

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

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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 PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING

14 DATE: August 2, 2023 at 1:01 p.m.

15 VENUE: WebEx

16 BEFORE: A.L.J. MAUREEN LEARY

17 A.L.J. JAMES COSTELLO  
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22 Reported by Anthony McClain  
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2 (The hearing commenced at 1:00 p.m.)

3  
4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Good afternoon.

5 Just want to make sure everybody can hear me.

6 MR. WHITE: Hi, I can hear you.

7 THE REPORTER: We are on the record.

8 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. I call  
9 case number 23-G-0225 proceeding on motion of the  
10 commission as to the rates, charges, rules and  
11 regulations of the Brooklyn Union Gas Company, doing  
12 business as National Grid New York for gas service.  
13 And case number 23-G-0226 proceeding on motion of the  
14 commission as to the rates, charges, rules and  
15 regulations of KeySpan Gas East Corporation, doing  
16 business as National Grid for gas service. We are  
17 here today for a public statement hearing that was  
18 noticed on June 30th, 2023. It involves a filing by  
19 the Brooklyn Union Gas Company, which does business  
20 as National Grid, New York, and which I will refer to  
21 as KEDNY and KeySpan Gas East Corporation, doing  
22 business as National Grid, which I shall call KEDLI,  
23 and which I will collectively refer to as the  
24 Company. They filed amendments to their gas tariff  
25 schedules on April 28th, 2023, proposing to increase

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2 their annual gas delivery revenues effective March  
3 31st, 2024.

4 KEDNY proposes to increase its  
5 revenues by 414 million, which represents a 28  
6 percent increase in base delivery revenues or 17  
7 percent increase in total revenues. KEDLI proposes  
8 to increase its revenues by \$228 million, which  
9 represents a 24 percent increase in face delivery  
10 revenues or a 14 percent increase in total revenues.  
11 Although the actual bill impacts of those proposed  
12 changes on any particular customer class will vary  
13 based upon the revenue allocation and rate design,  
14 the company states that a typical KEDNY residential  
15 heating company customer will have a \$30.95 average  
16 monthly bill increase. And that a typical KEDLI  
17 residential heating customer will have a \$28.52  
18 average monthly bill increase.

19 Under New York State law the Public  
20 Service Commission must consider the utilities  
21 proposals and may adopt or reject them in whole or in  
22 part or modify them. We are holding this hearing so  
23 you can provide your comments on these proposals for  
24 the commission's consideration. My name is James  
25 Costello and I'm an Administrative Law Judge with

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2 Department of Public Service. With me here today is  
3 Administrative Law Judge Maureen Leary, also with the  
4 Department of Public Service. And together we are  
5 responsible for presiding over the hearings in these  
6 cases and the development of a complete record in  
7 these proceedings. So I'm going to go over a little  
8 bit about the Public Service Commission and then I'll  
9 go over the process that we're going to follow.

10 So, as I said earlier, the Public  
11 Service Commission will decide what the company's  
12 terms and conditions of service will be. The Public  
13 Service Commission has seven members, the  
14 chairperson, Rory Christian, and six commissioners  
15 who are Diane Berman, James Alessi, Tracy Edwards,  
16 John Howard, David Valeski, and John Maggiore. I see  
17 that we have the chair Christian on the line with us,  
18 and I would like to offer him the opportunity to make  
19 a statement to people that are attending today.

20 MR. CHRISTIAN: Thank you Judge  
21 Costello, appreciate you setting the frame, and I  
22 want to say thank everyone who's with us today, who's  
23 taking time out of their busy schedules to join about  
24 and talk about this very important proceeding. I  
25 know your time is precious, and I know this topic is

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2 of great importance to all. And these opportunities  
3 for public engagement are opportunities to inform,  
4 educate, and empower. And I appreciate you all  
5 coming here today to participate. Now, the topics  
6 we're going to discuss this afternoon will become  
7 part of the public record, and ultimately, they'll  
8 help form the basis of decisions made by the  
9 commission. So I want to again reiterate, we are  
10 here to listen, we want to hear your comments and  
11 incorporate that feedback into our decision-making  
12 process. And I appreciate you all making the time  
13 and look forward to a healthy discussion. Thank you  
14 all. Mr. Costello.

15                           A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you, Chair  
16 Christian. So I'm going to go on now and explain the  
17 process that we're going to follow at today's  
18 hearing. So as I stated and as the chair just  
19 explained, this is -- hearing is to provide you with  
20 an opportunity to tell the commission your thoughts  
21 on the Company's rate proposals and the statements  
22 that you make today will become part of -- of the  
23 case record. We have a court reporter who is joining  
24 us and will prepare a transcript of the hearing,  
25 which will be included in the official record of

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2 these proceedings so that your comments can be  
3 considered by the commission. When it -- it's ready  
4 the transcript will be available for view on the  
5 Department of Public Service website, and you would  
6 access those by searching under the case numbers for  
7 these cases, which are 23-G-0225 and 23-G-0226.

8 The hearing that we're having today is  
9 not an evidentiary hearing and it is not a question-  
10 and-answer session. It is an opportunity for you to  
11 provide comments for the commission's consideration.  
12 It also is not the only opportunity that you would  
13 have to make comments. If you did not pre-register  
14 to speak at today's hearing, but you would like your  
15 views included in the record, there are a variety of  
16 other ways to comment that were listed in the public  
17 notice for today's event, and that are -- if we can  
18 change the screen that we have up to show the  
19 different methods that statements can be submitted.  
20 Well, I can tell you that you can -- it's now other  
21 ways to comment. If you are participating  
22 electronically, they're listed in front of you and  
23 they are you can make comments on the department's  
24 website.

25 You can do them -- submit comments by

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2 email, regular mail, or by telephone. And regardless  
3 of how the comments are submitted, they are given  
4 equal consideration. Now, we have requested that  
5 comments be submitted by August 4th, 2023. That is a  
6 request simply to ensure that the parties who are  
7 preparing their testimony in these cases have the  
8 opportunity to consider your comments when they are  
9 preparing their testimony. Even though we request it  
10 by August 4th, we accept comments and the comments  
11 will be considered throughout the pendency of these  
12 cases. So as long as the cases are pending, you can  
13 submit comments for consideration. If you have  
14 registered to make a statement today and you have a  
15 lengthy written statement prepared, we ask that you  
16 would submit both the written statement to the  
17 commission in one of the methods I told you, and that  
18 you provide a summary of your statements orally.

19 Okay. We have people today who have  
20 registered and who are participating electronically,  
21 and there are people who have registered  
22 electronically and may be participating by telephone.  
23 In either case, you should have only one audio input  
24 from one device, otherwise you and we may experience  
25 problems with feedback. I will call the persons that

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2           have pre-registered to speak one-by-one, and I will  
3           also notify the person who will be up next to speak  
4           so that they'll be ready to speak when we get to  
5           them. If someone is not available when I call them  
6           or if they're having technical difficulties, I will  
7           continue with the next person and we'll come back to  
8           the people who were not able to comment who were not  
9           available. I'll come back to them at the end. For  
10          telephone participants, when I call out your name, I  
11          will ask that you hit star three on your telephone so  
12          that we can recognize you and unmute your line.

13                         It may take a little while for us to  
14          locate you and unmute your line, so please make sure  
15          to wait until you hear a beep or are notified that  
16          your line has been unmuted before you speak. If you  
17          have muted your own telephone, you must remember to  
18          also have your telephone unmuted on your end so that  
19          we can hear you. For people that have registered  
20          electronically, after I call your name, we will  
21          unmute your line. You should hear a tone and see  
22          that the microphone icon is no longer showing red  
23          next to your name. And again, please be reminded  
24          that if you have your line or your audio input on  
25          mute, you will have to unmute it on your end as well



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2 so that we can hear you. We ask that you please  
3 speak slowly and clearly so that the court reporter  
4 can accurately capture your statement for the record.

5 And when your line is unmuted, we ask  
6 that you state your name, and if you are speaking on  
7 behalf of an organization, the name of the  
8 organization. Once we confirm that we can hear you,  
9 you can then proceed to make your comments. So with  
10 that, we're going to start with our speakers and we  
11 have as our first speaker, Hennessy Garcia. And the  
12 person that will be following Hennessy Garcia will be  
13 Ryan Stanton. So if Hennessy Garcia is participating  
14 by telephone, we ask that you hit star three so that  
15 we can recognize you and unmute your line. I am not  
16 seeing anyone, so I'm going to move on to Ryan  
17 Stanton. Ryan Stanton, and that also if you are  
18 participating by telephone -- oh, I see that you are  
19 actually participating electronically. It looks like  
20 your line has been unmuted. No, just bear with us.

21 MR. STANTON: I -- can you hear me?

22 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Yes, we can  
23 hear you now.

