

Public Service Commission - Public Statement Hearing
October 3, 2017

1

1 STATE OF NEW YORK
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

2 -----X

3 CASE No. 17-E-0459: Proceeding on Motion of the
4 Commission as to the Rates,
5 Charges, Rules and Regulations
6 of Central Hudson Gas &
7 Electric Corporation for
8 Electric Service.

9 CASE No. 17-G-0460: Proceeding of Motion of the
10 Commission as to the Rates,
11 Charges, Rules and Regulations
12 of Central Hudson Gas &
13 Electric Corporation for Gas
14 Service.

-----X

11 Public Statement Hearing
12 Town Hall
13 1 Overocker Road
14 Poughkeepsie, New York
15
16
17 October 3, 2017
18 3:00 p.m.

19 PRESIDING:

20 MICHELLE PHILLIPS
21 Administrative Law Judge

22 PRESENT:

23 Erika Bergen
24 Administrative Law Judge
25 Gregg Sayre
Commissioner

Public Service Commission - Public Statement Hearing
October 3, 2017

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SPEAKERS	PAGE
Frank Skartados, Assembly District Member.....	4
John Pfieffer.....	7

Public Service Commission - Public Statement Hearing
October 3, 2017

3

1 ALJ PHILLIPS: Good afternoon. I would
2 like to go on the record so we can start pretty
3 close to our start time.

4 (Time noted: 3:02 p.m.)

5 ALJ PHILLIPS: Calling case number
6 17-E-0459, Proceeding on Motion of the
7 Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and
8 Regulations of Central Hudson Gas & Electric
9 Corporation for Electric Services, and case
10 number 17-G-0460, Proceeding on Motion of the
11 Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and
12 Regulations for Central Hudson Gas & Electric
13 Corporation for Gas Service.

14 My name is Michelle Phillips.

15 I'm one of the administrative law judges
16 assigned to this proceeding. With me today is
17 administrative law judge, Erika Bergen, and
18 Commissioner Gregg Sayre.

19 Commissioner Sayre is one of the five PSC
20 Commissioners who will ultimately decide what
21 Central Hudson's rates and conditions will be.

22 Would you like to address the audience,
23 Commissioner Sayre?

24 COMMISSIONER SAYRE: Thank you very much
25 for coming out this afternoon. I know you have

Public Service Commission - Public Statement Hearing
October 3, 2017

4

1 places that you would probably rather be other
2 than in a meeting room talking about rate
3 cases. So, you must be taking it seriously and
4 I promise to take what you have to say
5 seriously.

6 ALJ PHILLIPS: I would like to echo what
7 Commissioner Sayre said, and thank you so much
8 for coming out this afternoon.

9 We are here today to listen to your
10 comments, and I will summarize and report your
11 comments to those commissioners who were not
12 able to be here today.

13 For purposes of this public statement
14 hearing, we've asked that you fill out a card
15 if you wish to speak. Then using the speaker
16 card I will call you up to the front so that
17 your statement can be transcribed by the court
18 reporter. That's the reason why we are using
19 the microphone. So, I will ask that you please
20 do use the microphone, and speak clearly and
21 state your name.

22 Also, I would like to ask if anyone has
23 any electronic devices that might beep, or
24 jingle, or make any sound, if you could please
25 silence those now.

Public Service Commission - Public Statement Hearing
October 3, 2017

5

1 It's a fairly straight forward process,
2 but are there any questions about this process
3 before we begin?

4 (No response.)

5 ALJ PHILLIPS: So, hearing none, at this
6 time I would like to call Assembly District
7 Member, Frank Skartados.

8 MR. SKARTADOS: Yes, good afternoon.

9 ALJ PHILLIPS: Good afternoon.

10 MR. SKARTADOS: So, we're here today to
11 present our thoughts, as you said, on the
12 request made by Central Hudson for rate
13 increases to New York State Department of
14 Public Service.

15 Now, I met with Central Hudson
16 representatives over these issue, and I am
17 familiar with the reasons, and honestly who can
18 disagree with the requests?

19 The infrastructure, which delivers our
20 electricity must be able to stand up to severe
21 weather conditions. The grid must be hardened
22 against cyber attacks. And new equipment
23 should be installed to reduce power
24 interruptions.

25 But I'm here to ask, at what cost to the

Public Service Commission - Public Statement Hearing
October 3, 2017

6

1 public should Central Hudson be allowed to
2 proceed?

