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August 30, 2024

BY E-FILING

Mr. Adam Teitzman, Clerk
Florida Public Service Commission
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0850

Re: Docket No. 20240046-GU - Petition for rate increase by St. Joe Natural Gas Company, Inc.

Dear Mr. Teitzman:

Attached, for electronic filing in the referenced docket, please find St. Joe Natural Gas Company's Responses to Staff's First Data Requests, which were submitted directly to staff on August 29, 2024.

Thank you for your assistance with this filing. As always, please don't hesitate to let me know if you have any questions whatsoever.

Sincerely,



Beth Keating
Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A.
215 South Monroe St., Suite 601
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 521-1706



August 29, 2024

Daniel Dose, Attorney
Florida Public Service Commission
via email

Re: Docket No. 20240046-GU – Staff’s First Data Request

St Joe Gas reponses:

1. Please provide the following information regarding the Utility’s replacement of its electronic reader transponders used for drive by meter reading:

a. Please explain the reason for replacing the transponders.

Response: The transponders(ERT’s) have a battery lifespan between 10-15 years depending on the settings when installed. We began installing ERTs in 2013 and we have already had to replace some of the original units due to the battery running out. We expect to have to replace all ERTs on our system in the next 1-3 years. We have had ERTs on backorder for 2 years now. We have received around 200 so far but are still waiting on more to be shipped.

b. The number of transponders to be replaced.

Response: The entire system will be replaced over the next 12-18 months. Around 3,000 total will need replacing.

c. The make and model of the replacement transponders

Response: ITRON 100G

d. The cost of each transponder and associated Bid(s) or invoice.

Response: \$80.00 each

e. The anticipated completion date for when all replacements will be complete.

Response: Dependant upon when we can receive them. Still Backordered at the moment

f. Will the Utility be replacing the transponders itself or will this be done by a third-party vender? As part of your response, please identify the third-party vender, if applicable, and provide any applicable installations costs, bids, or invoices.

Response: We replace them ourselves. Our average rate for labor is currently \$46/hr. Depending on where the ERTs are located and distance between them would determine the time needed. It takes 30 minutes to complete 1 ERT but time to travel to the next job could be next door or 30 miles away. Allotting 1 hr per ERT is a more accurate calculation to capture any travel time to and from each job. Total replacement cost \$138,000.00

2. Please provide the following regarding the Utility’ vehicle replacements:

a. The make, model and VINs of the two existing vehicles to be replaced. As part of your response, please explain why these two vehicles are being replaced.

Response: Vehicle 1) Ford F150 1FTFX1EF2FKE87272 Vehicle 2) Ford F150 1FTMF1E52KKE56115

These 2 trucks are the oldest and highest mileage in our fleet. Maintenance costs for repairs increase after 5 years or 125,000 miles and both trucks meet both conditions.

- b. The make, model and estimated costs of each of the two replacement vehicles to be purchased and the associated bid(s) or invoice(s).
 Response: Vehicle 1) Ford F150 \$84,271
 Vehicle 2) Ford F150 \$58,177
- c. Please indicate when the Utility intends to purchase and replace each of these vehicles.
 d. Response: As soon as cash flow allows
3. Please provide the following regarding the Utility's power operated trencher replacement.
- a. The make and model of the existing power operated trencher to be replaced. As part of your response, please explain why the power operated trencher is being replaced.
Response: Not trencher, tractor with bush hog mower to maintain greater than 22 miles of pipeline right-of-way. Make-Kubota, Model L45. Purchased 5/30/2011 at \$39,709 (\$29,781 -75% allocated to natural gas, \$9,927 - 25% allocated to propane operation). 2024 - Engine failure, 2024 \$17,750.47 quote to repair. Tractor in shop in Panama City.
- b. The make and model and estimated cost of the power operated trencher replacement to be purchased and the associated bid(s) or invoice(s).
Response: Make-Kubota, Model L47 with trailer & backhoe. 2024 \$79,800 quote to buy new. Price does not include required trailer.
- c. Please indicate when the Utility intends to purchase and replace its trencher.
 Response: Purchased it 8/26/24. Near future cash funding payroll subject to obtaining short term loan.
4. Please provide the following regarding the Utility's computer replacements:
- a. Please explain the reason for replacing the computers.
 Response: Age and speed are the main reasons for replacement.
- b. The number of computers to be replaced.
- c. Response: 3. Two have already been replaced last month
- d. The estimated cost of the replacement computers and any associated bid(s) or invoice(s).
Response: the 2 purchased last month were \$1,260.00 each. We expect the third to cost the same.
- e. The anticipated completion date of the computer replacements.
 Response: as stated earlier 2 have been completed in the last 30 days and we expect to complete the third by end of year.
5. Please provide the estimated cost of the check meter and associated bid(s) or invoice(s) for the City Gate Receipt Point.
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| Response: | \$ 81,411 | Fixed Harris Contractor – built, install meter station |
| | \$ 30,880 | Fixed Devtech – meter, corrector, filter, valves, misc. |
| | <u>\$ 15,000</u> | <u>Variable St Joe Gas labor & well point expense, up to</u> |
| | \$127,291 | Total Fixed/Variable Cost |

Devtech material already purchased and paid, Harris Contractor already begun building station and we expect installation within next 90 days. St Joe Gas employees will prep the site and 3rd party contractor Garrett Hackhoe will provide well points as needed.