24 MR. STANTON: Good afternoon. My name  
25 is Ryan Stanton, I'm speaking on behalf of the Long

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2 Island Federation of Labor as the executive director  
3 representing this organization and our two hundred  
4 and fifty thousand union members and their families  
5 across Nassau and Suffolk County. I'd like to say  
6 thank you to the Public Service Commission for its  
7 thoughtful consideration of case 23-G-0225, case 23-  
8 G-0226 National Grid. On behalf of our members who  
9 represent not only a significant swath of National  
10 Grid's rate payers but also the thousands of members  
11 and their families who work for not just National  
12 Grid, but the utility companies and their contractors  
13 we urge you to approve the rate case. The Union  
14 movement has played an active role in advancing the  
15 Climate Community Leadership and Protection Act  
16 working people who, by virtue of living on Long  
17 Island, are on the front lines of climate change and  
18 dealing with the impacts of this generational crisis.

19 The main replacement program in  
20 particular, which is supported by the rate increase,  
21 is consistent with New York State -- state emission  
22 of reducing carbon emissions. They're necessary  
23 investments to bridge our region into the future as  
24 New York State begins to bring green energy assets  
25 online and improves our grid energy efficiency. We

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2           know that through sound common sense investments in  
3           main replacement, we're achieving a more  
4           environmentally friendly energy infrastructure  
5           preparing it to service hard to electrify industries  
6           for the future. Old steel pipes leak over time are  
7           replacing damaged infrastructure that in some cases  
8           have begun to leak with modern high-density plastic.  
9           We're ensuring rate payers throughout the region  
10          continue to receive safe, reliable service. National  
11          Grid will play a part in a more energy efficient  
12          grid, and we can make investments today that will  
13          only become more expensive tomorrow.

14                         This rate case not only ensures public  
15          safety and quality and reliable service for rate  
16          payers, it supports career opportunities for working  
17          families in our communities. And unfortunately,  
18          we've seen a lack of funding and underfunding of  
19          critical infrastructure not only in our region, but  
20          in this country. One example in our region  
21          wastewater infrastructure, and it's created an  
22          environmental crisis that, you know, we have yet to  
23          address. Fortunately, we have a regulatory agency in  
24          the Public Service Commission that's in a position to  
25          ensure that politics doesn't get in the way of good

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2 public policy that we consider the issue before us  
3 and continue to make sound infrastructure investments  
4 to necessary utilities.

5 We can't afford to underfund our  
6 utility infrastructure and not only results in  
7 neighbors losing their jobs, you know, whether it's  
8 our brothers and sisters who operate and maintain the  
9 system but would also impact those in the  
10 construction trades that execute capital improvement  
11 projects that guarantee and ensure that our system  
12 continues to operate and operate safely.

13 So again, please consider our comments  
14 and -- and the impact that this decision has on the  
15 future of our region and how it can really help New  
16 York State achieve its goals outlined in the Climate  
17 Community Leadership and Protection Act. Thank you.

18 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. So our  
19 next speaker will be Sara Reed to be followed by  
20 Helene Unserud, and I apologize if I mispronounce  
21 anyone's name, I do my best. But we -- Sara Reed  
22 will be next and followed by Helene Unserud. Can we  
23 please unmute Sara Reed? She's participating  
24 electronically. Okay. It looks like your line has  
25 been unmuted.

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2 MS. REED: Hi. Thank you. Can you --  
3 you can hear me now?

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes, I can. Thank  
5 you.

6 MS. REED: Okay, great. My name is  
7 Sara Orleans Reed. I'm a resident of Brooklyn and  
8 I'm a rate payer. I'm one of the countless New  
9 Yorkers who's ready to stop padding National Grid's  
10 profit by ensuring the expansion and longevity of  
11 their fossil fuel infrastructure. I -- I want to  
12 thank the PSC for holding this hearing. I do know  
13 that the PSC did not give a very long notice period  
14 in advance of this hearing. The public process only  
15 works if adequate outreach -- reach, and information  
16 is presented to us, and we have time to do our  
17 research and build our understanding of the issue.  
18 It's also important for democratic processes and for  
19 the legitimacy of this body that it's not seen as  
20 favoring one entity over the public in rate cases and  
21 other decisions and late notice can give this -- this  
22 impression.

23 Finally, I feel that the millions of  
24 New Yorkers who care deeply about the climate crisis,  
25 who are scared of the future and are already fed up

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2 with breathing hot, toxic air this summer, deserve to  
3 be heard in rate cases. Like many New Yorkers, I  
4 have family and friends who live in parts of the  
5 world where the heat has been unfathomable this  
6 summer. They've described it as like living in a  
7 sauna. I'm tired of wondering whether this is the  
8 day that my parents-in-law who're both in -- in poor  
9 health will lose electricity and no longer power  
10 their AC or whether my friend's mom will recover from  
11 heat stroke. And like all of you, I'm fed up with  
12 checking the AQI to -- to weigh whether or not it'll  
13 be safe to go outside today. This is our reality  
14 now. The climate crisis is not getting better, but  
15 we don't have to keep spending our own money to make  
16 it worse. National Grid is asking to spend four  
17 billion dollars on fossil fuel infrastructure.

18 I'm asking you to reject the rate hike  
19 proposed by National Grid, which would also cost rate  
20 payers about \$30 more per month by March 2024 at a  
21 time when gas prices are already at an all-time high.  
22 By 2019, nearly 20 percent of families in New York  
23 were already energy burdened, according to the  
24 Mayor's Office of Sustainability. The fund for the  
25 city of New York found that in 2023, 50 percent of

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2 working age New Yorkers do not earn enough to keep an  
3 apartment, access sufficient food and healthcare and  
4 pay for transportation. This is up from thirty-six  
5 percent in 2021, we're in a crisis. At a time like  
6 this, it would be a strange public policy decision by  
7 the PSC and governor to prioritize the revenue of the  
8 private UK based company, which already reports 300  
9 million in profit over New Yorkers by allowing  
10 National Grid to raise its rates.

11 It's an even more flawed policy  
12 decision when you consider that the infrastructure  
13 they are expanding and increasing the longevity of is  
14 what's causing the unfathomable -- unfathomable heat  
15 waves and toxic air pollution locally. It's so  
16 flawed that it should be against the law, and it is.  
17 The Department of Environment has rejected on several  
18 occasions proposals to extend gas infrastructure on  
19 the grounds that doing so would be in violation of  
20 the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.  
21 Because the D -- DEP honored our climate law, the  
22 proposed site of the Astoria NRG Fracked Gas Plan is  
23 now slated to become a site for storage and  
24 distribution of clean offshore wind. The PSC has  
25 also been an important critic of National Grid's

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2 Request for Public do -- dollars most recently voting  
3 to reject National Grid's request for 70 million in  
4 public money to construct LNG vaporizers in North  
5 Brooklyn after finding that the proposed vaporizers  
6 were not needed. National Grid has a history of  
7 misrepresenting the need for their proposed projects  
8 with regard to energy needs. So I do ask the Public  
9 Service Commission to review their reque -- request  
10 with due scrutiny. Thank you very much for hearing  
11 my comments.

12                   A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Our next  
13 speaker will be Helene or Helene Unserud, followed by  
14 Samuel Chu. So please unmute Helene Unserud. Okay.  
15 It looks like you have been unmuted.

16                   MS. USERUD: Thank you. Good  
17 afternoon. My name is Helene Unserud. I'm a member  
18 of the new North Brooklyn Pipeline Alliance, and I'm  
19 a resident of Brooklyn. The last IPCC report was  
20 sobering and alarming. We are barely on course to  
21 meet the target agreed upon in the Paris Accord. So  
22 I am concerned that governments in general are often  
23 operating as if business was as usual when we need to  
24 move as if we are on the edge of a climate disaster,  
25 which we are. Fortunately as New Yorkers, we passed





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2           fracked gas pipelines through National Grid's Leak  
3           Prone Pipes program, and I vote no on extending the  
4           life of the Greenpoint Energy Center when we should  
5           be retiring this facility, building thermal energy  
6           networks and expanding energy efficiency. I  
7           respectfully ask the Public Service Commission to  
8           deny National Grid its request for any rate increase.  
9           Thank you very much for your attention to my  
10          testimony.

11                       A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Our next  
12          speaker will be Samuel Chu, followed by Cliff  
13          Fonstein.

14                       MR. CHU: Hello.

15                       A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes, we can hear  
16          you. You may make your statement.

17                       MR. CHU: Well, I thank you to the  
18          commission for the opportunity to make comments on  
19          this matter. My name is Sammy Chu (phonetic  
20          spelling), Long Island, basically.

21                       A.L.J. COSTELLO: Mr. Chu, you seem to  
22          be breaking up a bit.

23                       MR. CHU: Hold on one second. Can you  
24          hear me? Can you hear me?

25                       A.L.J. COSTELLO: I can hear you.

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2 Let's see how -- how it goes when you -- when you  
3 start again.

4 MR. CHU: My name is Sammy Chu. I am  
5 CEO of Edgewise Energy, a Long Island based clean  
6 energy development company. I have been involved  
7 with the clean energy and sustainable --  
8 sustainability movement and I have a benefit of that  
9 20 years of perspective ... as an entrepreneur ...

10 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Again, Mr. Chu, I'm  
11 sorry. I'm sorry to interrupt you, but again, you  
12 are breaking up. I don't know if you can do  
13 something to make the connection --

14 MR. CHU: I'm going to change my --  
15 I'm going to change my ... Better now?

16 A.L.J. COSTELLO: You have to -- you  
17 have to talk so we can hear you. But as you're  
18 talking, sometimes it breaks up, but so you can  
19 continue.

