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STATE OF DELAWARE  
**THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
861 SILVER LAKE BOULEVARD, SUITE 100  
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DOVER, DELAWARE 19904

November 19, 2009

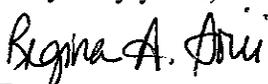
**BY HAND**

Ms. Alisa C. Bentley  
Secretary  
Delaware Public Service Commission  
861 Silver Lake Boulevard  
Suite 100, Cannon Building  
Dover, DE 19904

RE: *In the Matter of the Application of Delmarva Power & Light Company for the Approval of a Modified Fixed Variable Rate Design for Natural Gas Rates (Filed June 25, 2009): PSC Docket No. 09-277T*

Dear Ms. Bentley:

I enclose for filing in the above-captioned docket an original and ten copies of the **Direct Testimony and Exhibits of Howard Solganick on Behalf of the Staff of the Delaware Public Service Commission**. Copies have been provided to all persons on the service electronically and in the manner indicated on the service list.

Very truly yours,  
  
Regina A. Iorii  
Deputy Attorney General

Encs.  
cc: Service List (attached; w/encs.; via electronic mail and as indicated thereon)

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

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IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )  
OF DELMARVA POWER & LIGHT )  
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A )  
MODIFIED FIXED VARIABLE )  
RATE DESIGN FOR NATURAL GAS RATES )  
(Filed June 25, 2009) )

DELAWARE  
PSC DOCKET NO. 09-277T

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Regina A. Iorii hereby certifies that on November 19, 2009, she caused a copy of the **DIRECT TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS OF HOWARD SOLGANICK ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF THE DELAWARE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION** to be served electronically upon all the persons on the attached service list, and upon those same persons by hand, regular or state mail, as indicated on the service list.

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Dated: November 19, 2009

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

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In the Matter of the Application of Delmarva Power & Light Company for the Approval of a Modified Fixed Variable Rate Design for Natural Gas Rates (Filed June 25, 2009)

Docket No. 09-277T

Direct Testimony and Exhibits of Howard Solganick

On Behalf of the Staff of the Delaware Public Service Commission

November 19, 2009

**Qualifications**

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**Q. Please state your name, position and business address.**

A. My name is Howard Solganick. I am a Principal at Energy Tactics & Services, Inc. My business address is 810 Persimmon Lane, Langhorne, PA 19047.

**Q. Please summarize your qualifications and experience.**

A. I am licensed as a Professional Engineer in Pennsylvania (active) and New Jersey (inactive). I hold a Professional Planner's license (inactive) in New Jersey. I served on the Electric Power Research Institute's Planning Methods Committee and on the Edison Electric Institute Rate Research Committee. I have been appointed as an arbitrator in cases involving a pricing dispute between a municipal entity and an on-site power supplier and a commercial landlord-tenant case concerning submetering and billing. I also served on two New Jersey Zoning Boards of Adjustment as Chairman and member. Presently, I am Chairman of the Middletown Township (Bucks County, PA) Planning Commission.

I have been actively engaged in the utility industry for over 33 years, holding utility management positions in generation, rates, planning, operational auditing, facilities permitting, and power procurement. I have delivered expert testimony in utility planning and operations, including rate design and cost of service, tariff administration, generation, transmission, distribution and customer service operations, load forecasting, demand side management, capacity and system planning, and regulatory issues.

I have also led and/or participated in consulting projects to develop, design, optimize, and implement both traditional utility operations and e-

1 commerce businesses. These projects focused on the marketing, sale  
2 and delivery of retail energy, energy related products and services, and  
3 support services provided to utilities and retailers.  
4

5 I have been engaged by clients to review proposed distributed generation  
6 contracts and the operation and integration of generating assets within  
7 power pool operations, and have advised the Board of Directors of a  
8 public power utility consortium. For a period of four years I was engaged  
9 by a multiple site commercial real estate organization to manage its  
10 solicitation for the purchase of retail energy. As a subcontractor, I have  
11 performed management audits for the Connecticut Department of Public  
12 Utility Control and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. I also provide  
13 (as a subcontractor) support for the Staff and Commissioners of the  
14 District of Columbia Public Service Commission for an electric rate case  
15 and have previously provided similar services to the D.C. Commission.  
16

17 I have also been engaged to review utility performance before, during and  
18 after outages resulting from major storms including hurricane Ike.  
19

20 From 1994 to the present, I have been President of Energy Tactics &  
21 Services, Inc. From 1996 to 1998, I was a Managing Consultant for AT&T  
22 Solutions. From 1990 to 1994, I was Vice President of Business  
23 Development for Cogeneration Partners of America. In that position, I was  
24 responsible for the development of independent power facilities, most of  
25 which were fueled by natural gas and oil.  
26

27 From 1978 to 1990, I held progressively increasing positions of  
28 responsibility with Atlantic City Electric Company in generation, regulatory,  
29 performance, planning, major procurement, and permitting areas.  
30

1 From 1971 to 1978, I was an Engineer or Project Engineer for Univac,  
2 Soabar, Bickley Furnaces and deLaval Turbine designing card handling  
3 equipment, tagging and printing machines, high temperature industrial  
4 furnaces, and utility and industrial power generation equipment,  
5 respectively.

6  
7 I received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering (minor in  
8 Economics) from Carnegie-Mellon University and a Master of Science in  
9 Engineering Management (minor in Law) from Drexel University. I have  
10 also taken courses on arbitration and mediation presented by the  
11 American Arbitration Association, scenario planning presented by the  
12 Electric Power Research Institute and load research presented by the  
13 Association of Edison Illuminating Companies. I have also taken courses  
14 in zoning and planning theory, practice and implementation in both New  
15 Jersey and Pennsylvania.

16  
17 **Q. Have you previously submitted testimony in regulatory proceedings?**

18  
19 **A.** Yes. I have testified and/or presented testimony (summarized in Exhibit  
20 HS-1) before the following regulatory bodies.

- 21 • Delaware Public Service Commission
- 22 • Georgia Public Service Commission
- 23 • Jamaica (West Indies) Electricity Appeals Tribunal
- 24 • Maine Public Utilities Commission
- 25 • Maryland Public Service Commission
- 26 • Michigan Public Service Commission
- 27 • Missouri Public Service Commission
- 28 • New Jersey Board of Public Utilities
- 29 • Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
- 30 • Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
- 31 • Public Utility Commission of Texas

1 **Direct Testimony**

2  
3 **Q. For whom are you appearing in this proceeding?**

4  
5 **A.** I am appearing on behalf of the Staff of the Delaware Public Service  
6 Commission ("Staff").

7  
8 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

9  
10 **A.** My testimony analyzes the Company's proposed fixed variable rate design  
11 and the limited supporting information provided by Delmarva Power &  
12 Light Company ("Company").

- 13 • The Company's failure to provide tariff sheets for the proposed rate  
14 design leaves the mechanism ambiguous and seasonal customers  
15 may create unintended costs.
- 16 • The bill impact information provided by the Company is not sufficient to  
17 alleviate concerns about the transitional impact on customers.
- 18 • While the Company is proposing a revenue neutral situation for itself,  
19 the Company has not demonstrated any vision of the future benefits for  
20 its customers as a result of this proposal and its implementation of  
21 advanced metering.
- 22 • The Company's proposed rate design provides revenue stability for the  
23 Company but no corresponding benefit for customers.

24  
25 I also analyze the Company's proposal in light of the Staff's criteria  
26 described in Order No. 7420.

27  
28 Following my opinion that the Company's filing is incomplete, to resolve  
29 the open issues of limited information, customer bill impact, customer  
30 education, implementation of the rate design, revenue stability and

1 customer benefits, I suggest a workshop process be incorporated into the  
2 procedural schedule.

