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8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226

STATE OF NEW YORK

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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

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

PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING

DATE: August 1, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

VENUE: WebEx

BEFORE: A.L.J. MAUREEN LEARY

A.L.J. JAMES COSTELLO

Reported by Anthony McClain

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226

2 (The proceedings resumed at 6:00 p.m.)

3 THE REPORTER: We are on the record.

4 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. I call Case  
5 23-G-0225 Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as  
6 to 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,  
12 again for Gas Service.

13 Good evening, everyone and welcome.

14 We are here this evening for a public statement  
15 hearing that was noticed on June 30th by the  
16 Secretary to the Public Service Commission. My name  
17 is Maureen Leary. I am an Administrative Law Judge  
18 with the Office of Hearings in the Department of  
19 Public Service. And with me this evening is  
20 Administrative Law Judge James Costello. Together,  
21 we are responsible for -- for presiding over this  
22 hearing and potentially every other hearing including  
23 the evidentiary hearing in these cases. We're also  
24 responsible for the development of a complete record  
25 in the proceedings for the Public Service

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 Commission's review.

3 Let me welcome two attendees also from  
4 the Department, our Commission Chair, Rory Christian,  
5 and Commissioner John Maggiore. Welcome. Thank you  
6 for attending. It is an honor to see both of you  
7 here. And I know the public appreciates your  
8 attendance.

9 Chair Christian, can I ask you to take  
10 this opportunity to say anything to the public  
11 attending the hearing?

12 CHAIR CHRISTIAN: Thank you, Judge  
13 Leary. Just want to take a moment and thank everyone  
14 for being here tonight. Your time is valuable and I  
15 know these matters are of great importance to all.  
16 And we look upon these meetings as opportunities for  
17 public engagement to inform, educate, and empower.  
18 As Judge Leary mentioned, the information gleaned  
19 through these discussions becomes part of the record  
20 and this is an excellent opportunity for the public's  
21 voice to be heard.

22 So I myself am here today to listen,  
23 observe, and take back what's stated, and take into  
24 consideration your concerns. So thank you all for  
25 coming tonight and thank you, Judge Leary.

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226

2 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you, Chair

3 Christian. Commissioner Maggiore.

4 COMMISSIONER MAGGIORE: Okay. I -- I  
5 could only echo what the Commissioner said. I'm here  
6 to listen.

7 After this moment right here, you're  
8 not going to hear from me because I want to hear from  
9 you. I do want to say that I find public statement  
10 hearings very, very helpful understanding the impact  
11 of what we do. You know, we learn new information  
12 ... that becomes a part of the record. Everybody who  
13 has taken time out of their day for the process, it's  
14 important and that's very helpful for us. So thank  
15 you very much.

16 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. So let's  
17 get to it. I have a little bit of background  
18 information for all attendees. And the Brooklyn  
19 Union Gas Company, which is doing business as  
20 National Grid, I'm going to refer to as KEDNY, K-E-D-  
21 N-Y, and KeySpan Gas East Corporation, also doing  
22 business as National Grid, I will refer to as KEDLI.  
23 So KEDNY serves in the -- the Metropolitan New York  
24 area and KEDLI is serving Long Island. So they're  
25 collectively known this evening as the companies and

1           8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           they filed amendments to their gas tariff schedules  
3           on April 28th, 2023. They propose to increase their  
4           annual gas delivery revenues effective March 31st,  
5           2024. KEDNY proposes to increase its revenues by  
6           \$414 million which is a 28 percent increase in base  
7           delivery revenues or a 17 percent increase in total  
8           revenues. KEDLI proposes to increase its revenues by  
9           \$228 million representing a 24 percent increase in  
10          base delivery revenues or a 14 percent increase in  
11          total revenues.

12                           Although the actual bill impacts of  
13          these proposed increases and charges on any  
14          particular customer will vary based upon things that  
15          we know as revenue allocations and rate design, the  
16          Companies state that a typical KEDNY residential  
17          heating customer will have approximately a \$30.95  
18          average monthly bill increase. A typical KEDLI  
19          residential heating customer will have approximately  
20          a \$28.52 average monthly bill increase.

21                           Now under New York law, known as the  
22          Public Service law, the Public Service Commission  
23          must consider a utility's proposal and may adopt it  
24          in whole or in part, reject it in whole or in part,  
25          or modify it. The statutory timeframe for

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 considering a rate case is generally eleven months  
3 and that amount of time can be exceeded based upon  
4 the negotiations, for example, of the parties. We're  
5 holding this hearing tonight so that you can provide  
6 your comments on KEDNY and KEDLI's proposal --  
7 proposals which will be considered by the Commission.

8 So let's talk about the Commission.  
9 As you're aware, our Chair is at the public statement  
10 hearing along with one of our Commissioners. There  
11 are other Commissioners and they are Diane Burman,  
12 James Alesi, Tracey Edwards, John Howard, and David  
13 Valesky. So thank you so much Chair and Commissioner  
14 Maggiore again for attending. Let me talk a little  
15 about the process and explain what we're going to do  
16 this evening.

17 The purpose -- the sole purpose of  
18 this hearing is to provide you with the opportunity  
19 to tell the Commission your thoughts on the  
20 companies' rate proposals. The statements you make  
21 this evening will become a part of this record. And  
22 we have a court reporter, Mr. McClain, who is  
23 transcribing this evening's comments and will prepare  
24 a transcript of this hearing. That transcript will  
25 be included in the official record of this proceeding

1           8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           so that your comments can be considered. Once --  
3           when it is ready, the transcript will be available  
4           for viewing on the Department of Public Service  
5           website. I want to give you two numbers.

6                        I've already stated that when you go  
7           on to the Department's website, you need these  
8           numbers in order to access the information in these  
9           cases. You really only need one of them now but I'm  
10          going to give you both, 23-G-0225 and 23-G-0226. And  
11          by the way, there's a hyphen between the twenty-  
12          three, the G, and the last four numbers.