20 MR. CHU: Okay. National Grid has  
21 been a regional leader in advancing clean energy  
22 generation, transmission and infrastructure. As a  
23 developer and policy advocate, they can attest to the  
24 importance that National Grid will play in our  
25 transition away from fossil fuels. But this

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2 transition will not happen overnight, and it is not  
3 simple. The investments that National Grid is making  
4 in renewables, you know, particularly making  
5 renewable natural gas and hydrogen infrastructure as  
6 well as their enormous investments in wind will be  
7 there to ensure the success of this transition. I  
8 worked along National Grid historically when New York  
9 had set policy goals to -- for energy efficiency as a  
10 -- as an administrator for the first property says  
11 Clean Energy program in the country at the town of  
12 Babylon.

13                           And when I was chief of staff for  
14 Suffolk County, I worked alongside National Grid as  
15 we all recovered from the aftermath of Sandy.  
16 National Grid has been there, and I am having every  
17 bit of confidence that they'll be there for this  
18 transition. I support this proposal for the -- for  
19 the, for I support National Grid's proposal for these  
20 rate cases. Thank you.

21                           A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Our next  
22 speaker will be Cliff Fonstein followed by Judith  
23 Canepa.

24                           MR. FONSTEIN: Cliff Fonstein. I'm a  
25 member of RAC-New York, a faith-based organization

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2 engaged in social justice advocacy. We are the  
3 social justice arm of Reform Judaism in New York  
4 State with 99 synagogues and 150,000 congregants.

5 A.L.J. COSTELLO: And could I just ask  
6 you, I'm sorry. Just so we have it for the record,  
7 could you spell the name of the organization?

8 MR. FONSTEIN: Yes, it's RAC the  
9 Religious Action Center hyphen New York.

10 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay, thank you.

11 MR. FONSTEIN: But -- but I am here  
12 however, as a -- as a private citizen and a concerned  
13 rate payer. During the past two years, my colleagues  
14 and I have worked hard to advocate for climate  
15 legislation, calling, writing, and meeting with  
16 legislators all across the state. We fought hard for  
17 this legislation because our tradition teaches us  
18 that we have to -- we have a responsibility to look  
19 after the earth and to preserve it for future  
20 generations. In a nutshell, we care deeply about the  
21 important work you do and are doing with respect to  
22 this rate case. I want to make three very brief  
23 points. One, as a utility monopoly National Grid is  
24 supposed to provide New Yorkers with energy that's in  
25 compliance with state law and policy. However, what

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2 National Grid is proposing is contrary to state  
3 policy and law. I refer you to the 2019 Climate Act  
4 in the just finalized scoping plan.

5 A good example of how National Grid's  
6 proposals thwart New York State's Law and Policy is  
7 the close to one half billion dollars that's to go to  
8 extending the life of the Greenpoint Energy Center.  
9 It's a decrepit and aging facility that we should be  
10 retiring and, in its place, building a thermal energy  
11 network and expanding energy efficiency. National  
12 Grid should not be, quote, unquote, fixing old  
13 eroding and costly infrastructure that will last a  
14 number of years at the precise same time we are  
15 required to be moving to other sources of energy  
16 other than fracked gas. Point two, rate payers should  
17 not have to pay for National Grid's misleading  
18 lobbying campaigns and the campaign donations it's  
19 doled out to benefit its own private interests, but  
20 not those of its rate payers. For example, National  
21 Grid send partisan and inappropriate emails to its  
22 customers opposing climate legislation in a sense, in  
23 essence, using its rate payers as a captive audience.

24 Why should rate payers have to pay for  
25 National Grid's misleading campaign to defeat

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2           necessary climate legislation? It is no answer that  
3           the rate payer money is segregated from campaign  
4           money. Even if that were true, all National Grid  
5           money is fungible. Point three, I urge you to be  
6           careful in investigating what National Grid says.  
7           There's already a perception that these rate  
8           decisions are pro forma and that the decision making  
9           is done in a back room and is hidden. The timing of  
10          this hearing is a perfect example. There was only  
11          one week between the announcement of the public  
12          hearing and the hearing dates, making it seem as if  
13          someone wanted to rush through and hide the decision  
14          making. I urge you to be careful and act with  
15          appropriate circumspection when investigating  
16          National Grid's claims. Do not, for example, take at  
17          face value any arguments that National Grid's  
18          proposals are necessary for safety and reliability.  
19          Be appropriately suspicious. Thank you for your  
20          time, and please be careful.

21                           A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Our next  
22          speaker will be Judith Canepa, followed by Mary  
23          Finneran. And if you are calling in, please hit star  
24          three so we can identify you. Okay. We have a call-  
25          in user. It looks like you have been unmuted.

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2 MS. CANEPA: I did unmute it. Have  
3 you -- can you hear me?

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes, we can.

5 MS. CANEPA: Great. Okay. My name is  
6 Judith Canepa and I'm a Rockaway Outreach Coordinator  
7 for Sane Energy Project. I -- I live in Manhattan,  
8 but I work in Brooklyn, Staten Island, Queens. I'm  
9 an advocate for the disabled and I've seen the misery  
10 that these heat waves have been causing the clients I  
11 work with. I do thank you for this opportunity to  
12 testify today. And I want to applaud the Public  
13 Service Commission for Heating your own contracted  
14 independent consultant during National Grid's bid  
15 recently to construct completely unnecessary  
16 vaporizers at their giant facility by the perch, by  
17 the Superfund site, Newtown Creek in a disadvantaged  
18 community sitting on top of the largest underground  
19 oil spill in the country. In fact, almost all of  
20 these pro -- proposed quote enhancement and the  
21 safety projects of National Grid affect those New  
22 Yorkers among us who are already dealing with the  
23 most terrible environmental justice burdens and  
24 calling miles and miles of pipes leak prone instead  
25 of just the ones that are truly leak prone, instead



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2 of replacing them with real jobs to create geothermal  
3 and thermal energy networks.

4 Four billion dollars no, three billion  
5 dollars no, two no, no, no money for this -- this  
6 terrible climate killing plan. It's so clear to most  
7 of us, almost everybody, that the grave instability  
8 of our climate is roaring forward at an accelerated  
9 speed. Everything that was familiar is being shaken  
10 and pulled out from under us. We've all choked  
11 through the orange skies, the fires across the border  
12 that sent toxic smoke all over the Northeast, not  
13 just our city, which suffered the worst -- worst of  
14 it. We saw the devastation a climate powered  
15 superstorm can cause over and over again, Sandy,  
16 Irene, Ida. Last month, rainfalls as bad as along  
17 the Hudson as records shattering monsoons in India  
18 and biblical floods in Pakistan.

19 These things will not be seen as freak  
20 events by our children and their children. They will  
21 laugh bitterly that their forbearers called these  
22 things one-hundred-year storms. It's really hard to  
23 face this. We have to, as the ex-vice President, Al  
24 Gore, said, as Bill McKibben from 350 warns us, as my  
25 colleagues at Sane Energy work so hard, as the body



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2 can you unmute Mimi Bluestone, please?

3 MS. BLUESTONE: Hello?

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Hello.

5 MS. BLUESTONE: Oh, you can hear me?  
6 Great. Thank you. Hi, my name is Mimi Bluestone. I  
7 live in Brooklyn, and I thank you for this  
8 opportunity to express my total opposition to  
9 National Grid's demand to raise utility rates.  
10 Allowing this to happen would unfairly burden rate  
11 payers, would help finance the further expansion of  
12 natural gas use at a time when we can't afford to do  
13 that and would extend our -- in our dependence on  
14 fossil fuels. Given the extreme heat, flooding, and  
15 smoke we've all experienced this summer, it's  
16 impossible to ignore our need to move away from  
17 fossil fuels as quickly as possible. Raising rates  
18 by seventeen percent as National Grid seeks to do,  
19 would be a severe hardship for many New Yorkers  
20 already stretched thin by the staggering cost of  
21 housing in our area.

22 A company that reaped 301,000,000 in  
23 profits in the New York jurisdiction and 190 plus  
24 million in the Long Island jurisdiction last year  
25 hardly needs a rate hike to do its job, which

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 includes maintaining its infrastructure. But let's  
3 take a step back further. Extending New York's  
4 natural gas infrastructure is not a valid goal in  
5 light of our climate crisis, and in light of the fact  
6 that we are moving toward reduced -- reduced  
7 dependence on gas as we meet the goals of the commu -  
8 - the Climate Leadership and Community Protection  
9 Act, the CLCPA. We need to retire this  
10 infrastructure as quickly as possible.

11                         July and June of this year were the  
12 hottest months worldwide ever. We are facing not  
13 global warming, but global burning. The only way to  
14 slow this process is to stop burning fossil fuels,  
15 whose emissions are bringing us this disaster.  
16 Instead of contributing to this ongoing catastrophe,  
17 National Grid could be part of the solution if  
18 instead of extending the life of fossil fuel  
19 infrastructure, it decided to use its great resources  
20 to face the inevitable and offer alternatives to  
21 fossil fuels. For example, National Grid has  
22 expertise in drilling and building pipes. That could  
23 be part of building heat pump systems, including  
24 geothermal pumps. National Grid insults our  
25 intelligence by claiming that raising rates to

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 maintain gas infrastructure is required to help New  
3 York meet the requirements of the state's Climate  
4 Leadership and Community Protection Act.

