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BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

In The Matter of the Application
of Washington Gas Light Company Formal Case No.
for Authority to Increase 1162
Existing Rates and Charges for
Gas Service.

HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, October 20, 2020
TIME: 2:00 p.m.
BEFORE: The Public Service Commission
LOCATION: Videoconference
 TBD Washington, DC 20005
REPORTED BY: Andrew Adams, Notary Public
JOB No.: 4300363

Page 2	Page 4
<p>1 A P P E A R A N C E S</p> <p>2 ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION</p> <p>3 WILLIE L. PHILLIPS, CHAIRMAN</p> <p>4 RICHARD BEVERLY, COMMISSIONER</p> <p>5 BRINDA WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK, SECRETARY</p> <p>6</p> <p>7 ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL:</p> <p>8 SANDRA MATTAVOUS-FRYE, ESQUIRE</p> <p>9 Office of the People's Counsel</p> <p>10 1133 15th Street Northwest, Suite 500</p> <p>11 Washington, DC 20005</p> <p>12 info@opc-dc.gov</p> <p>13 (202) 727-3071</p> <p>14</p> <p>15 ALSO PRESENT:</p> <p>16 MARK RODEFFER</p> <p>17 MATTHIAS PAUSTIAN</p> <p>18 ARI EISENSTADT</p> <p>19 BARBARA BRIGGS</p> <p>20 BRUCE CHO</p> <p>21 CARMEN DAVIS</p> <p>22</p>	<p>1 in an overall increase of approximately 14.7 percent</p> <p>2 in revenue collection over and above the collected,</p> <p>3 that collected through current bills. I'm having</p> <p>4 trouble talking.</p> <p>5 This revenue increase includes 9.1</p> <p>6 million associated with natural gas system upgrades</p> <p>7 currently paid by customers through monthly</p> <p>8 PROJECTpipes 1 surcharges. The company also proposes</p> <p>9 a revenue normalization adjustment in its proposed</p> <p>10 rate structure. If granted in full, the average</p> <p>11 monthly effects of the proposed increase on the</p> <p>12 average residential heating and cooling customer would</p> <p>13 be approximately \$12.86.</p> <p>14 When you look at your bill, you have,</p> <p>15 you may wonder what rates are regulated by the</p> <p>16 Commission and are subject to this rate case. One</p> <p>17 part is what we call the distribution. That's what it</p> <p>18 costs WGL to delivery natural gas to customers and WGL</p> <p>19 is the only company authorized in the District to</p> <p>20 distribute natural gas.</p> <p>21 That rate covers meter reading, the</p> <p>22 pipes, customer service people, repairs, restoration</p>
Page 3	Page 5
<p>1 P R O C E E D I N G S</p> <p>2 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Good afternoon. We</p> <p>3 are going to call to order the virtual community</p> <p>4 hearing of the Public Service Commission of the</p> <p>5 District of Columbia in Formal Case No. 1162, In The</p> <p>6 Matter of the Application of Washington Gas Light</p> <p>7 Company for Authority to Increase Existing Rates and</p> <p>8 Charges for Natural Gas Service. I'm Willie L.</p> <p>9 Phillips, Chairman of the Public Commission. I'm</p> <p>10 joined by Commissioner Richard Beverly.</p> <p>11 For the record, today is October 20,</p> <p>12 2020 and we are convening this hearing at 2 p.m. in a</p> <p>13 virtual setting. This community hearing is being held</p> <p>14 to discuss the application filed by WGL on January 13,</p> <p>15 2020, which requests authority to increase existing</p> <p>16 rates and charges for gas service in the District of</p> <p>17 Columbia.</p> <p>18 The requested rates are designed to</p> <p>19 collect approximately 200.4 million in total annual</p> <p>20 revenues, which represents an increase in the</p> <p>21 company's weatherized, whether, normalized annual</p> <p>22 revenues of no more than 35.2 million and would result</p>	<p>1 after storms, and everything to operate the delivery</p> <p>2 system for natural gas in the District. The</p> <p>3 Commission regulates distribution.</p> <p>4 There's another part of your bill which</p> <p>5 is for natural gas itself. The Commission does not</p> <p>6 regulate natural gas supply except for default natural</p> <p>7 gas service. And then there's a third part of your</p> <p>8 bill which is taxes, surcharges, and fees that the DC</p> <p>9 Council may authorize and/or set.</p> <p>10 Our role as regulators in this case is</p> <p>11 to ensure that essential natural gas service is</p> <p>12 available, adequate, provided to all who require it,</p> <p>13 and that the services will be priced at a reasonable</p> <p>14 level. Pursuant to its statutory and constitutional</p> <p>15 rights, the utility is permitted to fully recover the</p> <p>16 cost of providing this essential service.</p> <p>17 This community hearing is being held to</p> <p>18 provide interested persons who wish to comment on the</p> <p>19 WGL application an opportunity to do so.</p> <p>20 Representatives of organizations shall be permitted a</p> <p>21 maximum of five minutes for oral presentation.</p> <p>22 Individuals shall be permitted a maximum of three</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 6</p> <p>1 minutes for oral presentation. Written comments, as 2 always, can be filed until November 20, 2020 by 3 sending them to Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick, Commission 4 Secretary of the DC Public Service Commission, and 5 that e-mail address is PSE-commissionsecretary, one 6 word, @dc.gov.</p> <p>7 Before we begin, I would like to 8 acknowledge Commissioner Richard Beverly for any 9 comments he might have. Do we have Commissioner 10 Beverly on the line?</p> <p>11 MR. BEVERLY: I'd like to thank 12 everybody for joining us today and giving us the 13 benefit of your input. It's much appreciated. Thank 14 you.