

Public Service Commission - Case No. 16-G-evening  
July 27, 2016

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STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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CASE 16-G-0058 - Proceeding on Motion of the  
Commission as to the Rates,  
Charges, Rules & Regulations of  
KeySpan Gas East Corp. d/b/a  
Brooklyn Union of L.I. for Water  
Services

-----X  
July 27, 2016  
6:27 p.m.

Hauppauge Legislative Auditorium  
William J. Lindsay County Complex  
William H. Rogers Legislative Building  
725 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Hauppauge, New York 11787

PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING  
TRANSCRIPTION OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE:

DAVID VAN ORT  
Administrative Law Judge  
Department of Public Service

PATRICIA ACAMPORA  
Commissioner  
Department of Public Service

ATTENDING:

GUY MAZZA  
Acting Director - Long Island Office  
Department of Public Service

REPORTED BY:

Nicole Ellis

Public Service Commission - Case No. 16-G-evening  
July 27, 2016

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SPEAKERS:

Charles McAteer - AARP

Jeffrey Kagan - ABCO

Charles Schwartz - LI Green Homes

Christine Dose - Self

Peter Quinn - Self

Syed Hussain - AARP

Tammy Green - Self

Sheila Pariser - The Greens at Half Hollow

Legislator Sarah Anker - Suffolk County Legislature

Robert Resch - Green Homeowners Association

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ALJ VAN ORT: This is Case 16-G-0058:  
Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as  
to the Rates, Charges, Rules and  
Regulations of KeySpan Gas East Corp.  
d/b/a Brooklyn Union of L.I. for Gas  
Services

Good evening, my name is David Van  
Ort. I'm the Administrative Law Judge  
with the New York State Department of  
Public Service. I've been assigned to  
this case, and eventually at some point  
I'll be making a recommendation to the  
Public Service Commission as part of my  
functions.

Part of the process, and what we're  
here for this evening, is a Public  
Statement Hearing. And one of the things  
I'm responsible for is to ensure that we  
have a complete record so that the  
Commission can make a determination.

Here with me this evening is  
Commissioner Patricia Acampora, and she's  
one of the ultimate decision-makers in  
this case here. In addition, we have Guy

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Mazza, he is the Acting Director of the Long Island Office for the Department of Public Service.

Now we're here on National Grid's request to increase its rates effective January 1st of 2017. I should point out for you this case has been ongoing since January of this year. There's been more than a dozen parties in this case, and more than half of those parties have submitted testimony in response to the Company's filing. The parties are also engaged in negotiations at this point, that started about a month ago, and they are ongoing periodically.

So one of the things that you folks, those who are making statements that is, is you're not only informing the record, but if there's information -- critical information that we need to share with the parties that are negotiating, I will do that, Commissioner Acampora will be able to share that, as well as Mr. Mazza so that those issues can be addressed.

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The process that we have here for the Public Statement Hearing is that we keep this hearing open for one hour. It's scheduled for 6:30, so it will be kept open until at least 7:30 or until everyone has had an opportunity to speak or be heard.

At this point, we only have five cards, five speakers signed up. I suspect that we'll probably conclude before that time is up, in which case we will recess until the end of that hour. If other people come in, I won't hold them until the end of the hour. If no one shows up, I'll wait until the end of the hour before I close the proceedings.

One of the things we have for those of you speaking, is a microphone over here. And if you would come up to the microphone -- I think this microphone here, take a look at it, I think you have to push and hold the button. It's green now? So that one stays on. Obviously you'll be able to speak into the

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microphone, and then the Reporter on my very far left will be taking down the statements that you make. I should note that your testimony -- or not testimony, your statements that you're making here this evening are not sworn testimony. You're not going to be questioned, no ones going to cross-examine you, so you can feel comfortable with making your statements freely.

The only thing is that we're going to have a complete record. The Stenographer is going to prepare that record that will be filed in the Department of Public Service's Document and Matter Management system, also referred to as DMM. And if anyone wishes to review that transcript, they can do so by going online and looking at it. You can make written statements. If you wish to do that, we have an address that you can submit it to. If you want, you can pick that up at the desk out front.

Before we begin, Commissioner or

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Mr. Mazza, anybody want to make a statement?

COMMR. ACAMPORA: Good evening, everyone. It's a pleasure to see so many people who have come, hopefully, to express themselves on what they think about this proposal.

I am a commissioner, have been a commissioner since 2005, and it's really very important that people do attend these Public Statement Hearings. As a commissioner, I usually take very in-depth notes, and I do share it with my fellow commissioners, of which at this moment there are three others. Normally the Commission has six members, but we're short one right now.

So what you say is important. I will not be making any statements because I will not prejudice myself as a decisionmaker who serves in a quasi-judicial position. I won't make any comments, but believe me, what is said here tonight will be looked at by

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everyone, and hopefully we will be able to address some of your concerns.

So thank you all for coming.

MR. MAZZA: And as was stated, my name is Guy Mazza. I'm Acting Director of the Department of Public Service, Long Island Office. And as has been indicated, the comments you make here tonight are very important. We appreciate them, and I look forward to hearing them.

Thank you very much.