5                       If anything, National Grid's stated  
6 reasons for this requested rate high count, the  
7 intent of the law, which is to speed the transition  
8 away from dependence on fossil fuels. Almost 70  
9 percent of New York City's greenhouse gas emissions  
10 come from buildings, mostly because the building  
11 stocks depend on fossil fuels for heating, cooling,  
12 cooking, energy. The city has passed legislation to  
13 reduce these emissions from buildings, which will  
14 require phasing out the use of gas as fully as  
15 possible. So why raise rates to extend dependence on  
16 gas when the city is requiring us to move in the  
17 other direction. Beyond the climate factor there are  
18 other crucial public health reasons to transition  
19 away from fossil fuels. Burning gas causes air  
20 pollution that causes illness and death, especially  
21 in otherwise disadvantaged communities.

22                       I taught for years in a public  
23 Brooklyn High School, and I saw the impact of severe  
24 respiratory illness on many of my students whose  
25 attendance and academic success were undermined by

1 8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 these illnesses. The climate crisis affected our  
3 school community deeply in 2012 when Superstorm Sandy  
4 displaced many students and staff, and one of our  
5 beloved alumna died tragically in the storm. I want  
6 the students I taught and all of our children to have  
7 the best possible chance to lead healthy and  
8 satisfying lives. This -- this is looking less and  
9 less possible as the climate catastrophe gallops on.  
10 So it means doing everything we can as fast as we can  
11 to confront the climate crisis. The time for  
12 alliance on natural gas and other fossil fuels is  
13 over. Energy efficiency, renewable energy, improved  
14 battery storage, this is what a livable future  
15 demands. Granting National Grid its requested rate  
16 hike would hurt our wallets near term and damage our  
17 lives going forward forever. I urge you to deny this  
18 request and I thank you for this opportunity.

19 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Our next  
20 speaker will be Dina Rabiner, followed by Randy  
21 Peers. So I see Dina Rabiner is participating  
22 electronically. It looks like your line has been  
23 unmuted.

24 MS. RABINER: Yes. So I'll be  
25 speaking -- Randy Peers. It's -- I'll be speaking.

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2 Randy Peers will not be speaking since we're from the  
3 same organization.

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay, so just let me  
5 just Delia Kulukundas, and I apologize if I  
6 mispronounced that, will be the next speaker then.  
7 Okay. I'm sorry to interrupt you. Go ahead.

8 MS. RABINER: Good afternoon. My name  
9 is Dina Rabiner and I am the VP of Economic  
10 Development and Strategic Partnerships at the  
11 Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. The Brooklyn Chamber  
12 of Commerce is a borough wide membership and economic  
13 development organization dedicated to helping  
14 businesses through our four channels, promotion,  
15 support, advocacy, convening, and the Brooklyn  
16 Chamber and its affiliate Organizations of Brooklyn  
17 Alliance and Brooklyn Alliance Capital provide direct  
18 business services, technical assistance and -- and  
19 support programs to help Brooklyn businesses grow.  
20 The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce is here to support  
21 National Grid's commitment to building an affordable,  
22 reliable, clean energy system that meet New York's  
23 climate change goals.

24 National Grid is a critical partner to  
25 the Brooklyn business community. Access to reliable

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2           and affordable energy is essential for robust,  
3           dynamic, and vibrant economy, and it could not be  
4           more critical to the economic health of New York  
5           City. National Grid's deep understanding of the  
6           commitment to the communities they serve enables them  
7           to provide the tailored support businesses need to  
8           thrive, particularly small businesses in our  
9           disadvantaged communities. Across the Brooklyn  
10          business sector National Grid actively supports  
11          business owners through initiatives such as economic  
12          development grants, workforce development programs.  
13          And they administer weatherization and energy  
14          efficiency programs that allow businesses to lower  
15          their emissions and decrease their demand for energy.  
16          All these initiatives are helping to meet New York  
17          state's very ambitious climate goals. National  
18          Grid's employees also consistently collaborate with  
19          our local businesses to tailor their services to  
20          businesses' unique needs.

21                         This support empowers local business  
22          leaders to focus on expanding their ventures,  
23          creating jobs, and contributing to the community's  
24          economy. Access to these re -- resources plays a  
25          crucial role in fostering sustainable business growth



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2           and expansion and enabling owners to have confidence  
3           in these vital services. National Grid's community  
4           investments extend far beyond providing their  
5           customers with gas and electric. From promoting  
6           energy conservation to implementing eco-friendly  
7           initiatives and supporting local organizations.  
8           National Grid continues to make needed investments to  
9           advance social equity and -- and social justice  
10          initiatives across the borough. Over the last year,  
11          National Grid has supported the Brooklyn Chamber of  
12          Commerce -- Commerce's efforts to promote clean  
13          energy and sustainability through its support of our  
14          Energy Summit as well as being an active member of  
15          our Minority Women Business Enterprise Committee  
16          dedicated to promoting MWBE opportunities across New  
17          York City.

18                         New York has -- as you know, New York  
19          has the most ambitious climate goals in the country,  
20          and they will not be met without our support and the  
21          expertise of National Grid. In closing, we support  
22          the proposed national grid rate increase as they seek  
23          the resources they need to continue providing these  
24          critical services while building the clean energy  
25          infrastructure necessary to meet New York's climate

1 8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 goals. Thank you.

3 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Our next  
4 speaker will be Deliah Lidelia Kulukundas, followed  
5 by Jimmy Jack. So please unmute. It looks like we  
6 have a person first name Deliah -- or Delia who is  
7 participating electronically. Okay. Your phone has  
8 been, or your line has been unmuted.

9 MS. KULUKUNDAS: Can you hear me?

10 A.L.J. COSTELLO: We can hear you,  
11 yes.

12 MS. KULUKUNDAS: Great. My name is  
13 Delia Kulukundas and I'm a volunteer with the  
14 Grassroots Climate Group 350 Brooklyn. I'm here to  
15 urge the Public Service Commission to fully reject  
16 National Grid's proposal to raise gas delivery rates.  
17 National Grid wants to replace leak prone pipe, which  
18 means any pipe that carries gas, but they're not  
19 doing this in order to comply with the CLCPA, our  
20 climate law, though they are trying to blame the rate  
21 increase on the climate law. They're doing it  
22 because right now they are a gas utility and that  
23 means that gas is their product and that gas that  
24 leaks is gas that they cannot sell. If they want to  
25 replace those pipes and continue to sell gas, they

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           can do it with their sizable profits, but they do not  
3           need to raise customer rates to -- to do it.

4           Instead, climate -- National Grid wants to raise  
5           rates to avoid complying with the climate plan, which  
6           requires a substantial reduction of natural gas use  
7           and the strategic downsizing of the gas system.

8                         National Grid actively lobbies to  
9           undermine our climate law by using customer funds to  
10          finance lobbying and the spread of dis --  
11          disinformation, including membership in front groups  
12          like New Yorkers for Affordable Energy. National  
13          Grid right now has a chance to stay in business by  
14          becoming a non-gas utility, but at the moment,  
15          they're blowing that chance. The Utility Thermal  
16          Energy Network and Jobs Act of 2022 open the door to  
17          utilities to become providers of thermal services  
18          through neighborhood scale heat pump networks. But  
19          currently National Grid is doing a careless and  
20          incomplete job with their legally mandated pilot  
21          project in Brooklyn, in what appears to be a  
22          deliberate effort to sabotage the idea of thermal  
23          energy networks. By contrast, the utility called  
24          Eversource in Massachusetts is doing an excellent job  
25          with their first thermal energy network pilot, and

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 they should be a source of inspiration to National  
3 Grid.

4                         In the meantime, it's up to the PSC to  
5 hold National Grid accountable. Please reject this  
6 rate hike and require that National Grid actually  
7 comply with the CLCPA by transitioning into a thermal  
8 utility and direct National Grid to develop a plan to  
9 decommission its gas system. The PSC must also  
10 require National Grid to comply with earlier  
11 proceedings that required the cessation of gas  
12 marketing and penalize National Grid for its improper  
13 use of customer funds for lobbying and misinformation  
14 and return those funds to low-income rate payers.  
15 Thank you for this opportunity to give comment.

16                         A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Our next  
17 speaker will be Jimmy Jack followed by Kyle Strober.

18                         MR. JACK: Hi there

19                         A.L.J. COSTELLO: Looks like -- hi.

20                         MR. JACK: Okay, I'm Jimmy Jack. I'm  
21 the CEO of Habitat for Humanity of all of Long  
22 Island. And thank you National Grid for your support  
23 and -- over the years. I just want to share how  
24 we're so grateful for all National Grid has done and  
25 helped and supported our mission of building homes of

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           hope, making dreams come true. National Grid is an  
3           incredible part and are supporting our community  
4           through projects like the tree donations through our  
5           building of new homes. There -- you have been on our  
6           board over the years, key leaders from National Grid  
7           has been, have been on our board over the years.  
8           Three times a year National Grid teams come out on  
9           our teams build to help us build houses. And  
10          National Grid's team doesn't just work in our  
11          community, they are our neighbors. Their kids go to  
12          school with our kids.