</p> <p>15 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Thank you, 16 Commissioner Beverly. I also want to recognize our 17 statutory party of the District of Columbia, the 18 Office of People's Counsel, Ms. Sandra Mattavous Frye. 19 Would you like to offer any opening remark before we 20 begin?</p> <p>21 MS. MATTAVOUS-FRYE: Yes, I would. 22 Good afternoon, Chairman Phillips and Commissioner</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 8</p> <p>1 Counsel, and the Public Service Commission, are 2 charged with performing a critical public 3 responsibility.</p> <p>4 Our charge has never weighed so heavily 5 as it does today in light of the coronavirus pandemic. 6 Consumers are faced with hard choices as they guard 7 their health and stretch their dollars. At the same 8 time, we cannot lose sight of our obligation to affirm 9 and advance the environmental, economic, and 10 sustainability requirements of the District of 11 Columbia. And we understand the Utility's interest in 12 being financially stable.</p> <p>13 I look forward to hearing from today's 14 witnesses and I encourage those who could not attend 15 today's hearing because of other commitments to submit 16 written comments on the date that Chairman Phillips 17 has defined.</p> <p>18 Thank you again for your time and for 19 the opportunity on behalf of ratepayers of the 20 District of Columbia.</p> <p>21 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: We thank you. We 22 thank the People's counsel for her presence and for</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 7</p> <p>1 Beverly, as well as all who are joining us today. For 2 the record, I am Sandra Mattavous-Frye, People's 3 Counsel for the District of Columbia.</p> <p>4 Thank you, Commissioners, for convening 5 today's community hearing in Formal Case No. 1162. 6 This is the second community hearing that you've held, 7 I believe in 30 days, and in my view it recognizes or 8 acknowledges your commitment and acknowledgement of 9 the need for community input. Most importantly, I 10 want to thank our community witnesses who've taken 11 time from their busy schedules to participate in this 12 virtual hearing. Your voices are important.</p> <p>13 During my tenure as People's Counsel, I 14 have remained committed to ensuring that consumers 15 have a voice and a seat at the table when important 16 decisions are made.</p> <p>17 As with all cases involving rates, 18 charges, and changes to services, on broad policy 19 issues community input is critically important and 20 facilitates the Commission's ability to render a 21 decision that is in the public interest and discharge 22 of our respective roles, the Office of the People's</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 9</p> <p>1 her advocacy, zealous advocacy on the behalf of the 2 District residents and businesses. With that, we will 3 now turn our attention to our registered, our 4 preregistered witnesses. I call on the Commission 5 Secretary to call the first witness.</p> <p>6 MS. WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK: Thank you, 7 sir. The first witness is Matthias Paustian. Mr. 8 Paustian, are you on the line? Okay. We will move to 9 our second witness, Mark Rodeffer, Mark Rodeffer.</p> <p>10 MR. RODEFFER: Yes, I'm here.</p> <p>11 MS. WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK: Thank you, 12 sir. You may begin.</p> <p>13 MR. RODEFFER: Thank you, Chairman 14 Phillips and Commissioner Beverly, for the opportunity 15 to testify today about Washington Gas' proposed rate 16 increase. My name is Mark Rodeffer. I have lived in 17 DC for 19 years. I live in a Southwest DC building 18 that sits just six feet above sea level.</p> <p>19 For my neighbors, climate change is not 20 a theoretical idea; it is a threat to the existence of 21 our community. A study entitled Washington DC and the 22 Surging Sea found that because of climate change, over</p>

Page 10	Page 12
<p>1 the next 20 years there's a 50 percent chance</p> <p>2 Southwest DC will see a six foot flood that would</p> <p>3 destroy 400 homes that house about 1,400 people.</p> <p>4 If the flood went to 10 feet, it would</p> <p>5 be far worse with almost 2,000 homes destroyed and</p> <p>6 5,000 people left homeless. The property damage would</p> <p>7 range from 4.6 billion to 9 billion dollars.</p> <p>8 I am testifying today because the gas</p> <p>9 utility's request to raise rates by 35.2 million or</p> <p>10 14.7 percent over, 14.7 percent over current levels is</p> <p>11 not consistent with DC's climate commitments and thus</p> <p>12 the Public Service Commission must reject the</p> <p>13 proposal.</p> <p>14 AltaGas through its local affiliate,</p> <p>15 Washington Gas, proposes to shift some of the costs</p> <p>16 for its imprudent and largely unsuccessful</p> <p>17 PROJECTpipes program into the rate base. An</p> <p>18 independent audit conducted by Liberty Consulting</p> <p>19 Group found that PROJECTpipes was rife with cost</p> <p>20 overruns and late completion of projects. The audit</p> <p>21 found, quote, "For the dollar spent, management</p> <p>22 accomplished roughly half of the amount of work</p>	<p>1 increase should apply equally to the combined heat and</p> <p>2 power rate class.</p> <p>3 As I mentioned at the beginning of my</p> <p>4 testimony, I live in Southwest DC, one of the parts of</p> <p>5 the District most vulnerable to sea level rise</p> <p>6 resulting from the burning of fossil fuels. AltaGas'</p> <p>7 DC utility rents office space here in southwest as</p> <p>8 well. Our difference is that I take climate change</p> <p>9 seriously.</p> <p>10 DC's Calgary-based gas supplier wants</p> <p>11 to squeeze as many ratepayer dollars as possible out</p> <p>12 of DC residents and maximize profits with no concern</p> <p>13 about the planet or DC residents.</p> <p>14 I ask that you protect DC ratepayers,</p> <p>15 protect our climate, and hold AltaGas accountable to</p> <p>16 DC's climate commitments by rejecting this rate</p> <p>17 increase and requiring the Utility to transition its</p> <p>18 business model to renewable energy. Thank you for the</p> <p>19 opportunity to testify.</p> <p>20 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Thank you for your</p> <p>21 testimony. Please call the next witness, Commission</p> <p>22 Secretary.</p>
