

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

4 CASE 23-G-0225 - Proceeding on Motion of the
5 Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and
6 Regulations of The Brooklyn Union Gas Company
7 d/b/a National Grid NY for Gas Service.

8
9 CASE 23-G-0226 - Proceeding on Motion of the
10 Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and
11 Regulations of KeySpan Gas East Corporation d/b/a
12 National Grid for Gas Service.

13
14 PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING

15 DATE: November 15, 2023 at 6:09 p.m.

16 LOCATION: Theodore Roosevelt Executive
17 and Legislative Building
18 1550 Franklin Avenue
19 Mineola, New York 11501

20 BEFORE: ALJ MAUREEN F. LEARY
21

22
23 Reported by Danielle Christian
24
25

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 (The hearing commenced at 6:09 p.m.)

3 THE REPORTER: On the record.

4 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay. I call Case 23-
5 G-0225, Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to
6 the Rates, Charges, Rules and Regulations of the
7 Brooklyn Union Gas Company doing business as National
8 Grid New York for Gas Service. And case 23-G-0226,
9 Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to the
10 Rates, Charges, Rules and Regulations of KeySpan Gas
11 East Corporation doing business as National Grid also
12 for Gas Service. Good evening, everyone. My name is
13 Maureen Leary. I'm an Administrative Law Judge with
14 the Department of Public Service, and I'm honored to
15 be joined this evening with our chairman, Rory
16 Christian, who attends many of these. And Chair
17 Christian, can I impose on you to address the group?

18 MR. CHRISTIAN: Thank you, Judge.
19 Good evening, everyone. My pleasure to be here
20 tonight, and I want to express my thanks and an
21 appreciation for everybody that came out. I know
22 there are many things we would like to be doing
23 tonight, and your presence here shows me how
24 important this particular issue is to you. We're
25 here to listen. We're here to take this as part of

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 the record, and as I'm sure many of you know the
3 Commission's actions are based on information that is
4 made part of the record. So in making your voice
5 heard tonight, you become a part of how we determine
6 subsequent actions related to this case. So again,
7 thank you for coming tonight. I look forward to a
8 healthy and professional discourse, and thank you
9 again for your time.

10 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you, Chair
11 Christian. So we're going to do two things this
12 evening. The first thing we're going to do is to
13 have an information session. And the woman to my
14 right, we are on the record, Ms. Christian will be
15 transcribing both the information session as well as
16 the Public Statement Hearing, which will immediately
17 follow the information session. So Mr. Decicco, are
18 you ready to proceed? Thank you.

19 MR. DECICCO: So thank you, Chair
20 Christian. Thank you, Judge Leary. My name is Phil
21 Decicco. I'm from National Grid, and I want to,
22 again, thank everyone and welcome to the Public
23 Statement Hearing. And -- and I want to echo the
24 Chair's appreciation in the level of interest and
25 engagement in these rate filings. These are

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 important matters, and so we absolutely appreciate
3 the public's discourse and feedback that will in fact
4 shape this case. As I said at the beginning of this
5 process, National Grid is very committed to a
6 thorough and transparent rate filing. We will begin
7 today's session by providing a brief overview of our
8 case before turning it over to public comment. This
9 rate case is about updating the delivery rates that
10 we charge our customers and -- and the ways in which
11 we provide service.

12 When we filed our case back in April,
13 it was supported by thousands of pages of testimony
14 and exhibits from our expert witnesses. We have
15 since been engaged in months of discovery, answering
16 questions about -- about 1,500 questions about every
17 aspect of our cost of providing services to customers
18 here on Long Island, and -- and as well as the
19 programs and the benefits that we're looking to
20 deliver. In September, the Department of Public
21 Service staff and intervening parties representing a
22 wide array of interests filed responses to our case.
23 We recently commenced settlement negotiations with
24 the goal of reaching a multi-year rate settlement
25 that will, among other things, help us to smooth some

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 of the rate impacts that we're talking about today
3 and deliver other important benefits to our
4 customers.

5 These Public Statement Hearings are an
6 important part of the process in that they will
7 absolutely shape ultimately our -- our rate
8 settlement to our rate case outcome. And again, your
9 feedback is appreciated and will be in the record as
10 -- as the Chair described. Before we talk about our
11 current rate filings, I thought it'd be helpful just
12 to provide a little bit of context about where we've
13 been over the last three years. And you'll recall
14 that our current rate plans were enacted or were --
15 excuse me, were approved shortly after the enactment
16 of the CLCPA New York's landmark climate legislation
17 and were effectively negotiated in the midst of the
18 pandemic. So what that meant was we had to go to
19 great lengths to find every way in which we could
20 reasonably moderate customers' bills, bills -- bills
21 of customers who were suffering from the health and
22 financial impacts of the pandemic here on Long
23 Island.

24 So we were able to, through
25 coordination and work with the parties in that rate

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 case, develop a rate plan that had moderate bill
3 impacts, including zero rate freeze in the first
4 year, but still allowed us to deliver on some really
5 important benefits thing and programs, things that
6 are important to our customers. So yes, we've been
7 able to invest in our infrastructure and make sure
8 that our system is both safe and reliable. At the
9 same time, we've really been able to deploy non-
10 infrastructure solutions. So our customers last year
11 were able to save two times the amount of energy eff
12 -- amount of energy through energy efficiency
13 programs that they were just two years ago.

14 We've enrolled about 20,000 customers
15 in -- in our Smart Thermostat program. That's a
16 tenfold increase from just 2020. We've reduced
17 system emissions, very important and aligns with the
18 CLCPA goals through our main replacement program, as
19 well as our leak repairs. And our numbers have come
20 down considerably in just the last several years. We
21 have consistently met or exceeded our customer
22 service quality and our safety metrics. At the end
23 of the day, that's really measuring how it is we
24 provide our core service. Importantly, we provided
25 more than a 100 million -- a hundred and fifty

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 million, excuse -- excuse me, of savings to customers
3 who were impacted by COVID, including many customers
4 who found themselves unable to pay their utility
5 bills for the first time.

6 And importantly, we have really
7 doubled down on our commitment to communities in New
8 York City and here on Long Island through Project C,
9 a program focused on workforce development,
10 environmental justice, neighborhood investment, and
11 volunteerism. But our current rate plans have come
12 to an end, and so we are obligated to file to update
13 those rates, and that's really what that case is --
14 this case is about. That's what brings us here
15 today. In developing our rate case filings, we
16 focused on three priorities. Our first priority, as
17 it must be, is to continue to meet our core
18 obligation to deliver energy to our nearly 2 million
19 customers in New York City and Long Island -- on Long
20 Island.

21 Our customers rely on us to heat their
22 homes on the coldest days of the year. They rely on
23 us to cook their food, and so our -- our energy must
24 be there to meet their needs on those days. To that
25 end, we proposed a package of investments that we

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 will target infrastructure upgrades in -- in a way
3 that we think is reasonable and meets our safety
4 mandates, which is critically important. Now, our --
5 these days are our portfolio of -- of investments
6 that are just targeted in meeting safety mandates and
7 -- and other mandated programs consist of about 70
8 percent of our capital portfolio. So the -- the vast
9 majority of our investments are mandated work -- work
10 we have to do.

11 As I mentioned before, our investments
12 also reduce system emissions, which is critically
13 important. We are reducing and have considerably
14 reduced since our -- our -- our peak just a few years
15 ago, our leak backlog and would anticipate that will
16 continue to come down during the course of this rate
17 plan. Weather events, such as Superstorm Sandy in
18 2012, the polar vortex in 2014, and Winter Storm
19 Elliot, just last December, and the expectation that
20 these kind of severe weather events will happen with
21 increasing frequency going forward. Really highlight
22 the need for investment in what we call resiliency
23 projects. Projects to maintain essential service to
24 those severe weather events.

25 Since our last rate case, the

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 Commission has said that stable and reliable energy
3 networks are critical to and the foundation of the
4 CLCPA, and so we are going to be ready to meet that
5 challenge. Indeed, our second priority in this rate
6 case is supporting clean energy transition and
7 advancing the state's energy goal, which guide our
8 approach really in every aspect of this filing. Now,
9 for our system, it's about, again, reducing emissions
10 and advancing non-pipe solutions. For our customers,
11 we're promoting more energy efficiency and
12 electrification options and prioritizing programs in
13 disadvantaged communities. Our third priority is
14 enabling customer affordability.

15 Now, I'll say right out of the box. I
16 appreciate the challenge of talking about rate
17 increases on the one hand and -- and affordability.
18 So it's incumbent upon us to demonstrate that the
19 rates we're asking for are updated rates, are
20 supported by evidence, demonstrating our cost of
21 service, and also demonstrating that we've looked at
22 every opportunity to help reduce those rates and help
23 to offset them with efficiencies and other programs.
24 And I'll -- and I'll talk about that in a moment.
25 It's also critically important that we're doing

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 everything we can to support our customers who are at
3 least able to pay our bills.