ALJ VAN ORT: Thank you.

We can get started with Charles McAteer.

MR. McATEER: Good evening. My name is Charles McAteer, I'm an AARP volunteer and live in the Town of Brookhaven, the hamlet of Port Jefferson Station. I'm speaking on behalf of the over 500,000 members of AARP who reside on Long Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on National Grid Long Island's rate case that effects natural gas customers. National Grid has filed for

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\$146 million rate increase that will raise delivery rates by 24 percent and increase the average residential consumer heating bill by 15.5 percent. Residential non-heating customers will also experience a bill increase of 18 percent if this proposal is approved as is.

AARP believes that this rate increase is too high and should be rejected by the Public Service Commission. We believe that this rate increase will threaten the affordability of essential natural gas services for vulnerable customers.

There are 287,000 seniors living in Nassau County, of which 106,000 are age 75 or older. There are 330,000 seniors living in Suffolk County, of which 103,000 are age 75 or older. Roughly 10 percent of Nassau County seniors are low-income and approximately 12.5 percent of Suffolk County seniors are low-income.

Senior citizens, who make up more than 25 percent of the households in the National Grid Long Island service

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territory, have also faced increasing economic challenges since 2009. Over 22,000 seniors on Long Island live below the federal poverty level in 2013, up 6 percent from 2009. Public service to senior citizen households experience increases ranging from 42.8 to 84.1 percent between 2009 and 2013.

In a recent AARP survey of age 50-plus residents on Long Island, 46 percent stated that they are extremely or very concerned about being able to afford utility costs. Seniors use the same amount of energy as younger persons, but unfortunately paying the bill consumes more of their household income.

And I just might add, next year when this comes in 2017, there's only a .2 -- two-tenths of one percent increase in Social Security, is on tap for the Federal -- for Social Security.

Any increase in utility rates must take into account that there's such a large percentage of low-income seniors in

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the region. Rates must be designed to maintain the affordability of basic services. AARP believes anything short of that would be unacceptable.

To conclude, AARP believes National Grid has proposed a significant rate increase that will contribute to the unaffordability of essential natural gas for the customers of Long Island. This rate increase is simply too high. While AARP supports investments to ensure pipeline safety and measures to ensure more reliable gas service -- gas supply services, this proposal does not take into account the ability of its vulnerable citizens -- customers to pay their high rate increases and should be rejected.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak this evening.

ALJ VAN ORT: Thank you, Mr. McAteer.

Next speaker is Jeffrey Kagan.

MR. KAGAN: Good evening. My name is Jeffrey Kagan, I'm the treasurer of ABCO, the Affiliated Brookhaven Civic

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Organizations, and I'm also an AARP member. But I will be expressing my feelings a little differently.

I don't like paying taxes, or bills in general, but I feel it's appropriate to pay bills that are necessary. My question is: Are the bills necessary? And your job, which you thankfully perform quite admirably, is to try to make sure that what we do pay is what we should pay. So I have a number of questions.

One, the gentleman before me spoke about the affordability of these rates for low-income people, many of whom are seniors. It's not clear to me how that program is going to operate. It's not clear to me whether, after this large rate increase, those who are low-income will find them more affordable than they were before. So clarity as to the intent of the applicant, I think, is critical. Transparency here has been very difficult. And many of my questions are going to be about that, so forgive me.

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The second one is, the expansion of the pipeline at Glenwood Landing. Well unfortunately, many of my associates in Brookhaven don't participate in pipeline natural gas service, the lines just don't go everywhere in Brookhaven. I'm lucky, extremely lucky. Our service is reliable, it's affordable. I wonder what we'd have to do to consider expansion to others in Brookhaven? I wonder what Glenwood Landing had do to get treated the way they are to get these pipelines? Are they paying for it? Are we paying for it? If we're all paying, then why wouldn't we have a much bottom line -- what I'm saying is, there ought to be a clearly understood strategy for how Long Islanders are paying for natural gas services, and how it can be attained, and how it's going to be funded. Now it may be clear to many other people, but it's not clear to me. And I think as part of this rate case, we should make sure it's clear and understandable.

When I first saw the magnitude of

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this rate increase and saw its primary objective to be making sure the pipelines could maintain the continued safe transmission of gas, my initial reaction was that I was aghast. We've seen many examples of failing infrastructure in the United States and elsewhere in the world. It's unclear to me just how serious the problem is. It's clearly not an emergency or we wouldn't be in this hearing, things would be going on. Things would be getting fixed, pipes would be bursting. So then the question becomes: How dire a need are we facing?

And my question is: Does this increase match the need? Are they going to replace all the pipes in two years with the resources we're giving them? And is two years appropriate? Are we facing a need that if we don't replace them in two years or could we wait ten years? And I'm not suggesting we create unsafe conditions and wait an extended period of time, but let's make sure the that the effort that

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we expend, that's dollars, and the rate increase matches the need. It's unclear to me that's not happening, and I would ask that you evaluate this rate case, that you ensure there's a match and long-term plan, because quite frankly, I wonder how we got where we are today.

