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BEFORE THE  
FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

DOCKET NO. 20230003-GU

In re: Purchased gas adjustment  
(PGA) true-up.

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PROCEEDINGS: PREHEARING CONFERENCE

COMMISSIONERS  
PARTICIPATING: COMMISSIONER MIKE LA ROSA

DATE: Tuesday, October 17, 2023

TIME: Commenced: 9:30 a.m.  
Concluded: 10:18 a.m.

PLACE: Betty Easley Conference Center  
Room 148  
4075 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, Florida

REPORTED BY: DEBRA R. KRICK  
Court Reporter

PREMIER REPORTING  
112 W. 5TH AVENUE  
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA  
(850) 894-0828

1 APPEARANCES:

2 BETH KEATING, ESQUIRE, Gunster Law Firm, 215  
3 South Monroe Street, Suite 601, Tallahassee, Florida  
4 32301; appearing on behalf of Florida Public Utilities  
5 Company (FPUC).

6 BETH KEATING, ESQUIRE, Gunster Law Firm, 215  
7 South Monroe Street, Suite 601, Tallahassee, Florida  
8 32301; CHRISTOPHER T. WRIGHT, ESQUIRE, 700 Universe  
9 Boulevard, Juno Beach, Florida 33408-2863; appearing on  
10 behalf of Florida City Gas (FCG).

11 J. JEFFREY WAHLEN, MALCOLM N. MEANS and  
12 VIRGINIA PONDER, ESQUIRES, Ausley Law Firm, Post Office  
13 Box 391, Tallahassee, Florida 32302; appearing on behalf  
14 of Peoples Gas System (PGS).

15 WALT TRIERWEILER, PUBLIC COUNSEL; CHARLES J.  
16 REHWINKEL, DEPUTY PUBLIC COUNSEL; PATRICIA A.  
17 CHRISTENSEN, MARY A. WESSLING and OCTAVIO PONCE,  
18 ESQUIRES, OFFICE OF PUBLIC COUNSEL, c/o The Florida  
19 Legislature, 111 West Madison Street, Room 812,  
20 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1400; appearing on behalf of  
21 the Citizens of the State of Florida (OPC).

22 AUSTIN WATROUS, ESQUIRE, FPSC General  
23 Counsel's Office, 2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard,  
24 Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850, appearing on behalf of  
25 the Florida Public Service Commission (Staff).

1 APPEARANCES CONTINUED:

2 KEITH C. HETRICK, GENERAL COUNSEL; SAMANTHA  
3 CIBULA, ESQUIRE, Florida Public Service Commission, 2540  
4 Shumard Oak Boulevard, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850,  
5 Advisor to the Florida Public Service Commission.

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1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: So then let's move  
3 on -- out of the 02 and into the 03 docket.

4 Mr. Watrous, you are recognized for  
5 preliminary matters, is there any need to address  
6 this before we get to the predraft hearing?

7 MR. WATROUS: Yes. Staff will note for the  
8 record that St. Joe Natural Gas Company has been  
9 excused from the prehearing in the 03 docket.

10 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Okay. So show them  
11 excused.

12 Any other parties have any other preliminary  
13 matters? There doesn't look to be.

14 Again, I will move through the sections  
15 relatively quickly so please feel free to jump in  
16 if there are any thoughts or questions.

17 Section 1, Case Background.

18 Section II, Conduct of Proceedings.

19 Section III, Jurisdiction.

20 Section IV, Procedure for Handling  
21 Confidential Information.

22 Section V, Prefiled Testimony and Exhibits,  
23 Witnesses.

24 MR. WATROUS: Staff suggests for any witness  
25 who is not excused, that the summary of their

1 testimony be no longer than three minutes.

2 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Okay. Three minutes it  
3 is, seeing no objections to that.

4 Let's move on to the order of witnesses.

5 MR. WATROUS: If the parties are willing to  
6 excuse witnesses, staff will confirm with each  
7 Commissioner that the witnesses can be excused. If  
8 no Commissioner has any questions of those  
9 witnesses, the witnesses may be excused from the  
10 hearing and his or her testimony and exhibits may  
11 be entered into the record as though read.

12 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Okay. Let's move on,  
13 then, to basic positions. Any changes to basic  
14 positions? None.

15 Let's move to issues and positions, staff.

16 MR. WATROUS: Staff notes that for issues in  
17 which a party has taken no position at this time,  
18 if a party does not take a position on these  
19 issues, per the Order Establishing Procedure, their  
20 positions will be changed to no position in the  
21 prehearing order.

22 Per the OEP, if a party fails to take a  
23 position on an issue by the time of the Prehearing  
24 Conference, the party waives its opportunity to  
25 conduct cross-examination on the issue, as well as

1 file a post-hearing brief on the issue.

2 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Any other thoughts by  
3 the parties?

4 Okay. Let's move on to the Exhibit list,  
5 staff.

6 MR. WATROUS: All right. Staff has prepared  
7 and circulated to the parties a draft comprehensive  
8 exhibit list that includes all prefiled exhibits.  
9 Staff will check with the parties prior to the  
10 hearing to determine if there are any objections to  
11 the comprehensive exhibit list.

12 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Let's move on to the  
13 proposed stipulations.

14 MR. WATROUS: No proposed stipulations at this  
15 time.

16 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Any pending motions?

17 MR. WATROUS: No pending motions at this time.

18 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Pending confidentiality  
19 motions?

20 MR. WATROUS: There are no pending  
21 confidentiality requests at this time.

22 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Okay. Then let's move  
23 to the post-hearing procedures.

24 MR. WATROUS: If parties agree to waive  
25 briefs, the Commission may make a bench decision

1 for this docket. If there are any issues to be  
2 briefed, staff recommends post-hearing briefs be no  
3 longer than 40 pages.

4 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: 40 pages seems  
5 consistent. Parties agree? I think so. Awesome.  
6 Let's move to rulings.

7 MR. WATROUS: Staff recommends that you make a  
8 ruling that opening statements, if any, should not  
9 exceed three minutes per party unless any party  
10 chooses to waive its opening statement.

11 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Three minutes it is,  
12 seeing no objections to that.

13 Let's move on to any other matters. Are there  
14 any other matters to be heard in this prehearing  
15 conference?

16 MR. WATROUS: No, there are no other matters  
17 to address.

18 COMMISSIONER LA ROSA: Okay. Let's exit the  
19 03 docket and let's move into the 04.

20 (Proceedings concluded.)  
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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

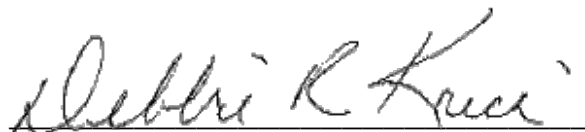
STATE OF FLORIDA )  
COUNTY OF LEON )

I, DEBRA KRICK, Court Reporter, do hereby certify that the foregoing proceeding was heard at the time and place herein stated.

IT IS FURTHER CERTIFIED that I stenographically reported the said proceedings; that the same has been transcribed under my direct supervision; and that this transcript constitutes a true transcription of my notes of said proceedings.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially interested in the action.

DATED this 30th day of October, 2023.



DEBRA R. KRICK  
NOTARY PUBLIC  
COMMISSION #HH31926  
EXPIRES AUGUST 13, 2024