3 For those who have serious economic
4 challenges, what cost do they have to pay when
5 they don't have enough money to pay rent, or to
6 buy something more than cheap, unhealthy food?

7 What cost should the average two-child
8 family have to pay when there's hardly enough
9 money left after property taxes, school taxes,
10 sales taxes, food, clothing and savings, saving
11 up for a college education? It becomes very
12 unobtainable.

13 And at what cost should a single mom with
14 one child have to pay for Central Hudson's
15 improvements when her modest income, as a fast
16 food server, can barely cover healthcare,
17 childcare and the cost to operate a car to get
18 to work?

19 These rate increases are somewhat frequent
20 and their effect is cumulative. The cost of
21 energy has declined but the cost of delivery
22 continues to grow. That is, the cost of
23 delivery outpaces the cost of the product
24 itself.

25 So, I'm here to say that there must be

Public Service Commission - Public Statement Hearing
October 3, 2017

7

1 fairness between Central Hudson's needs and the
2 needs of the people they serve. And that
3 fairness must be weighted carefully by the
4 members of the New York State Department of
5 Public Services.

6 It begins by strengthening oversight of
7 utilities and extends to finding other ways to
8 finance necessary infrastructure up-grades that
9 do not further burden those who cannot afford
10 to pay.

11 And when you think about it, you can't say
12 that Central Hudson, or any utilities, is
13 helping the people of New York when they are
14 taking money from the pockets of people who
15 cannot afford basic human needs.

16 Thank you. I appreciate your time.

17 ALJ PHILLIPS: Thank you. The next
18 speaker card is for John Pfeiffer.

19 MR. PFEIFFER: I see a time a generation
20 from now where they will look back on us and
21 say, they burned fossil fuels? How primitive.
22 They'll look back like we look back on doctors
23 that used leeches to cure diseases. It's not a
24 good idea.

25 There's a heavy cost of action that we're

1 considering here, potentially. But I think the
2 cost of in-action could be far greater. So, if
3 we don't do something to reduce the use of
4 fossil fuels we're going to be in trouble. We
5 already are in trouble.

6 So, I agree totally with the idea of
7 beneficial electrification. People moving
8 towards electricity to running heat pumps and
9 electric vehicles to get away fossil fuels.

10 So, I'm in favor of raising rates on any
11 type of fossil fuel, a carbon tax if that is
12 possible, but I think the idea of raising
13 electric rates will not work to incentivize
14 people to move towards the type of beneficial
15 electrification such as and heat pumps and
16 such. So that's it.

17 ALJ PHILLIPS: Thank you very much.

18 Thus far, those were the only two cards
19 that I have. We, however, will stay here until
20 four o'clock in case anyone else shows up and
21 wishes to make a statement for the record.

22 In the mean time we will go off the record
23 and return, if need be, for other members of
24 the public who show up.

25 I want to thank you for coming out. Our

Public Service Commission - Public Statement Hearing
October 3, 2017

9

1 next public information session will be in
2 the same room at six p.m. followed by the next
3 public statement hearing at seven p.m.

4 Thank you. We are off the record.

5 (Time noted 3:26 p.m.)

6

7 ALJ PHILLIPS: We are back on the record.

8 (Time noted 4:04 p.m.)

9 ALJ PHILLIPS: I would like to note that
10 it's a little bit after four o'clock and we
11 have stayed here to see if anyone else would
12 show up to make a statement and no one has.
13 Therefore, we are adjourning this afternoon's
14 public statement hearing. The next public
15 statement hearing will commence at seven
16 o'clock this evening in the same room. Thank
17 you.

18 We are off the record.

19 (Time noted: 4:07 p.m.)

20

21

22

23

24

25

Public Service Commission - Public Statement Hearing
October 3, 2017

10

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

CERTIFICATE

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER)

I, DEIRDRE SMITH, Court Reporter and Notary
Public within and for the State of New York do
hereby certify:

That I reported the proceedings that are
hereinbefore set forth, and that such transcript
is a true record of said proceedings.

I further certify that I am not related
to any of the parties to this action by blood or
marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the
outcome of this matter.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I set my hand this 10th day
of October 2017.