What was National Grid thinking last year and the year before as they looked at the existing pipelines? Why weren't they doing some work to plan to improve those pipelines? Or were they putting it all on saying, Wait, in 2017 we're going to ask for a ton of money and we'll fund it all. I don't think that's appropriate. If they did do that, if they did somehow let things slip so that their investors make money on this program by not investing in infrastructure, I think there should be a penalty.

I'm not suggesting they're doing that I don't have the information, but if we do not have a dire need, let's make sure the expenditures match the need, and the

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timing, and that the layout of the funds is appropriate to that.

Thank you very much.

ALJ VAN ORT: Thank you, sir.

The third speaker is Charles Schwartz.

MR. SCHWARTZ: Hi, I'm Chuck Schwartz. I'm here to help Long Islanders lower their energy bills through energy efficiency and renewable energy.

Back in January of this year, the Public Service Commission's decisions related to NYSERDA's Clean Energy Fund put Long Island at a very big disadvantage related to energy efficiency programs. Basically, Long Island homeowners will now no longer be allowed to participate in the energy efficiency programs available to almost all other homeowners in the rest of the state. We find this lack of statewide clarity to be very disturbing.

Instead, Long Islanders are going to receive their energy services, their energy efficiency services from PSEG Long

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2 Island in some cases, based on the fuel  
3 that they burn for their heating, and from  
4 National Grid in other cases. Yet with  
5 the exception of the proposed fuel  
6 conversion program for low-income that's  
7 listed in the rate case, there's really  
8 nothing -- which by the way, we really  
9 considered to be very inadequate for the  
10 needs of low-income people living on Long  
11 Island -- there's really nothing being  
12 shown here how Long Island homes that heat  
13 with natural gas will get assistance that  
14 every other ratepayer in the state is  
15 going to receive.

16 This really needs to change. We need  
17 clear planning for this transition from  
18 New York State. The NYSERDA programs that  
19 need to be provided to ensure that the  
20 marketplace for energy efficiency on Long  
21 Island continues to grow. We have a  
22 vibrant market that's really starting to  
23 grow, we have companies that employ a lot  
24 of people. We're likely to see job  
25 losses, as well as additional problems in

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the community, if this isn't addressed.

Thank you.

ALJ VAN ORT: Thank you,  
Mr. Schwartz.

Okay, our fourth speaker is Christine  
Dose.

MS. DOSE: Okay. As we've  
established, my name is Christine Dose,  
I'm a Commack resident in the Town of  
Smithtown.

I'm not as eloquent as most of the  
speakers here, but there is a lot of  
information that's in these pages that's  
just basically absurd. I'm not a contract  
reader, I'm not a genius. My husband and  
I are in our early 60's, we work for the  
State of New York, which shows we haven't  
gotten a raise in three years. We work  
two jobs, we have two children, older  
college students, but we're helping them  
pay loans, which is another subject.

And actually some of the things -- am  
I allowed to ask a question or no?

ALJ VAN ORT: This is only for your

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comments.

MS. DOSE: Well number one, I don't know -- I don't understand what the Neighborhood Expansion Program is, I have no idea. I'm not allowed to ask what that is?

ALJ VAN ORT: It's fine to ask that question. There are folks here from the Company, if they wish to answer that, they're available.

MS. DOSE: Who do I ask that question to?

ALJ VAN ORT: The people in the back.

MS. DOSE: I can address them now?

ALJ VAN ORT: No, at the end.

MS. DOSE: Because that's something, to be honest with you, I really don't care that they're going to serve additional customers throughout the respective programs and expand their rebate programs to low-income customers. I'm becoming one of those low-income customers, okay. That is not my job. My job is to pay my bills in a fair manner. I'm probably one of the

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lowest people that has a bill under you wouldn't believe, so I'm very conservative. And the fact that I have to pay -- and I'm supposed to be happy that they're going to reach more residential customers?

This is a company, okay. The Company wants to make improvements, that's their business, and that literally is their business. They have to pay for their own improvements, okay. The pipelines should be covered under their expense. My job is to pay my bill every month like a good customer, and not be subjected to -- this company is going to make a \$146 million off people who can barely pay a bill.

So to be honest with you, you're supposed to protect us, that's your job. You're the Public Service Commission, some of you, how are you protecting us by even addressing this? It's a disgrace, honestly. I'm so angry about this. I don't come to things like this, this is the first time I've ever come, so for me

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to be here and get up and speak in front  
of you like this is very difficult for me.

But to make \$198 a year is a lot of  
money, a lot of money. And also I believe  
PSEG just asked for an increase, so  
they're getting a raise too. Where are we  
honestly appealing to? Where are we  
supposed to get the money to pay these  
outlandish bills? The things that some of  
the people said, we don't even know if we  
need. Do we need new infrastructure? I  
didn't even know what the pipeline was, to  
be honest, and I think I'm a pretty smart  
person. But for anybody to even be  
addressing this really scares me, because  
we have people moving away from here that  
can't afford to live here.

There's no jobs. All of my kids  
can't even find work. One of them has two  
Master's degrees, and you think, not you,  
you would even consider approving this for  
us? You really are supposed to look out  
for our best interest. We have to rely on  
you, we can't do it ourselves.