13                       So this is not an evidentiary hearing.  
14          We do not have a question-and-answer session. It's  
15          just a forum to hear just comments from you. The  
16          good news is, it's not the only opportunity for  
17          comment. We will be holding in-person public  
18          statement hearings at dates to be announced. And  
19          also, you -- if you did not pre-register to speak  
20          today, we're still going to give you an opportunity  
21          if you're on the line to provide a comment should you  
22          choose to do so.

23                       But again then there are other ways to  
24          comment -- comment particularly in writing on the  
25          Department's website, by email to the Secretary, by

1           8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 regular mail or you can even phone the Department's  
3 main number. Regardless of how the comments are  
4 submitted, they're going to be given equal  
5 consideration. And in the notice that the Secretary  
6 issued identifying these hearing dates, it's today  
7 and tomorrow for the public statement hearings. That  
8 notice has an August 4th deadline, apparent deadline  
9 in it, for providing comments. I want to just advise  
10 everyone that that is an advisable deadline or  
11 timeframe. But we're going to take comments  
12 throughout the pendency of the proceeding. The  
13 reason we have that date in there is so you have time  
14 to submit your comments and have them be considered  
15 by the parties in the case who are filing testimony  
16 because your thoughts matter to them as well. So do  
17 not be concerned if your comments come in on August  
18 5th. There's still time but we do recommend that you  
19 stay pretty closely to that timeframe.

20                       So if you have registered to make a  
21 statement, we ask that you summarize your statement  
22 for oral presentation and submit a full written  
23 statement by email or mail. We have a number of  
24 speakers this evening and we want to get to everyone.  
25 So we want to ask you to stay within about a three-



1           8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           minute timeframe for providing your comments. I'm  
3           first going to call those persons who preregistered  
4           to speak. If you are not available or have some  
5           technical difficulties when I call your name, I will  
6           continue with the next person but I'm going to come  
7           back to you so do not worry. I will call your name  
8           again after others are heard.

9                         So there are two types of people who  
10           are registered. Some are registered and  
11           participating electronically on their computers.  
12           Others are registered by phone.

13                        So I want you to look at the screen  
14           where the powerpoint talks about raising your hand.  
15           If you are participating by phone, you will need to  
16           press star three for us to recognize you and a hand  
17           will appear next to your phone number. Your name is  
18           not appearing, your phone number is appearing. But  
19           once you do -- do press star three, we're going to be  
20           able to see that you are the person whose name has  
21           been called. And that will allow us to unmute your  
22           line and just be patient. I will indicate that your  
23           line has been unmuted and that you can proceed with  
24           your statement.

25                        For those participating on their

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 computers, again, we're going to -- we're going to be  
3 able to see your name. We will call your name. We  
4 will unmute your line. You'll hear a tone and please  
5 be reminded to have your own telephone or your own  
6 computer off of mute, unmute yourself. So when your  
7 line is unmuted, please state your name for the  
8 record and indicate the organization, if any, on  
9 which -- or on whose behalf you are speaking. Please  
10 speak slowly and clearly so that the court reporter  
11 can accurately capture your statement for the record.

12 Okay. I'm going to proceed with our  
13 first speaker, I'm going to call Sally Lake. Ms.  
14 Lake, I think you are unmuted so you can proceed with  
15 your statement.

16 MS. LAKE: Thank you. My name is  
17 Sally Lake and I'm a member of Third Act. I live in  
18 Westchester County. I'm greatly disturbed about the  
19 National Grid's cases. I believe the international  
20 panel on climate change when they say we have a  
21 severely short timeline to avoid a worldwide life  
22 changing eCrisis. As our new normal, think Phoenix  
23 with 31 days over 110 degrees, Arizona with its burn  
24 center and ICUs filling up with people severely  
25 burned from falling on asphalt. The temperature of

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 the coastal northeast, that means us, is increasing  
3 at twice the rate of the interior of the northeast  
4 and faster than most places in the northern  
5 hemisphere. We're disturbingly short of reducing  
6 emissions by the IPCC's recommendation.

7 Expanding National Grid's network and  
8 customer base sounds to me like it could increase  
9 emissions for a long time. Both their schemes put a  
10 break on New York achieving our ambitious emissions  
11 and clean energy goals. An ordered offset of part  
12 one reductions and emission what we've already  
13 achieved. Refurbishing or replacing the old  
14 pipelines with new ones equips us with infrastructure  
15 to continue emitting for decades. I'm not aware of  
16 any plans by National Grid to sunset their  
17 infrastructure in order to reduce or eliminate  
18 emission -- emissions in the future. I cringe to  
19 think of my nephews and their babies in a world where  
20 National Grid is feeding fossil fuel emissions past  
21 the time when we need to have eliminated them.  
22 Thanks for hearing my testimony.

23 MR. WHITE: Okay.

24 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. Our next  
25 speaker, Juan Calderon. Juan Calderon.

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226

2 MR. WHITE: He may have called in,  
3 Your Honor. I don't see him electronically.

4 A.L.J. LEARY: I have a 917 number and  
5 a 315 number. Juan Calderon, would you press star  
6 three if you are a call-in user? All right. Let's  
7 move on. Lonnie Brame. Lonnie Brame. Okay. Moving  
8 on, Cindell Rock. Cindell Rock. Actually, I'm  
9 seeing a hand-up. I'm sorry. The 917 user has a  
10 hand up. Mr. White, let's unmute and see who that  
11 is.

12 MR. DAVIS: Hi. I am sorry. My name  
13 is Michael Davis. I have been connected by phone.

14 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay, Mr. Davis, I'm  
15 going to get to you in a few. Would you lower your  
16 hand? Just press star three. I thought you were  
17 either Juan Calderon --

18 MR. BRAME: Good evening. Good  
19 evening. My name is Lonnie Brame.

20 A.L.J. LEARY: Go ahead, Mr. Brame.  
21 We can hear you.

22 MR. BRAME: Yes. I'm a delegate of  
23 Suffolk County Worker's Benefit council. I'm making  
24 a statement on behalf of the council. The counsel's  
25 a delegate body of Suffolk County farm workers and

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 other low-paying workers including landscapers, house  
3 cleaners, and restaurant workers, day laborers, home  
4 health aides and others and -- and our families. Our  
5 living makes Long Island one of the richest regions  
6 of New York State and the nation. But many of us  
7 work two or three jobs but still can't make ends  
8 meet. So we don't need this raise.