Page 11	Page 13
<p>1 anticipated at program outset" unquote. There is no</p> <p>2 justification for rewarding imprudent and</p> <p>3 irresponsible management of PROJECTpipes by moving</p> <p>4 some of its costs into the rate base, especially</p> <p>5 during the economic crises facing the country and the</p> <p>6 District.</p> <p>7 The AltaGas proposal would raise rates</p> <p>8 on nearly all user classes, except for those buying</p> <p>9 gas to burn it in combined heat and power plants.</p> <p>10 AltaGas proposes that everyday DC ratepayers subsidize</p> <p>11 consumption by large commercial CHP users. It is</p> <p>12 unjust to raise rates on ordinary customers by a</p> <p>13 whopping 15 percent while leaving rates unchanged for</p> <p>14 high volume and often wealthy users that burn gas to</p> <p>15 produce heat and power.</p> <p>16 It appears AltaGas' intent is to</p> <p>17 incentivize the construction and operation of new CHP</p> <p>18 facilities. That is not consistent with DC's clean</p> <p>19 energy plans and climate commitments, and it is</p> <p>20 fundamentally inequitable to ask DC families</p> <p>21 struggling to pay the bills amid this deep recession</p> <p>22 to pay more than large commercial polluters. Any rate</p>	<p>1 MS. WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK: We're going to</p> <p>2 call -- I'm told that Matthias Paustian is now on the</p> <p>3 line.</p> <p>4 MR. PAUSTIAN: Hi, there. Yes, can you</p> <p>5 hear me?</p> <p>6 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Yes, we can hear</p> <p>7 you.</p> <p>8 MS. WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK: Yes.</p> <p>9 MR. PAUSTIAN: Fantastic. I'm going to</p> <p>10 put my camera on. It's a little bit more personable.</p> <p>11 Nice to see you. I appreciate the chance to testify</p> <p>12 here today. I have three minutes?</p> <p>13 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Yes, you do.</p> <p>14 Proceed.</p> <p>15 MR. PAUSTIAN: Great. Thank you for</p> <p>16 your time. My name is Matthias Paustian and I'm a</p> <p>17 resident of Ward 4. I'm deeply concerned about</p> <p>18 climate change. When we burn the gas that is the</p> <p>19 subject of this rate case, we create CO2 that worsens</p> <p>20 the climate crisis, creating more deadly heatwaves,</p> <p>21 storms, draughts, and dangerous flooding.</p> <p>22 I'm deeply concerned that the District</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 14</p> <p>1 is not making any measurable progress in reducing CO2 2 emissions from gas quite to the contrary to our 3 measurable progress on the electricity side. As a 4 result of this lack of progress, I have recently 5 personally disconnected my DC home from the gas supply 6 and electrified all former gas appliances. I heat my 7 home with a heat pump, my hot water with a heat pump 8 water heater, and I cook on a fantastic induction 9 stove.</p> <p>10 Over the course of a year, our home is 11 fully powered by clean and renewable energy generated 12 right here from the solar panels installed directly on 13 the roof of our home.</p> <p>14 In this rate case, Washington Gas has 15 filed an application that does not take the District's 16 climate commitments into account at all. Testimony 17 filed in this rate case by the Environmental Defense 18 Funds points out that this rate application fails to 19 take into account the need to modernize the gas 20 planning and rate design process in response to the 21 District's climate commitments.</p> <p>22 Those things can't be separated. You</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 16</p> <p>1 Such a planning process must be 2 connected to the rate recovery in order to bring the 3 necessary accountability and discipline to utility 4 decision making in an area of rigorous climate 5 commitments.</p> <p>6 We also believe, as EDS has stressed, 7 that the Commission should open an integrated planning 8 docket for both WGL and Pepco. EDF notes that after 9 WGL proposes a long range gas plan which presents its 10 supply plans in concert with its GHG emission 11 reduction efforts, it will be necessary to coordinate 12 such efforts with the electric utility's capabilities 13 and plans.</p> <p>14 In particular, to the extent that 15 Washington Gas may engage in cost effective, 16 beneficial electrification efforts, one way from the 17 company to comply with the District's climate 18 commitments is to invest in electrification which will 19 require a concerted involvement and coordinated 20 planning and execution by both WGL and the electric 21 utility.