4 So one of the important components of
5 our -- our rate filing, again, I'll talk about in a
6 (unintelligible) is our programs for our low-income
7 customers. Critically important that we are focusing
8 on making sure those customers least able to pay have
9 support when it comes to paying for essential energy
10 services. So I talked about aligning our rate case
11 with the CLCPA. As I mentioned, our case was -- was
12 settled last time, just after the CLCPA was enacted.
13 There was really not a lot of guidance in terms of
14 what it meant to -- to operate a -- a gas company
15 under the CLCPA. We've since had several Commission
16 orders. We have the Climate Action Council and the
17 Scoping Plan. We have the -- the All-Electric
18 Building Act. All of those things help to give us a
19 bit of a mandate when it comes to running our
20 business here in 2023.

21 But even in that rest -- last rate
22 plan, we were able to put together a set of packages
23 that ultimately allowed the Commission to determine
24 that our case was directionally consistent with the
25 goals of the CLCPA. And I'm pleased to say that

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 we've delivered on those commitments. We targeted
3 and achieved reductions in overall gas usage as
4 compared to our forecasts. We funded more than a
5 hundred and thirty million dollars of energy
6 efficiency programs and more than sixty million
7 dollars of demand response programs. Now, just those
8 demand response programs have allowed us to reduce
9 the peak usage on our system about 150,000 customers.
10 That's -- that's -- that's infrastructure that we
11 don't need to build in order to serve those customers
12 on -- on the peak days.

13 This is a good example of us trying to
14 find non-pipes alternatives, not just putting pipe in
15 the ground, but finding ways to serve customers
16 through alternative means. And demand response is
17 one of the tools in our tool belt. We've ceased --
18 ceased marketing gas activities and -- and related
19 incentive programs, and we are instead promoting non
20 gas alternatives. So that means if a customer comes
21 to us these days, we're not just signing them up for
22 gas service, we're telling them about their heat pump
23 and -- and other electrification options pointing
24 them to their programs at our colleagues in the
25 electric business and -- and trying to find

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 opportunities for them to -- to -- to consider their
3 full range of options when it comes to heating their
4 homes.

5 In this case, we are pulling forward
6 all of those initiatives. That's where we're
7 starting from, and we're going to -- and we're going
8 to build on them. You know, continuing for instance
9 for -- for targeting electrification even to greater
10 degrees, trying to bring down gas usage -- usage even
11 more aggressively than we did in this last case.
12 Increasing our energy efficiency programs and demand
13 response programs. And especially in this case,
14 focusing on customers in disadvantaged communities,
15 which is a critical part of the CLCPA.

16 The core pillar of our approach to the
17 energy transition is -- is energy efficiency. It
18 just simply enables our customers to use less energy.
19 Not only is that more sustainable, but obviously it
20 helps them from an affordability standpoint in terms
21 of managing their -- their gas bills. We are
22 proposing to fund more than seventy million dollars
23 of energy efficiency and weatherization in this case.
24 We are proposing new pilots that are aimed at
25 removing participation barriers in low and moderate-

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 income customers. And that's a customer segment that
3 traditionally has not taken as much advantage of our
4 energy efficiency programs. So among other things,
5 we're proposing a weatherization health and safety
6 program.

7 Now, what this will do is go to
8 customer -- low-income customers homes and actually
9 make home repairs for them repairs that -- that
10 would've prevented them from otherwise weathering
11 their home, whether it's upgrading their electric
12 systems or removing asbestos or fixing their roofs.
13 That has been a barrier to some of our customers
14 taking advantage of these weatherization programs.
15 We think it's a great pro -- program that we piloted
16 and we now want to expand. Language access. So
17 providing more information, especially to Spanish
18 speaking customers, on the available programs, just
19 to help get more of our customers in that segment
20 enrolled in energy efficiency. And finally, again,
21 focusing particular programs on our disadvantaged
22 communities in our service territory.

23 Customer programs. So to promote
24 affordability and improve our customer experience,
25 we're increasing funding for what we call the Energy

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 Affordability Program. This is the program that --
3 that tries to get our -- our low-income customers
4 bills at a reasonable rate relative to their income.
5 We are proposing to fund this more than fifty-five
6 billion dollars in our energy affordability program
7 in this rate case. Now, funding the program is
8 critical. Getting our customers enrolled in it and
9 taking advantage of the -- of the program is as
10 important. You know, if we're funding it, that's
11 great. If customers aren't taking advantage --
12 advantage of it, well, then we're not doing our jobs.

13 So as part of this rate case, we are
14 proposing more resources, including more customer
15 advocates that would help connect customers to these
16 important programs, get more people involved, making
17 sure that we're deploying those funds to the
18 customers that need it most. We're also proposing to
19 eliminate fees paid by our residential customers that
20 use credit and debit cards. It's a relatively small
21 amount of money, but every, you know, every dollar
22 counts. And so we think it's important, especially
23 for our low-income customers, that they're able to
24 eliminate those credit card fees when they're -- when
25 they're paying our bills. We're enhancing call

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226
2 center services again for our Spanish speaking
3 customers, trying to improve the customer experience
4 there.

5 And importantly, funding economic
6 development programs providing five million dollars
7 in assistance to small businesses in our communities.
8 We're also focused on infrastructure upgrades to
9 ensure our networks are capable of -- of meeting
10 customers' energy needs and maintaining compliance
11 with all safety requirements. Again, that's about 70
12 percent of the capital we're proposing in this case.
13 Using the tools in our -- in our tool belt, you know,
14 particularly main replacements and leak repairs, we
15 are, again, focusing multiple programs to eliminate
16 leaks and reduce system emissions. We're also
17 calibrating our capital portfolio for the state's
18 evolving energy policies.

19 So for instance, in New York City
20 restrictions go on new service connections starting
21 January 1st of next year. We have reduced our
22 capital portfolio budget when it comes to capital
23 connections to reflect those changes in the law. As
24 policy continues to evolve in New York, we'll make
25 those sorts of adjustments in other areas, but we

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 think it's important that our capital portfolio
3 matches the direction of the state energy policy.
4 And in this case, particularly in New York City, with
5 changing investments. On the safety front, we are
6 proposing to expand what we call residential methane
7 detectors. These are devices located near customers'
8 meters that would notify us in the event of a -- a
9 gas leak that does two things.

10 First of all, it allows us to get to
11 the scene quicker. Also allows us to deploy first
12 responders. And -- and that helps not only with
13 safety issues, but also helps us reduce system
14 emissions by addressing leaks quickly when they
15 happen. We're also proposing to enhance our
16 training, additional safety inspections, and enhance
17 quality control capabilities to make sure that we're
18 doing our work correctly, safely, and -- and in
19 compliance with all the commission safety
20 regulations. We will be held accountable when it
21 comes to gas safety performance. We have proposed a
22 very rigorous set of safety performance measures in
23 areas like main replacement, in our leak backlog, or
24 emergency response, which measures how quickly we get
25 to events and in our compliance with the

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 Commission's, again, safety regulations.

3 We are proposing to update rates at a
4 time when affordability is still an imp -- an
5 imperative, and I appreciate that. At the same time,
6 we need to fund our business to enable investment to
7 modernize infrastructure and -- and improve customer
8 service. The primary drivers of our rate increase in
9 this case include property taxes, especially here on
10 Long Island. New initiatives, like -- like the
11 programs I've described, depreciation, our cost of
12 capital, including things like interest rate
13 increases that are impacting all businesses, support
14 for our core business, that's effectively our labor
15 costs, and capital investments.

16 That is, you know, really the main
17 drivers of these cases. So it's a combination of
18 macroeconomic factors. Again, inflation, interest
19 rates, issues that impact all businesses. And then -
20 - and then issues specific to us, materials, property
21 taxes, you know, our labor expenses. It -- it is,
22 you know, we're doing what we can to manage our
23 bills. And so on the one hand, yes, our costs are
24 going up, but what are we doing to offset those
25 costs? We're reflecting more than seventy-two

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 million dollars a year of efficiencies and
3 productivity savings that -- that actually directly
4 offset increases. Again, our affordability programs
5 are over fifty-five million dollars a year for our
6 low-income customers, and funding, again, seventy
7 million dollars a year in energy efficiency to help
8 our customers lower their bills.

9 I should have said in the beginning,
10 all of these slides are on our webpage. You know,
11 there's -- this is not something you need to study if
12 you -- if you're interested more and want to take
13 some time, they're all avail -- available on our
14 website. So this slide summarizes what the typical
15 impacts are for customers in our different service
16 classes. The typical residential heating customer,
17 which is a large proportion of our customer base,
18 would see an increase of approximately 20 percent or
19 about thirty-four dollars a month under our proposal.
20 As I said at the beginning, our goal is not to have
21 customers pay that increase. We would like to reach
22 a multi-year settlement that, very importantly,
23 allows us to smooth those bill impacts over several -
24 - over several years.