9 The primary mission of New York State  
10 Public Service Commission and I quote to ensure  
11 affordable, safe, secure, and reliable access to  
12 electric, gas, and other public utilities. For NYS  
13 business, the residential communities had just and  
14 reasonable rates and to protect the people from the  
15 abuse of monopoly power. Yet hardworking families of  
16 Suffolk County are struggling every day to put food  
17 on our table, pay utilities and other necessities.  
18 Newsday reported 10 percent of 600,000 National Grid  
19 customers are one or two month behind on their bills  
20 and risk of being shut off. Members of PSC, to step  
21 into any rate increase would be a complete failure to  
22 carry out your mission. Rates should go down but not  
23 up. The increase to National Grid stakes would not  
24 only be deadly for low-income ratepayers, with  
25 customers struggling to pay their bills, businesses

1           8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 will be slammed with higher bills, fewer customers  
3 since residents will be forced to choose between  
4 paying their bills and buying food. Commissioners of  
5 the PSC, your duty is to ratepayers of the state.

6                       We ratepayers are men and women who  
7 work hard in fields, nursing homes, and restaurants  
8 and on construction sites. But despite our hard  
9 work, more and more of us are struggling while  
10 National Grid had made 3.2 million in profits last  
11 year alone. Let me repeat that. 3.2 billion in  
12 profit just in one year. Commissioners of the PSC,  
13 your responsibility is clear. Suffolk County  
14 Worker's Benefit council demand that you the Public  
15 Service Commission, fulfill your mandate. Number  
16 one, reject the 24 percent rate increase, two, ensure  
17 affordable rates, three, stop the shut-off. When you  
18 ... the Commissioner that protects the people and not  
19 the profiteers.

20                       IN CHORUS: ... have time. ... there  
21 we go ... on time. PSC out of time.

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

23                       MR. WHITE: I -- Your Honor, I'm not  
24 sure if they called -- okay. They hung up. Okay.  
25 Sorry about that Your Honor. I thought there was

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 another person that wanted to speak on the ...

3 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay. I did not mute  
4 anyone so I think hopefully they'll call back in.  
5 And at the end, if anyone wants to make another  
6 contribution, I'm happy to hear them. Yeah. So  
7 let's go on, Cindell Rock. Cindell Rock.

8 MR. WHITE: Maybe they called in, Your  
9 Honor. I'm not seeing them electronically.

10 A.L.J. LEARY: If you're a call-in  
11 user, please unmute -- and if you're Cindell Rock,  
12 please press star three on your phone. Okay. I'm  
13 not seeing anyone.

14 MR. WHITE: They -- they were sharing  
15 the line, Your Honor, I believe. Alana (phonetic  
16 spelling).

17 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: For your  
18 reference, Your Honor, we have several members of the  
19 Suffolk County Worker's Benefit council that are  
20 going to be testifying. Cindell is about to speak.  
21 I just wanted to inform you that we have a bunch of  
22 people testifying on one line.

23 MR. WHITE: That's right. Thank you.

24 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay. Just so that I'm  
25 clear with everyone. There are registered speakers

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 and at the end, if time allows, we will ask for  
3 additional input. Just so everybody's clear, there  
4 is some order to this. So --.

5 MR. WHITE: Cindell is on now, Your  
6 Honor, on that same line.

7 A.L.J. LEARY: Same line.

8 MR. WHITE: It is unmuted. Yep. Yep.

9 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay. Okay.

10 MR. WHITE: Yes. Yep.

11 A.L.J. LEARY: Go ahead, Cindell Rock.

12 MR. ROCK: My name is Cin -- my name  
13 is Cindell Rock and I'm here with the Suffolk County  
14 Worker's Benefit Council. In the wake of the  
15 National Grid's proposed 24 percent rate hike which  
16 would cost consumers anywhere from \$15.41 monthly  
17 increase and commercial heating customers average  
18 bill would increase by \$70.55 a month at 10.8  
19 percent. With that being said, it's important for us  
20 to hold the Public Service Commission to its mandate  
21 which is to ensure affordable rates and not to shut  
22 off any utilities. Have National Grid reject the 24  
23 percent rate hike and other rate hikes in the  
24 foreseeable future.

25 Rates, consumers and taxpayers have a



1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 stake in the holding of all regulatory bodies,  
3 including the Public Service Commission, feet to the  
4 fire when it comes to demands that affect our ability  
5 to provide basic needs to our families and loved  
6 ones. As a representative of the Suffolk County  
7 Worker's Benefit Council, I can assure all of you  
8 here today that our commitment to hold these  
9 governing bodies to their mandate is as strong as it  
10 ever was, if not stronger in the face of looming  
11 challenges we see before us today. Created in the  
12 1930s, the primary mission of the New York State  
13 Department of Public Service is to ensure affordable  
14 and safe, secure, and reliable access to electric,  
15 gas, steam, telecommunications, and water services  
16 for New York State's residential and business  
17 consumers at a just and reasonable rates while  
18 protecting the natural environment which at this  
19 point is in jeopardy because the oil and gas  
20 companies are very diligent in their efforts to shift  
21 these body's alliances from us the people to some  
22 billionaires vacationing in Dubai.

23 IN CHORUS: Work three jobs and what  
24 do I get? Deeper, deeper, deeper in debt. I work  
25 three jobs and what do I get deeper, deeper and

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 deeper in debt.

3 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. Our next  
4 speaker is Dorothy Lee. Dorothy Lee. Ms. Lee, if  
5 you're a call-in user, please press star one three on  
6 your phone.

