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16-G-0369 - Corning, New York - 7:00 p.m.

STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

16-G-0369 - CORNING NATURAL GAS CORPORATION PROPOSED RATE
INCREASE

PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING

Wednesday September 14, 2016
7:00 p.m.
Southeast Steuben County Library
300 Nasser Civic Center Plaza
Corning, New York 14830

SEAN MULLANY
Administrative Law Judge
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

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2 (The hearing resumed at 7:05 p.m.)

3 A.L.J. MULLANY: Okay. So it's -- it's
4 just after 7 p.m. I'm going to call to order a public
5 statement hearing in Case 16-G-0369, Proceeding on Motion
6 of the Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules, and
7 Regulations of Corning Natural Gas Corporation for Gas
8 Service.

9 And I understand we have one individual
10 who's -- who would like to offer some remarks on the
11 record.

12 Sir, could you come up here?

13 MR. COCCHO: Sure.

14 A.L.J. MULLANY: We've got a microphone for
15 the court reporter. This -- this portion of the
16 proceedings is on the record, so we're going to have a
17 verbatim transcript.

18 MR. COCCHO: You can hear me anyhow; right?

19 A.L.J. MULLANY: Yup. Absolutely.

20 MR. COCCHO: Okay. Frank Coccho, Member of
21 Corning City Council, 6th Ward, which is in the center of
22 the north side.

23 A.L.J. MULLANY: How do you spell that, Mr.
24 Coccho?

25 MR. COCCHO: C-O-C-C-H-O. I've been on the

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2 City Council in excess of 25 years, and I've always taken
3 an active involvement in the City of Corning.

4 A.L.J. MULLANY: Thanks for coming in
5 today.

6 MR. COCCHO: Well, thank you for inviting
7 me for giving us this opportunity. And I'd like to say
8 for the record that I'm definitely, totally disappointed
9 in my colleagues, including the mayor, including the city
10 manager, for not being here tonight. I think it's just as
11 important for them to be here as it is for anyone else.
12 More so, probably, because they are representatives.

13 And I've heard the -- the administrative
14 law judge comments, and I've heard the company's comments,
15 appreciate both of them. I'm also saddened that it's 2/3
16 of the mandates of these rate increases are cause -- or
17 caused by the Public Service Commission.

18 And I understand the company has to make a
19 living. They're employing many people, and they are
20 highly skilled in their trade. And I understand that they
21 need -- need compensation to reward them for what they do.
22 However -- however, I can only hope that between the State
23 of New York and the Public Service Commission, which is a
24 part of the state, that they take into consideration the
25 folks that we represent in the lower to mid-income range.

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2 And we have both. We have both in my ward -- my
3 particular ward.

4 I'm in subsidized housing -- I represent
5 two groups in subsidized housing. They don't necessarily
6 pay gas, but they pay rent. And we've got to consider
7 those people. And also we need to consider those folks
8 who are 70s, 80s, 90s that just don't have the livelihood
9 that folks like myself does. So again, please take that
10 into consideration.

11 And I'm hoping that I'll get another
12 opportunity, either through email or through a Public
13 Service Commission hearing, but let me tell you this.
14 I've had experience with that, too. I've gone to
15 Syracuse, I've gone to Rochester, and I've argued in front
16 of small city -- Small Cities Commission assembly, and to
17 no avail. Don't even get the reply or the courtesy of a
18 reply that we were there and thanks for attending, like we
19 received here tonight.

20 So that's what I have to say. Thanks for
21 the opportunity. And I hope you consider those folks who
22 are not going to be able to make \$40 average at the end of
23 this process. They're not going to be able to afford it.
24 I'm telling you I know. I've seen issues smaller than
25 this, and those -- those folks have tears in their eyes.

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2 I used to go door to door when I was campaigning. I'm
3 unable to do so now. I have a health problem, but I'll
4 get back out there again.

5 So thanks for coming and do what you can on
6 behalf of the folks I represent. They'll appreciate it.

7 A.L.J. MULLANY: Well, Mr. Coccho, I said
8 it during the public information session. I'll say it
9 again. Thanks for coming down today. We -- we take
10 public comments very seriously. I can tell you in my
11 personal experience, the Commissioners are always very
12 interested to hear what the affected citizenry has to say.
13 And they take that input and it definitely plays into
14 their deliberations when they review a proposal like this.
15 And so I personally appreciate it on behalf of the
16 Commission. Thank you.

17 MR. COCCHO: Thank you.

18 A.L.J. MULLANY: So I also want to mention
19 the other opportunities for offering comments. The record
20 will remain open in this proceeding for comments until
21 January 31st, 2017. So those who -- who were not able to
22 attend tonight or would prefer not to speak in public,
23 they can offer comments through any one of a number of
24 different means, through the Commission website, through
25 email, or what people now call snail mail, traditional

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2 mail. We also have a toll-free opinion line. And
3 detailed information about that is available.

4 I encourage you to visit the Department's
5 website. There's a wealth of information. If you search
6 under this particular case number, you can get a lot of
7 information about this case. And certainly you can feel
8 free to reach out to the Department, personally, and we'll
9 get back to you. So thank you.

10 So I don't believe we have anyone else
11 who's expressed an interest to offer comments on the
12 record. The notice specified that the public statement
13 hearing would stay open for a minimum of one hour. And so
14 I'm going to recess. We'll go off the record. And if
15 anybody else shows up, we'll open the record again.

16 (Off the record)

17 (The hearing resumed.)

18 A.L.J. MULLANY: Okay. So we're going to
19 go back on the record. It's approaching eight p.m. We
20 have not got any additional people expressing any interest
21 in offering remarks on the record. So I am going to
22 adjourn.

23 Thank you and good night.

24 (The hearing concluded at 7:58 p.m.)

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3 STATE OF NEW YORK

4 I, Howard Hubbard, do hereby certify that the foregoing
5 was reported by me, in the cause, at the time and place,
6 as stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1 hereof; that
7 the foregoing typewritten transcription consisting of
8 pages 1 through 6, is a true record of all proceedings had
9 at the hearing.

10 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
11 subscribed my name, this the 21st day of
12 September, 2016.

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15 Howard Hubbard, Reporter

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