25 We think that's ultimately in our

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 customer's best interests. You know, we appreciate
3 that this is a large increase. We appreciate we're
4 asking for a large number. We want to make sure we
5 do that in the most responsible way and in our view a
6 multi-year rate plan allows us to do that and make
7 these bill impacts more -- more manageable over time.
8 Very, very important. So I'll say, in conclusion,
9 our core responsibility is to provide safe and
10 reliable energy to millions of customers who rely on
11 us while building the networks that will support the
12 next generation of New Yorkers. The proposal in --
13 in this case will modernize our infrastructure,
14 reduce system emissions, improve safety, enhance and
15 improve customer service, and deliver aggressive
16 energy efficiency in other infrastructure programs.

17 To achieve these priorities, it is
18 necessary to update our delivery rates. This rate
19 filing balances the need for continued investment
20 with the need to maintain affordability and protect
21 our most vulnerable customers. I want to thank you
22 for your time this evening. I look forward to
23 hearing your feedback. Thank you so much.

24 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you, Mr. Decicco.
25 Again, welcome everyone. I -- I had a seventh grade

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 teacher whose name was Sister Eleanor and she was
3 about six feet tall and had the biggest head of any
4 woman I've ever met. And she -- thank God there were
5 no cell phones when she was, you know, my teacher.
6 So please -- please turn off your cell phones and
7 your email alerts and all of that. So it will help
8 folks that are going to present their comments
9 tonight. I'm going to talk to you a little bit about
10 what's up with this proceeding, but I want to alert
11 you, we have a Spanish language interpreter here this
12 evening in case anyone would like to use the
13 assistance of that gentleman. He's behind the glass,
14 so please feel free to go over if anyone is in need
15 of Spanish interpretation. Do you want to just state
16 that, sir, in Espanol?

17 THE INTERPRETER: (Spanish interpreter
18 speaking in Spanish.)

19 A.L.J. LEARY: So this hearing was
20 noticed by the Secretary to the Public Service
21 Commission on -- in a formal notice that has been
22 published in newspapers and also circulated to many,
23 many folks in the municipalities in the area. It's
24 dated October 16th, 2023, and it's available on our
25 Department website. There were two numbers I stated

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 at the beginning when I called the case, and I want
3 you to remember those numbers in case you want
4 further information. They're important numbers
5 because if you go on our website, that's how --
6 that's your means of ingress to get information about
7 the case. There's lots of information there, and you
8 may want to contact Mr. Decicco or another party just
9 to sort of -- not have to look for a needle in a
10 haystack. They will assist you, I have no doubt.

11 And the company's representatives are
12 also here to answer questions, but we're not going to
13 do a formal question and answer session right now.
14 But please feel free to seek out Mr. Decicco because
15 any questions you have, he would be very happy to
16 answer, I'm sure. You also heard his presentation,
17 but I want to tell everyone that there are other
18 parties in the case who may disagree or agree with
19 various parts of the company's proposals. They're
20 not here tonight because there's a lot of them, and
21 it's a complicated case. But I do want you to know
22 that this presentation was designed to give you
23 factual information about the company's proposal.
24 And it wasn't designed to say this is going to be
25 perfect or any of that. It's -- it's what the

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226
2 proposal is.

3 If I handpicked someone else in the
4 party group, they would probably have something else
5 different to say. So I just wanted to reassure you
6 about that. So as some of you may know, we held
7 virtual Public Statement Hearings back in August. We
8 did those on the computer. Some of you, I believe,
9 may have spoken at that time. And we of course
10 welcome your comments tonight. This Public Statement
11 Hearing is all about the company's proposal. And let
12 me just discuss that for a second. On April 28th the
13 companies filed separate proposals. One for a
14 company I'll call KEDNY, which is Brooklyn Union Gas,
15 and KEDLI, which is KeySpan. And that's how I will
16 refer to them tonight.

17 And these proposal for KEDNY, at
18 least, was to increase revenues by four \$414 million,
19 which represents a twenty-eight percent increase in
20 base delivery revenues or an eleven percent increase
21 in total revenues that would be reflected on utility
22 bills in -- in the service territory. For KEDLI,
23 which serves this service territory, KEDLI proposes
24 to increase revenues by \$228 million, representing a
25 twenty-four percent increase in base delivery

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 revenues or a fourteen percent increase in total
3 revenues, what again, would be reflected on your
4 utility bill.

5 But the actual bill impacts, although
6 Mr. Decicco gave you a typical residential customer,
7 as an example, there are lots and lots of different
8 customer classes, so it's very hard to define what
9 those bill impacts would be. So if you own a
10 business, your bill impacts are going to be different
11 than if you are a residential customer. Many of you
12 live here, and that's a different -- both of those
13 types of customers will have different impacts.

14 What is the Administrative Law Judge's
15 role? I'm doing this case with another judge. Some
16 of you may know him. His name is James Costello. He
17 is this evening in Staten Island with the Chief
18 Judge.

19 And the three of us are responsible
20 for compiling a complete record here. What's a
21 complete record, a complete record of a proceeding?
22 Well, it includes all of your comments tonight and
23 they will be considered by the Commission, and they
24 are a part of this record. What else is? The
25 testimony and documents that the parties submit,

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 including the Company. All of this, again, can be
3 found on our website. As many of you know already
4 having been here, sometimes a proposal like this can
5 result in a stipulated settlement. You know, a
6 negotiated settlement. We call that a joint
7 proposal. We will advise the public if that happens,
8 and you'll be able to see, hopefully, pretty clearly
9 what the result is.

10 And -- and that is a negotiated
11 settlement. You can rest assured that there are some
12 people in that room that are negotiating to benefit
13 the people in this room. At least that's the
14 assumption. But let me talk for a minute about the
15 Commission's role. Chair Christian leads the
16 Commission. We have six commissioners Diane Burman,
17 David Valesky, John Howard, James Alesi, and John
18 Maggiore. They all get together and review the
19 record, and they will also potentially review some of
20 our recommendations about the record, the joint
21 proposal that settles the case, and so forth.

22 They are the ultimate decision maker,
23 and their options are a few. They can accept or
24 reject, you know, different recommendations or the
25 settlement. They can modify it and change it. So

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 they have a lot of discretion going forward. Just
3 because there's a settlement, it's not necessarily a
4 done deal. It is second guessed frankly. And that
5 is -- that is the process. So tonight, let me talk a
6 little bit about how the Commission reviews, let's
7 say, a joint proposal, a settlement, or a record in a
8 litigated case where we go to an evidentiary hearing?
9 The standard that they apply is pretty
10 straightforward, but if you look behind it, it's a
11 lot more complicated. They look to see if the
12 company is going to be able to continue to provide
13 safe and adequate service at just and reasonable
14 rates. So you can see what kind of a fine line the
15 Commission has to walk here.

16 So let me talk about the process this
17 evening. I have cards that folks have filled out if
18 they've -- if they have expressed a -- a wish to
19 provide a public statement. If you have not filled
20 out a card, please feel free to go back to the
21 registration table and fill one out. We will hear
22 you. I'll also open it up at the end. So if you
23 hear something or you don't hear something you wanted
24 to hear by a speaker, I will ask you, or I will offer
25 you the opportunity at the end of all the speakers to

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 provide a public statement.

3 Even if you haven't filled out a card,
4 our preference, of course, is to know your name and
5 be able to spell it correctly in the record. This
6 young woman next to me is transcribing this hearing,
7 and that transcript will be in written form and it
8 will be posted again in this case to the Department's
9 website. So you'll be able to see it at some point
10 in the not-too-distant future. So I'm going to call
11 -- let me tell you the purpose of this hearing is to
12 listen. We're listening to you. It's not a
13 question-and-answer session. This isn't an
14 evidentiary hearing. We want to hear your position
15 on the company's proposal regardless of what that
16 position is.

17 I do ask that you be respectful to the
18 speakers when they're speaking. You know, we -- we
19 have a real good record in Public Statement Hearings
20 of just wonderful participants who are very
21 respectful and -- and kind to others. If you have
22 some lengthy statements, see if you can summarize and
23 if you would like me to post your statement in
24 written form, I can give them to the Secretary.
25 Otherwise, we're not imposing any time limit, but do

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 be conscious that there are ten or twelve people that
3 would like to speak and we want everybody to go home
4 at a reasonable hour. So I will call people one by
5 one in the order in which they registered. If you
6 would approach the podium and please state and spell
7 your last name.

8 If your first name is not something
9 easily understandable, it may help us as well for you
10 to spell your first name. Speak a little bit more
11 slowly than you would otherwise speak, because it's
12 easier for the court reporter to accurately take down
13 your statement. That's important. This is not your
14 only opportunity to comment. The Secretary's notice,
15 and I have a copy or two here, if you're interested,
16 allows you to submit something in writing by email to
17 her. You can also go onto our website and post it.
18 You can call on the telephone and provide a comment.
19 There are a number of ways for you to do that. So
20 this is not your only opportunity to comment. And
21 all the comments received from the public are
22 considered equally, as is the entire record, by the
23 Commission.