7 THE REPORTER: Not electronically,  
8 Your Honor. And I don't see a raised hand.

9 A.L.J. LEARY: I don't either. Okay.  
10 We'll go back to Ms. Lee. Myrna Lyons. Myrna Lyons.

11 MS. LYONS: Myrna.

12 A.L.J. LEARY: Ms. Lyons, are you  
13 there?

14 MS. LYONS: I am here. What do I do?

15 A.L.J. LEARY: I can hear you. You  
16 can make your statement.

17 MS. LYONS: Okay. Thank you. My name  
18 is Myrna Lyons. I'm a member of the Suffolk County  
19 Worker's Benefit council. We, the members of the  
20 Long Island community, are concerned about the rate  
21 increase being requested by National Grid. PSC,  
22 Public Service Commission, the protector of the  
23 people, must look at the big picture when making a  
24 decision. National Grid is owned by National Grid  
25 Transcorp.

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226

2 In 2022, National Grid increased its  
3 profit to \$5.97 billion. A five -- a 57.6 percent  
4 increase. And in 2021, they made \$3.788 billion, a  
5 7.6 -- .16 percent increase from 2020. Meanwhile,  
6 National Grid CEO John Pettigrew was paid a salary of  
7 \$5.6 million in 2019, an increase of \$1.1 million  
8 from 2018. National Grid has made billions in  
9 profit, while people must choose between utilities  
10 and food. When National Grid must make repairs or  
11 improvement to their equipment, the cost should come  
12 from their profits, not from the financially strapped  
13 ratepayers. Thank you.

14 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you, Ms. Lyons.  
15 Our next speaker is Sarah Reed. Ms. Reed, if you are  
16 participating by telephone, please press star three.

17 MR. WHITE: And as she stops speaking.

18 A.L.J. LEARY: I'm sorry.

19 MR. WHITE: I'm sorry. Who did you  
20 call to speak next, Your Honor? Apologies.

21 A.L.J. LEARY: Sarah Reed, R-E-E-D.  
22 Sarah Reed.

23 MR. WHITE: Not one of us. Apologies.

24 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay. No worries.

25 Let's move on. Michael Davis. I did hear from you,

1           8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           Mr. Davis, a few minutes ago. Just press star three.  
3           I think you're a call-in user. Oh, there he is. You  
4           are unmuted and can go ahead with your comment, Mr.  
5           Davis.

6                         MR. DAVIS: Thank you. My name is  
7           Michael Davis. I'm a ratepayer living in Brooklyn,  
8           New York. We're out of time or are we still engaged  
9           in this process? The fossil fuel company National  
10          Grid is coming to the designated government body  
11          again for a huge rate hike. They want to build more  
12          infrastructure accelerating the devastation to our  
13          ecosystems and producing for themselves and their  
14          investors one full profit at the expense of all life  
15          on earth.

16                         We choose to continue this process in  
17          the usual way, producing a reasonable return to their  
18          investors. Or we can choose survival. We can't have  
19          both. Instead of increasing National Grid's  
20          infrastructure by billions at the ratepayer's  
21          expense, regulators such you, the PSC, should be  
22          working to dismantle all fossil fuel infrastructure  
23          here and in Long Island. We need to take control of  
24          these investor-owned utilities and make them public.  
25          National Grid can't be trusted nor can any other

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 corporation that is not directly responsible to the  
3 public. The drug dealers in the room are dealing.  
4 There were days in the summer in Brooklyn when we  
5 couldn't breathe due to fires burning out of control  
6 hundreds of miles away. What happens way over there  
7 affects us here. I have no choice but to go inside  
8 and close the window. It's a surprising new reality  
9 to be trapped inside and getting the urge to open the  
10 window because it's hot and not being able. The air  
11 was not safe to breathe and -- and at least during  
12 the pandemic, we could open the window. This is just  
13 the beginning. The earth is the way it is because  
14 fossil fuel companies have obstructed and continue to  
15 obstruct renewable alternatives.

16 National Grid and their enablers,  
17 politicians, and lobbyists are threatening the lives  
18 of everyone who can't afford to move, rebuild, or  
19 mitigate with money, the effects of CO2 and methane,  
20 i.e., natural gas. National Grid simply by appearing  
21 here is telling us they will sacrifice any life for  
22 their bottomline. In the classic corporate manner,  
23 they've behaved as a psychopath would without  
24 remorse, consideration or consequence or regard for  
25 the truth. Thank you very much.

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226

2 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you, Mr. Davis.

3 Our next speaker is Monique Fitzgerald. Monique  
4 Fitzgerald, if you've called in by phone, please  
5 press star three. Monique Fitzgerald.

6 MR. WHITE: Monique is on the same  
7 line I believe.

8 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay.

9 MR. WHITE: There we go. Go ahead,  
10 Monique.

11 MS. FITZGERALD: Good evening. My  
12 name is Monique Fitzgerald. I am here supporting the  
13 Suffolk Workers Benefit Council. I am a ratepayer of  
14 the National Grid as well with an outstanding bill  
15 something in the range of hundreds of dollars that I  
16 cannot afford to pay. So I'm not only just here to  
17 support folks who aren't able to pay. But I am also  
18 a person who is currently unable to pay their  
19 National Grid bill. So what I want to speak about is  
20 the fact that this is a real situation that people  
21 have to face every single day, how are they going to  
22 work around this bill or that bill and et cetera. So  
23 the National Grid bill has to be affordable. It is,  
24 like folks here have already said, the PSC's mission  
25 and mandate to make sure that utilities are

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 affordable. And that we are not suffering from  
3 unnecessary rate hikes.

4 I also want to point out that the  
5 percentage or the -- the essentially the tax that we  
6 are pay -- made to pay for our utility service is a  
7 regressive tax. We pay more of our income for our  
8 utilities as opposed to someone who is earning a  
9 higher income.