13                         They shop at our small businesses and  
14          most important, they give back and work hard to  
15          improve the community for everyone. Beyond National  
16          Grid's impact in our business sector, they have been  
17          a longtime supporter of non-for-profits in Nassau and  
18          Suffolk County. Through donations, sponsorships, and  
19          volunteer efforts, they have demonstrated a genuine  
20          commitment to making this a better place for  
21          everyone. National Grid's Generosity has helped  
22          local organizations and small businesses thrive, and  
23          we are thrilled to have them in our community. I'm  
24          genuinely impressed with National Grid's dedication  
25          to sustainability and keeping energy affordable for

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 individual customers. It is not just a talking  
3 point. They are tireless in their efforts to work  
4 with every household they support.

5                       During the pandemic they put extra  
6 programs in place to support customers who are unable  
7 to pay their bills and have in fact increased these  
8 programs in the past years. Me personally, my wife  
9 and I were one of them, so I thank you for that. The  
10 programs to help families of businesses save energy  
11 have saved money from many of my neighbors and made  
12 our community more environmentally friendly. Their  
13 hands-on support and customized energy efficiency  
14 solutions have enabled us to do our part to address  
15 global warming. National Grid's presence in our  
16 community, support of local families and  
17 contributions to nonprofits demonstrates their  
18 commitment to being a consistent and positive  
19 corporate citizen in Suffolk and Nassau Counties. I  
20 believe I speak for everyone when I say we appreciate  
21 the contributions they have made and look forward to  
22 working with them to continue to build a stronger,  
23 more sustainable community. All -- all in said, we  
24 trust National Grid in the decision, the vision they  
25 have to make our community better. God bless you and

1 8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 thank you again National Grid for your support of  
3 Habitat for Humanity of Long Island.

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Our next  
5 speaker will be Kyle Strober followed by Fred  
6 Harrison. I believe your line has been unmuted.

7 MR. STROBER: Can you hear me now?

8 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes.

9 MR. STROBER: All right. Well, first  
10 off, I want to thank you. My name is Kyle Strober.  
11 I'm the Association for Better Long Island Executive  
12 Director, and more importantly, I'm a rate payer. I  
13 live in Merrick in the town of Hempstead. And first  
14 I -- I -- I want to commend this commission. You  
15 know, hearing a rate case is a very important process  
16 and you have to be mindful of the rate payers while  
17 it's -- while reviewing this case. With that being  
18 said, you know, where I sit at ABLI, the cost of  
19 doing business has gone up in the economic  
20 development construction world, and it's not  
21 surprising to see the cost for National Grid have  
22 gone up to do business as well. And having a  
23 reliable natural gas here in the region is critical  
24 to our economic development. You know, there are  
25 thousands of projects that my members have done with

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2 National Grid.

3 They have been a tremendous partner,  
4 and without them, a lot of projects would not come to  
5 fruition. And we thank them from that and it's  
6 important to recognize that they are a good corporate  
7 citizen here on Long Island. I -- I want to second  
8 Jimmy Jack's comments before me. I think he said it  
9 really well about their participation within the  
10 community. And -- and that's all. I just -- I think  
11 it's important to recognize them as a good corporate  
12 citizen here in the region and a vital component of  
13 our economic development. Thank you.

14 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Our next  
15 speaker will be Fred Harrison to be followed by Eric  
16 Alexander. Mr. Harrison, if you are participating by  
17 telephone, please hit star three so that we can  
18 identify you and unmute your line. I am not seeing  
19 anyone, so we will go on to Eric Alexander and we  
20 will follow up with Justin Rogers.

21 MR. ALEXANDER: Hi guys. Can you hear  
22 me?

23 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes, we can hear  
24 you.

25 MR. ALEXANDER: Sure. Hey. Okay.



1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           Thank. Eric Alexander. I'm the Director of Vision  
3           Long Island. We're a downtown planning organization  
4           for the last 25 years, and also the founder of Long  
5           Island Main Street Alliance and represents 45  
6           downtowns that we work with. And I want to thank PSC  
7           for holding this hearing, getting the public input  
8           that's needed. And it's interesting hearing the  
9           comments from our friends in the city and friends on  
10          Long Island here. Of course, maybe some different  
11          feedback, but let, let's just try to get to it.  
12          Organization, we've been supportive of renewable  
13          energy. We've been supportive of conversions from  
14          oil to natural gas that -- that actually has reduced  
15          greenhouse gas emissions.

16                         For 13 years we've been lobbying in  
17          New York state and Federal level, to get more  
18          subsidies for wind, solar, other renewables. We  
19          support energy efficiency programs and we support the  
20          -- the New York State climate goals. So I just want  
21          to state that out right. But clearly we don't --  
22          we're not experts on rates as an organization. We  
23          know nothing about what their exact right rate is.  
24          It's complicated, but there's inflation in  
25          everything. And that's what our people tell us that,

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2           you know, that's a challenge out there for folks.  
3           But as far as their natural gas bill, either for  
4           heating or -- or -- or for -- for -- for stoves or  
5           whatever, that's the lowest of their bills, even with  
6           the rate increase. Electric heat pumps are more, oil  
7           costs more you know, geothermal is -- is incredibly  
8           expensive to get in, and only really wealthy people  
9           can get to that right now.

10                         Biogas isn't -- isn't there yet. So  
11           in this era where we need transition, we need natural  
12           gas on the island. So you know, I mean, just gas  
13           prices just to move your car around the island is --  
14           is up 25 percent. So it's not a shock that there'd  
15           be, you know, need to increase rates. That's, you  
16           know, certainly our understanding. National Grid is  
17           a community partner, we've seen them everywhere,  
18           honestly, whether it be energy conferences, small  
19           business support door-to-door, infrastructure  
20           investment, you know, even getting their volunteers  
21           and their staff out for community gardens, for  
22           women's empowerment, workforce training, human  
23           services, housing support. We're going to be doing  
24           something with the Pink Tide Foundation delivering  
25           food. You know, I've done this multiple years now,

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           and we see them, you know, I'm out in 45 downtowns  
3           that have revitalization plans for housing and  
4           helping small businesses and transit-oriented  
5           developmental stuff we try to do.

6                        I see that National Grid -- National  
7           Grid staff out and they're not just like interns,  
8           right? These are real people follow through who  
9           support local communities. So I -- I have to say  
10          compared to other corporations on Long Island, we're  
11          always supporting corporate philanthropy and  
12          presence. These guys go over and above what they  
13          need to do. And, you know, we are -- we're -- we're  
14          thrilled that they do this. You know, it's a handful  
15          on Long Island, do a great job and do a lot.  
16          National Grid's right there. Some do their fair  
17          share and a lot of corporations are AWOL, completely  
18          AWOL. We saw these guys come through with Sandy. We  
19          see them regularly. They're supportive of ...  
20          initiative very diverse staff. And -- and -- you  
21          know, so I give them A-plus on community service. I  
22          really can't speak to rates, but I'm not -- not  
23          shocked that this, that -- that -- that rates go up.

24                        Everything's going up. Inflation is  
25          brutal for everyone. I'm sure our New York City

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2 friends as well as folks across Long Island. And  
3 that's a broader trend that's not just something tied  
4 to this utility. So, you know, I -- I -- I'd say in  
5 the end, you know, this company is doing what, you  
6 know, and look, I really respect PSC going through  
7 that process, you know, dotter every I, cross every  
8 T, look into everything. But you know, it -- it --  
9 it certainly makes sense that rates are going to  
10 increase and we certainly need natural gas as a  
11 transition fuel. And we're really aware of their  
12 thoughtfulness in transitioning and we see them  
13 everywhere and we see them out in the community.  
14 They're a great community partner. So that's about  
15 it. Thank you.

16 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Thank you.  
17 Our next speaker will be Justin Rogers to be followed  
18 by Dunston Bradley. And it looks like we have Pat  
19 Robinson on behalf of Justin Rogers participating  
20 electronically. Okay. It looks like your line has  
21 been unmuted.

22 MS. ROBINSON: Assuming you can hear  
23 me. Yes?

24 A.L.J. COSTELLO: We can hear you.  
25 You're coming across very low.

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2 MS. ROBINSON: Oh, that's interesting.  
3 Okay. Is that any better?

4 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Yes.

5 MS. ROBINSON: Okay. Good afternoon.  
6 My name is Patricia Robinson, Chief Administrative  
7 Officer, standing in on behalf of Justin Rogers, the  
8 president and CEO of Greater Jamaica Development  
9 Corporation. Greater Jamaica is in its fifty-sixth  
10 year of service to downtown Jamaica and Southeast  
11 Queens community, and has worked with National Grid  
12 over many years on projects and programs which  
13 benefit our community. They are committed to  
14 partnering with organizations like ours, which seek  
15 to improve the quality for the life of the people  
16 that we serve. It's especially noteworthy to say  
17 that National Grid is the type of partner that  
18 actively pro -- proactively works with us and looks  
19 for opportunities to help achieve our goals.