24 So with that, let me -- any questions
25 about the process? What did I do with my cards? Oh,

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 got them. I'm going to call the first speaker, but
3 I'm then going to call the next one who I will say
4 using a sports term or baseball term, is on deck.
5 Okay. So our first speaker is Ryan Stanton. Ryan
6 Stanton. And next on deck is Ryan Madden.

7 MR. STANTON: Should I be facing this
8 way or that way?

9 A.L.J. LEARY: No, you can face that
10 way.

11 MR. STANTON: All right. Good
12 evening. I am the Executive Director of the Long
13 Island Federation of Labor, representing over 250,000
14 union members and their families on Long Island. I'd
15 like to thank the New York State Public Service
16 Commission for its thoughtful consideration of case
17 23-G-0225, and case 23-G-0226. And in accordance
18 with the rules, Stanton is spelled S-T-A-N-T-O-N. On
19 behalf of our members, who represent a significant
20 swath of National Grid's rate payers, and the
21 thousands of members and their families who work for
22 the utility companies and their contractors, we are
23 due to approve the rate case. The union movement has
24 played an active role in advancing the CLCPA.

25 We're working people who, by virtue of

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 living on Long Island, are on the front lines of
3 climate change and dealing with the impacts of this
4 generational crisis. The main replacement program,
5 which is supported by the rate increase, is
6 consistent with New York State's state emission of
7 reducing carbon emissions. These are necessary
8 investments to bridge our region into the future as
9 New York State begins to bring green energy assets
10 online. We know that through sound common sense
11 investments and main replacement, we're achieving a
12 more environmentally friendly energy infrastructure
13 and preparing it to service hard to electrify
14 industries for the future. Old steel pipes leak over
15 time. By replacing damaged infrastructure that in
16 some cases has begun to leak with modern high-density
17 plastic, we're ensuring that rate payers throughout
18 the region continue to receive safe, reliable
19 service.

20 National Grid will play a part in a
21 more energy efficient grid, and we can make
22 investments today that will only become more
23 expensive tomorrow. I believe it was stated the
24 standard by which these things are considered are
25 safe and adequate service at just and reasonable

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 rates. This rate case not only ensures public safety
3 and quality reliable service for rate payers that
4 supports career opportunities for working families in
5 our communities. We've seen a lack of funding and
6 underfunding of critical infrastructure, particularly
7 wastewater infrastructure put our environment at
8 risk, don't let politics continue to seep into the
9 discussion of society's utilities and get in the way
10 of good public policy.

11 We can't afford to underfund our
12 utility infrastructure. It results in our neighbors
13 losing their jobs, whether it's those who maintain
14 the system, or our brothers and sisters who execute
15 capital improvements to ensure community safety. We
16 know the New York State Public Service Commission has
17 worked carefully to put forward a new vision for
18 electric generation, transmission, and consumption
19 based on the realities of climate change and effort
20 to continue to support good jobs and stable
21 communities. We must continue to maintain our
22 existing infrastructure. If we choose to ignore
23 necessary upgrades now, we're going to pay later.
24 Community safety and the welfare of our communities,
25 our members included, is our top priority. We urge

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 you to stand up for working families and approve the
3 rate case.

4 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. Ryan Madden
5 and James Stephens, you're on deck. Whatever your
6 preference is.

7 MR. MADDEN: Yeah. I figured I'm
8 supposed to be saying this to you also.

9 THE REPORTER: Just so everyone knows,
10 there's a small microphone. It's for me. So if you
11 come stand on this side, the mic should be facing
12 you. If you're going to be on that side, it should
13 be facing this way.

14 MR. MADDEN: Am I good to go?

15 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. Sorry.

16 MR. MADDEN: No, no, no. Please. My
17 name is Ryan Madden. I'm the Climate & Energy
18 Campaigns Director for the Long Island Progressive
19 Coalition. The Public Service Commission, under the
20 leadership of Governor Hochul, must block National
21 Grid's 2023 proposal to raise our gas bills.
22 Specifically reject any rate hikes for National
23 Grid's frack gas infrastructure. We should phase out
24 this outdated technology that harms our environment
25 and fuels the climate crisis. Reject funding for

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 National Grid's leak prone pipe programs unless it's
3 an emergency. We need to transition to energy
4 efficiency and move away from gas systems to protect
5 our communities. Invest State and Federal funds in
6 the development of thermal energy networks and energy
7 efficiency initiatives, including retrofit and
8 electrification readiness programs for low-income New
9 Yorkers.

10 If National Grid has their way, we
11 will see roughly thirty-five dollars in bill hikes
12 for Long Island customers every month during an
13 ongoing affordability crisis in the region. There's
14 no assurance this full cost will not be borne. It's
15 unconscionable at this state in the climate crisis
16 and the progression of implementing New York's
17 climate law that would further invest in gas
18 infrastructure, especially proposed by National Grid,
19 who has dedicated itself to undermining the Climate
20 Leadership and Community Protection Act by spreading
21 disinformation and false solutions through the front
22 group New Yorkers for Affordable Energy.

23 For example, while majority of New
24 Yorkers supported complying with the Climate Act by
25 phasing fossil fuels out of new construction,

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 National Gr -- Grid pushed deceitful ads and
3 robocalls through the New Yorkers for -- New Yorkers
4 for Affordable Energy to try to stop the All-Electric
5 Buildings Act recommended by the Climate Action
6 Council, while also lobbying against bills that would
7 alleviate New Yorker's utility debt. National Grid
8 is also proposing dangerous Hydrogen Heating Project
9 in Hempstead, a state and federally recognized
10 disadvantaged community, despite research showing
11 that these projects would increase consumer costs,
12 exacerbate air pollution, and cause safety risks
13 while minimally reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

14 Unless we forget, after New York State
15 rejected the Williams Pipeline, National Grid
16 manufactured a gas crisis and started refusing to
17 hook up new gas customers citing a shortage. They
18 were eventually sued and had to pay thirty-six
19 million dollars. We cannot take National Grid's word
20 for it, that they need our money for these
21 investments. As I said before, the Public Service
22 Commission, under the leadership of Governor Hochul,
23 must block National Grid's 2023 proposal to raise our
24 gas bills and further our reliance on outdated
25 polluting infrastructure. Thank you.

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. James
3 Stephens and Dennis Feeney, you're on deck.

4 MR. STEPHENS: My name is Mr.
5 Stephens, and I'm actually located in Suffolk County,
6 but as long as she's taking notes, I can be located
7 because I'm sure after what I say, that somebody's
8 going to want to contact me at Rothman Evans, 2829
9 Merrick Road, Suite 107, Bellmore, New York 117 --
10 11710. I'm going to start by giving you a little
11 history, and I'm sorry it's going to sound a little
12 bit like a complaint session, but I'm representing
13 here. My rule number six is leaders take care of the
14 rules of others first before they take care of their
15 home. There are thousands of military persons like
16 myself in the same position I'm in. Three and a half
17 months ago they turned off my electricity on
18 September 11th, actually. It -- it -- I -- I -- I'm
19 a little bit disorganized, so please bear with me.

20 So part of the problem, or a big part
21 of the problem, was prior to this, I used to pay or
22 estimate my electric bills three months in advance of
23 what they were, mostly because of my frequent
24 traveling to different medical facilities, Cleveland
25 Clinic, Northport and whatever throughout the United

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 States for reconstructive surgery, this, that, and
3 the other thing. I happen to be a veteran of four --
4 well, it doesn't really matter how many wars. So
5 prior to -- prior to that it's in -- it's important
6 to mention that my total usage is between ten and
7 twelve kilowatt hours a day, which I'm sure these
8 gentlemen out here who do the work know that's about
9 zero. It's hardly anything. They ran up the bills,
10 and then during COVID, they had a ten thousand dollar
11 relief that they were supposed to provide, which they
12 did not.

13 Then there was a twenty-five-hundred-
14 dollar relief, which they were supposed to reply to
15 them, which they only re -- replied to one of them.
16 And so part -- a -- a big part of the problem, and
17 I'm just not going to mention just what the problems
18 are as far as the billing is concerned, but the PSE&G
19 in their billing, and let's be fair, let's be
20 truthful here. PSE&G is owned by the State of New
21 York. Everything here is controlled and run by the
22 State of New York. It sounds nice and fancy, but
23 Public Service Commission and Public Service Electric
24 & Gas, I mean, you don't -- you can do the math.