3  
4 **Background**

5 **Q. Please describe the genesis of this filing**

6  
7 A. On September 16, 2008 the Public Service Commission of the  
8 State of Delaware ("Commission") issued Order No. 7420 ("Order"). This  
9 order concluded that imposing surcharges for energy efficiency programs  
10 and revenue deficiencies related to conservation efforts was not the  
11 preferred approach,<sup>1</sup> and discussed:

- 12 • The adoption of the Staff's recommendations regarding the potential  
13 adoption of a modified fixed variable ("MFV") rate design for Delaware  
14 distribution utilities in the context of a rate proceeding;<sup>2</sup>
- 15 • The flexibility to address these rate design changes outside of a base  
16 rate case if the situation is warranted;<sup>3</sup> and
- 17 • The approval of the diffusion of advanced metering technology into the  
18 electric and natural gas distribution system networks and the  
19 establishment of a regulatory asset for the technology subject to the  
20 rate case process.<sup>4</sup>

21  
22 **Q. Please explain the concept of the Staff's MFV rate design.**

23  
24 A. In the Findings and Recommendations of the Hearing Examiner  
25 (Attachment A to the Order), the Hearing Examiner determined that the  
26 Staff:

---

<sup>1</sup> Order No. 7420 page 4

<sup>2</sup> Order No. 7420 page 5

<sup>3</sup> Order No. 7420 page 5

<sup>4</sup> Order No. 7420 page 5

- 1           • Supported the concept of revenue decoupling for energy, using  
2           alternate rate designs that collect more fixed costs through customer or  
3           demand charges as part of a base rate proceeding.<sup>5</sup>  
4           • Proposed a modified fixed variable method that would stratify rate  
5           classes to mitigate the potential high cost impact on low-income  
6           customers resulting from a change in rate design.<sup>6</sup>  
7           • Asserted that the MFV rate design moves toward a rate design that  
8           more appropriately aligns fixed costs with rates that comport with cost  
9           causation principles.<sup>7</sup>  
10          • Observed that the MFV rate design sends a proper price signal  
11          regarding a customer's decision to engage in conservation and  
12          reduces customer cross-subsidization.<sup>8</sup>  
13

14          The Order highlighted that Staff's modification of the fixed variable rate  
15          design creates particular classes of customers to avoid rate subsidization.<sup>9</sup>  
16

17      **Q. Did the Staff suggest any criteria for the Commission to evaluate a**  
18      **MFV rate design proposal?**  
19

20      A. Yes, those factors were listed in the Hearing Examiner's findings as:<sup>10</sup>

- 21           • Rate gradualism;  
22           • Customer equity;  
23           • Impact on the Company's risk profile;  
24           • Over/under earning protection; and  
25           • Customer service and reliability protection.  
26

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<sup>5</sup> Order No. 7420 Attachment A at 12

<sup>6</sup> Order No. 7420 Attachment A at 13

<sup>7</sup> Order No. 7420 Attachment A at 13

<sup>8</sup> Order No. 7420 Attachment A at 13

<sup>9</sup> Order No. 7420 page 5 (footnote)

<sup>10</sup> Order No. 7420 Attachment A at 14

1 **Fixed Variable Rate Design**

2 **Q. What are the positive aspects of a fixed variable rate design?**

3

4 A. As correctly highlighted by Staff, a fixed variable rate design better aligns  
5 costs and rates and reduces the cross subsidization of various usage  
6 levels within a rate class. The fixed portion is designed to recover costs  
7 that are independent of demand or volume, such as customer service,  
8 metering and the service line.

9

10 For the utility, a fixed variable rate design provides better revenue stability  
11 and more predictable earnings when compared to a volumetric rate.  
12 Inherent in volumetric rates is the risk that weather will not be "normal,"  
13 such as a warmer than normal heating season. Another risk that is  
14 mitigated by a fixed variable rate design is business risk. As the economy  
15 suffers customers may reduce their consumption, which is directly seen as  
16 a decrease in volumetric usage and related revenues.

17

18 For the customer, a fixed variable rate design provides better bill stability  
19 when compared to a volumetric rate. Inherent in volumetric rates is the  
20 risk that weather will not be "normal," such as a colder than normal  
21 heating season.

22

23 **Q. What are the negative aspects of a fixed variable rate design?**

24

25 A. To the extent that a volumetric (usage) based rate design is replaced by a  
26 fixed variable rate design, customers that have not been paying for their  
27 full cost of service will see an increase and customers in the opposite  
28 situation would see a decrease. The rate impact on a particular customer  
29 depends on the differences between the old volumetric based rate and the  
30 fixed variable rate proposed.

31

1 Once a fixed variable rate design is in place the negative aspect is the  
2 customer's perception of how the demand charge operates, because most  
3 small customers have not yet been subjected to them. This perception  
4 can become negative if the utility does not clearly define how the demand  
5 charge is determined, when it will change and how the customer's  
6 behavior (usage and conservation) affects the demand level. A utility  
7 provided customer education program that starts with the adoption of the  
8 new fixed variable rate design and continues with each update of the  
9 customer's demand level is necessary to obtaining customer  
10 understanding.

11  
12 **Q. Have gas distribution fixed variable rate designs been implemented**  
13 **in other jurisdictions?**

14  
15 **A. Yes.** In Georgia, Atlanta Gas Light ("AGL") implemented a fixed variable  
16 rate design for residential customers.<sup>11</sup> The rate structure includes:

- 17 • Customer Charge;
- 18 • Ancillary Service (meter reading cost);
- 19 • Dedicated Design Day Capacity ("DDDC");
- 20 • Peaking Service (some areas only); and
- 21 • Various other charges.

22  
23 AGL explains that the customer's monthly gas bill from a marketer will  
24 include a base charge from AGL, regulated by the Georgia Public Service  
25 Commission ("GA PSC") that will not vary between marketers.

26  
27 AGL explains that the DDDC covers the common costs of delivering gas  
28 based on the customer's demand on the system on the coldest day of the  
29 year. AGL also explains that the DDDC is recalculated each year and is

---

<sup>11</sup><http://www.atlantagaslight.com/Home/EstablishServiceChooseAMarketer/GuideToOurCharges.aspx>

1 approved by the GA PSC to update usage patterns (summer and winter)  
2 for each customer for the most recent year. The DDDC is based on  
3 premise-specific information such as past usage patterns or gas  
4 appliances. The new DDDC is effective on September 1<sup>st</sup>.

5  
6 For new residential structures the DDDC is based upon specific premise  
7 information, including size, type and gas equipment used.

8  
9 In February 2001 AGL implemented a seasonal rate plan for DDDC  
10 charges, resulting in higher charges in the winter and lower base charges  
11 in the summer.

12  
13 The information provided within this answer is provided for illustrative  
14 purposes only and should not be compared to the Company's proposal.

15  
16 **Q. What has the experience been in Georgia?**

17  
18 A. To gain insight into the adoption of the fixed variable rate design by AGL  
19 and the GA PSC, I interviewed members of the Staff of the GA PSC that  
20 were actively involved in the transition to both customer choice and a  
21 straight fixed variable rate design in the late 1990s.

22  
23 **Q. Please describe the changes in Georgia.**

24  
25 A. On June 30, 1998 the GA PSC ruled on the filing made by AGL. The  
26 ruling adopted a straight fixed variable ("SFV") rate design with a constant  
27 (equal in each month of the year) DDDC. The SFV rate design was  
28 required by legislation. The GA PSC also implemented customer choice  
29 simultaneously. Therefore any inferences should be made carefully as the  
30 customer reaction spans both customer choice and the SFV rate design  
31 implementation.

1

2 **Q. Did AGL propose a customer education program?**

3

4 A. All firm customers (residential and customers) contributed through a \$0.13  
5 per month rider to support a customer education program proposed by  
6 AGL. The majority of the funds was used for customer choice, although  
7 rate design was part of the education program.

8

9 **Q. Did the GA PSC change the residential DDDC portion of the rate  
10 design?**

11

12 A. Effective February 2001, the residential DDDC was "sculpted" to better  
13 reflect the seasonality of the previous volumetric rate design. This change  
14 appears to have been in response to customer concerns.

15

16 **Q. Did the GA PSC consider phasing in the SFV rate design?**

17

18 A. While phasing in the SFV rate design was considered, the final ruling did  
19 not include a phase in. One reason may have been that AGL did not  
20 provide detailed rate impact analysis.

21

22 **Q. Is the SFV rate design now accepted by customers?**

23

24 A. The Staff members of the GA PSC indicate that the rate design is  
25 accepted. Although two different working groups have explored rate  
26 design alternatives, their recommendations have been to retain the  
27 existing SFV structure. The working groups did recommend several  
28 modifications to the DDDC calculation, which have been implemented.