20 For example, we just opened up a year  
21 ago, a twenty thousand square foot co-working space  
22 in downtown Jamaica. This unique facility allows it  
23 --allows emerging entrepreneurs, especially MWBEs, to  
24 conduct business in modern affordable office space  
25 with flexible lease terms and the art of technology.

1 8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 National Grid worked with us to fit this program into  
3 their clean tech incubation grant program, and we  
4 received critical funding from them to make sure that  
5 this project was a reality. National Grid also  
6 approached us two years ago about their Project C  
7 community grant program and how we might use that  
8 funding to allow our small businesses to have easier  
9 access to our free suite of technical assistance and  
10 lending. That funding not only enabled us to create  
11 that assistance and access, but also allowed us to  
12 completely redo our internal website, which holds as  
13 a major through line for our initiatives.

14 In addition, we led a collaboration of  
15 five community organizations, each of whom received  
16 significant funding to complete important projects.  
17 So there are many examples of National Grid's  
18 commitment to our community. Suffice to say their  
19 interest in our community is longstanding and  
20 backed up by actions. Thank you.

21 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Thank you. Our next  
22 speaker will be Dustan Bradley to be followed by  
23 Monique Fitzgerald. Mr. Bradley, if you are  
24 participating by telephone, please hit star three so  
25 that we can identify you and unmute your line. Okay.

1 8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 I am not seeing anyone. So we're going on to Monique  
3 Fitzgerald and to be followed by Lisa Tyson. Okay.  
4 Your line has been unmuted.

5 MS. FITZGERALD: Good afternoon.  
6 Again, my name is Monique Fitzgerald. Pronouns she  
7 and her. I'm the Climate Justice organizer at the  
8 Long Island Progressive Coalition. I am joined --.

9 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Can I just ask you  
10 to spell the organization just so we have it for the  
11 record. I'm sorry to interrupt you.

12 MS. FITZGERALD: No problem. Long  
13 Island Progressive. So Long Island, Progressive, P-  
14 R-O-G-R-E-S-S-I-V-E Coalition, C-O-A-L-I-T-I-O-N.

15 A.L.J. COSTELLO: Okay. Thank you.

16 MS. FITZGERALD: You are welcome. So,  
17 I am calling in from the Unseeded ancestral land of  
18 the Chu Nation, otherwise known and occupied by  
19 Patchogue. First I -- I want to express my  
20 frustration with this process. I did speak yesterday  
21 but I -- I do have a little bit more to say. But  
22 this process was poor -- poorly done. We were  
23 notified through -- at least I got this notification  
24 through the local newspaper Newsday on Long Island.  
25 And if I didn't have the money to pay for a Newsday

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           subscription, I would not have known about it. And  
3           this gives us -- or gives me and the public least  
4           less opportunity to know about what's going on. And  
5           then the fact that this public notice came out on  
6           July 25th also gives us a -- a low amount of time to  
7           organize our own thoughts and notify our neighbors,  
8           friends, families, and allies about this rate  
9           increase, which is detrimental to many of our lives,  
10          especially here on Long Island, where we're seeing a  
11          lot of people moving off of Long Island because they  
12          just simply cannot afford rent or groceries and not  
13          nevertheless an increase on their utility bills.

14                                This is also a strange time for  
15          National Grid to increase rates when statewide, we  
16          just got in the budget two hundred million dollars to  
17          relieve debt from utility costs. So on the one hand,  
18          our state is saying that we need to put money into  
19          relieving debt, and then we have National Grid and  
20          all of its corporate greed asking for more money to -  
21          - to line their pockets and not the -- the rate  
22          payers. And ultimately the rate payers are the ones  
23          who will have to pay this cost as well. I'm also  
24          frustrated because we, on Long Island -- we are on  
25          the front lines of this climate chaos, right? And



1 8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 National Grid is one of the bad actors in that  
3 climate chaos. National grid utilizes fracked gas.  
4 They have -- they power their power plants with this  
5 frack -- fracked gas. They have this -- the  
6 pipelines that are leaking, that they are asking for  
7 more money to fix, when in fact we are supposed to be  
8 moving away from this kind of climate chaos with the  
9 passage of the CLCPA in 2019 to reduce our emissions.

10 So we have a mandate to do that and  
11 not a mandate to continue to line the pockets of the  
12 National Grid Shareholders. We will never meet that  
13 mandate if we continue to use fracked gas from  
14 National Grid's -- the way that National Grid has  
15 been utilizing fracked gas to power plants and  
16 deliver energy to our -- our homes. So we are moving  
17 in the wrong direction if we continue down this path  
18 of supporting National Grid. We are also feeding  
19 into the health costs that having gas in our  
20 atmosphere the -- the leaky pipes that are  
21 contributing to things like asthma in communities  
22 such as Wyndance, Bellport and Brentwood, where we  
23 see high rates of asthma ER visits, the highest in  
24 Suffolk County in these areas that are designated as  
25 disadvantaged communities. The last thing we need is

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           to put more resources into National Grid.

3                         Also the way in which our pay -- our  
4           rate structure is set up. The people who make the  
5           least amount of money pay the most amount of their  
6           income to National Grid. And this is a structure  
7           that is not sustainable for our communities that are  
8           already suffering and oppressed by many other  
9           institutions in this country. Our homes are  
10          oftentimes deteriorating and rapid rates. We are  
11          unable to keep our homes energy efficient and we need  
12          to put resources and money into the people's homes  
13          and households who need it, instead of corporations  
14          who are unable and who have not shown that they have  
15          been able to help our communities keep our utilities  
16          and our energy efficient and also maintain them  
17          through hardships such as financial hardships. And  
18          when we are facing financial hardships, these  
19          corporations, such as National Grid, seek to turn off  
20          our utilities.

21                         And that's something that we need to  
22          move away from the structure where people who are  
23          unable to pay are seen as people who are unwilling to  
24          pay instead of seen as people who are oppressed and  
25          need to be supported in our, with our PSC and the --

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           the State agencies that are supposed to protect us.  
3           So again, we need to stop supporting National Grid  
4           and support the public. We need to reject this rate  
5           hike and protect our people. We also need to reject  
6           using fracked gas and move to follow the mandate of  
7           the CLCPA and move to other energy sources. We also  
8           must to -- must start to decommission power plants  
9           and leaky pipes instead of trying to put more money  
10          into them to either fix them or to create new ones.  
11          We need to make sure that our communities have a  
12          chance to breath clean air and not suffer from things  
13          such as asthma that I mentioned before.

14                        I also say the PSSC must reject --  
15          reject this regressive rate structure and develop a  
16          rate structure that achieves equity by getting rid of  
17          things that are unnecessary, such as shutoffs,  
18          unnecessary late -- late charges on your -- on your  
19          bill when you're already struggling to pay. And we  
20          need to see that in communities that are identified  
21          as disadvantaged and low- and moderate-income  
22          households. We need to end the -- the corporate  
23          greed of National Grid and the corporate welfare of  
24          National Grid and reject their idea of their need for  
25          assistance when they are not the ones in need. It's

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           the people who are struggling to pay the rates. So  
3           I'll leave it there. There's more, much more to say,  
4           but that is all for now. Thank you.

5                        A.L.J COSTELLO: Our next speaker will  
6           be Lisa Tyson to be followed by Hennessy Garcia.  
7           Okay. Please unmute Lisa Tyson. Okay. It looks  
8           like your line has been unmuted.

9                        MS. TYSON: Thank you. My name is  
10          Lisa Tyson, again, executive Director of the Long  
11          Island Progressive Coalition. And I'm just going to  
12          start off by saying maybe it would be helpful if you  
13          could tell the list of people who are going to be  
14          speaking so people know before, you know, sometime  
15          ahead of time. It would've been really helpful if I  
16          would've known where --where I was in the queue. I  
17          don't know if that's out there, but I do not have a  
18          copy of that. So Long Island Progressive Coalition,  
19          we worked with many organizations, statewide,  
20          environment -- environmental justice groups, farmers,  
21          groups in the city, Long Island on creating the  
22          CLCPA. And ever since the National Grid has been  
23          trying to -- to save themselves because ultimately  
24          fracked gas is on its way out, and that is their  
25          whole market, that is their job. That's what they

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

3                           And ever since we passed that bill,  
4 they have been strategizing how to stop this from  
5 happening. And so they have this whole plan, which  
6 is really a false solution. And, you know, really  
7 making sure that gas has a very long history. But  
8 what is the history on Long Island with National Grid  
9 not too long ago? So National Grid basically they  
10 had a moratorium. They said no more gas. We -- we  
11 have to build a pipeline, so we want to build a  
12 pipeline. They had plans, they had a lot of money in  
13 it. And so they decided to stop giving people gas  
14 hookups, just a moratorium. They had to pay \$36  
15 million in penalties. So I find it amazing people  
16 are saying they're a good partner. That wasn't a good  
17 partner. I go to the Roosevelt Field Mall. It's an  
18 empty mall because of National Grid because the food  
19 co -- food co -- court could never get up and going.