</p> <p>22 And finally, we believe that the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 15</p> <p>1 can't first have a rate plan and then you have a 2 climate plan. Those need to be integrated. I and 3 many other DC ratepayers agree with the many important 4 issues raised by EDF and urge the Commission to order 5 WGL to include them in the current and future rate 6 cases.</p> <p>7 In particular, the Commission should 8 enhance and augment the gas supply planning process. 9 EDF points out that the current five year gas supply 10 planning process is outdated and no longer aligned 11 with the District's climate goals.</p> <p>12 For example, Washington Gas estimates 13 that gas sales and through-put will continue to 14 increase over the next five years even though the 15 District's energy and climate commitments call for a 16 reduction in energy usage and GHG emissions.</p> <p>17 The District's climate commitments 18 require a thorough demonstration and consideration of 19 the company's resources, timing all in costs and 20 capabilities to understand the available alternatives 21 and the tradeoffs involved in continuing to rely on 22 gas.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 17</p> <p>1 Commission should require Washington Gas to file a 2 depreciation study aligning the useful lives of gas 3 assets with electrification efforts and the risk of 4 stranded assets. EDF proposes that Washington Gas be 5 required to file a study on depreciation and climate 6 change.</p> <p>7 The risk here is simply that the assets 8 that it currently seeks to recover costs for may no 9 longer be in place at a time when the District has 10 taken its climate commitment serious and electrifies, 11 leaving future ratepayers with dollars on the hook.</p> <p>12 The study should include an examination 13 of the potential impact of climate change policies and 14 laws on average service lives, reserve deficiencies, 15 cost of removal, and depreciation rates and customer 16 bills to use in the Company's next rate filing.</p> <p>17 To conclude, the planet faces a climate 18 crisis. We cannot continue burning fossil fuels if we 19 expect the planet to survive. The old way of doing 20 business for DC's gas utility cannot continue. The DC 21 Council recognized this in 28 and when it required the 22 Commission to uphold its climate's commitment to</p>

<p style="text-align: right;">Page 18</p> <p>1 carbon neutrality.</p> <p>2 Consistent with the new mandate, the</p> <p>3 Commission should require Washington Gas to evolve its</p> <p>4 business model away from gas combustion, spending</p> <p>5 millions or even billions of ratepayers' dollars on</p> <p>6 soon-obsolete gas infrastructure.</p> <p>7 Instead the Commission should require</p> <p>8 Washington Gas to evolve its business model and</p> <p>9 Washington Gas does not appear to be prepared for such</p> <p>10 a paradigm shift. So the Commission should lead the</p> <p>11 utility toward it. One step in that direction is the</p> <p>12 rejection of this proposed rate case.</p> <p>13 I appreciate your time and attention</p> <p>14 and I, I'm sorry if, I'm sorry if I went over, which I</p> <p>15 probably did.</p> <p>16 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: That's quite all</p> <p>17 right. I appreciate your comments and they're</p> <p>18 welcome. Also as you're probably aware, I want to</p> <p>19 remind everyone listening that the Public Service</p> <p>20 Commission after the CleanEnergy Omnibus Act of 2018</p> <p>21 are required to take into consideration the impacts of</p> <p>22 global climate change and the District's climate</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 20</p> <p>1 of the Commissioners' obligations to District</p> <p>2 residents. The Commission's mission statement reads</p> <p>3 "Commission of the Public Service Commission of</p> <p>4 District of Columbia is to serve the public interest</p> <p>5 by ensuring that financially healthy utility companies</p> <p>6 provide safe, reliable, and quality utility services</p> <p>7 at reasonable rates for DC customers."</p> <p>8 Approving Washington Gas's proposed</p> <p>9 rate increase defies the Commission's charge to serve</p> <p>10 the public interest. For a rate increase to serve</p> <p>11 ratepayers, it should reasonably come with an</p> <p>12 assurance of improved performance. Washington Gas'</p> <p>13 performance is directly tied to the qualities of</p> <p>14 safety, quality, and reliability. As of 2018,</p> <p>15 Washington Gas's performance must also be measured by</p> <p>16 their ability to meet merger agreements pursuant to</p> <p>17 Formal Case No. 1142.</p> <p>18 Washington Gas has failed to meet these</p> <p>19 basic performance standards by which the Commission</p> <p>20 must judge the Utility's current request. As many are</p> <p>21 aware, natural gas is composed primarily of methane,</p> <p>22 an extremely potent greenhouse gas. On its own,</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 19</p> <p>1 policies in all of our major decisions. And we do</p> <p>2 intend to do that in this proceeding.</p> <p>3 So we thank you for your comments and</p> <p>4 we, we think that it will aid us in our ability to</p> <p>5 carry out our mission. With that, we'll turn to the</p> <p>6 next witness. Please call the next witness, please.</p> <p>7 MS. WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK: Yes. Our next</p> <p>8 witness is Ari Eisenstadt. Ari Eisenstadt, are you on</p> <p>9 the line?</p> <p>10 MR. EISENSTADT: Yes.</p> <p>11 MS. WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK: Thank you.</p> <p>12 You may begin.</p> <p>13 MR. EISENSTADT: Thank you. Thank you.