25 On the billing, oh, so what happened

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 was I was in Cleveland Clinic. Without any notice, I
3 came back and they -- although the bills had said,
4 you know, final notice, whatever, I had made a 127
5 phone calls, which are documented to -- to PSE&G.
6 Most of them, I was on the phone 45 minutes or more
7 with -- waiting for a customer service per -- a
8 person. And then when I got a public -- a person on
9 the phone, they -- there was a lot of double talk and
10 a lot of nonsense. I -- the town attorney from the
11 Town of Babylon came to my house when he found out I
12 had no electricity for three months. And for those
13 who think that they're smart and want to open their
14 mouth, because I've heard this before, I take it, I
15 have no hot water. I take my showers once every two
16 weeks when I visit Northport.

17 I -- I -- I -- as far as heating
18 concerned, I don't have any heat at the current time
19 and et cetera, et cetera. I can justify everybody
20 who thinks that, how can this guy live three months
21 without electricity? Quite frankly, I spent three
22 months in a communist prison in Kalamata, Greece and
23 14 months as an involuntary guest of the Iranian
24 government. I can do a lot of things a lot of people
25 can't do. The reason I'm -- I'm -- I'm coming into

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 this is part of the problems and the difficulties are
3 the inconsistencies of the billing of PSE&G and how
4 they bill. And before I get to anything else, these
5 guys who do the work, the linemen and whatever, they
6 work their pants off, my problem is not with them.

7 They probably deserve a cost-of-living
8 increase, et cetera, across the board. But when a
9 guy comes to turn off my electricity in the middle of
10 the night and -- during the day, and there's one guy
11 up in the pole, turn it off, and there's four guys
12 standing around watching him, that's a lot of waste
13 of money. And that money's coming out of our rate
14 payers' pockets. So what happened was I went to
15 Cleveland Clinic for reconstruction surgery. There
16 was no notice whatsoever on the door. I came back in
17 the middle of the night because I had to take the
18 train, and -- and got home at two o'clock in the
19 morning. I go in the house, there's no notice on the
20 door. There's no nothing. They turned off the
21 electricity and I fell down the stairs and spent an
22 additional two months in the hospital.

23 I should sue PSE&G for -- for neg --
24 negligence of -- of the -- of the workers, for -- for
25 not properly -- and then a guy comes to the house

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 with a green card, and he says, I'm, you know, here
3 to -- to talk. And -- and I asked him for his name
4 and he says, I don't have to tell you what my name
5 is. I asked for his little ID badge and he didn't
6 give it. He just hands me this card with his first
7 name on it. The bottom line is that there's a lot of
8 ground roots stuff that goes on with PSE&G as it did
9 with LIPA, as it did originally with LILCO, et
10 cetera, et cetera. And I've been around a while. So
11 I -- I -- all the -- all the whatever.

12 The -- as far as the billing is
13 concerned, you can get a bill for -- there -- there's
14 a two -- two-month -- originally there was a two-
15 month billing every two-month period of time. And
16 PSE&G is not stupid. This is not their first rodeo.
17 They do that, in my personal opinion, because one
18 month you could get two hundred and eighty-three
19 kilowatt hours at one rate which was eight or nine
20 cents a -- a -- a kilowatt hour, and then the next
21 month for the same amount of days in that month,
22 because they used to do two months, so they could
23 adjust it, in my personal opinion, or the computer
24 can figure out what it was. The next month, you'd
25 get only a hundred and seven kilowatt hours at -- at

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 eight cents.

3 And before that you could get three
4 hundred and sixty kilowatt hours at -- at -- at five
5 cents or -- or point zero five. The -- the
6 inconsistency in the billing is -- is -- is off the
7 charts, and I'm probably not explaining it
8 appropriately. But you also get double billing. You
9 get billing for delivery and system charges, which is
10 one rate, and then a power supply charge, which is
11 another rate, which is ridiculous. If any kind of
12 business today was doing business the way PSE&G was
13 doing it, they would fire you and go somewhere else.
14 Unfortunately, it's a monopoly and you don't have
15 another choice of where you're going to go. As far
16 as the increase in rates is concerned, the PSE&G is
17 getting a lot of free rates at six cents a kilowatt
18 hour from those people who have solar panels,
19 whatever. And it sold -- sell back to -- to -- as --
20 as I understand it.

21 Now, I may be wrong about all of this,
22 but this is the way it appears to John Sullivan, so
23 to speak, of the Common Street. So when I get --
24 when I -- when I use -- when I use a -- a hundred and
25 twenty -- a hundred and twenty-seven kilowatt hours

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 in one month in April, and then I use a hundred and
3 twenty-seven kilowatt hours in one month in July, and
4 I get a bill that's two different rates. I got a lot
5 of question marks and my hair starts to stand up on
6 end.

7 A.L.J. LEARY: Excuse me, Mr.

8 Stephens. Is -- is PSE&G your provider, your utility
9 provider?

10 MR. STEPHENS: They -- they were until
11 they shut off the electric.

12 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay. I'm sorry. Yes.
13 So the company here, I'm trying to think how I can
14 best serve you because we have a -- a lot of other
15 speakers --

16 MR. STEPHENS: Right. Okay. So I'm
17 going to -- I'm going to --

18 A.L.J. LEARY: -- hold on. Hold on.

19 MR. STEPHENS: -- I'm going to tell
20 you -- I'm going to make some recommendations.

21 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay.

22 MR. STEPHENS: The -- the billing --
23 the billing from PSE&G, in order to save money, and I
24 think they can make a lot more money. First of all -
25 -.

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 A.L.J. LEARY: Mr. Stephens, I want to
3 serve you. This is not the company that we have
4 here, but I have the perfect person and I should have
5 introduced Director Berkley before this point in
6 time. I apologize.

7 MR. STEPHENS: Oh, you're saying that
8 -- I must have misunderstood. You're saying that
9 this meeting is more about -- more than just PSE&G?

10 MR. BERKLEY: It's only about National
11 Grid.

12 A.L.J. LEARY: It's only about
13 National Grid, but --

14 MR. BERKLEY: Let's go outside and
15 I'll see if I can help you.

16 A.L.J. LEARY: -- Mr. Berkley is the
17 perfect person.

18 MR. STEPHENS: In that case, I
19 apologize. I'm sorry, I wasted everybody's time.

20 A.L.J. LEARY: No, listen. Thank you
21 for your service.

22 MR. BERKLEY: It's not a waste to hear
23 about a problem that someone is having.

24 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay. I think Dennis
25 Feeney is my next speaker. Hi, Mr. Feeney. And

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 George Povall is on deck.

3 MR. FEENEY: Good evening. My name is
4 Dennis Feeney. That's spelled F-E-E-N-E-Y.

5 A.L.J. LEARY: Bring that big mic a
6 little bit closer to you. Because I -- I think some
7 -- I heard somebody say, speak up.

8 MR. FEENEY: All right. I'll start
9 over.

10 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay.

11 MR. FEENEY: Good evening. My name is
12 Dennis Feeney. That's spelled F-E-E-N-E-Y. Before I
13 begin my comments, I would like to say thank you to
14 the New York State Public Service Commission for
15 holding this forum and allowing the public the
16 opportunity to offer their opinions on the proposed
17 National Grid rate increase. My opinion will be
18 offered from two perspectives. First, as a lifelong
19 Nassau County resident homeowner and rate payer, and
20 secondly, as a thirty-five-year member of Laborers
21 Union, Local 1298. As Nassau County residents, we
22 are accustomed to having excellent quality utility
23 services, such as electric, gas, water, sewer, and
24 communications. However, quality services don't come
25 at a cheap rate, and most of us don't mind paying for

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 such services as long as they're maintained and
3 operated in a manner that consistently shows
4 improvement in both their services and
5 infrastructure.

6 National Grid is no exception to this.
7 National Grid took over the reins of a very
8 antiquated and long neglected energy system. With
9 that being said, drive around Long Island on any
10 given day, and you can see the improvements being
11 made firsthand to the electrical and gas systems.
12 Taller, stronger poles are being installed, trees are
13 being trimmed back, so to storm proof them and not
14 interfered with service and gas mains that are old
15 and nearing the end of their lifespan are being
16 replaced and/or retired, reducing both leaks and the
17 potential for adverse environmental impact. The
18 investment in the infrastructure is clearly there.
19 As a rate payer, I'm very pleased to see all this
20 going on.

21 National Grid has also committed to,
22 as a part of this proposed rate increase, to expand
23 their partnerships within the community by hiring
24 more people to help with weatherization for both
25 homes and businesses in order for these consumers to

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 reduce their energy usage. In addition to this, more
3 help will be provided with bill assistance for lower
4 income households and many other items within all
5 communities that are too numerous to list here.

6 Whether you support it or oppose it, the world or
7 nation and New York State are all turning towards the
8 use of renewable energy, which includes wind, solar,
9 RNG, and hydrogen. A large portion of the proposed
10 rate increase can be attributed to both Federal and
11 State mandates associated with the transition to
12 these forms of energy and for safety updates to the
13 current operating system.