20                           So this idea that they are a good  
21 corporate partner on Long Island is incorrect. Now  
22 how are they a corporate partner? They are very good  
23 at doling out money to charities, and that's great  
24 and somewhat important, but is that something rate  
25 payers should actually pay for? Because they do a

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           lot of it. And when we hear who are testifying at  
3           these hearings, I think you should check to who got  
4           money from National Grid because we see them  
5           approaching groups, offering them money, and then  
6           having them tout their policies, their false  
7           solutions about fracked gas. It has to stop the  
8           lobbying against us, against they're using our -- our  
9           money to lobby against the community, to lobby false  
10          solutions that will ultimately kill people from  
11          asthma and from the -- from the external impacts of  
12          climate change that some communities feel more than  
13          others. And so environmental justice communities,  
14          disadvantaged communities, they are struggling right  
15          now.

16                         This idea that a rate hike of \$30 per  
17          month means nothing. It's like nothing, it's a small  
18          part of your bill, is totally incorrect. The amount  
19          of shutoffs, utility shutoffs, for electric and gas.  
20          Yeah, gas might be an easy one to pay because their  
21          PSE & G bill is four hundred dollars and we're  
22          paying, you know, for corporate partnership there as  
23          well. And so we are -- we have to remove the  
24          corporate greed out of these policies. I really hope  
25          the commission digs deep to lobbying. Look at all

1 8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 the money they're doling out to save themselves.  
3 They don't need that money. They don't need us as  
4 rate payers to continue to do that. So we are really  
5 calling you to be bold and to have a zero-rate  
6 increase.

7 They should be reducing our rates. We  
8 want them gone. Gas -- fracked gas is gone. And  
9 it's time for the PSE to recognize the impact of the  
10 CLCPA and to -- to finally move it forward. Thank  
11 you.

12 A.L.J COSTELLO: Thank you. Our next  
13 speaker is Hennessy Garcia. Please unmute the line  
14 for Hennessy Garcia.

15 MS. GARCIA: Hi, can everyone hear me?

16 A.L.J COSTELLO: Yes, we can hear you.

17 MS. GARCIA: Okay. So, hi, I'm  
18 Hennessy Garcia. I'm here on the behalf of sixth  
19 Street Community Center. I'm in coalitions such as  
20 New Yorker News, Public Power New York, and No North  
21 Brooklyn Pipeline Alliance. As a member of Gen-Z, I  
22 am quite tired of my generation asking nicely, so  
23 today I am not here to ask nicely. I'm here to give  
24 it to you straight. So first off, I notice how  
25 people who spoke in support of National Grid made no

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

2 mention at all of the numerous crises going on.

3 Also, to those people, they kept mentioning, oh yeah,

4 we get money from National Grid. Well, also, that

5 money actually comes from us, so, by the way, you're

6 welcome. I live in Queens and in multiple places in

7 Queens National Grid wants to spend over \$400 million

8 in extending the life of fracked gas structures.

9 I reject this -- this is my home and

10 my community. If anyone gave a damn about

11 communities of color and low-income communities, you

12 would know that this proposal by National Grid is not

13 one for the people. I would like to bring everyone

14 into the reality that 30 -- that a \$30 increase in

15 utility bills is too much. I know someone earlier

16 said that, oh, it's natural because it's inflation.

17 That is not the point. The point is, it's too much

18 for other people. We need to have consideration for

19 low-income folks, especially if they are of color.

20 The worth of \$30 is the difference of someone being

21 able to feed someone or get their groceries. With

22 school starting \$30 can be used to get someone's

23 school supplies. You want to increase New Yorkers

24 bills when we are in a housing crisis. You want to

25 increase New Yorkers bills during a climate crisis.



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2 None of this is fair. This state  
3 could not even properly address when the sky was  
4 orange and when we literally had the highest air  
5 quality in the world on June 6th and June 7th. I do  
6 ask the PSC to listen to the people and to please  
7 comply with the demands listed in the Climate  
8 Leadership and Community Protection Act. Thank you.

9 A.L.J COSTELLO: Thank you. I called  
10 a few people earlier who were not available. I'm  
11 just going to call them once more. Mary Finneren, if  
12 you are calling in, please hit star three so that we  
13 can identify you and unmute your line. Okay. And  
14 then we'll go on to Fred Harrison. Fred Harrison, if  
15 you have called in, please hit star three, not seeing  
16 anyone. Then we have Dunston Bradley, Dunston  
17 Bradley, if you have called in, please hit star three  
18 so we can identify you. Okay. I do not see anyone  
19 and we've come to now to the end of the list of  
20 people who have registered. So what I'm going to do  
21 now is open this up for people who did not register  
22 and who would like to make a statement. So if you  
23 are calling in, you would hit star three so that we  
24 can identify you. And if you are participating  
25 electronically, you would hit the raised hand

1 8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 function, which should be at the bottom of your  
3 screen.

4 MR. WHITE: Hey, Judge Joe -- Joe  
5 White here. I don't mean to interrupt.

6 A.L.J COSTELLO: That's okay.

7 MR. WHITE: We have a problem with  
8 connectivity. So I stepped in as host. I just want  
9 to let you know that when you were calling the names  
10 of the people that you -- that you were going back,  
11 circling back to Elkins --Willis Elkins' hand was  
12 went up. So I'm wondering if maybe they're using  
13 somebody else's line.

14 A.L.J COSTELLO: Yeah. So that's the  
15 first hand that's up right now. So that's --.

16 MR. WHITE: Yes, that's it. Okay.  
17 Thank you.

18 A.L.J COSTELLO: Okay. Your line has  
19 been unmuted.

20 MR. ELKINS: Great. Thank you. My  
21 name is Willis Elkins. I'm the executive director of  
22 the Newtown Creek Alliance for a community-based  
23 organization located in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. And  
24 I'd like to share a couple of comments about this  
25 proposed rate increase specifically to some of the

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           other testimonies that we've heard today and the idea  
3           of National Grid being a fantastic community partner.  
4           One, I would -- I would like to believe that the  
5           commission that the -- the process, the point of this  
6           process is not to do character references and  
7           evaluations specifically by organizations that have a  
8           direct financial relationship with this company  
9           that's seeking hundreds of millions of dollars in  
10          rate increases.

11                               However, if that is swaying the  
12          commission, I would like to provide my own  
13          experience, someone who's lived in the community for  
14          over 15 years and run a non-profit here for 10 years  
15          and sat on the community board for a number of years  
16          as well as to how National Grid's relationship in our  
17          community has transpired. So let's talk about the  
18          Greenpoint Energy Center, a 110-acre facility located  
19          almost directly in the middle of New York City, in  
20          East Williamsburg, Brooklyn. This facility located,  
21          by the way, just one block from Public Housing Cooper  
22          Park Houses is -- is a disaster. It's a complete  
23          mess. We talk -- other people are talking about, you  
24          know, how National Grid, their commitment to the  
25          community, their commitment to clean energy. Let's

1 8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 talk a little bit about the details of the -- of the  
3 Greenpoint Energy Center here, highly contaminated.

4 Previous operations of the National  
5 Grid facility have left significant amounts of  
6 contamination in both the local soils and waters.  
7 According to the State and DEC, the site is  
8 contaminated by the following chemicals of concern,  
9 light hydrocarbons such as benzene, toluene,  
10 ethylbenzene and xylene. Semi volatile organics  
11 notably; PAHs or Polycyclic aro -- Aromatic  
12 Hydrocarbons, PCBs in the groundwater, manufactured  
13 plant waste in the form of non-aqueous phase liquid  
14 or ... below the groundwater table. Prior to 2012,  
15 there were over 11 separate environmental  
16 investigations at the site relating to potential  
17 underground plumes, groundwater contamination, and  
18 subsurface and surface soil contamination from  
19 previous operations and demolitions of structures,  
20 which, by the way, National Grid has full liability  
21 and ownership of.

22 The company suspended use of a  
23 baseball field that was located on their site  
24 following a 2010 investigation of the area. And  
25 interim remedial measures were overseen by DEC in

1 8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 2005, 2006, 2007. As of 2023, National Grid is still  
3 removing contaminated soil from the site. And DEC is  
4 still reviewing after many, many years draft versions  
5 of remedial investigation for the site. So, you  
6 know, I just want to make the point clear that their  
7 actual investment in our community has been to  
8 maintain a highly, highly polluted contaminated site.  
9 Located again, what just one block from public  
10 housing and within a mile of hundreds of thousands of  
11 other residents. Additionally, next to this  
12 facility is the Newtown Creek. The company is one of  
13 the original potentially responsible parties, the EPA  
14 led Superfund investigation of Newtown Creek, wherein  
15 data collected shows that sediments off the shore of  
16 the facility.

17 The area known as the Turning Basin in  
18 Newtown Creek, are some of the most contaminated in  
19 the entire Superfund site, specifically for PAHs.  
20 Remnants of the coal tar that were processed in this  
21 facility still bubble up to the surface waters of the  
22 turning basin during low tide events, presenting  
23 immediate health risks to humans and wildlife alike.  
24 And it's unclear how contamination may be currently  
25 migrating from the upland facility into the waterway

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           to this day. In short, this facility is a major  
3           environmental burden for the community. There's no  
4           ... cleanup plan in place yet for the facility itself  
5           or the adjacent waterway that their previous  
6           operations have poisoned.