29

30 **Q. Is the Georgia implementation of SFV a decoupling mechanism?**

31

1 A. The GA PSC Staff members indicate that there is a revenue neutral  
2 settlement process that occurs based on the March 31<sup>st</sup> customer count.  
3 This process effectively removes any advantage to AGL from customer  
4 growth. Presently, there is an open docket considering economic  
5 development and growth.  
6

7 **Q. How has the GA PSC dealt with the seasonality issue?**  
8

9 A. Due to customer misunderstanding and confusion, the present seasonality  
10 concept no longer collects the “phantom” revenue for months when the  
11 customer has disconnected. However, there is a \$25 reconnection  
12 charge.  
13

14 **Q. Did the implementation of SFV led to a loss of customers?**  
15

16 A. The implementation of the DDDC rate design caused some poultry  
17 growers and greenhouses to convert to propane.  
18

19 **Q. Does AGL reset a customer's DDDC during the year?**  
20

21 A. For a customer who has made a demonstrable change such as removing  
22 one of two heating units in conjunction with a change in building use from  
23 office space to warehouse, AGL will recalculate and adjust the DDDC  
24 when the change takes place.  
25

## 26 **Delmarva's Proposal**

27 **Q. Please summarize the Company's application for a fixed variable rate**  
28 **design.**

29 A. The Company filed an “Application for the approval of the modified fixed  
30 variable rate design for natural gas rates” on June 25, 2009.<sup>12</sup> The

---

<sup>12</sup> Application of Delmarva Power, June 25, 2009 Filing Cover Sheet

1 purpose of the application is approval of a decoupling mechanism to the  
2 Company's natural gas delivery rate structure, which is intended to better  
3 levelize and stabilize the recovery of delivery-related costs from all  
4 customer classes over the course of each year.<sup>13</sup>

5

6 The Company is not seeking implementation of the rates in this  
7 proceeding and envisioned that actual rates would be implemented only  
8 after a proceeding designed to implement rates.<sup>14</sup>

9

10 The major objective of the proposed decoupled rates is to eliminate the  
11 relationship between delivery revenue and the level of customer gas  
12 consumption.<sup>15</sup> The modified fixed variable rate design is a method of  
13 revenue decoupling that breaks the link between a customer's energy  
14 consumption and the Company's delivery related revenues.<sup>16</sup>

15

16 According to the Company, its delivery-related rate design removes  
17 disincentives related to the promotion of conservation programs, better  
18 aligning the interests of customers, utilities, the environment and the State  
19 of Delaware in the area of energy conservation.<sup>17</sup> The Company intends  
20 to promote more efficient use of energy by customers with programs of an  
21 educational nature for gas.<sup>18</sup>

22

23 **Q. Please summarize the Company's proposed fixed variable rate**  
24 **design.**

25

26 **A.** The Company proposes to modify the gas delivery rate design for  
27 Residential Gas Sales Service (Service Classification RG), General Gas

---

<sup>13</sup> Application of Delmarva Power, June 25, 2009 at 3

<sup>14</sup> Application of Delmarva Power, June 25, 2009 at 3

<sup>15</sup> Application of Delmarva Power, June 25, 2009 at 4

<sup>16</sup> Application of Delmarva Power, June 25, 2009 at 5

<sup>17</sup> Application of Delmarva Power, June 25, 2009 at 5

1 Sales Service (Service Classification GG) and General Volume Firm  
2 Transportation (Service Classification GVFT). The existing two part  
3 customer and volumetric rate designs will be replaced by a two-part rate  
4 structure consisting of a customer related charge and a demand-related  
5 charge.<sup>19</sup>

6  
7 To simulate results from that case with the proposed fixed variable rates,  
8 the Company uses a revenue neutral approach<sup>20</sup> using the revenue  
9 requirements determined by the Commission in its Order No. 7152 in  
10 Docket No. 06-284.<sup>21</sup>

11  
12 The proposed rate structure has been developed using test year data from  
13 Docket No. 06-284 to allow for the development of comparative analyses  
14 between the present and proposed rate structures.<sup>22</sup>

15  
16 The filing does not include any changes to service classifications MVG,  
17 LVG, MVFT and LVFT because the large commercial and industrial  
18 customers are served under a rate structure that already includes  
19 customer and demand components.<sup>23</sup>

20  
21 **Q. How does the Company define the Design Day Contribution (“DDC”)**  
22 **Factor and its calculation?**

23  
24 A. The DDC Factor is designed to align customers’ delivery rates with the  
25 underlying costs associated with overall design of the delivery  
26 infrastructure. The DDC is intended to provide a measure of an  
27 individual’s contribution to the Design Day usage. The Design Day

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<sup>18</sup> Application of Delmarva Power, June 25, 2009 at 6

<sup>19</sup> Delmarva at 4:17-21 (Janocha Direct)

<sup>20</sup> Delmarva at 4:22-23 (Janocha Direct)

<sup>21</sup> Delmarva at 5:1-2 (Janocha Direct)

<sup>22</sup> Delmarva at 5:5-7 (Janocha Direct)

1 reflects the Company's investment in gas mains, distribution lines, valves  
2 and other supporting equipment.<sup>24</sup>

3  
4 The Company describes the calculation of a DDC Factor as a calculation  
5 for each service classification based on customer sales activity for the  
6 prior January and February billing months and the previous August billing  
7 month. Aggregate examples for service classifications RG and GG are  
8 provided in Schedule JFJ-3 (updated in response to Staff Dr 1-12).<sup>25</sup>

9  
10 The Company indicates that a DDC will also be developed for each  
11 customer premise using information in the Company's Customer  
12 Information System and the same calculation method delineated in  
13 Schedule JFJ-3.<sup>26</sup>

14  
15 In a data response the Company indicated that each customer would have  
16 a customer-specific DDC Factor based on the individual customer's usage  
17 pattern.<sup>27</sup>

18  
19 **Q. How often would the Company reset the DDC Factor for a customer?**

20  
21 **A.** The Company's filing does not answer this question. However, the filing  
22 does indicate, "The DDC is intended to provide a measure of an  
23 individual's contribution to the Design Day usage."<sup>28</sup>

24  
25 The Company did not provide any proposed tariff sheets or rate schedules  
26 to provide details of the application of the DDC to individual customers.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> Delmarva at 5:14-18 (Janocha Direct)

<sup>24</sup> Delmarva at 5:23-6:5 (Janocha Direct)

<sup>25</sup> Delmarva at 6:6-9 (Janocha Direct)

<sup>26</sup> Delmarva at 6:10-15 (Janocha Direct)

<sup>27</sup> Response to Data Request DPA 1-5 (Janocha)

<sup>28</sup> Delmarva at 6:2-3 (Janocha Direct)

<sup>29</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 1-4 (Janocha)

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**Q. What is the DDC for a customer that does not heat with natural gas?**

A. The Company does not address the operational impacts of its proposed rate design on specific customer types. However, from Schedule JFJ-3 and the Company's testimony, I infer that since all customers press equally at the margin (the Design Day) regardless of whether that usage is for space heating or uses such as water heating, drying, cooking or other processes, each customer will have a DDC.

**Q. How did the Company develop its proposed fixed variable rate design?**

A. The Company indicated that its Recommended Rates were derived through a direct calculation in the spreadsheet provided in response to Staff 1-6, which produces Schedule JFJ-4.<sup>30</sup>

**Q. What Company research supports the proposed fixed variable rate design?**

A. Staff 1-21 asked the Company to "[s]pecifically address the source and any underlying studies, calculations, reports, adjustments or other support, including class cost of service unitized rate elements or comparison to other utilities for the "Recommended Rates" column in Schedule JFJ-4 (pages 1 and 2)."

The Company responded, "[t]he column "Recommended Rates" is derived through a direct calculation in the spreadsheet provided in response to Staff 1-6."

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<sup>30</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 1-21 (Janocha)

1 From this I infer that the process was purely mechanical and did not  
2 include any studies, research or other support.

3  
4 In response to data requests, the Company indicated that: (1) it has not  
5 performed analyses to determine the risk of loss of customers, volume or  
6 revenue due to the proposed rate design,<sup>31</sup> and (2) it has not performed  
7 gas load research for gas customers by class for the period from January  
8 1, 2001 to the present.<sup>32</sup>

9

10 **Q. How did the Company estimate and review the bill impact of the**  
11 **proposed fixed variable rate design?**

12

13 A. The Company provided Schedule JFJ-5 as an analysis of the impact of  
14 the proposed rate design on Service Classification RG customers. That  
15 single point analysis indicates that 77% of all customers would experience  
16 average overall monthly bill impacts of between -5% and +5%. 89% of all  
17 customers would experience a bill impact of between -10% and +10%.<sup>33</sup>  
18 Notably, Schedule JFJ-5 shows that the average monthly bill impact  
19 increase for 10.3% of the Company's residential customers would be  
20 \$5.45.