10 So the lower income you make, the  
11 worse and harder it is for you to pay these  
12 utilities. I also live in a disadvantaged community.  
13 New York state has identified communities, eighty-  
14 five of them on Long Island and Bellport is one of  
15 them. So we believe that in a disadvantaged  
16 community where we are suffering a regressive tax on  
17 our utility bills. We should not have to pay a rate  
18 hike. We also should not have to worry about  
19 consequences such as shut-offs or aggressive tactics  
20 to reclaim funds from us that we just simply do not  
21 have.

22 So again, I just want to reiterate  
23 that we should definitely vote no to this rate hike.  
24 We need to pressure and put more into making sure  
25 that PSC follows their mandate to make sure that we

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 all have the utilities that we need to -- to survive  
3 especially now that it is the summertime.

4 We are facing extreme heat and we need  
5 to make sure that our elders and people who are  
6 already oppressed and at risk for extreme heat events  
7 are not going to suffer due to being unable to pay  
8 these utility bills.

9 So I'll leave it there and I just want  
10 to say freeze the rates, not the ratepayers. Freeze  
11 the rates, not the ratepayers, freeze the rates, not  
12 the ratepayers. Thank you.

13 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you, Ms.  
14 Fitzgerald. Our next speaker is Margot Spindelman.  
15 Ms. Spindelman, I did see you. Yes. You are  
16 unmuted. Please proceed.

17 MS. SPINDELMAN: My name is Margot  
18 Spindelman. I'm a ratepayer living in Greenpoint,  
19 Brooklyn. My husband and I have owned our building  
20 in Greenpoint for 23 years. We flooded in Irene and  
21 Ida and Sandy. The Army Corps of Engineers' plan to  
22 prevent flooding by building a 17-foot wall around  
23 Greenpoint can be interpreted as a message to get out  
24 of the way of climate disaster. My brother, who  
25 sells flood insurance, is more direct and he's



1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 telling us to sell our building immediately which has  
3 me looking at you, the Commissioner, you Chair  
4 Christian, with a degree of empathy because I can't  
5 justify selling my house. It would shift the  
6 disaster on to whomever might buy it. And I believe  
7 you're going through the same difficult reckoning.  
8 But the Con Ed rate case shows us that you've decided  
9 to patch the system to extend its life at the expense  
10 of the people who will be buying what you approve via  
11 their skyrocketing utility bill. You saddled your  
12 buyers with poisoned goods instead of throwing that  
13 expired technology into the trash.

14 You're in a tight spot. I can't  
15 imagine how it feels to have the U.N. Secretary-  
16 General addressing you specifically or the Pope.  
17 They're appealing to people with exactly your power  
18 to stand up and enact an immediate transition away  
19 from fossil fuels as the climate spirals out of  
20 control. To quote the Pope precisely, he said  
21 recently that the world must institute a rapid and  
22 equitable transition to end the era of fossil fuel.  
23 And when he says the world, he means you, the power  
24 to actually make significant critical change to the  
25 future of the world rests with you. I implore you to

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 protect the public interest and to properly define  
3 it.

4 It is in the public interest to  
5 provide cooling as well as heating in a boiling New  
6 York City and full support of thermal energy networks  
7 would do that and could replace gas quickly. It's in  
8 the public interest to fully electrify our building  
9 and National Grid should be doing more than giving  
10 lip service to available technologies and strategies  
11 while it doubles down on gas.

12 And we see a proposal loaded with  
13 hundreds of millions of dollars meant to prop up the  
14 existing system, a final money grab before this  
15 system gets shut down.

16 The ratepayers will be left paying for  
17 these assets that will eventually be decommissioned.  
18 The primarily black, brown, and working-class  
19 communities live in the shadow of this  
20 infrastructure. It's your responsibility to make  
21 sure that disadvantaged communities are not left  
22 behind while corporations take every last dollar  
23 leaving us drowning, burning, and dying. We need a  
24 massive mobilization to end fossil fuel and that  
25 should begin in New York City with the PSC launching

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 a plan to retire the National Grid Greenpoint  
3 facility.

4 Instead, the proposal includes a  
5 lifeline for this malignancy in our midst with a half  
6 a billion dollars of our money. You must face these  
7 tremendous challenges and realize them as  
8 opportunities to build what we need now instead of  
9 making us pay for what we no longer need and can't  
10 afford to sustain.

11 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you, Ms.  
12 Spindelman. Our next speaker is Jesus Rivera. Jesus  
13 Rivera, if you are calling in, please press star D.

14 MR. WHITE: On that same line, Your  
15 Honor, unmuted. Thank you.

16 A.L.J. LEARY: Thanks.

17 MR. RIVERA: Good evening, Your Honor  
18 and the other ladies and gentlemen of the -- of the  
19 Public Service Commission. My name is Jesus Rivera.  
20 I'm an activist representative of the Suffolk County  
21 Workers Benefit council. And I'm a native resident  
22 of Long Island, born and raised in the heart of  
23 Nassau County within the small hamlet of Carle Place.  
24 And as of today, I am resident of Lake Ronkonkoma  
25 where I live with my family. Although our Lake

1           8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           Ronkonkoma home is heated with oil, for many years  
3           when we lived in Carle Place our home was heated with  
4           natural gas. Of particular importance to me today is  
5           the responsibility of the New York State Public  
6           Service Commission and what it owes to me as a  
7           consumer of public utilities on Long Island. The PSC  
8           was established with the express purpose of defending  
9           the rights and interests of consumers within New York  
10          State from a tax against the ability to maintain  
11          financial stability. It appears however that the  
12          Public Service Commission has forgotten its primary  
13          responsibility and mandate to the people of New York  
14          City and Long Island.

15                           And has instead chooses to ally itself  
16          with the interests of a greedy multinational  
17          corporation, right, based in the U.K. National Grid  
18          is seeking to raise the rate of natural gas prices by  
19          24 percent right on the heels of a global pandemic,  
20          when the majority of Long Islanders and New Yorkers  
21          are struggling with the effects of inflation in the  
22          form of more expensive gas, more expensive groceries,  
23          and unaffordable housing. We must -- we vehemently  
24          reject and are opposed to the rate hike that National  
25          Grid proposes and that's the end of my statement.