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So I don't know where I'm going to get \$200 more a year, honestly. Maybe I'll get a third job, you know, whatever. But I really ask you to really consider this, really think about us, think of the taxes we pay here. Right where I live, it's pushing us off the Island. So I really wish you would think of us, and keep us, you know, we can't live -- I can't live here much longer with this kind of stuff. And to allow it, to not even think to say, Guys, are you kidding? You got to be more reasonable. A little increase, but \$200 a year for nothing. For not better service, nothing additional.

And gas is at its lowest price, correct? So when these big trucks are delivering the gas, they don't pay them more money unless they're running on other than gas for their fuel. So what's the increase? What is this increase? It's just a way for them to make more money, and I hate to say it, but I think you know

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that. So if you could please try to consider what this is going to do to a lot of us. Thank you.

ALJ VAN ORT: Thank you.

The next speaker is Peter Quinn.

MR. QUINN: Good evening. My name is Peter Quinn, I'm a resident of West Islip.

I'm here tonight because I am unalterably opposed to a single dollar increase for National Grid. At the same time, I might add that I'm opposed to the arrangements that PSEG and LIPA are likewise using to call for increases.

The thing that we should consider instead is what Southampton Town is doing. They have a new, what they call a Tri-Energy, T-R-I, Program; free home energy audits, low-interest financing for home energy improvements, and solar campaigns, to which I will speak about later.

But -- and so I would recommend that the Public Service Commission consider having each of our municipalities across

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Long Island, 13 of them, to enact the same kind of program. And what it will ultimately do is reduce the need for having the PSEG consider rate hikes from utilities.

And I would add that one of the things that's been done for a number of years is to give -- is to have the leaders of these utilities make arrangements with school districts and potential kinds of generating plants, such as Caithness I, where they -- Richard Castle and others decided that they would give Caithness \$107 million in pilots to build their Caithness I plant. And school districts, like Northport and Port Jefferson, because they have cited generating plants there, have agreed to give ad nauseum pilot payments to those communities.

It's time we reached a point, I mean, Caithness is coming along and has a second plant that its proposing with twice as many megawatts, so you can imagine the kinds of financial gifts that will be made

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if we include pilots for Caithness II.

So I am suggesting that the Public Service Commission do something different. Decide to end all future pilots to these communities and we can start talking about what LIPA, PSEG, National Grid's needs really are. And if we said to the ones that are currently getting pilots, It's time to reduce the pilot payments you're being given since you're not being favorable to other communities that haven't got these plants cited. Maybe it's time to consider eliminating the need for some of these generating plants, which National Grid owns most of them, and say, Wait a minute, why are we doing this? When we really need solar, which should be considered on a grand scale.

And I'll even recommend what I told the Suffolk County Legislature several months ago, that what we need is a residential solar array program. We certainly give enough to companies -- there are over 250 companies on Long

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2 Island that are currently, through NYPA,  
3 New York Power Authority, getting  
4 discounted rates for seven years thanks to  
5 Cuomo and the members of the State  
6 legislature. It used to be that each  
7 community, like Suffolk County, had its  
8 own energy program, and if you didn't meet  
9 the job requirement, as Newsday didn't for  
10 years and pleaded to get continued  
11 discounted electricity at 7-and-a-half  
12 cents a kilowatt, while the rest of us  
13 ratepayers were paying close to 20 to 22  
14 cents per kilowatt, and industrial and  
15 commercial companies were paying close to  
16 20 -- 18 cents a kilowatt hour.

17 And so what we're stuck with is  
18 giving all these companies benefits, but  
19 they aren't accruing to poor ratepayers or  
20 intermediate ratepayers, so that we  
21 discover that there are thousands of  
22 individuals in arrears, they can't pay  
23 their bills, and you're not focusing on  
24 that. You're saying, Oh, well they've  
25 come for an increase, let's consider what

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they're offering and we'll do what they say. It's time to do what residential homeowners say.

So what I'm proposing is, it costs about \$18,000 on average for a residential homeowner to install a solar array on his roof. So let's suppose the governor and the legislature decided they would consider allowing 100,000 ratepayers to get solar arrays on their roofs for free through the State. And you might well ask, Well, why would the State -- where would the State get the money? Well, I'll tell you. Eric Schneiderman, our Attorney General four years ago, decided to collect money penalties from mortgage transfer initiatives that were fraudulent, and he collected over \$7-and-a-half billion in revenue for the State, because of those penalties, to banks -- big banks and insurance companies; \$7-and-a-half billion, that's about the equivalent of the debt -- the bonded indebtedness that ratepayers are currently paying.

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2 Why? Not because -- just because we  
3 have a governor and utilities -- by the  
4 way, why don't we consider -- the Public  
5 Service Commission consider eliminating  
6 some of those utilities? Why not start  
7 with National Grid? When you think about  
8 it, on Long Island we have three  
9 utilities; LIPA, PSEG, and National Grid.  
10 Not only that, most people don't know it  
11 runs our transmission and distribution  
12 system.

13 ALJ VAN ORT: Mr. Quinn, if I could  
14 interrupt you for a moment. This is  
15 not -- and it's because I'm not quite sure  
16 where your comments are going.