7                         We -- we oppose this rate increase  
8           until National Grid puts in place any plan that's  
9           going to thoroughly remediate and transition this  
10          110-acre facility into a true asset for the community  
11          and the environment. That's part one. Part two is  
12          about, we've heard a lot of other testimonies talk  
13          about National Grid's commitment to clean energy and  
14          even specifically renewable natural gas or RNG and  
15          its mission in this rate case RNG, the Newtown Creek  
16          Wastewater Treatment plant that's run by the city.  
17          So I work directly across the street from the  
18          wastewater treatment plant. And this project was  
19          supposed to be completed in January of 2016. Over  
20          seven and a half years ago, the city and National  
21          Grid had a ribbon cutting event just last month. And  
22          I hate to inform you, but as of this morning, the  
23          actual flares, they're not supposed to be running,  
24          are still flaring gas.

25                         So this project is not complete.

1           8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2           They've spent, you know, untold millions of dollars  
3           and -- and been increasing emissions in the local  
4           airs. And it's really important to understand this.  
5           It's not just about collecting the natural gas from  
6           the treatment plant; this whole project is about  
7           adding extra material. So because of National Grid's  
8           failure to successfully implement this project, and  
9           the fact that they're seven and a half years behind  
10          schedule has meant that there's increased emissions,  
11          methane being burned every single day because of  
12          their failure. So it's not even that they failed to  
13          capture the existing gas, they've actually  
14          contributed to more climate change impacts because of  
15          that failure. So I just want to share these as like  
16          two specific examples. I would say there's much more  
17          we could talk about

18                         The North Brooklyn pipeline I won't  
19          spend everyone's time on that because there's --  
20          hopefully you're very familiar with this, you know,  
21          pipeline that was basically installed underneath the  
22          noses of primarily black and brown communities in  
23          Brooklyn exposing them to natural gas, radioactive  
24          fracked material in their backyards. So I just want  
25          to present this as an alternative view to what we've

1 8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 heard so far about National Grid as a character  
3 reference and as an organization, we're strongly  
4 opposed to this rate case and hope that the  
5 commission will also do the same. Thank you.

6 A.L.J COSTELLO: Thank you. Please  
7 unmute call-in user eight. Okay. Your line has been  
8 unmuted. Please state and spell your name for the  
9 record and proceed to give your statement. Hello, we  
10 cannot hear you. No, we're going to have to move on  
11 then. Please unmute Jerome Bost.

12 MR. BOST: Yes, can you hear me?

13 A.L.J COSTELLO: Yes, we can.

14 MR. BOST: Hi. Good afternoon.

15 Public Service Commission. My name is Jerome Bost.  
16 I'm the Director of External Affairs for IBW 1049.  
17 We represent approximately 4,500 members and among  
18 them are individuals employed with National Grid.  
19 I'm reaching out to you today on behalf of our  
20 business manager Patrick Dese, who sends his apology  
21 for not being able to participate, who is the middle  
22 of PSED -- PSEG negotiations at the present. So I  
23 have a prepared statement from Business Manager  
24 Patrick Dese. On behalf of the 4,500 members of IBEW  
25 Local 1049, I'm proud to express our strong support





1 8/2/23 - National Grid, NY - 23-G-0225/23-G-0226  
2 network to eliminate methane emissions and prepare  
3 our systems to deploy innovative renewable energy  
4 solutions like thermal energy networks, renewable  
5 natural gas, and green hydrogen -- hydrogen. These  
6 initiatives must be funded properly to ensure their  
7 success. The future of energy transition relies upon  
8 National Grid is a crucial partner in this work.  
9 Their workforce development programs help our members  
10 develop the skills they need for new roles in their  
11 growing clean energy sector. And they are working  
12 with major project developers and local experts to  
13 develop a talent pipeline for individuals interested  
14 in careers in clean energy. During last year's  
15 legislative session, National Grid stood with labor  
16 in support of the Clean Slate pact fighting with us  
17 to ensure an old conviction did not stand in the way  
18 of someone building a productive career in the energy  
19 industry.

20 National Grid's bold leadership and  
21 practice and policy demonstrates their commitment to  
22 building a truly diverse clean workforce. Over many  
23 years of working with National Grid, I have been  
24 consistently impressed by their full duty. Often  
25 businesses make high profile diversity and inclusion

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2 commitments, but never do the work to meet their  
3 goals. Not National Grid, they truly value they  
4 values their programs, and we are seeing the positive  
5 results. As the voice of 4,500 energy industry  
6 workers across Long Island, Queens, I'm prophecy that  
7 National Grid is a valued corporate citizen that  
8 supports workers and communities across the state.  
9 We must ensure they have resources necessary to  
10 continue investing all Long Island's clean energy  
11 future and building the skills energy workforce we  
12 need to meet New York's climate change goals.  
13 Sincerely, Patrick Dese Business Manager, IBEW Local  
14 1049. Thank you so much for your time.

15 A.L.J COSTELLO: Thank you. Okay,  
16 we'll try call-in user eight again please. Okay.  
17 Please unmute call-in user eight. Okay. Looks like  
18 the line has been unmuted. Okay. If you have mute  
19 on your end, you would have to unmute that so that we  
20 can hear you. Right now we cannot hear you and if  
21 you're having technical difficulties I'm going to  
22 give you a number so you can call. You would not be  
23 able to -- it's not going to help you with this  
24 hearing, but we are also holding another hearing at  
25 6:00 p.m.

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2 MR. WHITE: I think they're unmuted  
3 Judge Costello.

4 A.L.J COSTELLO: Yeah, but I didn't  
5 hear them.

6 MR. WHITE: Oh -- oh, I'm sorry.

7 A.L.J COSTELLO: Do you hear them?  
8 Okay, so it's 1-800-342-3330. I'm sorry that we  
9 cannot take your statement at this time, but we  
10 cannot hear you. So we'll go on to Benjamin  
11 Kuebrick, please unmute Benjamin Kuebrick.

12 MR. KUEBRICK: Hi, this is Ben  
13 Kuebrick.

14 A.L.J COSTELLO: Hi. We can hear you.  
15 Yes, I can hear your statement.

16 MR. KUEBRICK: This is Ben Kubrick  
17 with Alliance Fair Green Economy and thanks so much  
18 for the opportunity to make this public comment. And  
19 with my comment, I just want to talk briefly about  
20 the charity washing of Monopoly Utility Corporations,  
21 which we're seeing here on this call. I didn't have  
22 time while on the call to look back for the last rate  
23 order for National Grid, but I know that a recent  
24 rate case, the NYSEG RGE rate case has one million  
25 dollars for rock, the river-way building -- which is

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2 building a public plaza. This is rate payer money  
3 going to something that doesn't have anything to do  
4 with reliability or safety and energy service. And I  
5 think that the call today is a good demonstration of  
6 what these companies get in return for this charity  
7 washing. And I think that the DPS staff and the  
8 commission need to look really hard at this.

9 Customers paying millions so that a  
10 corporation gets to be called a quote, good corporate  
11 citizen is absurd. And anything like this should be  
12 disallowed with rate payer money. And to be clear,  
13 I'm not in here to say anything critical of the  
14 various nonprofits work and I understand their need  
15 to get funding. What I'm taking issue with is the  
16 public relations tactic of using rate payer funds to  
17 bolster utility corporation's public image. We  
18 shouldn't be doing that. Customers should not be  
19 paying for that, and the commission should take note  
20 and disallow it. Thank you for taking my comment.

21 A.L.J COSTELLO: Thank you. Okay. It  
22 looks like we've come to the end of our speakers. So  
23 I would like to once again remind everyone on the  
24 line that you may submit public comments throughout  
25 these proceedings by various other means that I

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2           discussed earlier and that are also described in the  
3           notice of public statement hearings that was issued  
4           by the Secretary to the Commission on June 30th,  
5           2023. Also, I want to let you know that there will  
6           be another public statement hearing this evening at  
7           6:00 p.m. and we will be holding in-person public  
8           statement hearings in the future. The dates for  
9           those have not yet been set, but a notice will be  
10          issued when they are. And at this point, Judge Leary  
11          and I would like to thank the commenters for their  
12          participation. As always, we also thank Chair  
13          Christian for being present and participating. And  
14          we'd like to thank Mr. White, Joseph White, and  
15          Sangeetha Kailas from our consumer services office  
16          for administering this session as well as our court  
17          reporter. And with that, our hearing is concluded  
18          and we are going to go off the record.

19                           THE REPORTER: We are off the record.

20                                   (The hearing concluded at 2:29 p.m.)  
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2 STATE OF NEW YORK

3 I, ANTHONY MCCLAIN, do hereby certify that the foregoing  
4 was reported by me, in the cause, at the time and place,  
5 as stated in the caption hereto, at Page 1 hereof; that  
6 the foregoing typewritten transcription consisting of  
7 pages 1 through 70, is a true record of all proceedings  
8 had at the hearing.

9                           IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto  
10 subscribed my name, this the 9th day of August, 2023.

11  
12 ANTHONY MCCLAIN, Reporter

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