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226

2 Thank you.

3 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. Our next --  
4 I'm going to go back to some of those who I called  
5 earlier and just to see if anyone has joined since we  
6 began the hearing. Mary Finneran. Mary Finneran, if  
7 you're a call-in user, please press star three. Juan  
8 Calderon, same instruction. Dorothy Lee. Okay.  
9 Anything? Sarah Reed.

10 MR WHITE: Your Honor.

11 A.L.J. LEARY: Yes.

12 MR. WHITE: I believe one of the folks  
13 you called was calling in on the -- on the line that  
14 we were using for the group.

15 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay. You're -- you  
16 are unmuted. Go ahead and make your statement.  
17 Please state your name now.

18 MS. LEE: Okay. I'm Dorothy Lee.  
19 Right now we need -- we will be needing heating and  
20 also we have to eat. So we need heating, eating, we  
21 need both. We need both.

22 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you, Ms. Lee.  
23 Did I miss anyone else? Sarah Reed. Is Sarah Reed  
24 in the house? Okay. I'm going to open up the floor  
25 now to those who are participating. Even if you have

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 not registered, we do have some time to allow anyone  
3 who would like to make a statement to do so. Please  
4 reflect your intention to make a statement by raising  
5 your hand if you're on a computer or pressing --.

6 MR. WHITE: We have a -- w

7 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay. Great.

8 MR. WHITE: And I'll start with the  
9 first one --.

10 A.L.J. LEARY: George Povall, is that  
11 right?

12 MR. WHITE: That's correct. Go ahead,  
13 George.

14 MR. POVALL: Hi. Hi there. Your  
15 Honor. My name is George Povall and I'm the  
16 Executive Director of All Our Energy. We are a Long  
17 Island non-profit focused on environment protection  
18 and education who works to empower public support for  
19 renewable energy development. And to inspire the  
20 public's action to protect the climate, our  
21 environment, and our communities. And so, I'm not  
22 really happy to be back ... again today at one of  
23 these hearings. And something I would like to hope  
24 that we can in the future have a little more lead  
25 time. I see that we do have some lead time coming up

1           8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           into the fall. I -- I -- you know, I think that  
3           that's something that we really need to make sure  
4           that we have input from as many people as possible.  
5           And so besides that, I think the -- my main takeaway  
6           here is that we're looking at this proposal from the  
7           National Grid. And, you know, once again it's really  
8           just a method to extract -- extract more and more  
9           from us and our communities where they're just  
10          throwing all sorts of slimy stuff on the wall and  
11          hoping some of it will stick and you will allow them  
12          to charge us for it. And we -- we've been here  
13          before and we -- we've seen this playbook before.  
14          And, you know, we -- we've actually found that the  
15          independent consultant had to be brought in to show  
16          that National Grid was not fully expressing the truth  
17          of what they are doing.

18                        So as far as this proposal goes,  
19          there's some things from Long Island that we want to  
20          make clear. We oppose expansion of the Iroquois  
21          Pipeline hidden in this plan which really, when we're  
22          talking about leak-prone pipes, is probably the  
23          biggest leak-prone pipe out there. And we're going  
24          to put higher pressure through it with more gas to  
25          run through it. You know, this trans -- traverses

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 numerous communities who are going to get charged \$30  
3 a month more for the pleasure to have this come  
4 through their community. And that's -- that's a real  
5 hot spot there on National Grid's part. This is  
6 really -- like a fool's errand. I want to point out,  
7 earlier this year, the Building Decarbonization  
8 Coalition released a study called the future of gas  
9 in New York State.

10 And I just want to read you a couple  
11 of things from their executive summary. Key  
12 findings, number one is that New York's gas utilities  
13 continue to invest heavily in their distribution  
14 networks with a collective balance of undepreciated  
15 distribution assets that has doubled over the last 10  
16 years. That means that -- that they are not  
17 depreciating the system as they're supposed to be,  
18 their frontload putting in back loading. They're  
19 going to stick us with the huge bill in the end. The  
20 second thing is that they say here, gas mains are  
21 very expensive to replace. And they're saying that  
22 the average cost per mile of a gas distribution main  
23 installed for New York's gas utilities is over \$3  
24 million with a total cost to ratepayers that is  
25 closer to 6 million and after additional expenses are



1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 taken into account.

3 In New York, a mile of gas main serves  
4 on average 100 ratepayers thus the avoidable cost of  
5 installing new gas distribution main averages over  
6 \$60,000 per ratepayer. And they're talking about  
7 this type of investment over a 20-year period. So  
8 this \$30 a month is nothing, is a tiny down payment  
9 on what they want.

10 Some of the other things I want to  
11 point out from that -- that study is that they say  
12 that New York State adopted overarching gas planning  
13 framework to govern -- govern filings in both the gas  
14 planning docket and climate well compliance docket.  
15 And I agree with that. And so does our organization.  
16 And that's why this year -- we were able to have New  
17 York State lawmakers realize that we need to get new  
18 buildings off of fossil fuels and they did that with  
19 the Old Electric Building Act or Old Electric Nuclear  
20 Building Act, if you want to call it that.

21 And so this is a great way to save the  
22 public interest where we're not sticking people with  
23 an obsolete gas system in their brand new homes and  
24 buildings that they're building that they're going to  
25 probably have to replace well before their expected

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 life span.

3 But the one thing that we really need  
4 is we need the New York Heat Act, which is  
5 languishing in the Assembly right now, which would  
6 help this orderly transition to a renewable energy  
7 future. And provides an -- an off-ramp for National  
8 Grid to move into thermal energy networks which they  
9 could be very, very successful at and everybody would  
10 be able to tap into that instead of having to -- to  
11 figure it out on their own. So I want to just  
12 mention one last thing too, that we are watching you.  
13 And we see you and we see your potential involvement  
14 in disinformation campaigns especially from people --  
15 places like New Yorkers for Clean Power trying to  
16 derail the transition to renewables and we're  
17 watching. We are watching you and I'm -- I'm sad to  
18 say that the -- the legislators were being threatened  
19 with crazy ads against them and hope they will listen  
20 here and step up and make sure that this is not  
21 happening anymore. We cannot allow regulated  
22 utilities to lie to us. Thank you very much.