</p> <p>14 Good afternoon, Chairman Phillips and Commissioner</p> <p>15 Beverly. My name is Ari Eisenstadt. My pronouncer</p> <p>16 him and his and I'm the DC conservation advocate for</p> <p>17 the Audubon Naturalist Society. On behalf of our more</p> <p>18 than 28,000 members and supporters across that the DC</p> <p>19 metro area, I'm here to offer testimony today in</p> <p>20 opposition of Washington Gas's request for a 14.7</p> <p>21 percent rate increase.</p> <p>22 I want to begin by reminding the public</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 21</p> <p>1 methane from fracked gas is responsible for 23.1</p> <p>2 percent of greenhouse gas emissions in Washington, DC.</p> <p>3 As many are also aware, Washington Gas is legally</p> <p>4 obligated to support DC's policy commitments for</p> <p>5 climate. These include 100 percent electrification, a</p> <p>6 50 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by</p> <p>7 2032, and net carbon neutrality by 2050.</p> <p>8 There is no conceivable way that</p> <p>9 Washington, DC could achieve any of these goals</p> <p>10 without addressing same portion of that 23.1 percent</p> <p>11 of greenhouse gas emissions. This past March,</p> <p>12 Washington Gas published its climate business plan in</p> <p>13 response to Merger Agreement 79. This plan does not</p> <p>14 represent any measurable emissions reductions and will</p> <p>15 make it virtually impossible for DC to reach its 2032</p> <p>16 and 2050 climate commitments. This business plan</p> <p>17 represents a complete failure to meet Washington Gas'</p> <p>18 performance requirements to support DC's climate</p> <p>19 commitments.</p> <p>20 To demand that District residents pay</p> <p>21 more for a failing service that disregards public</p> <p>22 health outcomes is amoral and contradictory to the</p>

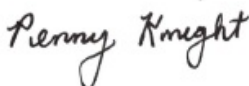
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 22</p> <p>1 Public Service Commission's mission. It is also a 2 fact that climate change poses an imminent threat to 3 the health and safety of District residences. 4 Climate change is not a far off, 5 distant problem. Overwhelming flooding and stifling 6 heat are harming Washingtonians today and will 7 continue to tomorrow. Perhaps even more urgently, 8 methane gas today is suffocating Washingtonians in 9 their own neighborhoods and homes. 10 When methane is released into the 11 atmosphere through the national gas supply chain, it 12 reacts with sunlight to form a tropospheric ozone. 13 Ozone is the major component in ground level smog, 14 which is a major respiratory irritant. When methane 15 is burned in a gas stove, it forms nitrogen dioxide. 16 Nitrogen dioxide is a toxic gas. 17 Children living in homes with a gas 18 stove without proper ventilation are 42 percent more 19 likely to develop asthma than children living in a 20 home without a gas stove. Tragically, the United 21 States does not have legal requirements for proper 22 stove ventilation, meaning that improper ventilation</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 24</p> <p>1 irresponsible response to the physical and economic 2 devastation that the COVID-19 pandemic, at the 3 intersection of the climate crisis, has wrought on DC 4 residents. 5 If the Public Service Commission 6 approves this rate increase, it will be complicit in 7 perpetrating a grave injustice. If this increase were 8 going to result in objectively better, safer service 9 from a company that repeatedly falls short of 10 expectations, my testimony would surely differ. The 11 City deserves much more than Washington Gas is 12 offering. Thank you. 13 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Thank you for your 14 testimony. I just want to once again remind everybody 15 I appreciate the witness mentioning the mission 16 statement in the beginning. I want to highlight a 17 portion that I think that he missed. It says that 18 "The mission of the Pubic Service Commission of the 19 District of Columbia is to serve the public interest 20 by ensuring that financially healthy utility companies 21 provide safe, reliable, and quality utility services 22 at reasonable rates." And then it goes on to say the</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">Page 23</p> <p>1 is the norm. 2 Nitrogen dioxide also causes 3 neurological and cardiological damage in children. In 4 concentrations generated by gas stoves, nitrogen 5 dioxide worsens preexisting asthma in children and 6 adults alike. The dangerous effects of methane gas 7 cannot be understated given the prevalence of asthma 8 in Washington, DC. Asthma rates in DC are more than 9 twice the national average and are particularly high 10 among black Washingtonians. 11 This has contributed to 12 disproportionately high COVID-19 death rates and the 13 deleterious effects of methane on indoor air quality 14 and even more dire consequences during this pandemic. 15 Simply put, Washington Gas has not 16 provided a safe service. Safety is the core to the 17 Commission's mission and is another area in which 18 Washington Gas is failing to perform. The Commission 19 cannot improve a rate increase for a service that 20 continues to endanger DC residents. 21 To conclude, this rate increase request 22 is unwarranted, undeserved, and unjust. It is an</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Page 25</p> <p>1 portion that he mentioned. 2 I just want to be really clear on this 3 point 'cause I think there's same confusion here. No 4 portion of our mission statement, no portion of our 5 statute bears more meaning than the other. When we 6 have a rate case, when we have a decision to make, we 7 have to balance all of the interests of all of the 8 stakeholders. That includes the utility. That 9 includes people who have means and includes people who 10 don't. 11 And so I just want to dissuade anybody 12 from the idea that if we approve a rate case, which we 13 haven't decided that yet, but if we do, we're not 14 implicit in anything. We're doing our job. 15 Please call the next witness. 16 MS. WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK: Thank you. 17 Our next witness is Barbara Briggs. 18 MS. BRIGGS: Can you hear me? 19 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Yes, we can hear 20 you. 21 MS. WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK: Yes. 22 MS. BRIGGS: Great. Thank you,</p>

