

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In Re: Purchased Gas Recovery)
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)

Docket No. 980003-GU
Submitted for filing
January 9, 1998

PETITION OF ST. JOE NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC.
FOR APPROVAL OF MAXIMUM TWELVE MONTH LEVELIZED PURCHASED
GAS COST FACTOR FOR APPLICATION TO BILLS RENDERED
DURING THE TWELVE MONTH PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 1999

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St. Joe Natural Gas Company, Inc. (SJNG) by and through its undersigned officer, hereby petitions the Commission for approval of a maximum levelized purchased gas cost recovery factor to be applied to customer bills rendered during the twelve month period ending March 31, 1999 and says:

1. The name of the petitioner and the mailing address of its principal office is:

St. Joe Natural Gas Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 549
Port St. Joe, Florida 32457-0549

2. The name and mailing address to the person authorized to receive notices and communications of this Petition is:

Stuart L. Shoaf, President
St. Joe Natural Gas Company, Inc.
Post Office Box 549
Port St. Joe, Florida 32457-0549

3. May 5, 1993 by Order No. PSC-93-0708-FOF-GU, Docket No. 930003-GU this Commission adopted a revised purchased gas cost recovery method, including but not limited to, reporting forms (Schedules E-1 through E-5) to be used by natural gas utilities beginning with the projected period from April 1, 1994 through March 31, 1995. Schedules E-1 through E-5 compute a levelized purchased gas cost factor to serve as a cap or maximum recovery

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factor, where utilities will have the option of flexing downward to market conditions for calculating current month weighted average cost of gas (WACOG) charges.

4. The levelized purchased gas adjustment factor represents the sum of the final net true-up gas costs from April 1, 1996 through March 31, 1997, actual true-up and interest from April 1st through November 30, 1997, estimated true-up and interest from December 1st through March 31, 1998 and estimated purchased gas costs, without interest, from April 1, 1998 through March 31, 1999.

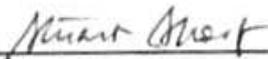
5. Pursuant to the methodology adopted by the Commission in Order No. PSC-93-0708-FOF-GU, Docket No. 930003-GU, SJNG has calculated a weighted average cost of gas factor (WACOG) through March 31, 1999. Such calculations from Schedules E-1 through E-5 are commingled and are filed herewith.

6. Schedule E-1 reports the estimated average purchased gas costs for the twelve month period ending March 31, 1999 to be \$922,133.00. Based upon estimated total sales of 1,376,091 therms, SJNG seeks a revised maximum WACOG of 68.00 cents per therm.

WHEREFORE, St. Joe Natural Gas Company, Inc. prays the Commission will enter an order approving its WACOG factor of 68.000 cents per therm to be applied to customer bills rendered during the twelve month period ending March 31, 1999.

Dated this 9th day of January, 1998.

Respectfully submitted,



Stuart L. Shoaf, President
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