23 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you, Mr. Povall.  
24 Can I hold you -- can you unmute Mr. Povall one more  
25 time, Mr. White? I just want to ask you for the

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 record to spell the organization that you indicate  
3 you are representing.

4 MR. POVALL: I'm Executive Director of  
5 All Our Energy, A-L-L O-U-R E-N-E-R-G-Y.

6 A.L.J. LEARY: Great. I wrote down  
7 something a little bit different.

8 MR. WHITE: That's correct.

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

10 MR. POVALL: Thank you.

11 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay. All right. Next  
12 Sarah Strauss. Sarah Strauss. You are unmuted, Ms.  
13 Strauss. Go ahead.

14 MS. STRAUSS: Thank you. My name is  
15 Sarah Strauss and I'm a ratepayer in Brooklyn. And  
16 I'm also a member of 350 Brooklyn, a grassroots  
17 organization seeking to address the climate crisis.  
18 As an educator, I am asking the PSC to reject in  
19 whole National Grid's proposal to increase natural  
20 gas tariff revenues. As an educator, a long-time  
21 educator, I've -- I have two primary reasons for  
22 concern. First, I'm concerned about the huge rate  
23 increase National Grid is requesting and its impact  
24 on my students and their families and on all families  
25 who struggle to pay their bills at current rates.

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 For many, it's an issue of survival.

3 Second, I ask the members of the PSC  
4 to think if it's relevant to you, think of your  
5 children and of your grandchildren's faces as I am  
6 thinking of my students faces. And I think of this  
7 effort to reinforce dirty natural gas infrastructure  
8 when we must quickly -- we are already so very late  
9 to this task. We must move quickly to clean energy  
10 infrastructure. What do we tell our children if we  
11 continue with business as usual? We won't have to  
12 say a word. They will understand all too well that  
13 we have given up on the possibility of their futures.  
14 Thank you.

15 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you, Ms. Strauss.  
16 Kim Fraczek. Ms. Fraczek, you are unmuted. Go ahead  
17 and proceed.

18 MS. FRACZEK: At the afternoon  
19 hearing, just because Chair Christian and  
20 Commissioner Maggiore are on the line here that we  
21 found -- I'm sorry and I'm Kim Fraczek from the  
22 Director of Sane Energy Project. And we found out  
23 about this, you know, public hearing, it was -- it  
24 was posted in the docket on July 25th which was about  
25 a week ago. And I just want to explain to you what



1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 member there that wants to speak. So I unmuted them  
3 for you, Your Honor.

4 A.L.J. LEARY: Right. Suffolk County  
5 Workers Council.

6 MS. BECK: Hello. My name is Ines  
7 Beck. I'm a volunteer with Eastern Farm Workers  
8 Association. This is an association that has been  
9 around for 51 years, over 51 years, and we are  
10 continually fighting for farm workers and other low-  
11 income groups and families within our community.  
12 And, you know, I've been a volunteer here for over 20  
13 years.

14 And one of the things that I am very  
15 concerned about is when I hear of rate hikes, when I  
16 see and I look around our families are suffering, are  
17 working almost continuously. Who is raising the  
18 children? We hear of all these terrible accidents  
19 or, I'm sorry, the shootings that are occurring. Who  
20 is home? Who is raising our children? We need help.  
21 We need the help of organizations like yours to pull  
22 rates down so that our families don't have to work,  
23 so that they can take care of their families. This  
24 is a very important issue for me. Please, please,  
25 look around. I'm comfortable. I can pay the rate.

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 But I see so many people around me that cannot. And  
3 I beg you to have compassion and look to see how we  
4 can make the National Grid more effective, that they  
5 cannot raise their rates, that they can do a better  
6 job of servicing our families. Thank you very much.

7 A.L.J. LEARY: Ms. Beck, can I ask you  
8 to spell your first and last name for the record?

9 MS. BECK: Excuse me. I didn't hear  
10 you.

11 A.L.J. LEARY: Can I ask you to spell  
12 your first and last name for the record, for our  
13 court reporter?

14 MS. BECK: My first name is Ines, I-N-  
15 E-S. My last name is Beck, B-E-C-K.

16 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you so much and  
17 thank you for your comment.

18 MS. BECK: You're welcome. Thank you  
19 for the opportunity.

20 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay.

21 MR. WHITE: Your Honor, while we have  
22 the line open, is there anybody else that's in the  
23 group that wants -- wishes to speak before we lower  
24 their hand again?

25 MS. BORDA: All right. Yes. The name

1           8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           is Georgina Borda. And I'm just now learning about  
3           these egregious economic things that are going to be  
4           placed on us. One thing that comes to mind as \$3.5  
5           trillion moved after COVID from the poor and the  
6           middle class to the upper class. And this  
7           organization is supposed to look out for us instead  
8           of allowing these corporations to gouge and take  
9           advantage of the poor and middle class. So many  
10          people are moving off of Long Island because they  
11          live -- they can't survive. And this is like not  
12          people who, you know, just have one job. These are  
13          like middle-class people that were able to enjoy Long  
14          Island. And so many of my friends, they can't pay  
15          the rent. And people are living in their trailers.  
16          Fathers are living in trailers or ... or living in  
17          their cars because they don't have enough to pay  
18          child support. So we're really asking that your  
19          organization truly looks at how people are struggling  
20          and do your job.

21                        I mean, I heard the name today, Public  
22          Service Commissions. What came to mind is the word  
23          commissions. Are the people gaming commissions? I -  
24          - I mean, it says that in the word. So please, look  
25          out for, you know, the people that are struggling so



1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 thank you for your time.