Deirdre Smith
Notary Public

My commission expires:
April, 2019

**Public Service Commission - Public Statement Hearing
October 3, 2017**

<p style="text-align: center;">A</p> <p>able (2) 4:12 5:20 action (2) 7:25 10:13 address (1) 3:22 adjourning (1) 9:13 administrative (4) 1:19,23 3:15,17 afford (2) 7:9,15 afternoon (5) 3:1,25 4:8 5:8,9 afternoon's (1) 9:13 agree (1) 8:6 ALJ (9) 3:1,5 4:6 5:5,9 7:17 8:17 9:7,9 allowed (1) 6:1 appreciate (1) 7:16 April (1) 10:22 asked (1) 4:14 Assembly (2) 2:3 5:6 assigned (1) 3:16 attacks (1) 5:22 audience (1) 3:22 average (1) 6:7</p>	<p>clothing (1) 6:10 college (1) 6:11 coming (3) 3:25 4:8 8:25 commence (1) 9:15 comments (2) 4:10,11 commission (7) 1:1,3,7 3:7,11,19 10:21 Commissioner (5) 1:25 3:18,23,24 4:7 commissioners (2) 3:20 4:11 conditions (2) 3:21 5:21 considering (1) 8:1 continues (1) 6:22 Corporation (4) 1:4,9 3:9,13 cost (11) 5:25 6:4,7,13,17,20,21,22 6:23 7:25 8:2 COUNTY (1) 10:4 court (2) 4:17 10:6 cover (1) 6:16 cumulative (1) 6:20 cure (1) 7:23 cyber (1) 5:22</p>	<p>family (1) 6:8 far (2) 8:2,18 fast (1) 6:15 favor (1) 8:10 fill (1) 4:14 finance (1) 7:8 finding (1) 7:7 five (1) 3:19 followed (1) 9:2 food (3) 6:6,10,16 forth (1) 10:10 forward (1) 5:1 fossil (4) 7:21 8:4,9,11 four (2) 8:20 9:10 Frank (2) 2:3 5:7 frequent (1) 6:19 front (1) 4:16 fuel (1) 8:11 fuels (3) 7:21 8:4,9 further (2) 7:9 10:12</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">B</p> <p>back (4) 7:20,22,22 9:7 barely (1) 6:16 basic (1) 7:15 beep (1) 4:23 begins (1) 7:6 beneficial (2) 8:7,14 Bergen (2) 1:22 3:17 bit (1) 9:10 blood (1) 10:13 burden (1) 7:9 burned (1) 7:21 buy (1) 6:6</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">D</p> <p>day (1) 10:16 decide (1) 3:20 declined (1) 6:21 Deirdre (2) 10:6,21 delivers (1) 5:19 delivery (2) 6:21,23 Department (2) 5:13 7:4 devices (1) 4:23 disagree (1) 5:18 diseases (1) 7:23 District (2) 2:3 5:6 doctors (1) 7:22</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">G</p> <p>Gas (6) 1:4,8,9 3:8,12,13 generation (1) 7:19 go (2) 3:2 8:22 going (1) 8:4 good (4) 3:1 5:8,9 7:24 greater (1) 8:2 Gregg (2) 1:24 3:18 grid (1) 5:21 grow (1) 6:22</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">C</p> <p>call (2) 4:16 5:6 Calling (1) 3:5 car (1) 6:17 carbon (1) 8:11 card (3) 4:14,16 7:18 cards (1) 8:18 carefully (1) 7:3 case (5) 1:2,7 3:5,9 8:20 cases (1) 4:3 Central (11) 1:4,8 3:8,12,21 5:12 5:15 6:1,14 7:1,12 CERTIFICATE (1) 10:1 certify (2) 10:8,12 challenges (1) 6:4 Charges (4) 1:3,8 3:7,11 cheap (1) 6:6 child (1) 6:14 childcare (1) 6:17 clearly (1) 4:20 close (1) 3:3</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">E</p> <p>echo (1) 4:6 economic (1) 6:3 education (1) 6:11 effect (1) 6:20 electric (8) 1:4,5,9 3:8,9,12 8:9,13 electricity (2) 5:20 8:8 electrification (2) 8:7,15 electronic (1) 4:23 energy (1) 6:21 equipment (1) 5:22 Erika (2) 1:22 3:17 evening (1) 9:16 expires (1) 10:21 extends (1) 7:7</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">H</p> <p>Hall (1) 1:11 hand (1) 10:16 hardened (1) 5:21 healthcare (1) 6:16 hearing (6) 1:10 4:14 5:5 9:3,14,15 heat (2) 8:8,15 heavy (1) 7:25 helping (1) 7:13 hereinbefore (1) 10:10 honestly (1) 5:17 Hudson (8) 1:4,8 3:8,12 5:12,15 6:1 7:12 Hudson's (3) 3:21 6:14 7:1 human (1) 7:15</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">F</p> <p>fairly (1) 5:1 fairness (2) 7:1,3 familiar (1) 5:17</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I</p> <p>idea (3) 7:24 8:6,12 improvements (1) 6:15 in-action (1) 8:2 incentivize (1) 8:13 income (1) 6:15 increases (2) 5:13 6:19 information (1) 9:1 infrastructure (2) 5:19 7:8</p>	