21

22 Schedule JFJ-5 does not provide any bill impact information for Service  
23 Classification GG or GVFT customers. On November 12<sup>th</sup> the Company  
24 provided its single point analysis that indicates almost 54% of the GG  
25 customers would see average monthly bill impacts of +- 10%. Over 45%  
26 of all GG customers will see increases of over 10%.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 2-27 (Janocha)

<sup>32</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 2-28 (Janocha)

<sup>33</sup> Delmarva at 7:2-7 (Janocha Direct)

<sup>34</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 1-23 (Janocha)

1 At present, I am unable to replicate the Company's Schedule JFJ-5, as the  
2 full operating Excel worksheet has not been provided. Nor am I able to  
3 use the Company model to estimate the billing impact of alternative MFV  
4 rate designs on customers. In response to a data request the Company  
5 has indicated that its model does not have any logic to examine alternative  
6 rate designs.<sup>35</sup> Further, although customer impact information was  
7 requested for a range of potential MFV rate designs, the Company  
8 provided no such information.<sup>36</sup>

9  
10 **Q. How often would a customer's DDC be reset?**

11  
12 A. The Company did not provide proposed tariff sheets for its rate design;  
13 however, from the Company's filing I infer that an individual customer's  
14 DDC would be recalculated annually based on information in the  
15 Company's Customer Information System.<sup>37</sup>

16  
17 This recalculation of the DDC is important to afford customers a response  
18 to their conservation efforts. The annual recalculation also ameliorates  
19 the impacts of a mechanical assignment of a DDC to new homes or the  
20 carryover of a previous owner or tenant's usage to a new owner or tenant.

21  
22 **Revenue Reconciliation**

23 **Q. Would the Company reconcile its distribution revenue?**

24  
25 A. This operational issue was not defined in the Company's proposal;  
26 however, in response to a data request the Company responded that  
27 there would not be a true-up to guarantee recovery of its annual revenue  
28 requirement.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 2-43 (Janocha)

<sup>36</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 2-43 (Janocha)

<sup>37</sup> Delmarva at 6:10-15 (Janocha Direct)

<sup>38</sup> Response to Data Request DPA 1-9 (2) (Janocha)

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### **Customer Education**

10

**Q. How does the Company propose to explain the proposed fixed variable rate design to its customers?**

11

12

13

A. The Company's filing does not include any details regarding how it plans to educate customers in the operation or impact of the proposed rate structure. In response to Staff 1-5, the Company stated that it "has not developed a detailed educational program to introduce, implement, explain or detail the proposed rate design proposed in this Application. Depending on the outcome of this proceeding, the Company will work with Staff and DPA in developing educational materials to explain the modified fixed variable rate design to Customers." This offer of cooperation is positive.

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### **Seasonal Customers**

24

**Q. If seasonal gas customers "game the system" after a fixed variable rate design is implemented does that increase costs for the Company?**

25

26

27

28

A. Unlike electric service, which is hard for a customer to live without, certain gas customers that use gas for space heating only can shut down and disconnect their gas service during warmer months. The customer's goal

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<sup>39</sup> Delmarva at 6:12-14 (Janocha Direct)

1 is to avoid paying the monthly customer and demand charges when there  
2 is no usage.

3  
4 This "gaming" practice raises the costs to the utility by causing two  
5 additional service events for disconnection and reconnection, one  
6 potentially at a time of high service volume (first cold day of heating  
7 season).

8  
9 Under Section XVI of the Company's tariff it appears that there is no  
10 charge for customer-initiated disconnections and reconnections.  
11 Therefore the service events may be viewed by customers as free even  
12 though the costs of a visit to a customer's home or business is an expense  
13 for the Company eventually borne by all other customers.

14  
15 The Company has indicated that there are no seasonal service provisions  
16 in the Company's Tariff for Gas Service.<sup>40</sup>

17  
18 **Q. Are there solutions for the seasonal problem?**

19  
20 **A.** Yes. To ensure that all customers pay their share of the fixed costs of the  
21 delivery system, all customers should pay for all twelve months of the  
22 customer and demand charges to fairly recoup the fixed expenses their  
23 service entails.

24  
25 I cannot be sure that the Company has addressed "seasonal risk"  
26 because this filing does not include any tariff sheets. The Company  
27 indicated that a seasonal service mechanism was informally considered  
28 but rejected in favor of the proposed two-season payment schedule.<sup>41</sup> |

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<sup>40</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 2-29 (Janocha)

<sup>41</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 2-30 (Janocha)

1 assume that the Company is referring to the two levels of the DDC charge  
2 with winter being November through March.

3

4 **Q. How can the “seasonal risk” be addressed?**

5

6 A. The Company can adjust its disconnection terms and conditions to recoup  
7 the avoided monthly delivery charges. This ensures that there are no  
8 savings to the space-heating customer that requests a seasonal  
9 disconnection.

10

11 **Q. Has this concept been implemented at a Delaware gas utility?**

12

13 A. Yes. The Commission has approved terms and conditions for  
14 Chesapeake Utilities Corporation that may minimize the “seasonal risk.”<sup>42</sup>  
15 The provision should be carefully analyzed because the disconnect period  
16 is limited to 180 days and recoups only the customer charge. A longer  
17 period and the addition of the DDC demand component may be  
18 appropriate in the Company’s situation to keep customers from gaming  
19 the proposed fixed variable rate design.

20

21 **Q. Has a seasonal concept been implemented by Delmarva?**

22

23 A. Yes. Delmarva’s electric tariff provides that seasonal service, defined as  
24 service for periods of less than one year or at the same location annually,  
25 provides that any charges shall be increased by an additional 25%.<sup>43</sup> The  
26 Company indicates that this seasonal service provision has been included  
27 in the electric tariff since at least the early 1980s.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, P.S.C. Del. No. 4, Second Revised Sheet  
No. 26.1, Section 14.2

<sup>43</sup> Delmarva Power & Light Company, P.S.C. Del. No. 8 – Electric, Second  
Revised Leaf No. 10

<sup>44</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 2-31 (Janocha)

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**Q. What is the magnitude of the cost shifting caused by a seasonal customer?**

A. Assuming a residential customer disconnects for six months, the customer would avoid the existing customer charge of \$9.56<sup>45</sup> or \$57.36 plus the costs of two service events that might range in cost from \$25 to \$100 each. Assuming a cost of \$50 per service event (the disconnection visit by a Company serviceperson or the visit to reconnect service), other customers are subsidizing the seasonal residential customer by approximately \$157 under the existing residential rate structure and \$264 for the existing GG rate structure<sup>46</sup>.

Under the Company's proposed rate structure the residential customer charge will now be \$15.74<sup>47</sup> per month along with a DDC charge. The cost of the DDC charge cannot be estimated without further information but other customers will subsidize the seasonal customer by at least \$194 for a residential customer and \$380 for a GG customer<sup>48</sup>.

**Background Customer Statistics**

**Q. What is the history in number of gas distribution customers?**

A. I have prepared Exhibit HS-2 from the Company's response to Data Request PSC Staff 1-24. This exhibit plots the calendar year annual average number of residential and GG customers from the Company's data. While there appears to be a data anomaly in 2000 for residential customers and in 1999-2001 for GG customers, the trend is clear. The annual number of customers increases in every year.

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<sup>45</sup> Delmarva Schedule JFJ-4 page 1  
<sup>46</sup> Customer charge of \$27.31 from Delmarva Schedule JFJ-4 page 2  
<sup>47</sup> Delmarva Schedule JFJ-4 page 1  
<sup>48</sup> Customer charge of \$46.63 from Delmarva Schedule JFJ-4 page 2

1

2 **Q. What is the forecast for gas distribution customers?**

3

4 I also prepared Exhibit HS-3 from the Company's response to PSC Staff  
5 1-16. This exhibit plots the Company's various forecasts for both the GCR  
6 filing and its annual business forecasts. Estimates were developed  
7 starting in December 2004 and extending to the 2010 budget forecast  
8 ending in December 2014. While the individual forecasts have different  
9 starting points and there is some month-to-month variability within a  
10 forecast, all of the Company-supplied forecasts demonstrate an increasing  
11 number of customers in the Company's view of the future.