17 This is the gas rate increase and  
18 you're talking a lot of about solar. How  
19 does that relate? If you could tie this  
20 stuff together.

21 MR. QUINN: Well, okay. National  
22 Grid produces or uses natural gas, a  
23 fossil fuel, which the EPA says is really  
24 methane gas. Do we want methane gas? The  
25 EPA says that methane gas, which National

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Grid is using, accounts for 25 times more in emissions than does carbon dioxide. Do we want to continue using National Grid? Do we want to continue using fossil fuels? The nation has been talking about lowering fossil fuels so we don't have -- so that we can begin climate change.

That's what National Grid is here to do, to get their rate increase silently. Not to mention, methane gas, to continue its use to build more transmission lines or gas pipelines, and we ought to all be opposed to that. I mean, what is it, the Northridge Gas Pipeline, which is trying to build the Caithness II plant by using additional natural gas?

We ought to all be opposed to National Grid getting any rate increase and we ought to have the PSC call for their elimination. We know they own several generating plants, but it's time to do a big flip and change the direction, not only that the nation is trying to move, but also that Long Island is trying

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to move. And we started with the Southampton Tri-Energy Program, but we need to consider solar as an alternative to methane gas.

And how do we do it? I mentioned earlier with \$18,000 per customer who qualifies for solar arrays on their residential roofs. We already give 250 companies on Long Island, through NYPA, the opportunity to get discounted electricity 7 cents a kilowatt, and I don't think that any of us are getting that kind of benefit. So we need to cut short any energy increase to National Grid.

And I started to say earlier that there are three utilities on Long Island, and I said LILCO and LIPA, PSEG and ServCo, and National Grid and KeySpan. They didn't disappear, they're the ones who filed for the rate increases for National Grid. So it's time we expose what's going on in this service territory that's supposed to provide us with

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reasonable rates and safety. And we're not getting the lower rates, we're not getting reliability, except for the companies who write clauses that protect them from allowing solar energy from being increased.

Thank you very much.

ALJ VAN ORT: Thank you.

Our next speaker will be Syed Hussain.

MR. HUSSAIN: Good evening. My name is Syed Hussain, I live in Lindenhurst and I've been living there for over 30 years. And yes, the gentleman mentioned LILCO, but I'm not going to go there. I'm going to talk about KeySpan and National Grid.

National Grid is a publicly traded company, and the share price at this time, a couple of weeks ago is \$72 per share. The highest for 52-week share prices is \$73 per share, so that means they're close to the highest point. And the year's latest dividend they give out to shareholders was \$2-and-change per share,

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which is a lot of money. And they made the revenue of \$146 million, which is a 24 percent increase for last year. For regular utility company, the average increase is about 12 to 15 percent nationwide. So they're making 24 percent, they're making tons of money.

As far as saying -- I know a couple of people in National Grid, and they're argument is they haven't had a raise for ten years. So hello, is it the ratepayers to blame for that? I have a home, and it's old, it's not new, and it off and on needs some maintenance, something replaced, so I try to do one item at a time. Few thousand dollars here, few thousand dollars there. Sometimes the roof leaks, you need to change the roof. Sometimes I need a new kitchen, so I do that, but I don't do all those things all at one time.

And now they're saying that they want to replace all these pipes in one shot, it's just impossible. It's just not

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practical. So my question is: Where were they for the last ten years? And why didn't they plan over that period of time that they're going to do little piece at a time? And all of the sudden they woke up, Oh, there's so many pipelines that are rotting away and they need to be replaced did. Come on, let's get real.

Now talking about getting 24 percent increase. Now where do they pull this number from? Just out of the air, they need 24 percent. They don't even -- they're not even saying that this 24 percent is the increase really. They're talking about it's only 18 percent and the other 6 percent is for some other reason, okay. So my question is: What is that other reason?

And let's not forget that you have union workers. I don't have anything against the union workers, I used to be a union worker myself at one time. But at the same time, when the contract time comes they will be asking for increase in

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their salaries and benefits and so on. So this increase includes that increase that they will be giving or they will be asking for at the end of the year for the next contract time, whenever that is, okay.

So Public Service Commission. The name suggests that they are, or you are, on the ratepayers side. But I have known Public Service Commission all for a very long time, and so far that I have seen, whether it be KeySpan or LIPA or LILCO, and in this case National Grid, they have never, ever taken the side of the ratepayer. They have never, ever objected to any increases. They have never, ever asked the public, you know, mandate anything from the ratepayers side. So my question is: What is the Public Service Commission here for? For the utility company or the public that they're supposed to be looking out for?

Another fact, the Long Island business community always complaining for last several years that they cannot find

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the qualified employees on Long Island.  
There are thousands of jobs available on  
the Island, but they don't have the  
qualified employees, they can't find. And  
I wonder if anybody thought why that is.  
Because you know why that is? It's  
because the younger generation cannot  
afford to live on Long Island. They're  
leaving Long Island in hoards because the  
utility -- one of the things they're  
leaving is the utility rates are so high,  
they can't afford it. They're going down  
South; North Carolina, South Carolina,  
Texas, you name it, not Long Island.

