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STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE

15-G-0098 - PETITION OF LEATHERSTOCKING GAS COMPANY, LLC
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY
AND FOR APPROVAL OF, AND PERMISSION TO EXERCISE, A NEW
GAS FRANCHISE AND TO CONSTRUCT GAS PLANT AS NECESSARY IN
THE TOWN OF WINDSOR BROOME COUNTY.

15-G-0099 - PETITION OF LEATHERSTOCKING GAS COMPANY, LLC
FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY
AND FOR APPROVAL OF, AND PERMISSION TO EXERCISE, A NEW
GAS FRANCHISE AND TO CONSTRUCT GAS PLANT AS NECESSARY IN
THE VILLAGE OF WINDSOR BROOME COUNTY.

PUBLIC STATEMENT HEARING

Thursday, May 21, 2015
7:00 p.m.
Windsor Central High School Auditorium
1191 State Route 79
Windsor, New York

A.L.J. JULIA SMEAD BIELAWSKI
Administrative Law Judge
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

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2 A.L.J. SMEAD BIELAWSKI: Ladies
3 and gentlemen, we're going to get started.

4 I -- thank you. Thank you.

5 I'm going to speak loudly. I --
6 I don't have a microphone up here, so let me know
7 if you can't hear me, but I'm pretty good at being
8 loud. So, hopefully we'll -- we'll be okay.
9 So, we're going to go on the record now and start
10 the official portion of this evening.

11 So, I call case 15-G-0098, the petition of
12 Leatherstocking Gas Company, LLC, for a Certificate
13 of Public Convenience and Necessity and for
14 approval of and permission to exercise a new gas
15 franchise and to construct gas plant as necessary
16 in the town of Windsor, Broome County.

17 Also, case 15-G-0099, petition of
18 Leatherstocking Gas Company, LLC, for a Certificate
19 of Public Convenience and Necessity and for
20 approval of and permission to exercise a new gas
21 franchise and to construct gas plant as necessary
22 in the village of Windsor, Broome County.

23 I am Administrative Law Judge Julia Bielawski.
24 Welcome, everyone.

25 I want to start by thanking you.

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2 It's wonderful to see so many members of the
3 community come out. We do public statement
4 hearings to get input from the public, to help the
5 Commission in making decisions. So, it is really
6 important to us that you come out and it's really
7 wonderful to see so many members of the community
8 come out to join us tonight.

9 I also want to thank Steve Blow
10 for giving us the legal overview. And for the
11 folks of Leatherstocking, Les Miller, Matt Cook,
12 Chris Carellus (phonetic spelling), thank you for
13 your -- the information session.

14 Before I forget, I also want to
15 thank the school district for letting us utilize
16 this facility and to Pat Hanley (phonetic
17 spelling), from our Office of Consumer Services for
18 setting things up and -- and being out there to
19 greet you.

20 So, this is a public statement
21 hearing. We have here Mr. Hubbard. He is a court
22 reporter. He is going to record all statements
23 made by the public, verbatim. They will become
24 part of the official record in this proceeding,
25 transcribed so that we have them to use, to review,

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2 to provide to the commissioners so that they can
3 know what was said tonight when they're making
4 their -- their decision.

5 So, the way -- I -- I think
6 everybody was here for the informational session,
7 so I really don't need to recap what we're doing
8 here. What we're really talking about
9 Leatherstocking's request to exercise their gas
10 franchise agreements, in the town and village of
11 Windsor. And so, the purpose of this hearing is
12 really just to let you now speak on the record as I
13 said, to have it recorded.

14 This is no longer a question and
15 answer session, but if you do have questions, we
16 still have members of staff and of Leatherstocking
17 here, that we can take off the record, on the side
18 and answer any additional questions that you have.
19 Before I forget, we also have Robert Rayno
20 (phonetic spelling) here, from the Joint Landowners
21 Coalition of New York. He has requested to
22 videotape this public statement hearing. It is a
23 public hearing, I don't have an objection to that.
24 Anything you say on the record is going to be on
25 our public website, the words anyway.

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2 But if you have an objection to
3 being videotaped, it is absolutely okay. Just when
4 you get up to speak, let me know and he will not
5 record your -- your statement. Okay. So, don't be
6 shy about that, if you have any objections.
7 The way this will work is I'll call up the speakers
8 one by one. I only have a few cards, so I don't
9 have to impose time limits.

10 If you, listening to your
11 neighbors, decide that you want to speak and you
12 haven't filled out a card, it's not too late. Go
13 ahead and fill one out, bring it up to me or give
14 it to Pat to bring it up to me and we'll make sure
15 everybody who wants to, has a chance to speak on
16 the record tonight. Unless everybody wants to
17 speak and then I will impose a time limit, but
18 still, we'll let everyone speak.

19 So, that's it. I think without
20 further ado, we'll hear what you all have to say.
21 So, we're going to start with Victor Furman. And
22 what I'm going to ask you to do is come on up,
23 there is a microphone. There it is. And you can
24 stand wherever you're comfortable, at the podium or
25 whatever you want and -- and go ahead.

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2 MR. FURMAN: Just let me get
3 this.

4 A.L.J. SMEAD BIELAWSKI: Sure.
5 Absolutely.

6 MR. FURMAN: One thing is
7 engineers coming in, putting on a presentation.
8 Thank you very much.

9 I think it's very important that
10 we get this important choice, gas, electric, oil or
11 kerosene and, you know, and the other -- it's great
12 to be able to have that choice because as we all
13 know, we lost the big battle here for natural gas,
14 getting it out of the state, although that battle
15 is not yet over.