12

13 **Q. Have you analyzed the change in the revenue profile from the**  
14 **existing two part (customer and volumetric) rate design as compared**  
15 **to the proposed fixed variable (customer and demand) rate design?**

16

17 **A.** Yes. I prepared Exhibit HS-4 to demonstrate the magnitude of the shift to  
18 stable and predictable revenue as compared to the more risky volumetric  
19 revenue that is subject to both weather and business risk. This exhibit  
20 uses the format, billing determinants and revenue from Schedule JFJ-4 for  
21 both the residential and general gas service delivery rates. I added three  
22 columns and computed the percentage of revenue that is fixed between  
23 rate cases (that is, fixed for an annual (twelve month) period) and the  
24 percentage that is subject to volumetric change with weather and/or  
25 business conditions.

26

27 As shown in Exhibit HS-4 (Column (4)), at present only 29% of the  
28 residential revenue and 18.4% of the GG revenue is fixed (per customer)  
29 between rate cases. The remainder of the revenue is exposed to  
30 volumetric risk.

31

1 Upon the implementation of the Company's proposed fixed variable rate  
2 design, 47.7% of residential revenue and 31.2% of GG revenue is shifted  
3 to the stable customer charge (fixed between rate cases). The number of  
4 customers that will be charged this rate component has been and is  
5 forecasted to be increasing over time.

6  
7 In the proposed rate design the remainder of the revenue is recovered by  
8 the demand (DDC) component, which also grows as the customer base  
9 grows. While the DDC Factor may readjust annually, for a residential  
10 customer it would most likely take an operational change (new furnace or  
11 insulation) or (less likely) a change in customer behavior. It is possible for  
12 the Company to forecast these types of operational changes for a  
13 customer population and adjust its budgets appropriately, as opposed to  
14 weather and business cycle impacts.

15  
16 The Company's proposed fixed variable rate design offers the Company a  
17 much more stable and predictable revenue stream. The Company's  
18 forecasts show that the revenue stream will increase over time as the  
19 number of customers increases.

20  
21 **Q. Does the DDC concept reflect customer conservation?**

22  
23 A. The DDC does not adversely impact any customer's incentive to conserve  
24 and/or make structural improvements to its home or business. Any  
25 reduction in consumption is directly accompanied by a reduction in the  
26 commodity charge.

27  
28 As I understand the Company's proposed rate design (no tariff sheets  
29 have been filed by the Company), the DDC will be recalculated annually  
30 and reflect the change in usage by a customer.

31

1 **Q. Does the Company retain the conservation risk?**

2

3 A. The Company retains a very modest portion of the conservation risk as it  
4 applies to delivery service. Moving the volumetric revenue recovery to a  
5 more appropriate customer charge eliminates a significant portion of the  
6 Company's conservation risk. Shifting the remaining portion of the  
7 volumetric revenue to the DDC stabilizes the remaining Company delivery  
8 revenue for one or more years. If the Company has a mechanism to  
9 annually reconcile the individual customers' DDC then that mechanism  
10 may eliminate any conservation risk.

11

## 12 **Electric Fixed Variable Rates**

13 **Q. Has the Company made a fixed variable electric rate filing?**

14

15 A. Yes. The Company's filing in Docket No. 09-414 includes a request for a  
16 revenue increase and a change in its delivery rate structure.

17

18 A preliminary schedule indicates that an order may be issued in summer  
19 2010. Acceptance of the Company's electric proposal or some other form  
20 of fixed variable rate design would allow the Company to be in compliance  
21 with the provisions of the Energy Conservation and Efficiency Act (ECEA)  
22 of 2009 that requires all regulated electric and natural gas utilities to  
23 implement decoupled rate designs by December 2010.<sup>49</sup>

24

25 Unfortunately, the Company's electric filing has led to some confusion in  
26 the press (and public) because the intraclass impacts of changing the rate  
27 structure are also being confused with the impact of the proposed  
28 increase in class revenues.<sup>50</sup>

29

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<sup>49</sup> Application of Delmarva Power, Docket No. 09-414, September 18, 2009 at 8  
<sup>50</sup> <http://www.delawareonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009909280325>

1 **Analysis of the Company's Proposed Gas Fixed Variable Rate Design**

2 **Q. Using the Staff's criteria for a rate design how does the Company's**  
3 **proposed fixed variable gas rate design perform?**

4  
5 **A.** As listed above, the Staff suggested that the evaluation criteria should  
6 include:

7  
8 • **Rate Gradualism**

9 Although the Company reviewed the bill impact and the single point  
10 analysis found that 11% of the residential customers would experience an  
11 annual change in excess of 10%,<sup>51</sup> the Company has not proposed any  
12 rate stoppers, phase-in or other process to gradually introduce its  
13 proposed fixed variable rate design for residential customers. However, it  
14 is reasonable to ignore the concerns of customers receiving a rate  
15 decrease and focus on the customers that receive an average \$5.45  
16 monthly increase.

17  
18 The Company has provided the bill impact for its GG customers. The  
19 proposed rate design is expected to result in an average monthly bill  
20 increase of over 10% for more than 45% of all GG customers.

21  
22 Unfortunately the Company does not appear to have explored any other  
23 proposals such as different customer charges (and the associated  
24 revenue neutral DDC Factor) to provide all parties with information to  
25 evaluate the impact on customers of the change to a fixed variable rate  
26 design.

27  
28 • **Customer Equity**

29 The Company's use of both a Customer Charge and a demand (DDC)  
30 charge tailors the fixed variable rate to the usage of the customer as

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<sup>51</sup> Delmarva at 7:6-7 (Janocha Direct)

1 opposed to a one size fits all flat monthly or annual charge for delivery  
2 service. If properly administered, the DDC charge will provide a customer  
3 with a price response (although delayed to the next annual period) to its  
4 conservation or operational changes.

5  
6 Because each customer's bill is derived directly from its individual usage,  
7 no customer's rates are impacted by the conservation efforts of other  
8 customers. This cross-subsidization of customers unable or unwilling to  
9 implement conservation measures (such as added insulation or new  
10 equipment) by customers that have the means or inclination to conserve  
11 has been a criticism of decoupling adjustments such as the Bill  
12 Stabilization Adjustment ("BSA").

13  
14 • Impact on the Company's Risk Profile

15 As detailed above, the Company's risk profile is significantly enhanced by  
16 shifting all of the volumetric-based revenue (with its inherent weather and  
17 business risk) to the much more stable and increasing customer charge  
18 and the stable demand (DDC) component. If the Company annually  
19 reconciles the sum of the individual customers' DDC, then revenue per  
20 customer between rate cases will be essentially fixed.

21  
22 • Over/under earning protection

23 The Company's earnings are the net result of its revenues and its  
24 expenses. The proposed fixed variable rate design will have little or no  
25 impact or change on the Company's expenses. The proposed rate design  
26 will stabilize revenues and thus stabilize the Company's earnings much  
27 better than a rate structure with 70 to 80% of the revenue subject to  
28 volumetric risk.

29  
30 • Customer service and reliability protection.

1 The proposed natural gas rate design should not impact the quality of the  
2 Company's customer service and reliability performance and the existing  
3 performance standards should not be affected if a customer education  
4 program is implemented.  
5

6 **Q. What is your opinion of the Company's gas rate design proposal?**  
7

8 A. The Company's filing is incomplete. There are a number of important  
9 issues left unanswered.

- 10 • The Company's filing does not include *any tariff sheets* that would  
11 define the operations of the proposed rate design.
- 12 ○ It is unclear how the DDC is calculated for an existing customer.
  - 13 ○ If and when the DDC is recalculated has not been defined  
14 clearly.
  - 15 ○ The Company's filing appears to provide for an annual  
16 reconciliation of the sum of the individual customer's DDC, but  
17 whether the proposal actually does so provide is unclear.
- 18 • There is no indication whether the Company proposes to adjust its  
19 terms and conditions to prevent space-heating customers from  
20 disconnecting during warmer months to avoid the increased fixed  
21 charges.
- 22 • There is no indication in the Company's filing that it has performed any  
23 specific competitive research to determine whether any customers will  
24 disconnect or switch to an alternate fuel based on this proposed rate  
25 design.<sup>52</sup>
- 26 • Although the Staff expressed concerns about the transition from the  
27 existing volumetric rate design to a MFV rate design due to the initial  
28 impact on low usage customers, the Company submitted only one  
29 potential rate design and submitted only a single point (one customer  
30 charge) bill impact analysis for residential and GG customers.