**Public Service Commission - Public Statement Hearing
October 3, 2017**

<p>installed (1) 5:23 interested (1) 10:14 interruptions (1) 5:24 issue (1) 5:16</p>	<p>Overocker (1) 1:11 oversight (1) 7:6</p>	<p>request (1) 5:12 requests (1) 5:18 response (1) 5:4</p>
<hr/> J <hr/>	<hr/> P <hr/>	<hr/> S <hr/>
<p>jingle (1) 4:24 John (2) 2:4 7:18 judge (3) 1:19,23 3:17 judges (1) 3:15</p>	<p>p.m (7) 1:13 3:4 9:2,3,5,8,19 PAGE (1) 2:2 parties (1) 10:13 pay (5) 6:4,5,8,14 7:10 people (5) 7:2,13,14 8:7,14 Pfeiffer (2) 7:18,19 Pfieffer (1) 2:4 Phillips (11) 1:18 3:1,5,14 4:6 5:5 5:9 7:17 8:17 9:7,9</p>	<p>return (1) 8:23 Road (1) 1:11 room (3) 4:2 9:2,16 Rules (4) 1:3,8 3:7,11 running (1) 8:8</p>
<hr/> K <hr/>	<hr/> P <hr/>	<hr/> S <hr/>
<p>know (1) 3:25</p>	<p>places (1) 4:1</p>	<p>sales (1) 6:10 Sate (1) 7:4</p>
<hr/> L <hr/>	<hr/> P <hr/>	<hr/> S <hr/>
<p>law (4) 1:19,23 3:15,17 leeches (1) 7:23 left (1) 6:9 listen (1) 4:9 little (1) 9:10 look (3) 7:20,22,22</p>	<p>please (2) 4:19,24 pockets (1) 7:14 possible (1) 8:12 potentially (1) 8:1 Poughkeepsie (1) 1:12 power (1) 5:23 present (2) 1:21 5:11 PRESIDING (1) 1:17 pretty (1) 3:2 primitive (1) 7:21 probably (1) 4:1 proceed (1) 6:2 proceeding (5) 1:2,7 3:6,10,16 proceedings (2) 10:9,11 process (2) 5:1,2 product (1) 6:23 promise (1) 4:4 property (1) 6:9 PSC (1) 3:19 public (13) 1:1,10 4:13 5:14 6:1 7:5 8:24 9:1,3,14,14 10:7,22 pumps (2) 8:8,15 purposes (1) 4:13</p>	<p>saving (1) 6:10 savings (1) 6:10 Sayre (6) 1:24 3:18,19,23,24 4:7 school (1) 6:9 see (2) 7:19 9:11 serious (1) 6:3 seriously (2) 4:3,5 serve (1) 7:2 server (1) 6:16 Service (5) 1:1,5,9 3:13 5:14 Services (2) 3:9 7:5 session (1) 9:1 set (2) 10:10,16 seven (2) 9:3,15 severe (1) 5:20 show (2) 8:24 9:12 shows (1) 8:20 silence (1) 4:25 single (1) 6:13 six (1) 9:2 Skartados (4) 2:3 5:7,8,10 Smith (2) 10:6,21 somewhat (1) 6:19 sound (1) 4:24 speak (2) 4:15,20 speaker (2) 4:15 7:18 SPEAKERS (1) 2:2 ss (1) 10:3 stand (1) 5:20 start (2) 3:2,3 state (5) 1:1 4:21 5:13 10:2,7 statement (8) 1:10 4:13,17 8:21 9:3,12,14,15 stay (1) 8:19 stayed (1) 9:11 straight (1) 5:1 strengthening (1) 7:6 summarize (1) 4:10</p>
<hr/> M <hr/>	<hr/> Q <hr/>	<hr/> T <hr/>
<p>marriage (1) 10:14 matter (1) 10:15 mean (1) 8:22 meeting (1) 4:2 Member (2) 2:3 5:7 members (2) 7:4 8:23 met (1) 5:15 Michelle (2) 1:18 3:14 microphone (2) 4:19,20 modest (1) 6:15 mom (1) 6:13 money (3) 6:5,9 7:14 Motion (4) 1:2,7 3:6,10 move (1) 8:14 moving (1) 8:7</p>	<p>questions (1) 5:2</p>	<p>take (1) 4:4 talking (1) 4:2 tax (1) 8:11 taxes (3) 6:9,9,10 thank (8) 3:24 4:7 7:16,17 8:17,25</p>
<hr/> N <hr/>	<hr/> R <hr/>	<hr/> T <hr/>
<p>name (2) 3:14 4:21 necessary (1) 7:8 need (1) 8:23 needs (3) 7:1,2,15 new (8) 1:1,12 5:13,22 7:4,13 10:2 10:7 Notary (2) 10:6,22 note (1) 9:9 noted (4) 3:4 9:5,8,19 number (2) 3:5,10</p>	<p>raising (2) 8:10,12 rate (3) 4:2 5:12 6:19 rates (7) 1:3,7 3:7,11,21 8:10,13 reason (1) 4:18 reasons (1) 5:17 record (7) 3:2 8:21,22 9:4,7,18 10:11 reduce (2) 5:23 8:3 Regulations (4) 1:3,8 3:8,12 related (1) 10:12 rent (1) 6:5 report (1) 4:10 reported (1) 10:9 reporter (2) 4:18 10:6 representatives (1) 5:16</p>	<p>take (1) 4:4 talking (1) 4:2 tax (1) 8:11 taxes (3) 6:9,9,10 thank (8) 3:24 4:7 7:16,17 8:17,25</p>
<hr/> O <hr/>	<hr/> R <hr/>	<hr/> T <hr/>
<p>o'clock (3) 8:20 9:10,16 October (2) 1:13 10:17 operate (1) 6:17 outcome (1) 10:15 outpaces (1) 6:23</p>	<p>reduce (2) 5:23 8:3 Regulations (4) 1:3,8 3:8,12 related (1) 10:12 rent (1) 6:5 report (1) 4:10 reported (1) 10:9 reporter (2) 4:18 10:6 representatives (1) 5:16</p>	<p>take (1) 4:4 talking (1) 4:2 tax (1) 8:11 taxes (3) 6:9,9,10 thank (8) 3:24 4:7 7:16,17 8:17,25</p>