Page 26	Page 28
<p>1 Commissioners Phillips and Beverly and Public Service 2 Commission staff, for the opportunity to speak to the 3 important decision as to whether Washington Gas Light 4 Company will be permitted to increase its rates by 5 approximately 35 million dollars. 6 My name is Barbara Briggs. I'm a 7 resident of Ward 3 and have been active on energy and 8 policy issues for the last several years, including 9 work in support of the Clean Energy DC Omnibus Act. 10 We in the District need energy for 11 heating and cooking in our homes, businesses, and 12 institutions, and the utility that supplies that 13 energy must be allowed an income stream that will keep 14 it operationally and financially robust, but in 15 exchange, any utility must submit to and align its 16 activities with public policy. Those are the rules of 17 the road. And also commitments that Washington Gas 18 and its parent, AltaGas, made in the merger agreement 19 signed with the District in 2018. 20 Washington Gas promised to develop, 21 quote, "A long term business plan on how it can evolve 22 its business model to support and serve the District's</p>	<p>1 transition plan, which Washington Gas committed but 2 then failed to develop, is made even more urgent by 3 the poor condition of our old gas infrastructure. But 4 instead of aggressively tackling the tough problem of 5 how to make this transition, Washington Gas has handed 6 in proposals to continue its preferred business as 7 usual burning methane and to spend \$872 million 8 dollars in the next decade to replace outdated gas 9 infrastructure that actually needs to be mothballed as 10 soon as possible. 11 It is true that the District of 12 Columbia will need to dedicate funds to planning our 13 transition off gas, assessing which portions of our 14 pipe grid are in the worse condition, which 15 neighborhoods can be transitioned first, and how to 16 provide District residents with cleaner, healthier, 17 and in the long run more economical energy sources. 18 But Washington Gas has proven that they don't have the 19 will to undertake this work. Company management has 20 operated in bad faith causing us to waste precious 21 time and resources already. 22 I oppose this rate increase Washington</p>
Page 27	Page 29
<p>1 2050 climate goals." Unfortunately, Washington Gas 2 has failed to fulfill that promise. In fact, WGL's 3 intent is evidenced by the company's climate business 4 plan released in March is about as far out of step 5 with the District's climate goals as could be 6 imagined. 7 I'm raising these issues, I'm raising 8 these issues in today's rate case discussion because 9 Washington Gas says it needs more money from its 10 ratepayers to provide services, maintain 11 infrastructure, and provide adequate returns to its 12 shareholders. This might be considered legitimate 13 needs. These might be considered legitimate needs 14 even in the mist of a pandemic if Washington Gas had 15 carried out the work it has agreed to in alignment 16 with the District's plans and policies. 17 It has not and evidently it does not 18 plan to. To be concrete, the District needs to stop 19 burning fossil fuels including gas in order to reach 20 its climate goals and to protect the health of its 21 residences as Ari Eisenstadt mentioned. 22 The need for a well-elaborated</p>	<p>1 Gas is now requesting. Thank you very much for the 2 opportunity to talk about this with you today. 3 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Thank you for your 4 testimony. Commission Secretary, do we have anymore 5 preregistered witnesses? 6 MS. WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK: No, sir, we 7 don't. And for those who joined the hearing by 8 telephone and would like to speak, please raise your 9 hand by pressing star 3. For those who joined via 10 computer, raise your hand, please, and we'll call 11 everyone in turn. Thank you. Sir, we had no 12 respondents. 13 CHAIRMAN PHILLIPS: Okay. Once again, 14 we thank you all so much for your comments today at 15 our community hearing. For further information, WGL's 16 application and all subsequent filings in this 17 proceeding can be reviewed on the Commission's website 18 at www.dcpsc.org. Once at the website, open the e- 19 docket tab. Click on search database and input 20 FC1162. That's how you search for the docket. Once 21 you enter that, you can see every filing that's been 22 made and every order that's been issued in this</p>


Page 30

1 proceeding.
 2 The recording for today's community
 3 hearing will be available tomorrow on the Commission's
 4 website. Copies of the transcript will be available
 5 in the Formal Case No. 1162 docket. This concludes
 6 our Formal Case No. 1162 community hearing. We thank
 7 you.
 8 (Whereupon, at 2:31 p.m., the
 9 proceeding was concluded.)