- 1           • The Company has not developed a customer education program to  
2           support the implementation of the proposed MFV rate design.  
3           • There is no indication that the Company has considered the  
4           coordinated implementation of the proposed gas MFV rate design with  
5           the potential implementation of the proposed electric MFV rate  
6           design.<sup>53</sup>  
7           • The Company has not addressed the reduction of business risk in its  
8           proposed (decoupling) rate design.

9  
10           Most importantly, the Company's filing does not provide either the DE  
11           PSC or customers with any vision of where its proposed fixed variable rate  
12           design will go in the future.

13  
14           **Q. Why is a vision of the future important for customers?**

15  
16           A. As the Company's proposal is presently structured, there are no benefits  
17           to customers. Customers exchange rates based on total usage for rates  
18           based on a few months' usage. Although the Company plans to install  
19           advanced metering for gas customers by the end of 2010,<sup>54</sup> the  
20           Company's filing is devoid of any indication or promise of benefits for its  
21           gas customers.

22  
23           **Recommendations**

24           **Tariff Sheets**

25           **Q. How can the Company's filing be made more complete?**

26           I would hope that the Company would provide the missing tariff sheets  
27           and GG customer impact in its rebuttal.

28  

---

<sup>52</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 2-26 (Janocha)

<sup>53</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 2-32 and 2-33 (Janocha)

<sup>54</sup> Response to Data Request DPA 2-9 (Phillips)

1           The Company should also propose disconnection and reconnection  
2           language for its terms and conditions to limit seasonal actions that  
3           increase the Company's operating costs and reduce class revenue.  
4

5           **Company Research**

6           **Q.     Does the Company have an opportunity to begin customer research?**  
7

8           A.     During the review of the Company's proposed rate design, I found a  
9           number of instances where studies or research would have provided  
10           further information to assist the Company in developing its proposal and  
11           the parties in their evaluation.  
12

13           The Company is embarking on the diffusion of advanced metering  
14           infrastructure ("AMI") into its operations and has the opportunity to  
15           structure a coordinated package of research for the future. AMI will allow  
16           for lower cost and potentially better load research. Properly structured  
17           load research can include pre and post customer questionnaires to  
18           confirm proper stratification. Careful planning would allow the Company to  
19           add other questions such as income and appliance saturation at little to no  
20           cost. The Commission should consider encouraging the Company to start  
21           a collaborative process to define future benefits from coordination of  
22           customer research with the AMI program.  
23

24           **Rate Impact**

25           **Q.     Can the Company provide additional information on the rate impact  
26           of its proposed fixed variable gas rate design?**  
27

28           A.     If the Company's rebuttal provides more customer rate impact information,  
29           then all parties will have more information to consider the rate impact of  
30           the Company's proposed fixed variable rate design. The Company should  
31           consider other revenue neutral rate designs to determine if a different mix

1 of the customer charge and DDC Factor would minimize the bill impact.  
2 The desired effect would be a more gradual transition over two or more  
3 rate changes.

4  
5 If the Company does not provide the information needed to evaluate the  
6 impact of the proposed rate design on both residential and GG customers,  
7 I suggest that the Commission institute a "rate cap" to protect customers  
8 from the Company's incomplete rate research. For a period after  
9 implementation (one to two years), the Company would cap the impact of  
10 its proposed rate design at a fixed dollar per bill limit (or a specific  
11 maximum percentage increase). Any customer whose bill under the new  
12 MFV rate design exceeds the previous volumetric cost bill by more than  
13 the fixed dollar limit would pay only the fixed limit amount. The lost  
14 revenue would provide an incentive for the Company to provide adequate  
15 rate research in future cases.

16  
17 **Customer Communications and Education**

18 **Q. Should the Company be ordered to develop a customer education**  
19 **and communications program to prepare for the implementation of**  
20 **the MFV rate design?**

21  
22 **A.** Yes. As the recent series of articles and the associated comments  
23 referenced above indicate, there is a real possibility that customers are  
24 misunderstanding and will continue to misunderstand the change from the  
25 existing volumetric based rate design to the MFV rate design. Customers  
26 will be challenged by the DDC concept and properly wonder if this will  
27 reduce their incentive to conserve and make energy efficiency  
28 improvements.

29  
30 The AGL experience demonstrates the need for customer information.

31

1 Therefore, the Commission should order the Company to prepare a  
2 customer education and communications program. That order should  
3 adopt the Company's offer to work with the Staff and the Division of the  
4 Public Advocate ("DPA").<sup>55</sup>

5  
6 The Company should use (at a minimum) bill inserts, newspaper  
7 advertisements and the Company website as printed methods of customer  
8 communication. Additionally, the Company should consider outreach to  
9 other organizations, energy efficiency and conservation seminars and its  
10 speaker bureau to provide verbal communications.

11  
12 The DE PSC should consider the impact on its customer service  
13 operations of a change in rate design. If a utility fails to execute a  
14 customer education program effectively then many customers will seek  
15 information from the Commission and potentially overload its resources.

16  
17 I view the Company's proposal to work with the parties to develop a  
18 customer education program as a positive offer.

19  
20 **Implementation of MFV Rate Design**

21 **Q. When do you recommend that the new rates be implemented?**

22  
23 A. The Company should be recognized for the positive step of filing this  
24 proceeding even though it did not file for an increase in gas service  
25 revenue. I look forward to the Company's rebuttal testimony, in which I  
26 expect that some of my concerns (tariff sheets; the  
27 education/communications program) will be addressed. Additionally, the  
28 Company has recently filed a request to increase electric revenues and  
29 implement a MFV rate design.

30  

---

<sup>55</sup> Response to Data Request PSC Staff 1-5 (Janocha)

1 To avoid customer confusion for combination electric and gas customers  
2 and potentially have some minor offset of the winter gas and summer  
3 electric impact, I recommend that the Commission order the Company to  
4 plan to implement the gas MFV rate design simultaneously with the  
5 electric MFV rate design (if the change to an electric MFV rate design is  
6 subsequently approved). If an electric MFV rate design is not approved,  
7 then consideration of the Company's gas MFV rate design should be  
8 made during the Company's next request for an increase in gas revenues.  
9 A simultaneous implementation for both gas and electric service should  
10 also allow the Company's gas operations to meet the ECEA's December  
11 2010 deadline.

12  
13 While simultaneous implementation for gas customers would not result  
14 from an on-going rate case, PEPCO (a Company affiliate) has  
15 demonstrated its ability to implement a between-cases rate design  
16 change. The District of Columbia Public Service Commission recently  
17 ordered the implementation of a BSA for residential and commercial  
18 customers. This implementation included a return on equity ("ROE")  
19 reduction to reflect the reduced risk to PEPCO. The Company filed new,  
20 lower compliance rates for the affected classes with an effective date of  
21 November 1, 2009 as part of a detailed implementation schedule.

22  
23 **Business Risk Reduction**

24 **Q. When revenue stabilization is implemented have other regulators**  
25 **recognized the effect of increased stability?**

26  
27 **A.** Two decisions are on point.

28 On July 19, 2007 the Maryland PSC implemented PEPCO's request for a  
29 BSA for electric service.<sup>56</sup> This implementation was accompanied by a  
30 reduction in the company's ROE.

<sup>56</sup> MD PSC Order No. 81517 at page 81

1  
2 On September 28, 2009 the District of Columbia PSC implemented  
3 PEPCO's request for a BSA for electric service.<sup>57</sup> This implementation  
4 was accompanied by a reduction in the company's ROE. The PSC's  
5 order provides the range of the ROE reduction that the various parties  
6 suggested during that case.

7  
8 **Q. Is the proposed fixed variable rate design in this proceeding**  
9 **comparable to a BSA?**

10  
11 A. A BSA as previously proposed by the Company and its affiliates "locks"  
12 the revenue per customer between rate cases. The utility also retains any  
13 new revenue due to growth in the number of customers during that period.  
14 Any change in usage per customer is adjusted away by the BSA. Thus  
15 the revenue per customer is very stable.