So if this state of affairs  
continues, they'll be only senior  
generation will be left here to pay all  
these, you know, obscene rate increases  
for all the utility companies. So we have  
to draw a line somewhere, and you guys  
have to do something. I know your budget  
is very low, and when there's no money,  
there's no power, but you have to do  
something that you're worth, something

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that -- we should be complaining to you.  
I don't think we should be pleading to you  
like this woman, and I can understand her  
point, that older generation cannot afford  
this kind of rate increases so it has to  
stop somewhere.

You have to be asking questions of  
these utility companies. Why do they need  
these increases? Why didn't they plan  
ahead for these rotting pipelines? Why do  
they need to give big, big dividends and  
high rate increases to their CFOs and  
CEOs? Is there a limit? A form you have  
to follow? Why are they doing that? How  
are they doing this? Why does the  
ratepayer have to be paying that? Why on  
the backs of the seniors and Long Island  
ratepayers? Those are my questions.

Thank you very much.

ALJ VAN ORT: Thank you.

If any of you ladies left your keys  
or you don't have your keys, there was a  
pair of keys found in the ladies' room,  
and they're out at the desk out front. So

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if anybody is missing their keys, stop at the desk.

The next speaker will be Tammy Green.

MS. GREEN: Hi. I'm Tammy Green from Huntington. And like Ms. Dose, I've never spoken at one of these before.

But I was shocked by the amount that's being asked for in this increase, and I felt I had to come. And I have oil in my house, so why am I here? Because I have a daughter who will not be able to afford this. She's getting married, hoping to move into her home, and now she's going to get hit with this rate increase. They both make very little money, and what are they thinking of doing? Leaving Long Island. I've got a grandson I'm going to miss terribly. This is really hitting home for me, 'cause they will live in the house -- they hope to live in the house with gas.

This hits all of us. The seniors paying for the young ones, we can only help out so much, and it's -- it's

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actually painful to us to see the kids go 'cause they can't afford it, and we just can't let this happen. So I'd say -- I don't know if you're having this meeting to make this -- to make a lower increase seem more palatable to us, but I have to say this is a very high increase, and I don't want to see it happen. I don't want to see these young people being forced off. I don't want to see seniors like me, I'm newly retired, unable to pay.

So please take everything that everyone before me has said, I'm impressed by them, consider other forms of energy we can invest in, consider the Company is profitable and should reinvest in itself, and the ratepayers have to be really considered now. Thank you.

ALJ VAN ORT: Thank you, Ms. Green.

The next speaker is Sheila Pariser.

MS. PARISER: Good evening members of the Commission and our hearing officer. I would like to say that my name is Sheila Pariser, I am Liaison Officer to the

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Greens at Half Hollow in Melville. I'm speaking here tonight on behalf of my HOA Board of the Greens.

I am opposed to the rate increase. We are a community of 1,144 homes over 55. Therefore, we ask that this rate increase, or I should say I ask, that this rate increase be denied on behalf of the residents, the 1,144 residents, of a gas-powered community be denied and opposed. Thank you.

ALJ VAN ORT: Thank you.

Next speaker is Legislator Sarah Anker.

LEGISLATOR ANKER: Welcome to Suffolk County Legislature. I'm usually sitting behind you, but I appreciate you guys coming out, and I appreciate you being here and allowing us to comment on this very important topic, Commissioner Acampora, Director Mazza, and Administrative Law Judge David Van Ort, for you to take your time out and listen to our concerns, and we do have concerns.

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I think the point was made very strongly, by this gentleman over here, about how National Grid is a private company, and they invest, and they make profit. And I'm hoping the Public Service Commission researches to find out how much money they're making and spending, and how much we will be supplementing their ability to expand.

I was reading their, let's see, it is the Rate Case Proposal Filings. And, you know, it talks about the current rate structure and how, "our investments have been outpacing our ability to cover these costs." Basically we're subsidizing them to expand, and I think like what has been said before, perhaps they need to rethink the amount of expansion. Perhaps they need to put money aside that they have instead of creating more debt for us and also for them.

They talk about, let's see, who demonstrated the delivery rates. And again, it talks about the Public Service

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Commission, and that's why you're here and listening to our concerns, but it mentions in this overview, "this would provide investors with the returns required to attract funding." Now is that the public's fault that they have to attract this type of investment? No. They're a public company, they should be doing this on their own.

They also mention, "supporting our debt ratings." Why should we be supporting their debt ratings? It's putting us in debt by them doing that. And also they mention, "and help achieve a lower long-term cost of capital to benefit our customers." I think they left out the part how about to benefit themselves.

So, you know, those are important points. We understand that National Grid is here to provide gas, and we appreciate the ability to use gas, which is of course a much better product than oil reducing, our carbon. There was -- we had a comment on energy efficiency. I created the

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energy department of the Town of Brookhaven and it was through a federal grant creating the Green Homes Go Solar program, \$4.7 million investment by the federal government. And we found that people are very much interested in going solar, using renewable energy, and yes, this is one more step in helping reduce our carbon, using gas, but I have a concern.

