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BEFORE THE ARIZONA CORPORATION COMMISSION

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7
8 IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
9 UNS GAS, INC. FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
10 OF JUST AND REASONABLE RATES AND
11 CHARGES DESIGNED TO REALIZE A
12 REASONABLE RATE OF RETURN ON THE
13 FAIR VALUE OF THE PROPERTIES OF
14 UNS GAS, INC. DEVOTED TO ITS
15 OPERATIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE
16 OF ARIZONA.

Docket No. G-04204A-08-0571

Arizona Corporation Commission
DOCKETED

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RUCO'S NOTICE OF ERRATA

15 The Residential Utility Consumer Office ("RUCO") hereby files this Notice of Erratta
16 in the above-referenced matter. Attached are pages 7, 20, 31 and 49 of the direct
17 testimony of William A. Rigsby, which should be substituted for the pages of Mr. Rigsby's
18 direct testimony that was filed on June 8, 2009.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 22nd day of June, 2009.

21
22
23 Daniel W. Pozefsky
24 Chief Counsel

1 AN ORIGINAL AND THIRTEEN COPIES
of the foregoing filed this 22nd day
2 of June, 2009 with:

3 Docket Control
Arizona Corporation Commission
4 1200 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

5 COPIES of the foregoing hand delivered/
6 mailed this 22nd day of June, 2009 to:

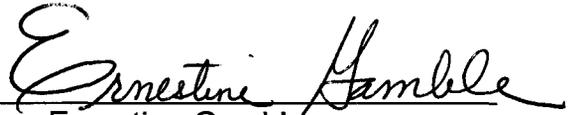
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23
24

1 FVROR figure RUCO considered a range of possible returns that could be
2 applied to the Company's fair value rate base. The method that RUCO
3 used to arrive at its recommended 5.38 percent FVROR comports with the
4 provisions of Decision No. 70441, dated July 28, 2008, which resulted
5 from a prior remand proceeding which involved Chaparral City Water
6 Company.² The methodology that RUCO relied on to arrive at its
7 recommended FVROR figure is explained fully in the testimony of RUCO
8 witness Ralph Smith.

9
10 Q. Please explain why RUCO is recommending two different rates of return in
11 this case?

12 A. UNSG Gas has chosen to use an average of the Company's original cost
13 rate base ("OCRB"), which is based on the original book value of plant
14 assets, and a rate base derived from a reconstruction cost new study
15 ("RCND"), which takes general inflation into consideration, to arrive at a
16 fair value rate base ("FVRB") which reflects the current dollar value of
17 UNSG's original cost rate base. Because general inflation is also reflected
18 in my OCROR figure, it is inappropriate to apply it to a FVRB. To do so
19 would result in a double counting of inflation. For this reason RUCO has
20 derived a FVROR which reduces my recommended OCROR by an
21 inflation factor of 217 basis points.

22

² Chaparral City Water Company has appealed that Decision. The appeal is currently pending before the Arizona Court of Appeals.

1 used the same methods that I have used in arriving at the inputs for the
2 DCF model. His final recommendation for Southwest Gas Corporation
3 was largely based on the results of his DCF analysis, which incorporated
4 the same valid market-to-book ratio assumption that I have used
5 consistently in the DCF model as a cost of capital witness for RUCO.

6

7

8 Q. How did you develop your dividend growth rate estimate?

9 A. I analyzed data on a proxy group consisting of ten natural gas local
10 distribution companies ("LDC").

11

12

13 Q. Why did you use a proxy group methodology as opposed to a direct
14 analysis of UNSG?

15 A. One of the problems in performing this type of analysis is that the utility
16 applying for a rate increase is not always a publicly traded company, as is
17 the case with UNSG itself. Consequently it was necessary to create a
18 proxy by analyzing publicly traded LDC's with similar risk characteristics.

19

20

21 Q. Are there any other advantages to the use of a proxy?

22 A. Yes. As I noted earlier, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the Hope
23 decision that a utility is entitled to earn a rate of return that is

1 Q. How did you calculate the market risk premium used in your CAPM
2 analysis?

3 A. I used both a geometric and an arithmetic mean of the historical total
4 returns on the S&P 500 index from 1926 to 2007 as the proxy for the
5 market rate of return (r_m). For the risk-free portion of the risk premium
6 component (r_f), I used both the arithmetic and geometric means of the
7 total returns of intermediate government bonds for the same eighty-one
8 year period. The market risk premium ($r_m - r_f$) that results by using these
9 inputs is 5.10 percent ($10.40\% - 5.30\% = \underline{5.10\%}$). The market risk
10 premium that results by using the arithmetic mean calculation is 6.80
11 percent ($12.30\% - 5.50\% = \underline{6.80\%}$).

12
13 Q. How did you select the beta coefficients that were used in your CAPM
14 analysis?

15 A. The beta coefficients (β), for the individual utilities used in both my
16 proxies, were calculated by Value Line and were current as of March 13,
17 2009. Value Line calculates its betas by using a regression analysis
18 between weekly percentage changes in the market price of the security
19 being analyzed and weekly percentage changes in the NYSE Composite
20 Index over a five-year period. The betas are then adjusted by Value Line
21 for their long-term tendency to converge toward 1.00. The beta
22 coefficients for the LDC's included in my sample ranged from 0.60 to 0.75
23 with an average beta of 0.67.

1 Mr. Gallagher concluded:

2 The Natural Gas Utility sector has climbed near the top of our industry
3 spectrum in recent months. Indeed, it features numerous timely stocks.
4 In fact, UGI holds our highest rank (1) for Timeliness. However, various
5 other companies are ranked to outperform the market over the coming
6 six to 12 months. What's more, the majority of the equities in this industry
7 offer above-average yields. Most notably, Nicor, AGL Resources and
8 Atmos Energy all offer attractive payouts supported by steady cash
9 flows. Therefore, investors looking for a good play in the year ahead
10 should consider some of the names in this group.
11

12 Q. After weighing the economic information that you've just discussed, do you
13 believe that the cost of equity that you have estimated is reasonable for
14 UNSG?

15 A. I believe that my recommended cost of equity will provide UNSG with a
16 reasonable rate of return on the Company's invested capital when
17 economic data on interest rates (that are still low by historical standards)
18 and a low and stable outlook for inflation are all taken into consideration.
19 As I noted earlier, the Hope decision determined that a utility is entitled to
20 earn a rate of return that is commensurate with the returns it would make
21 on other investments with comparable risk. I believe that my cost of equity
22 analysis has produced such a return.
23

24 **COST OF DEBT**

25 Q. Have you reviewed UNSG's testimony on the Company-proposed cost of
26 long-term debt?

27 A. Yes, I have reviewed the testimony prepared by Mr. Grant.
28