14 Additionally, as this trans -- as this
15 transition begins, there will be cost to educate and
16 inform the public on how these systems will operate.
17 As was mentioned in my introduction, I'm a proud
18 thirty-five-year member of Laborers Union Local 1298
19 based in Hempstead, New York. Many of our members,
20 some of which are in attendance here this evening,
21 some of which may be your family, friends, or
22 neighbors, are in line to benefit from building these
23 new renewable energy projects, as well as thousands
24 of other Long Islanders in the construction industry.
25 A large portion of the price tag for these projects

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 will be paid with money from the proposed rate
3 increase.

4 Large scale infrastructure projects,
5 whether they are in the transportation sector or
6 energy sector, have long been proven to be some of
7 the best economic engines for our region. As this
8 new form of energy becomes the standard, it will help
9 create thousands of new well-paying permanent jobs
10 for this new industry. So in closing, I see this
11 proposed rate increase as an investment in our
12 future. Our systems will operate safer and more
13 efficiently. We are safeguarding our environment and
14 future of our island. We will enjoy cleaner air,
15 safer energy sources, and will reduce our overall
16 impact on the planet. Thank you for your time this
17 evening and allowing me the opportunity to voice my
18 opinion.

19 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. George
20 Povall and James Munz on deck. Hi.

21 MR. POVALL: Hi. Thank you, Your
22 Honor. And thank you all for -- for allowing us the
23 opportunity to speak tonight. My name is George
24 Povall. I'm the Executive Director of All Our
25 Energy. That is P-O-V-A-L-L. All Our Energy is a

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 Long Island based nonprofit and our mission is to
3 involve the public in the transition to renewable
4 energy and to stop pollution. We are part of the
5 rate case and we have some things that we would like
6 to say about not just the proposal but we do have
7 some comments about the process too. So one of the
8 things that we continue to see happening is the
9 Company is telling us that they're making investments
10 in certain things and they're making it sound like
11 this really high increase of thirty four dollars is
12 just like a one-time thing. We have to bring things
13 up to date.

14 But really, according to the Building
15 Decarbonization Coalition, to fix all the leak prone
16 pipes in New York State is going to cost somewhere
17 around sixty-thousand dollars per rate paying
18 customer. When you look ahead at that, we're talking
19 about this increase, if it's this is it, well then,
20 we'll be up to date, but it's not. This is a tiny
21 down payment on what it will require to fix the
22 antiquated and out of date gas system that we have in
23 New York. And I just want to give a great shout out
24 to our union members who have done a fantastic job of
25 keeping it going, but it's reaching the end of its

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 useful life. And when we have these rate
3 proceedings, we should be talking about a bigger
4 picture than just what National Grid wants today.

5 We need to be talking about what it's
6 going to cost overall in the future to have, quote
7 unquote, safe and reliable energy for people because
8 this is not the end of the rate increases. This is
9 also why New York State needs the New York Heat Act.
10 The New York Heat Act -- Heat Act will end the
11 current subsidies for new gas customer hookups, which
12 range anywhere in our district from six, but closer
13 to fourteen thousand dollars per new customer hooked
14 up, when, for a similar amount of money, those
15 customers could be switched to an air source heat
16 pump. And the company is not just completely
17 avoiding and ignoring but in the one case where they
18 are reluctantly doing a thermal energy network that
19 can be used on a infrastructure level for a
20 neighborhood they're purposely botching it, right?

21 And this is the future. This is your
22 future jobs. Your future jobs are putting geothermal
23 in the street that every house can hook up to.
24 That's -- that's the pipelines that we need and we're
25 going to have because we have to end our use of gas.

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 Gas and the side effects for methane are exploding
3 climate change. We keep hearing it every day and
4 we're here ignoring it as if we have some kind of
5 option not to move to the future. And every day we
6 are being undermined from moving to that future. So
7 a few other things I'd like to just say. We've also
8 heard some characterization of this rate increase
9 being due to all of the great work that's being done
10 with efficiency programs. And other things that are
11 really deflecting.

12 Because these are a tiny, tiny number.
13 We heard a hundred and fifty million dollars. We
14 heard about fif -- I think only fifteen million
15 dollars, and we got a hundred and fifty thousand
16 customers onto demand response. But we're hearing
17 about metrics that have been missed for years, and
18 even the metrics that we're being told today are not
19 up to the standards that they were supposed to be.
20 And this is foot dragging from National Grid. I have
21 a lot more to say. We'll end up in our other
22 comments. But what I just want to wrap this up by
23 saying a few things about the process. As a party to
24 this rate case, I have been appalled at the level of
25 running of the entire show is being done almost

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 seemingly almost exclusively by National Grid.

3 DPS pops their head up every so often
4 to ask a few questions, but I mean, in general, we
5 are not regulating anybody. We are being regulated,
6 and this is absolutely unacceptable. So we do a lot
7 of other things besides try to stop fossil fuels and
8 try to get people into renewable energy. And I would
9 like to just say this to the DPS and to Governor
10 Hochul, reject this entire thirty-four-dollar subsidy
11 proposal as she just did. The four dollar Offshore
12 Wind rate increase that was so stupendous that it
13 blew her mind that -- that she actually put her
14 finger on the scale at DPS as, as her press release
15 said to -- to stop it.

16 And I don't see her presence here over
17 something that is almost ten times that cost. And
18 like I said, it's just the down payment. It's not
19 something that's going to -- to last for a long time.
20 So I'm going to leave the rest to my written comments
21 and to all our energy's written comments. And I
22 thank you for your time. We need to move to the
23 future for our union members, for our climate, for
24 our communities, and for our residents and rate
25 payers. And we need to do it now. Thank you.

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. James Munz
3 and -- hi, come on up.

4 MR. MUNZ: Going the other way.

5 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay.

6 MR. MUNZ: M-U-N-Z.

7 A.L.J. LEARY: Pardon me.

8 MR. MUNZ: Munz. Jim.

9 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you.

10 MR. MUNZ: You're welcome.

11 A.L.J. LEARY: Monique Fitzgerald,
12 you're on deck.

13 MR. MUNZ: Nice meeting you. Welcome.

14 I just have a -- first of all, you guys, I've been
15 living in Long Island so long, I never lived any
16 place else but Long Island. Greatest place to live.
17 We love it. We have great beaches. We've always had
18 -- I remember when you were Brooklyn Union Gas, you
19 were great then, the Metro Center and all the good
20 stuff that you guys did. Tremendous. There's no
21 questions. We can't say how good you are, could we?
22 No, we couldn't. Anyway, I just I don't know where
23 gas is going to go. But when you did it in my
24 neighborhood, we used to have a, just a small line
25 with three or four BTUs and it was functional for 60

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 years, and then you had to come in and you put in a
3 60-pound pressure unit in with your yellow plastic,
4 and you had Banneker do it in our neighborhood.

5 And I'd just like to say that Banneker
6 did a tremendous job. They -- from the very time
7 they were there, they were nice people. They did
8 what they had to do and they were very conscious of
9 people they worked with. And, you know, the
10 neighbors and everybody else. When they finished,
11 they put the asphalt down, the first layer, the hard
12 layer, and then they put the smooth coat over the
13 top. Then I went to Oceanside and Oceanside had
14 (unintelligible) do it. And you know, the difference
15 is night and day. And what I'm really just saying is
16 nine X -- National Grid does a great job. Banneker
17 does a great job. I hope we never use them again.
18 I'm sorry guys. If there's a couple of guys back
19 there, I'm sorry. But this is the fact of life.

20 They did an electric job on our block.
21 They put in a one-billion-dollar cable that went from
22 the electric grid over in Island Park over to my --
23 my neighbor in East Rockaway and it took them three
24 years. They said it was going to take less than a
25 year. My neighbor's tree was frozen to death because

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 they had to fray -- freeze the coefficient, the --
3 the dielectric and a tree froze. It was just a -- it
4 was a frozen tree for three years. But anyway, and
5 that was only supposed to take a year, and it was a
6 hundred and forty-seven megawatts. So I would just
7 like to say, if, you know, things being done, I hope
8 you're going to use Banneker. And on the other thing
9 that National Grid, you know, I hope that this thing
10 works out.

11 But I will say one thing, everything
12 worked very well on -- on the stuff that you did
13 before at my house. So congratulations. Hope you
14 keep working and hope you keep gas, because as my
15 neighbor said, she's out in Farmingdale, it's thirty-
16 six hundred dollars to keep a temperature at 64 with
17 oil and gas I'm eighteen hundred and I'm not
18 complaining.

19 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. Monique
20 Fitzgerald and Fred Harrison, you're on deck.