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Page 32

1 CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER
 2 I, PENNY KNIGHT, do hereby certify that this
 3 transcript was prepared from the digital audio
 4 recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said
 5 transcript is a true and accurate record of the
 6 proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and
 7 ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to,
 8 nor employed by any of the parties to the action in
 9 which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a
 10 relative or employee of any counsel or attorney
 11 employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or
 12 otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.
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 15 PENNY KNIGHT
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Page 31

1 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC
 2 I, ANDREW ADAMS, the officer before whom the
 3 foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify
 4 that any witness in the foregoing proceedings, prior
 5 to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings
 6 were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to
 7 typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said
 8 digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true
 9 and accurate record to the best of my knowledge,
 10 skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for,
 11 related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the
 12 action in which this was taken; and, further, that I
 13 am not a relative or employee of any counsel or
 14 attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor
 15 financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of
 16 this action.
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 19 ANDREW ADAMS
 20 Notary Public in and for the
 21 District of Columbia
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 15
 16
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 18
 19
 20
 21
 22

1	4	address 6:5	application 1:4
1 4:8	4 13:17	addressing 21:10	3:6,14 5:19 14:15
1,400 10:3	4.6 10:7	adequate 5:12	14:18 29:16
10 10:4	400 10:3	27:11	apply 12:1
100 21:5	42 22:18	adjustment 4:9	appreciate 13:11
1133 2:10	4300363 1:17	adults 23:6	18:13,17 24:15
1142 20:17	5	advance 8:9	appreciated 6:13
1162 1:6 3:5 7:5	5,000 10:6	advocacy 9:1,1	approve 25:12
30:5,6	50 10:1 21:6	advocate 19:16	approves 24:6
12.86. 4:13	500 2:10	affiliate 10:14	approving 20:8
13 3:14	7	affirm 8:8	approximately
14.7 4:1 10:10,10	727-3071 2:13	afternoon 3:2 6:22	3:19 4:1,13 26:5
19:20	79 21:13	19:14	area 16:4 19:19
15 11:13	8	aggressively 28:4	23:17
15th 2:10	872 28:7	agree 15:3	ari 2:18 19:8,8,15
17929 32:14	9	agreed 27:15	27:21
19 9:17 23:12 24:2	9 10:7	agreement 21:13	assessing 28:13
2	9.1 4:5	26:18	assets 17:3,4,7
2 3:12	a	agreements 20:16	associated 4:6
2,000 10:5	ability 7:20 19:4	aid 19:4	assurance 20:12
20 1:11 3:11 6:2	20:16 31:10 32:7	air 23:13	asthma 22:19 23:5
10:1	accomplished	align 26:15	23:7,8
200.4 3:19	10:22	aligned 15:10	atmosphere 22:11
20005 1:15 2:11	account 14:16,19	aligning 17:2	attended 8:14
2018 18:20 20:14	accountability	alignment 27:15	attention 9:3
26:19	16:3	alike 23:6	18:13
202 2:13	accountable 12:15	allowed 26:13	attorney 31:14
2020 1:11 3:12,15	accurate 31:9 32:5	altagas 10:14 11:7	32:10
6:2	achieve 21:9	11:10,16 12:6,15	audio 31:8 32:3
2032 21:7,15	acknowledge 6:8	26:18	audit 10:18,20
2050 21:7,16 27:1	acknowledgement	alternatives 15:20	audubon 19:17
23.1 21:1,10	7:8	amid 11:21	augment 15:8
25439 31:17	acknowledges 7:8	amoral 21:22	authority 1:6 3:7
28 17:21	act 18:20 26:9	amount 10:22	3:15
28,000 19:18	action 31:12,16	andrew 1:16 31:2	authorize 5:9
2:00 1:12	32:8,12	31:18	authorized 4:19
2:31 30:8	active 26:7	annual 3:19,21	available 5:12
3	activities 26:16	anticipated 11:1	15:20 30:3,4
3 26:7 29:9	adams 1:16 31:2	anybody 25:11	average 4:10,12
30 7:7	31:18	anymore 29:4	17:14 23:9