So they're relying on outside pipes coming in from Connecticut, and here they are investing all this money. What happens if they can't get that gas from outside? Do we know for sure that's going to happen? Did we know for sure Shoreham Nuclear Plant was going to cost us billions of dollars? Right now we're paying an \$8 billion debt, that's now. How many billions of dollars did we pay before to build it?

So I'd like to I hope you will take the perspective and proceedings cautiously, as was described. We have our senior citizens, which by the way, I chair

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the Senior Committee, as well as the Consumer Protection Agency. I have one of the largest senior communities in District 6. And I know former Legislator Acampora also represented a lot of senior communities in our Districts. And what I found shocking too is that some of those communities, particularly Leisure Village and Leisure Knoll, they have all electric. And some of those seniors on a fixed-income pay over \$1,000 a month for their electric. And what I have been told, and they are not exaggerating, they make a choice of paying for their heat, for their food, or their medication, and that should never be a choice.

And then what I read, as far as what your Commission looks out for, is overseeing the rates, but looking out for our residents, making sure they're not struggling paying their bills. This increase would increase struggling. This increase would not benefit, to any great extent, the constituent base as much as it

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would benefit the corporation.

So again, I want to thank you for coming here and giving us the opportunity to speak. It was interesting to hear about the share, \$72 a share, fascinating. When's the last time Wall Street truly looked out for the middle class? I don't know, I can't remember. I'm 52 and I don't remember anything relating to, you know, Wall Street investing into the constituent base, other than here, but I don't know if this is the type of investment we want. I'm trying to be politically correct.

So I just want to get some of my other notes here. Again, increasing delivery 24 percent. You know, if they want to invest -- and by the way, I did meet with the National Grid Representative Bell and a couple other people, and they mention how they're very eager to expand out into Leisure Village and Leisure Knoll, which is wonderful, but as any business would do when they expand, they

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usually pay for their expansion. They don't ask their customers, whether you're a car dealership or refrigerator repair company, Excuse me, you have to pay for our trucks so we have to deliver your refrigerator. That's not how it works. Again, I'm just thinking, maybe too simplistically, but I'm thinking in a realistic way because our constituents are really concerned about these dramatic rate increases. Perhaps think about going more cautiously; less of an increase, if not, no increase.

I mentioned two points, and again, I want to always thank those that are looking out for our best interest, which are yourselves. I recently started a senior energy task force, and I have some of the folks here that have been participating. And we're looking for two specific, hopefully, initiatives pertaining to the Public Service Commission. And yes, it does relate to National Grid. I know I'm here speaking

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for National Grid's issues, but one of them, as I said, the seniors pay, especially with all electric, an exorbitant rate. And I could get you public testimony, I could show you their bills. But we were hoping that in the future that there will be a special all electric senior rate or even better, a special all electric rate, because my Chief of Staff who lives in South Beach, she's all electric. She just got married two weeks ago and she pays substantially high electric bills.

The second request for you to consider. We, including AARP and the folks here today, would like you to include a senior advocate as part of the Public Service Commission or maybe an advisor or someone, a counselor to the Department of Public Service. We have an incredibly large amount of our senior population, it's increasing. The reason why it's increasing? Where's the lady that has the young person who cannot

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afford to be here on Long Island? My kids are a 24-year-old, a 20-year-old, and a 15-year-old. Are my kids coming back to Long Island? I don't know. Probably not, they can't afford to.

But I'm hoping there is light at the end of the tunnel. I'm hoping that with what you're able to do in your position on the Public Service Commission, you know, as work with the Department of Public Service and as your judicial background, that can you come up with some type of plan to help us with our electric needs.

I support solar. I know we have some issues pertaining to National Grid over at Shoreham, I'm hoping we can work through that. Shoreham, having been inundated with a number of solar farms, including SPower, a 60 acre solar farm in Shoreham, and now we're dealing with about a 300 acre solar farm owned by National Grid in Shoreham. What's fascinating is that Shoreham is also the home of Nikola Tesla, who invented wireless technology, who was

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our energy philosopher, and that was a hundred years ago. There was wireless technology a hundred years ago and most people don't know that. Hundred years, now we're trying to preserve that location. That location is going to an educational center. Today here, it is an education.

And I think, again, providing you with our concerns, we're educating you, which of course is very important in understanding that we're not against having electricity, we're not against paying for electricity, but we do need a realistic perspective. And the reality is our electric rates will be too high with the increase.

So again, I want to thank you, and I look forward to working with you in the future. I'm hoping we could get together on at a meeting, maybe meet with my wonderful senior energy task force, and really dive deep into ideas, because it will take thinking out of the box to move

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forward with being able to afford  
electricity, being able to live on Long  
Island. Long Island has so much here.  
And, you know, whether you go out East on  
the beautiful vineyards. We've got New  
York City to the West of us. There's so  
much benefit living here on Long Island,  
but we need to make sure we can.

So again, thank you.

ALJ VAN ORT: Thank you.

The last card that I have is Robert  
Resch.

MR. RESCH: I didn't plan on speaking  
today, but first of all thank you  
Commission, for inviting us and having us  
this evening.