16  
17 The BSA, as implemented by the Company's affiliate PEPCO, includes a  
18 cap on the increase or reduction of monthly revenue per customer at a  
19 level of 10%. Under this cap it is possible that the utility would not see all  
20 of the revenue it has lost in a month recouped for one or more months,  
21 creating a revenue lag. The Company's proposed gas fixed variable rate  
22 design in this proceeding does not include any lag in revenue collection  
23 because it is a rate structure, not an adjustment mechanism.

24  
25 The Company's proposed rate design shifts all of the revenue associated  
26 with volumetric sales to either a higher customer charge or to a demand  
27 charge that will at most change once per year for a customer. Under the  
28 proposed rate design the Company will retain any new revenue due to the  
29 growth in the number of customers.

30  

---

<sup>57</sup> DC PSC Order No. 15556 at 29

1 **Q. How do you recommend that the Commission recognize the value of**  
2 **the reduction in business risk of the proposed MFV rate design?**

3  
4 A. The proposed rate design in this proceeding offers the Company almost  
5 completely stable revenue compared to the existing rate structure. It also  
6 preserves the Company's opportunity to profit from its forecasted  
7 increases in the number of customers. It stabilizes revenue by employing  
8 the DDC charge as a form of a demand ratchet with a term of at least one  
9 year. If the proposed rate design were combined with simple protection  
10 from seasonal disconnection the risk of customers gaming the new rate  
11 design would be eliminated. The proposed rate design does not include  
12 any caps and does not delay the recovery of revenue.

13  
14 Therefore I suggest that if the proposed rate design is implemented, the  
15 Company's ROE for the classes affected should be reduced concurrent  
16 with that change. As previously noted, a very similar situation occurred in  
17 the recent implementation of a BSA for PEPCO in the District of Columbia.  
18 In that case the Commission ordered that the ROE reduction be  
19 implemented based on the associated class rate base.<sup>58</sup>

20  
21 **Customer Benefits**

22 **Q. Should the Company articulate the benefits to its customers of the**  
23 **proposed fixed variable rate design and other Company initiatives?**

24  
25 A. Yes. The Company should immediately articulate its vision of the future  
26 and detail the benefits for its customers from advanced metering and the  
27 proposed fixed variable rate design. This vision should not focus solely on  
28 the intermediate step of the proposed fixed variable DDC rate, but should  
29 also demonstrate the long-term benefits to customers of a series of  
30 changes and innovation.

---

<sup>58</sup> DC PSC Order No. 15556 at 31

1  
2 For example, when advanced metering is in place does the Company  
3 intend to move the DDC calculation from a few months to a few critical  
4 service days? If so, this concept would allow the Company to influence  
5 the Design Day. As the Company's response to a previous docket's data  
6 request indicated, its Design Day is now influenced by choices made by  
7 New Castle County heating contractors as opposed to the ASHRAE  
8 design handbook.<sup>59</sup> By focusing customers on the impact of their  
9 consumption decisions on critical days the Company might, over time,  
10 alter the effects of those contractors, who neither design/operate the  
11 Company's system nor pay for the system as customers.

12  
13 **Q. Faced with an incomplete filing, how can the parties resolve the open**  
14 **issues?**

15  
16 **A.** The Company's rebuttal is due on January 7, 2010. Under that schedule  
17 the Company has seven weeks to provide the missing tariff sheets, outline  
18 a customer education/communications program, provide better customer  
19 bill impact information, define the DDC Factor reconciliation process and  
20 clearly state a vision for the future that relates customer benefits to the  
21 proposed rate design. Most of these open items were raised in the  
22 discovery process.

23  
24 If the Company's rebuttal addresses the issues raised by the parties, then  
25 the period between January 7, 2010 and the hearings scheduled for  
26 February 24, 2010 allows for a workshop process or technical  
27 conference(s) to resolve open issues. To facilitate a fast start of the  
28 workshop/conference the Company should file all its workpapers and the  
29 associated models with its rebuttal.

30  

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<sup>59</sup> Response to Data Request COS-RD-86 Docket No. 06-284 (Driggs)

Direct Testimony and Exhibits of  
Howard Solganick

1 Q. **Does this conclude your testimony?**

2

3 A. Yes.

Testimony - Howard Solganick

Public Service Commission of Delaware

Case - Delmarva Power & Light Company Docket No. 06-284 (January 2007)

Client - Staff of the Delaware Public Service Commission

Scope - Testimony covered cost of service, revenue allocation, rate design and other related issues including revenue stabilization or normalization.

Georgia Public Service Commission

Case - Atmos Energy Corporation Docket No. 27163 (July 2008)

Client - Public Interest Advocacy Staff of the Georgia Public Service Commission

Scope - Testimony covered rate design and other related issues.

Jamaica (West Indies) Office of Utility Regulation

Case - Electricity Appeals Tribunal (August 2007)

Client - Jamaica public Service Company, Ltd.

Scope - "Witness Statement" on behalf of the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited. This Statement covered issues relating to recovery of expenses incurred due to Hurricane Ivan.

Maine Public Utilities Commission

Case - Northern Utilities, Accelerated Cast Iron Replacement Program Docket No. 2005-813 (2005)

Client - Public Advocate of the State of Maine

Scope - Testimony covered an analysis of the program's economics and implementation.

Public Service Commission of Maryland

Case - Chesapeake Utilities Corporation Case No. 9062 (August 2006)

Client - Office of the Maryland People's Counsel

Scope - Testimony covered cost of service, rate design and other related issues.

Case - Baltimore Gas & Electric's (1993)

Client - As president of the Mid Atlantic Independent Power Producers

Scope - Testimony covered BG&E's capacity procurement plans.

Michigan Public Service Commission

Case - Consumers Energy Company Case No. U-15245 (November 2007)

Client - Attorney General Michael A. Cox (Don Erickson, Esq.)

Scope - Testimony covered cost of service, rate design and revenue allocation.

Case - Consumers Energy Company Case No. U-15190 (July 2007)

Client - Attorney General Michael A. Cox (Don Erickson, Esq.)

Scope - Testimony covered issues related to Consumers Energy's gas revenue decoupling proposal.

Case - Consumers Energy Company Case No. U-15001 (June 2007)  
Client - Attorney General Michael A. Cox (Don Erickson, Esq.)  
Scope - Testimony covered issues related to Consumers Energy and the MCV Partnership.

Case - Consumers Energy Company Case No. U-14981 (September 2006)  
Client - Attorney General Michael A. Cox (Don Erickson, Esq.)  
Scope - Testimony covered issues relating to the sale of Consumers interest in the Midland Cogeneration Venture.

Case - Consumers Energy Company Case No. U-14347 (June 2005)  
Client - Attorney General Michael A. Cox (Don Erickson, Esq.)  
Scope - Testimony covered cost of service and revenue allocation.

#### Missouri Public Service Commission

Case - AmerenUE Storm Adequacy Review (July 2008)  
Client - KEMA/AmerenUE  
Scope - Oral testimony covered KEMA's review of AmerenUE's system major storm restoration efforts.

#### New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

Case - Cogeneration and Alternate Energy Docket # 8010-687 (1981)  
Case - PURPA Rate Design and Lifeline Docket # 8010-687 (1981)  
Case - Atlantic Electric Rate Case - Phases I & II Docket # 822-116 (1982)  
Case - Power Supply Contract Litigation - Wilmington Thermal Systems Docket # 2755-89 (1989)  
Case - NJBPU Atlantic Electric Rate Case - Phase II (1980-81) Docket # 7911-951 (Before the Commissioners of the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities)  
Client - Employer was Atlantic City Electric Company.  
Scope - The cases listed above covered load forecasting, capacity planning, load research, cost of service, rate design and power procurement.

#### Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

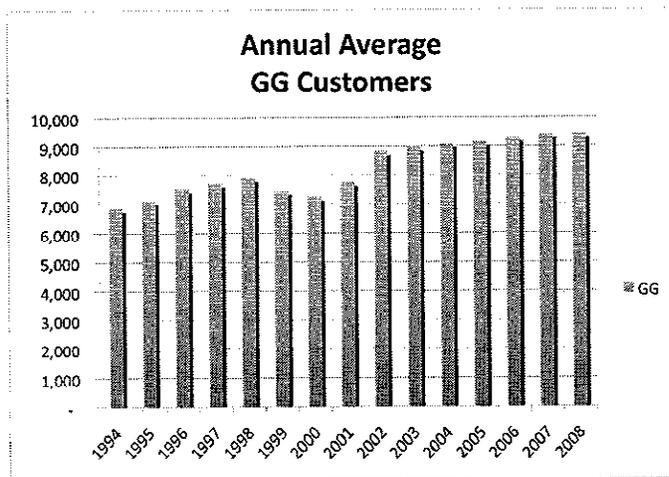
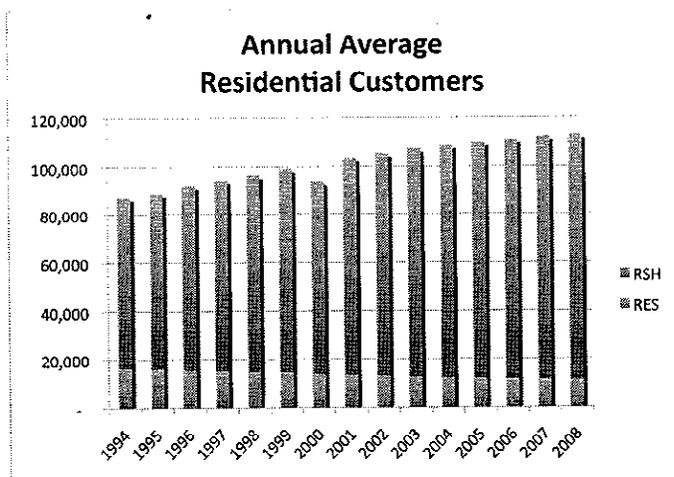
Case - The Application of Ohio Edison Company, The Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company, and The Toledo Edison Company Case 07-551-EL-AIR (January 2008)  
Client - Ohio Schools Council  
Scope - Testimony covers issues related to rate treatment of schools.

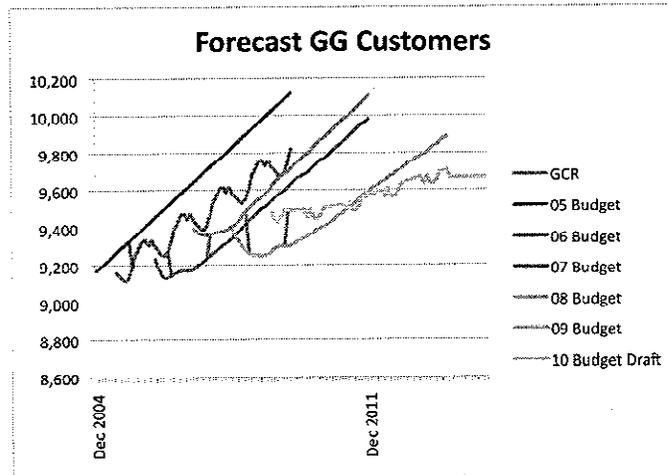
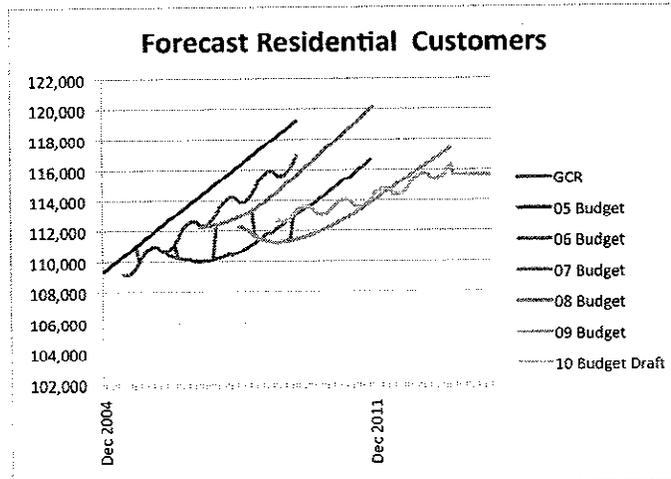
Case - The Application of the Columbus Southern Power Company 08-917-EL-SSO and the Ohio Power Company Case 08-918-EL-SSO (October 2008)  
Client - Ohio Hospital Association  
Scope - Testimony covers issues related to rates for net metering and alternate feed service and related treatment of hospitals.

Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission  
Case - York Water Company Docket No. R-00061322 (July 2006)  
Client - Pennsylvania Office of Consumer Advocate  
Subject - Testimony covered cost of service, rate design and other related issues, also supported the settlement process.

Case – Pennsylvania- American Water Company Docket No. R-2008-232689  
(August 2008)  
Client – Municipal Sewer Group  
Subject - Testimony covered cost of service, rate design, capacity fee and other related issues, also supported the settlement process.

Public Utilities Commission of Texas  
Case – Determination of Hurricane Restoration Costs Docket No. 36918 (April 2009)  
Client – CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric, LLC  
Subject – Testimony covered the reasonableness of the client's Hurricane Ike restoration process.





**Solganick Power & Light Company - Delaware  
 DDC Based Gas Balances Rates**

Rate Element	(1) Billing Determinants	(2) Existing Rate Design Rate	(3) Existing Revenue	(4) Existing Rate Design Customer Focused Fixed	(5) Existing Rate Design Annual	(6) External Influenced Volumetric	(7) Proposed Rate Design Billing Determinants	(8) Proposed Rate Design Recommended Rate	(9) Recommended Revenue	(10) Customer Focused Fixed	(11) Proposed Rate Design Customer Focused Annual	(12) External Influenced Volumetric
<b>Residential Gas Service Rate Decision</b>												
Total	\$ 43,533,327		\$ 12,661,772	28.85%	0.00%	71.05%	1,313,177	\$ 15.74	\$ 20,754,439	47.67%	52.33%	0.00%
Customer	\$ 20,754,439		\$ 17,867,505			39.21%						0.00%
Demand	\$ 22,778,888		\$ 13,894,050			31.65%						0.00%
<b>Rate Element</b>												
Customer Charge (\$ per month)	1,318,177	9.56	\$ 12,661,772	28.85%	0.00%	71.05%	1,313,177	\$ 15.74	\$ 20,754,439	47.67%	52.33%	0.00%
Fixed 50 CCF Commodity Rate	40,539,430	0.42101	\$ 17,867,505			39.21%						0.00%
Winter Over 50 CCF Commodity Rate	41,837,324	0.33784	\$ 13,894,050			31.65%						0.00%
Deliver Day Contribution Rate 18 per CCF of DDC per 1001							1,022,638	\$ 22,274,24	\$ 22,776,885	52.33%	52.33%	0.00%
<b>Total</b>			\$ 43,533,327	28.85%	0.00%	71.05%		\$ 43,533,324		47.67%	52.33%	0.00%

**General Gas Service Rate Decision**

Rate Element	(13) Billing Determinants	(14) Existing Rate Design Rate	(15) Existing Revenue	(16) Existing Rate Design Customer Focused Fixed	(17) Existing Rate Design Annual	(18) External Influenced Volumetric	(19) Proposed Rate Design Billing Determinants	(20) Proposed Rate Design Recommended Rate	(21) Recommended Revenue	(22) Customer Focused Fixed	(23) Proposed Rate Design Customer Focused Annual	(24) External Influenced Volumetric
<b>General Gas Service Rate Decision</b>												
Total	\$ 16,687,364		\$ 3,065,530	18.35%	0.00%	81.65%	110,007	\$ 27.31	\$ 3,065,530	18.35%	81.65%	0.00%
Customer	\$ 5,170,620		\$ 35,975			0.22%						0.00%
Demand	\$ 11,516,744		\$ 7,288,541			44.00%						0.00%
<b>Rate Element</b>												
Customer Charge (\$ per month)	110,007	119	\$ 3,065,530	18.35%	0.00%	81.65%	110,007	\$ 27.31	\$ 3,065,530	18.35%	81.65%	0.00%
Fixed 75 CCF Commodity Rate	20,840,431	0.34675	\$ 7,288,541			44.00%						0.00%
Over 75 CCF Commodity Rate	23,871,842	0.23125	\$ 6,296,519			37.64%						0.00%
Deliver Day Contribution Rate \$ per CCF of DDC per Month							518,084	\$ 1,833,16	\$ 11,396,764	31.21%	68.79%	0.00%
<b>Total</b>			\$ 16,687,364	18.35%	0.00%	81.65%		\$ 16,687,364		18.35%	81.65%	0.00%