**Public Service Commission - Public Statement Hearing
October 3, 2017**

9:4,16	
THEREOF (1) 10:16	2
think (3) 7:11 8:1,12	2017 (2) 1:13 10:17
thoughts (1) 5:11	2019 (1) 10:22
time (9) 3:3,4 5:6 7:16,19 8:22 9:5	3
9:8,19	3 (1) 1:13
today (4) 3:16 4:9,12 5:10	3:00 (1) 1:13
totally (1) 8:6	3:02 (1) 3:4
Town (1) 1:11	3:26 (1) 9:5
transcribed (1) 4:17	4
transcript (1) 10:10	4 (1) 2:3
trouble (2) 8:4,5	4:04 (1) 9:8
true (1) 10:11	4:07 (1) 9:19
two (1) 8:18	5
two-child (1) 6:7	6
type (2) 8:11,14	7
U	7 (1) 2:4
ultimately (1) 3:20	
unhealthy (1) 6:6	
unobtainable (1) 6:12	
up-grades (1) 7:8	
use (2) 4:20 8:3	
utilities (2) 7:7,12	
V	
vehicles (1) 8:9	
W	
want (1) 8:25	
way (1) 10:14	
ways (1) 7:7	
we're (3) 5:10 7:25 8:4	
we've (1) 4:14	
weather (1) 5:21	
weighted (1) 7:3	
WESTCHESTER (1) 10:4	
wish (1) 4:15	
wishes (1) 8:21	
WITNESS (1) 10:16	
work (2) 6:18 8:13	
X	
X (2) 1:2,10	
Y	
York (7) 1:1,12 5:13 7:4,13 10:2,7	
Z	
0	
1	
1 (1) 1:11	
10th (1) 10:16	
17-E-0459 (2) 1:2 3:6	
17-G-0460 (2) 1:7 3:10	