My name is Bob Resch, I'm on the  
Board of Directors for the Greens At Half  
Hollow Hills, HOA, And I'm speaking on  
behalf of the Board. And as mentioned,  
before, we're a community of 1,144 units,  
which probably represents 2,000 people,  
voters, and senior citizens 55 and older.

It's tough following the last

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2 speaker. She made a lot of good comments  
3 one of the things I think the Commission  
4 probably understands and realizes is that  
5 National Grid is a foreign company, it's  
6 traded under the UK Stock Exchange.  
7 They're currently paying 4.32 percent  
8 dividends, it's a healthy company. We're  
9 talking about the gas delivery, which is a  
10 regulated utility, but you know National  
11 Grid also operates power plants on Long  
12 Island, which is unregulated.

13 Now I spent my 45-year career  
14 managing the engineering, design, and  
15 construction of major power plants in the  
16 US and internationally. My company  
17 designed and built Millstone I, a nuclear  
18 power plant in Connecticut, which  
19 successfully ran for 40 years and then was  
20 retired. It was an exact duplicate of  
21 Shoreham. I was in Shoreham while they  
22 were constructing, we bid on it and didn't  
23 get it. LILCO made lots of mistakes, but  
24 I'm not here to talk about that, I want to  
25 talk about National Grid.

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As a company that has regulated and unregulated subsidiaries, their profits -- their revenues and profits all go up the chain of command resulting in nice bonuses for the executives and so forth. You're here to review their requested rate increase for gas delivery. I just ask you to be tough on it I'm not saying I'm going to stand here and say I've seen all the calculations and it's all justified, but they didn't come and do their analysis and present it to the Commission without carefully putting together the real and some quasi-real numbers.

I have a pension. I'm getting a pension from a company called EBASCO Services, which was a subsidiary of Electric Bond and Share Company when I joined them. Nobody in the room knows who Electric Bond and Share Company is, but it was founded by Thomas Edison turn of the last century and basically owned most of the utilities in the United States and many internationally.

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Six months after I joined, Electric Bond and Share Company was taken over by Boise Gas, the subsidiaries were sold off and started our long travels. My company, or at least my subsidiary, was owned by maybe seven, eight companies over the years. The last owner of EBASCO Services was a company called NSerge, a gas utility in Texas. NSerge sold us and then merged with Texas Utilities, ironically originally owned by Electric Bond and Share Company. Texas Utilities and NSerge merged and changed their name to Energy Future Holdings, and was taken over by Kohlberg, Kravis & Roberts and Goldman Sachs.

They're in the papers today, it's the country's largest Chapter 11 filing. It's a \$45 billion reorganization, why did this happen? It happened because once they took over the Company and became unregulated, they made a disastrous bet on the price of natural gas, expecting natural gas to go up. Natural gas went down significantly, thus the \$45 billion

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Chapter 11. Be wary of the requested rate increase. Really analyze it, do the best you can. There's a lot of hidden money in there that they're asking for.

I want to talk a minute about just solar and wind for the people in the audience. Solar and wind is great. We mention solar, it's also wind, it's great, and it's probably the thing of the future. But solar and wind is intermittent, it's not good for providing stable electricity for our communities. There are areas where solar has to be curtailed, wind has to be curtailed because the transmission systems become unstable. There's a new technology that needs -- eventually batteries will be big enough to absorb solar and wind energy and then send out steady electricity, we're not there yet. We do have something called hydro-electric pump storage, which pumps water from a lower reservoir using excess electricity on the grid to an upper reservoir, that same water goes down the same pipe and

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generates electricity. Unfortunately, the  
FERC is very slow in licensing these kinds  
of projects. They're being licensed all  
over the world, but in the US it's very,  
very difficult to get a license for this.

But anyway, I don't want to go into  
solar. I've managed the construction of  
nuclear plants. I've managed  
combined-cycle energy, which burns clean  
natural gas and oil. The only reason it  
burns oil is when the temperature  
typically drops under 40 degrees on Long  
Island, these power plants will  
automatically switch from burning natural  
gas to burning oil. And the reason is, if  
you want a firm contract for natural gas,  
and you want it 12 months a year, you pay  
a very high price. If you're willing to  
be curtailed, and I'm sure the Commission  
knows this, if you're willing to be  
curtailed you get a much cheaper rate.  
Combined-cycle is clean technology, we  
have it here on Long Island. I did one on  
Long Island right across the street from

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Nassau Coliseum.

But my advice to the Commission, don't be snookered. Look for the hidden details, remember this is a UK company, it's a company that has unregulated subsidiaries. The profit that they make generates revenue and profits to the guys on top in London, and that's my speech.

Thank you so much.

ALJ VAN ORT: Thank you, sir.

Okay. Do we have anymore cards, Dan?  
No more cards.

Okay, I see that it is approximately 20 minutes to eight, and I asked earlier if there was anyone that was looking to speak that hasn't filled out a card, is that still the same? Is there anyone looking to speak and hasn't had an opportunity to do so? No, okay.

With that, I want to thank you all for coming. We're going to conclude the hearing at this point in time.

Thank you again.

(Time noted: 7:40 p.m.)



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