pg. 5 | \$ (0.0726) | \$ (0.0726) | \$ (0.0726) | \$ (0.0726) | \$ (0.0726) | \$ (0.0726) | \$ (0.0726) | \$ (0.0726) | \$ (0.0726) | |
| 5 | Total Gas Cost Recovery Charge | (1)+(2)+(3)+(4) | \$ 10.0840 | \$ 10.5348 | \$ 10.5348 | \$ 10.5348 | \$ 10.5348 | \$ 10.0840 | \$ 10.5348 | \$ 10.0840 | \$ 0.3289 | \$ 8.8677 |
| 6 | Uncollectible % | Docket 3943 | 2.46% | 2.46% | 2.46% | 2.46% | 2.46% | 2.46% | 2.46% | 2.46% | 2.46% | 2.46% |
| 7 | Total GCR Charge Adjusted for Uncollectibles | (5)/[(1)-(6)] | \$ 10.3383 | \$ 10.8005 | \$ 10.8005 | \$ 10.8005 | \$ 10.8005 | \$ 10.3383 | \$ 10.8005 | \$ 10.3383 | \$ 0.3372 | \$ 9.0913 |
| 8 | GCR Charge on a per therm basis | (7)/10 | \$ 1.0338 | \$ 1.0801 | \$ 1.0801 | \$ 1.0801 | \$ 1.0801 | \$ 1.0338 | \$ 1.0801 | \$ 1.0338 | \$ 0.0337 | \$ 0.9091 |
| | Current Effective Rate 12/01/08 | | \$ 1.0636 | \$ 1.0975 | \$ 1.0975 | \$ 1.0975 | \$ 1.0975 | \$ 1.0636 | \$ 1.0975 | \$ 1.0636 | \$ 0.0501 | \$ 0.9326 |
| | Difference | | \$ (0.0298) | \$ (0.0174) | \$ (0.0174) | \$ (0.0174) | \$ (0.0174) | \$ (0.0298) | \$ (0.0174) | \$ (0.0298) | \$ (0.0164) | \$ (0.0235) |
| | Percent Change | | -2.8% | -1.6% | -1.6% | -1.6% | -1.6% | -2.8% | -1.6% | -2.8% | -32.7% | -2.5% |

National Grid - RI Gas

Docket No. 4097

**Gas Cost Recovery (GCR)
Division Adjusted Fixed Cost Calculation (\$ per therm)**

| Line No. | Description (a) | Reference (b) | Amount (c) | Residential Heating (d) | Small C&I (e) | Medium C&I (f) | Large LLF (g) | Extra Large LLF (h) | Low Load Factor Total (i) | Residential Non-Heat (j) | Large HLF (k) | Extra Large HLF (l) | Low Load Factor Total (m) |
|----------|---|------------------|---------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Supply Fixed Costs (Net of Cap Release to Mktrs) | EDA-1 | \$ 29,343,973 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Less: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | NGPMP Guarantee | Per BRO | \$ 3,400,000 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Interruptible Costs | | \$ - | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Non-Firm Sales Costs | | \$ - | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Off-System Sales Margin | | \$ - | | | | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Refunds | | \$ - | | | | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Total Credits | Sum[(3)-(7)] | \$ 3,400,000 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Plus: | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Working Capital Requirement | pg. 8 | \$ 218,227 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 11 | Reconciliation Amount | pg. 6 | \$ 1,584,026 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Total Additions | (10) + (11) | \$ 1,802,253 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Total Supply Fixed Costs | (1) -(8) + (12) | \$ 27,746,226 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Winter Sales Percentage | pg 13 | | 63.76% | 9.96% | 15.98% | 5.69% | 1.01% | 96.40% | 1.68% | 1.16% | 0.76% | 3.60% |
| 15 | Allocated Supply Fixed Costs | (13) x (14) | \$ 27,746,226 | \$ 17,692,108 | \$ 2,763,384 | \$ 4,432,776 | \$ 1,577,912 | \$ 280,102 | \$ 26,746,282 | \$ 466,667 | \$ 321,540 | \$ 211,736 | \$ 999,943 |
| 16 | Sales (Dt) Nov 2009 - Oct 2010 | pg. 12 | 27,254,552 | 17,121,459 | 2,672,144 | 4,405,703 | 1,419,227 | 234,991 | 25,853,526 | 650,517 | 437,759 | 312,750 | 1,401,026 |
| 17 | Supply Fixed Factor | (15)/(16) | | | | | | | \$ 1.0345 | | | | \$ 0.7137 |