16 I -- I can't wait for that
17 pipeline to come up my route because I'm one of
18 those guys, last winter it was -- or excuse me, the
19 winter before because there was low propane storage
20 and we ran short, it cost me sixty-five hundred
21 dollars where it normally costs me two thousand
22 five hundred to heat my house. Sixty-five hundred
23 it cost to heat my house.

24 And having a natural gas option
25 means a lot to me. It means a lot to my neighbors,

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2 it means a lot to the -- my -- my friends in the
3 community and in this community here as well.
4 And it -- it will mean a lot less taxes because we
5 all know the schools, the buildings. It's going to
6 be a great investment in the community.
7 And thank you very much.
8 A.L.J. SMEAD BIELAWSKI: Thank
9 you.
10 Next we'll have Sandra Davis
11 (phonetic spelling).
12 MR. FURMAN: She's gone.
13 A.L.J. SMEAD BIELAWSKI: Okay.
14 Robert Williams?
15 MR. WILLIAMS: Hi. My name is
16 Bob Williams and most of you know me as a long-time
17 resident of the area.
18 We used to be a -- not only a --
19 a student in this school, but for a long time I was
20 on the Windsor School Board and one of the things
21 that I know for sure when you're on the Board of
22 Education, you're always looking for ways to save
23 money.
24 And one of the things that --
25 doing some decent calculations, based on the stuff

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2 that was up here before, it's pretty easy to see,
3 if you're going to save a thousand dollars per year
4 heating your house, you're going to save a couple
5 hundred thousand dollars heating these two schools.
6 Any time you can do that, that's not just a benefit
7 to the people who are going to be come in the
8 village, that's a benefit for the entire school
9 district. A huge factor for the entire school
10 district.

11 The other thing is, doing some --
12 some same calculation using the numbers -- it's
13 pretty easy. I did -- I did my first calculation
14 just looking at Main Street and the two schools and
15 you add up to half a million dollars, pretty
16 quickly in savings. It's huge for the whole town.
17 The other thing that is just an additional item,
18 we're all talking about climate change all the
19 time. If we convert this village to natural gas,
20 you're going to reduce the carbon footprint of the
21 village by thirty percent, right off the bat. It's
22 that -- that's how much less it is than fuel oil.
23 And you're also going to eliminate other pollutants
24 such as sulfur dioxide in particulate matters.

25 This is huge.

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2 Thank you very much.

3 A.L.J. SMEAD BIELAWSKI: Thank
4 you.

5 Inga Grave (phonetic spelling)?

6 MR. FURMAN: Gone.

7 A.L.J. SMEAD BIELAWSKI: Oh.

8 Thank you.

9 Daniel Price?

10 MR. PRICE: It seems a little
11 different to be here, it's not as a teacher. I've
12 been to the podium quite a few times.
13 What I would like to state is I am in favor of the
14 development of the pipeline, in both the village
15 and town and I base it on two things. First, any
16 time you could use American resources and you're
17 not depending on fuel oil that comes from the
18 Middle East trying to kill us, that's a plus.
19 And the second thing is I'm so glad to see, that
20 finally rural America's going to catch up with
21 urban American. They've had natural gas pipelines
22 for years and I hope this is only the -- the
23 beginning of the development of the infrastructure
24 that everyone in the town of Windsor that wants
25 natural gas, will be able to get it.

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2 Thank you.

3 A.L.J. SMEAD BIELAWSKI: Thank
4 you.

5 Loren Stone?

6 MR. STONE: Good evening.

7 My name is Loren Stone. I'm not
8 a resident of Windsor, but I did come to talk about
9 our experience with Leatherstocking supplying gas
10 to a new hospital construction project that we did
11 in 2003. We built a new eighty-five thousand
12 square foot healthcare facility in Montrose. We
13 were one of the first two customers on the
14 Leatherstocking Gas Pipeline, the hospital and
15 Montrose High School -- Central School District,
16 High School.

17 We used approximately eighty-five
18 hundred CCF of gas per month. We needed a supply
19 of fuel for our facility, that was reliable and
20 consistent.

21 In the eighteen months that we've
22 been in that facility, we've had no interruption of
23 service. We had a very important relationship with
24 both the installation and the gas company from that
25 perspective.

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2 It is a much cleaner source of
3 fuel. We did, in our new construction purchase
4 state-of-the-art, high-efficiency boilers,
5 hot-water heaters and they utilize the natural gas.
6 We're saving approximately eighty thousand dollars
7 per year over what the equivalent fuel-oil cost
8 would be and even more over what the propane cost
9 would be.

10 Thank you.

11 A.L.J. SMEAD BIELAWSKI: Thank
12 you.

13 Is there anyone else that wanted
14 to make a statement?

15 I should also tell you that this
16 isn't your only opportunity. We welcome public
17 input. You can do that in a number of ways;
18 through email, through the website, submitting
19 written comments. The information sheet that you
20 picked up on the way in or that you can pick up on
21 the way out, has the different means by which you
22 can submit comments if something comes to you after
23 the fact, or if you're just not a public speaker
24 and you'd rather submit something in writing.
25 I do have a few written submissions already and

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2 we'll make sure they become part of the record.
3 If there's no one else that wishes to speak, I just
4 want to thank you all again for coming out tonight
5 and if you have questions, feel free to approach
6 staff and -- and the folks from Leatherstocking for
7 a few more minutes and -- and have a good evening.
8 Thank you.

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3 I, Howard Hubbard, 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 12, 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 28th day of May, 2015.

11 _____
12 Howard Hubbard, Reporter

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