3 IN CHORUS: PSC, do your job, PSC, do  
4 your job, PSC, do your job, PSC, do your job, PSC, do  
5 your job.

6 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. I want to -  
7 - Ms. Borda, I want to just make sure. I have  
8 Georgina but the last name is B-O-R -- B as in boy,  
9 O-R-D-A. Is that correct? Can you unmute, Mr.  
10 White?

11 MS. BORDA: Yes, B-O-R-D-A.

12 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you so much.  
13 Okay. I have one other speaker. It looks like Mr.  
14 Povall wants to come back. Mr. Povall, your line is  
15 unmuted.

16 MR. POVALL: Hey, thank you for having  
17 me back. Real quick, I just wanted to correct that I  
18 misspoke and I had mentioned organizations that are  
19 working to provide disinformation. And that -- that  
20 is New Yorkers for Affordable Energy. Thank you.

21 A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you. Okay. That  
22 is I believe the end of our -- to see if anyone  
23 else's hand is up. All right. Last call, anyone  
24 else want to make a statement? Please raise your  
25 hand or press Star 3 All right. We have someone

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 else from Suffolk County Workers. Come on in. Go  
3 ahead. Who is -- would you state your name for the  
4 record?

5 MS. DONNELLY: My name is Kathleen  
6 with a K, Donnelly, D-O-N-N-E-L-L-Y.

7 A.L.J. LEARY: Okay.

8 MS. DONNELLY: So I have been working  
9 for the last 40 years at Stony Brook University  
10 Hospital. I'm a nurse practitioner in cardiology.  
11 And as I contemplate retirement, right now I am  
12 tapering off my time. I have come down here to the  
13 Eastern Farm Worker Association to volunteer. It's  
14 easy to do and I hear the issues amongst these  
15 people. And I have to tell you that having heard all  
16 the statistics and the rate hike and the profiteering  
17 of -- of National Grid, which I certainly pay to keep  
18 gas flowing into my home up in Stony Brook. What I  
19 see as a bit of an absurdity is -- what I'm really  
20 learning even tonight because I -- I'm comfortable  
21 where I am. But the absurdity of what I'm hearing is  
22 that this is across the board.

23 Now, where I live on north shore of  
24 line -- Long Island, I live amongst the richest  
25 people in the country even, certainly, the one

1           8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           percent, many, many of them. There is a rich sector  
3           on Long Island that I think everyone is aware of, and  
4           then there's a middle class, and then unfortunately,  
5           there are the people who struggle because they don't  
6           make an income that sustains them. The rents are  
7           absurd here and the thought of even \$28 hike in the  
8           bill is a burden on these people. And I think at the  
9           very least, at the very least, while National Grid  
10          goes as green as -- as it can, it also separates the  
11          income of these people and then decides what a hike  
12          might be if it needs to be one. But certainly,  
13          people that are making under, say, I don't know -- I  
14          don't know where to cut if off myself. But I -- and  
15          I have not interviewed all the people in this room  
16          that are very impassioned about this issue,  
17          especially the people that run this Eastern Farm Work  
18          association. But there should be a cutoff for the  
19          lower income people. We need them. We need people  
20          to do the jobs that they do. I mean, I work as a  
21          nurse but there are people that work in the  
22          cafeteria.

23                                They work as nurse's aides,  
24          housekeepers, transport, and many other workers as  
25          well. We need people on all three levels to live

1           8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           here on Long Island and do what they can to serve the  
3           community. So I would say that at the very least,  
4           National Grid should be drawing a line for where  
5           anyone has a pay hike. And the people that have --  
6           are behind in their bill, there should be some kind  
7           of payment schedule, something they can do. When I  
8           went to nurse's school in 1973 at St. Vincent's  
9           Hospital in New York City, I was given a loan at 3  
10          percent. It was for several thousand dollars to pay  
11          my tuition off at St. Vincent's and they gave me 10  
12          years to pay it off. And my bill was \$27 a month.  
13          If you work with the people that are simply needing  
14          to have something rearranged for them, you would  
15          still get paid but on a schedule that they can  
16          manage. But please show compassion, consideration  
17          for the very people that do pay you, and that's what  
18          I want to say. Thank you.

19                           A.L.J. LEARY: Thank you, Ms.  
20          Donnelly. This reaches the conclusion of the public  
21          statement hearing. I want to remind you all that you  
22          can submit public comments throughout the proceeding  
23          by the means that are described in our June 30th,  
24          2023, notice which is available on the Commission's  
25          website. It's a public website. Remember the

1 8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 numbers that I indicated before, 23-G-0225 or 23-G-  
3 0226. We will be holding additional public statement  
4 hearings tomorrow at one p.m. and six p.m. In  
5 addition, we will be holding in-person public  
6 statement hearings this fall and the dates have not  
7 been established yet. But we will certainly have  
8 that available for the public with plenty of notice.

9 And I want to thank all of you for  
10 your participation. And it's critically important.  
11 This is really something that is -- is such a  
12 critical part of our democracy and our country. So  
13 thank you all for your comments and for your  
14 participation. Judge Costello and I express our  
15 sincere gratitude.

16 And we also want to thank Commissioner  
17 Christian and Commissioner Maggiore for being  
18 present. Many thanks to our Court Reporter, Mr.  
19 McClain, and to our Office of Consumer Services, Mr.  
20 White. As always you're a total pro and Ms. Kailis,  
21 thank you. And I see we have Ms. -- Ms. Senator also  
22 on the line. Thank you for participating. With  
23 that, this concludes our public statement hearing and  
24 we are now off the record. Everyone have a wonderful  
25 evening.

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8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226

MR. WHITE: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE REPORTER: We are off the record.

(The hearing concluded at 7:00 p.m.)

1           8/1/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226

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STATE OF NEW YORK

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4 I, ANTHONY MCCLAIN, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
5 was reported by me, in the cause, at the time and place,  
6 as stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1 hereof; that  
7 the foregoing typewritten transcription consisting of  
8 pages 1 through 46, is a true record of all proceedings  
9 had at the hearing.

10                           IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
11 subscribed my name, this the 8th day of August, 2023.

12

13 ANTHONY MCCLAIN, Reporter

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