21 MS. FITZGERALD: All right. So can
22 you hear me?

23 A.L.J. LEARY: Yes.

24 MS. FITZGERALD: All right. Good
25 evening, everyone. I am here with my Suffolk Workers

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 Benefit Council hat on today. So these are the
3 sentiments from them and myself. Just a bit about
4 the Suffolk Workers Benefit Council. It's an all-
5 volunteer worker centered membership association of
6 farm workers and other low paid workers in Suffolk
7 County. And the message pretty much is simple. I
8 don't want to hold us up all night with a lot of
9 commentary, but I do want to just make a couple of
10 points and just give a -- a brief depiction of my
11 story and why I needed to come today. So the Public
12 Service Commission, you all are mandated to protect
13 us from utility monopolies. We need for you, the
14 Public Service Commission, to protect the most
15 vulnerable people, the customers of National Grid,
16 who are the lowest paid workers, the people who are
17 struggling to keep their heat going in the
18 wintertime.

19 This time of year always brings a lot
20 of anxiety to people who are struggling to pay rent
21 and their utility to keep their heat going. So I
22 just want you all to be mindful of this occurrence in
23 everyone's lives that is dealing with these rate
24 hikes in a very real way. It's not a matter of --
25 it's not incidental. It is a matter of life and

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 death in many cases. As a person who has had their
3 heat cut off growing up, it is not an -- it's not an
4 easy task to know -- go home knowing that you're not
5 going to be heated in the wintertime. So this also
6 could lead to deaths and people freezing in their
7 homes. So we don't want to make our homes ice boxes.
8 We don't want to leave the most vulnerable, highly
9 exposed to National Grid's inability to provide the
10 service without raising rates that are already too
11 high.

12 So the people on Long Island who are
13 the most vulnerable, who are they? Right? The
14 Climate Justice Working Group designated certain
15 people in areas called disadvantaged communities.
16 They identified markers like low income, and these
17 are the people that we believe the Public Service
18 Commission needs to protect. And living in a
19 disadvantaged community speaking about -- speaking
20 for the workers in the Suffolk Workers Benefit
21 Council, we are all living in disadvantaged
22 communities across Long Island. So we are asking,
23 and we are imploring that you do not raise these
24 rates. Think about the people who are struggling the
25 most when you have to deliberate.

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 Who are the people that are most
3 vulnerable? It's fifty-five thousand Long Islanders
4 that are more than sixty days late behind on their
5 gas bills and at risk right now for a shutoff from
6 National Grid. Who are the most vulnerable? More
7 than a hundred thousand residents report not having
8 enough money to buy food. So again, these are life
9 and death situations that people are dealing with,
10 whether they are going to pay their rent, buy food,
11 and pay their utility bills. And what is the
12 opposite that's going on? The opposite is we see
13 National Grid made five point nine nine seven billion
14 dollars in profits in one year. What's the opposite?
15 National Grid paid their CEO eight million dollars
16 last year. This is the opposite effect. National
17 Grid is able to do this while people are trying to
18 stay warm.

19 And just a little bit about the
20 decisions people are having to make. I'll just tell
21 you a little bit about the decisions that my family
22 has had to make recently. In the last two years, my
23 son, my brother, his daughters, their children, my
24 aunt, her daughter, her children, their children have
25 left or are planning to leave in the next few months,

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 and that is devastating. And why are they leaving?

3 People are leaving Long Island because they can't

4 afford rent, they can't afford food, and they can't

5 afford their utility bill. So I am speaking for

6 them, I'm speaking for myself, someone who has a

7 National Grid bill in collections that is on their

8 credit report, somebody who is struggling to pay this

9 bill as we speak.

10 So this is very real. This is very

11 present for me and my family. So again, I just ask

12 that you -- I implore that you reject this rate hike.

13 Think about the people who are facing shutoffs and

14 stop shutoffs and late fees, protect and serve -- and

15 serve the most vulnerable rate payers. Thank you.

16 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. Fred

17 Harrison, Kevin Sabatino on deck.

18 MR. HARRISON: Before I start, I just

19 hope that everybody takes heart to those comments

20 that were just made. They were very important and

21 should have a big influence on the Commission. My

22 name is Fred Harrison. I live in Merrick. I'm a

23 retired teacher, teacher union leader. I work and

24 volunteer with Food & Water Watch, and I use natural

25 gas and National Grid to heat my hot water and heat

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 in my home. I'm here today to ask the Commission to
3 set aside business as usual. In a year which may
4 very well be the hottest on record, it should no
5 longer be acceptable to the Commission that rate
6 payers pay more to the very company whose products do
7 so much damage.

8 It is unreasonable and unfair to ask
9 rate payers to reward a company that promoted a
10 product that they knew would damage the environment.
11 National Grid and their predecessors created a
12 situation which we could have avoided. Long Island,
13 and I've lived here since 1949, was not gas land. At
14 the very time fossil gas was heavily marketed to Long
15 Islanders, fossil fuel company scientists were
16 reporting on the dangers of climate change. They
17 pushed fossil gas on Long Island at the very time we
18 should have been shifting to solar and renewables.
19 The lies that the fossil fuel companies told us are
20 now public knowledge and are the basis for more than
21 forty climate suits across the country.

22 This bad behavior must have
23 consequences. It is no longer sufficient to engage
24 in a ballet in which National Grid asks for a lot,
25 gets less, but in the end always ends up with more

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 rate payer money. Ending this dance is doubly
3 important now that it has become obvious, and I hope
4 it's obvious to the PSC, that meeting the worthy
5 goals of the CLCPA will be very expensive. Rate
6 payers cannot sustain a vigorous build out of
7 renewables, while at the same time providing evermore
8 money to National Grid. National Grid should be
9 winding down as a gas company, either voluntarily in
10 recognition of the damage their products have done or
11 through PSC regulation.

12 We urge the PSC to take three concrete
13 steps. Firstly, a reduction in Nat Grid's rate of
14 return. To continue to reward National Grid with a
15 totally unreasonable rate of return is an affront to
16 every rate payer. What might be a fair rate of
17 return? Our very solid, reasonable, and clear-
18 thinking New York State Controller thinks 5.9 percent
19 is a fair rate of return. That's the benchmark he
20 has established for the New York State Retirement
21 Fund, which I imagine most of the PSC staff are part
22 of.

23 Secondly, programs for low and
24 moderate-income households are great and necessary.
25 We need more of them and they need to go further. We

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 need cost reductions for all rate payers. The PSC
3 can begin shifting the cost of existing programs to
4 National Grid shareholders. The fossil fuel
5 companies participated in what eight state attorneys
6 general have called fraud. Their ill-gotten gains
7 have come out of the pockets of rate payers.

8 Unfortunately, they have met not made restitution on
9 their own. And just as parents must sometimes do,
10 the PSC needs to guide National Grid behavior and
11 direct them to do the right thing.

12 Thirdly, the PSC must exercise strict
13 scrutiny over every National Grid request for
14 infrastructure spending. Rate payers can't continue
15 to pay investments in the gas system while financing
16 through rising LIPA rates the expansion of the
17 electrical system. Every National Grid project
18 should be carefully and publicly evaluated for
19 alternatives and how well it complies with the goals
20 of the CLCPA. We know in the end Long Island will be
21 getting off fossil fuels. As Governor Hochul has
22 pointed out, offshore wind, solar, heat pumps, EVs
23 and electrification are the future. The transition
24 needs to be affordable, sensible, and well planned.
25 And the PSC should be leading the way protecting rate

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226
2 payers from any and all unnecessary and unfair
3 expenditures. And I thank you.

4 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. Kevin
5 Sabatino.

6 MR. K. SABATINO: Hey, how are you?

7 A.L.J. LEARY: Are you related? Are
8 you related?

9 MR. K. SABATINO: With who? With
10 Frank?

11 A.L.J. LEARY: Yes.

12 MR. K. SABATINO: Yeah.

13 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay.

14 MR. K. SABATINO: Yeah. Yeah. That's
15 Sabatino. S-A-B-A-T-I-N-O. I'm a union worker. I'm
16 a welder, but I definitely disagree with this a
17 hundred percent. The pay increase on residents.
18 Absolutely not. I don't want this. I don't want you
19 guys doing it. If you need to get the money, get it
20 from the Federal government, not your common
21 homeowner. Okay. Enough people are struggling. The
22 unions could figure it out. The unions could press
23 back with the Federal government. That's why they
24 pay into the pack. They could figure that out in
25 especially the Union delegates work hand in glove

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 with the politicians. They could definitely work
3 something out with the Federal government.

4 If they're issuing out massive checks
5 to Israel and Ukraine, I'm sure they can come up with
6 the funds instead of pressing the common person. I'm
7 worried about what the Department of Public Service
8 is actually going to do, because I reached out to you
9 guys probably about a year ago, actually recently
10 about smart meters. And you guys kind of failed.
11 You failed on that. I pressed on the issue with the
12 opt-out fee and explaining to you how smart meters
13 violate the Fourth Amendment. And LIPA keeps
14 ignoring, especially PSEG and the Department of
15 Public Services ignores everything I say about smart
16 meters. I'm bringing it up because now I see you
17 guys face-to-face. So I want to make it really
18 clear. You guys have to do your due diligence.

19 When it comes to the smart meters.
20 you -- you have to understand that it's violating
21 people's Fourth Amendment. It's violating the Fourth
22 Amendment. Because what smart meters do is that they
23 forensically audit what people do inside their
24 dwellings. They're searching, unwarranted searches.
25 So I got to bring that to your attention to face

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 value. Finally, I get to see you face value. So now
3 you know.

4 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. Frank.

5 MR. F. SABATINO: Yes.

6 A.L.J. LEARY: Sabatino.

7 MR. F. SABATINO: Yes. Hi.

8 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you.

9 MR. F. SABATINO: I'm -- I'm a
10 homeowner -- homeowner as well. And when I found out
11 about this thirty-dollar rate increase on my National
12 Grid bill, I was alarmed. This affects everyone
13 that's Nassau County -- a Nassau County homeowner,
14 maybe I guess Suffolk County as well. Not everyone
15 has an endless supply of money or -- or an income
16 that could keep sustaining, paying all of these
17 bills. I -- I -- there was a time when I was proud
18 to be a homeowner living in Nassau County. I am
19 starting to regret it. I -- I just see my -- my
20 school tax bill increasing, my general tax bill,
21 which is supposed to come out soon. I'm dreading
22 that.

23 I see that we're building a new
24 precinct in Woodbury at twenty-one million dollars,
25 like sky in the pie. Money's no object in this

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 county. It's -- it's frightening. Hochul wants
3 things to happen and our backs are up against the
4 wall. I feel I speak for all these empty chairs
5 here. Not for special interests or anything, but for
6 the ordinary homeowner who -- who if they don't
7 perform at work, they lose their job. We just get
8 fired. They show us the door. And I -- I struggle.
9 You know, it's -- it's not just people of color.
10 It's everyone. We are struggling. I pay my bills in
11 full on time all the time.

12 The -- even the issue with the smart
13 meter that's attached to people's houses, I know this
14 is not -- not National Grid, but PCE&G. They put
15 these smart meters. They had someone walking down
16 the street with a -- with a -- with a wagon and
17 installing these meters. I stopped it. My brother
18 stopped it on his house. We're challenging that it
19 is a Fourth Amendment violation. I don't know if the
20 CEO is going to listen to us, but we've challenged
21 that we're being penalized for protecting our Fourth
22 Amendment right. We have to pay extra on our bills.
23 Otherwise, we are in danger of -- of damaging our
24 credit. We could end up being penalized in -- in
25 multiple -- in a multitude of ways.

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 It's just become extra --
3 extraordinarily expensive living on Long Island.
4 And, you know, that's why you see, when you read
5 Forbes or Bloomberg, how they say, you know, New York
6 is one of the top states that people are leaving. I
7 would wish the governor, I mean, even the unions, if
8 everyone could coordinate and work together, find the
9 money somewhere else, lobby from the Federal
10 government, it seems like we print money out of
11 nowhere. You know, we -- I could tell you how
12 insanely expensive it is just going food shopping
13 now. Everything has gone up. It's become very hard.
14 And -- and I'm an able-bodied person. I could
15 imagine someone who has a disability, who -- who's --
16 who's impaired, who's struggling, who doesn't have an
17 education, how much harder it is for them.

18 And I feel my back is up against the
19 wall and I'm capable. And I know -- I don't know
20 where -- where I'll be if I keep seeing these bill --
21 bills keep coming in. I'm going to have to sell and
22 get out of here. And I just really hope the governor
23 and -- and the unions and everyone else takes this
24 into consideration. Thank you.

25 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. Mr. Silva,

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 or is it Ms. Silva? I can't read your first name.

3 Oh, had to leave. Okay. Jerome Bust?

4 MR. BUST: Hello. Good evening,
5 Chairman Christian, members of the Public Service
6 Commission. My name is Jerome Bost. I'm Director of
7 External Affairs for IBEW Local 1049. We represent
8 about four thousand five hundred members in the gas
9 and electric industry here in Long Island. Just
10 wanted to thank you for being here today and our
11 business major sends his regards for not being here
12 directly. I'm here on behalf of our members employed
13 with National Grid to voice support for the company
14 as a crucial partner. For decades, our highly
15 skilled union workplace has built to maintain the
16 critical gas and energy infrastructure of power in
17 Long Island and Queens.

18 Countless Local 1049 members work in
19 National Grid. Their positive experience, it's
20 confirmed. National Grid is an outstanding corporate
21 citizen serving our region with integrity. National
22 Grid recognizes skilled labor as the backbone of New
23 York's energy industry. This value provides
24 thousands of middle-class careers. National Grid
25 collaborates with us to ensure members can access

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 emerging green economy opportunities. Achieving New
3 York's necessary clean energy goals requires massive
4 build out and daily maintenance of infrastructure
5 like solar farms, wind turbines, battery storage, and
6 miles of power lines. IBEW 1049 members are on the
7 front lines of this.

8 Energy transition needing expertise to
9 improve communities statewide. Together we are
10 eliminating methane emissions, deploying renewable
11 solutions, and supporting workforce development, so
12 members gain clean energy skills. Importantly, no
13 one should have to go without gas or power because
14 they can't afford it. National Grid has invested
15 millions of programs supporting New Yorkers,
16 including eighty-six million in bill credits for low-
17 income households, seventy million annually for
18 weatherization and efficiency to help customers use
19 less energy and save fifty percent more efficiency
20 savings in 2022 than previous years by launching a
21 new weatherization and demand response program.

22 Over 1,500 miles of gas retired since
23 2013 to reduce emissions, improve safety and
24 reliability, do increase inspections and upgrades,
25 exceeding service metrics, and reducing customer

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 bills by 50 million yearly. 150 million in COVID
3 relief to struggling customers. National Grid's
4 leadership shows their commitment to a diverse clean
5 energy workforce. We are exceeding -- we've seen
6 results from these inclusive programs and follow
7 through. As the voice of Energy workers, National
8 Grid is a valuable corporate citizen supporting the
9 clean energy future and skilled workforce New York
10 needs. They have the expertise to continue investing
11 in infrastructure and jobs to meet climate goals.

12 We urge providing the National Grid
13 needs to maintain the critical role and transition.
14 And I'm also speaking on behalf of our members where
15 majority are actually employed with National Grid as
16 a member myself. So thank you so much for your time.

17 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. So I'm
18 going to open up the floor and ask if there's anyone
19 else here that would like to provide a public
20 statement at this hearing. Anyone? Okay. Let the
21 record reflect that no one is seeking to provide any
22 further public comments. I, again, Chair --.

23 MR. K. SABATINO: I have something to
24 say.

25 A.L.J. LEARY: Come on up. Just state

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 your name again for the record.

3 MR. K. SABATINO: It's Kevin Sabatino.

4 Yeah. I wanted to be really clear with the unions.

5 I'm a union worker too, but they got to start doing

6 their due diligence with the Federal government.

7 They got screwed long time ago with the -- with the

8 KeySpan pipeline out in the Midwest. And that was a

9 big, massive civil works project. They -- they

10 invested a lot of money and then it was cut off just

11 like that. And I'm not expecting National Grid to

12 just start strong arming our residential --

13 residential customers or commercial customers. If

14 they need the money, they go to the Federal

15 Government. Bottom line. Bottom line. Not the

16 common homeowner. They need the money. They need

17 the work. Then reach out to the Federal Government,

18 press them. Press them. That's what I got to say.

19 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. Anyone

20 else? Excellent. I -- on behalf of Chair Christian,

21 I also, again, want to thank all of you for

22 participating this evening. You're busy and you took

23 time out of your busy lives to come here. And we

24 hear you. Thank you for providing the comments. I

25 want to also remind you that, and please pass this on

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 to your neighbors and family and friends, that there
3 are other ways to comment. If someone missed this
4 evening, please remind them that they can comment on
5 the Department's website and we will of course
6 consider those comments as a part of the record. We
7 are going to close the public hearing at this point.
8 And again, thank you all.

9 If you have any questions, please see
10 Mr. Berkley, our Director of Consumer Services or me.
11 I want to thank the Nassau County Executive and
12 Legislative folks for having us. Thanks to our
13 Office of Consumer Services. Thank you, Chair
14 Christian for being here. And did I forget anyone?
15 No. Thank you to our court reporter and we are
16 adjourned. Off the record.

17 (The hearing concluded at 7:35 p.m.)
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

1 11/15/2023 - Brooklyn Union & KeySpan Gas - 23-G-0225/0226

2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 I, DANIELLE CHRISTIAN, do hereby certify that the
4 foregoing was reported by me, in the cause, at the time
5 and place, as stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1
6 hereof; that the foregoing typewritten transcription
7 consisting of pages 1 through 69, is a true record of all
8 proceedings had at the hearing.

9 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto
10 subscribed my name, this the 22nd day of November, 2023.

11

12 DANIELLE CHRISTIAN, Reporter

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25