35 26:5		appear 18:9	aware 18:18 20:21
35.2 3:22 10:9		appears 11:16	21:3
		appliances 14:6	

<p>b</p> <p>bad 28:20</p> <p>balance 25:7</p> <p>barbara 2:19 25:17 26:6</p> <p>base 10:17 11:4</p> <p>based 12:10</p> <p>basic 20:19</p> <p>bears 25:5</p> <p>beginning 12:3 24:16</p> <p>behalf 2:2,7 8:19 9:1 19:17</p> <p>believe 7:7 16:6 16:22</p> <p>beneficial 16:16</p> <p>benefit 6:13</p> <p>best 31:9 32:6</p> <p>better 24:8</p> <p>beverley 6:16</p> <p>beverly 2:4 3:10 6:8,10,11 7:1 9:14 19:15 26:1</p> <p>bill 4:14 5:4,8</p> <p>billion 10:7,7</p> <p>billions 18:5</p> <p>bills 4:3 11:21 17:16</p> <p>bit 13:10</p> <p>black 23:10</p> <p>briggs 2:19 25:17 25:18,22 26:6</p> <p>brinda 2:5 6:3</p> <p>bring 16:2</p> <p>broad 7:18</p> <p>bruce 2:20</p> <p>building 9:17</p> <p>burn 11:9,14 13:18</p> <p>burned 22:15</p> <p>burning 12:6 17:18 27:19 28:7</p> <p>business 12:18 17:20 18:4,8</p>	<p>21:12,16 26:21,22 27:3 28:6</p> <p>businesses 9:2 26:11</p> <p>busy 7:11</p> <p>buying 11:8</p> <p>c</p> <p>c 2:1 3:1</p> <p>calgary 12:10</p> <p>call 3:3 4:17 9:4,5 12:21 13:2 15:15 19:6 25:15 29:10</p> <p>camera 13:10</p> <p>capabilities 15:20 16:12</p> <p>carbon 18:1 21:7</p> <p>cardiological 23:3</p> <p>carmen 2:21</p> <p>carried 27:15</p> <p>carry 19:5</p> <p>case 1:5 3:5 4:16 5:10 7:5 13:19 14:14,17 18:12 20:17 25:6,12 27:8 30:5,6</p> <p>cases 7:17 15:6</p> <p>cause 25:3</p> <p>causes 23:2</p> <p>causing 28:20</p> <p>certificate 31:1 32:1</p> <p>certify 31:3 32:2</p> <p>chain 22:11</p> <p>chairman 2:3 3:2 3:9 6:15,22 8:16 8:21 9:13 12:20 13:6,13 18:16 19:14 24:13 25:19 29:3,13</p> <p>chance 10:1 13:11</p> <p>change 9:19,22 12:8 13:18 17:6 17:13 18:22 22:2 22:4</p>	<p>changes 7:18</p> <p>charge 8:4 20:9</p> <p>charged 8:2</p> <p>charges 1:7 3:8,16 7:18</p> <p>children 22:17,19 23:3,5</p> <p>cho 2:20</p> <p>choices 8:6</p> <p>chp 11:11,17</p> <p>city 24:11</p> <p>class 12:2</p> <p>classes 11:8</p> <p>clean 11:18 14:11 26:9</p> <p>cleanenergy 18:20</p> <p>cleaner 28:16</p> <p>clear 25:2</p> <p>click 29:19</p> <p>climate 9:19,22 10:11 11:19 12:8 12:15,16 13:18,20 14:16,21 15:2,11 15:15,17 16:4,17 17:5,10,13,17 18:22,22 21:5,12 21:16,18 22:2,4 24:3 27:1,3,5,20</p> <p>climate's 17:22</p> <p>co2 13:19 14:1</p> <p>collect 3:19</p> <p>collected 4:2,3</p> <p>collection 4:2</p> <p>columbia 1:2 3:5 3:17 6:17 7:3 8:11 8:20 20:4 24:19 28:12 31:20</p> <p>combined 11:9 12:1</p> <p>combustion 18:4</p> <p>come 20:11</p> <p>comment 5:18</p> <p>comments 6:1,9 8:16 18:17 19:3</p>	<p>29:14</p> <p>commercial 11:11 11:22</p> <p>commission 1:1 1:13 2:2 3:4,9 4:16 5:3,5 6:3,4 8:1 9:4 10:12 12:21 15:4,7 16:7 17:1,22 18:3,7,10 18:20 20:3,3,19 23:18 24:5,18 26:2 29:4</p> <p>commission's 7:20 20:2,9 22:1 23:17 29:17 30:3</p> <p>commissioner 2:4 3:10 6:8,9,16,22 9:14 19:14</p> <p>commissioners 7:4 20:1 26:1</p> <p>commissionsecr... 6:5</p> <p>commitment 7:8 17:10,22</p> <p>commitments 8:15 10:11 11:19 12:16 14:16,21 15:15,17 16:5,18 21:4,16,19 26:17</p> <p>committed 7:14 28:1</p> <p>community 3:3,13 5:17 7:5,6,9,10,19 9:21 29:15 30:2,6</p> <p>companies 20:5 24:20</p> <p>company 1:5 3:7 4:8,19 16:17 24:9 26:4 28:19</p> <p>company's 3:21 15:19 17:16 27:3</p> <p>complete 21:17</p> <p>completion 10:20</p>
--	--	--	--

<p>complicit 24:6 comply 16:17 component 22:13 composed 20:21 computer 29:10 conceivable 21:8 concentrations 23:4 concern 12:12 concerned 13:17 13:22 concert 16:10 concerted 16:19 conclude 17:17 23:21 concluded 30:9 concludes 30:5 concrete 27:18 condition 28:3,14 conducted 10:18 confusion 25:3 connected 16:2 consequences 23:14 conservation 19:16 consideration 15:18 18:21 considered 27:12 27:13 consistent 10:11 11:18 18:2 constitutional 5:14 construction 11:17 consulting 10:18 consumers 7:14 8:6 consumption 11:11 continue 15:13 17:18,20 22:7 28:6</p>	<p>continues 23:20 continuing 15:21 contradictory 21:22 contrary 14:2 contributed 23:11 convening 3:12 7:4 cook 14:8 cooking 26:11 cooling 4:12 coordinate 16:11 coordinated 16:19 copies 30:4 core 23:16 coronavirus 8:5 cost 5:16 10:19 16:15 17:15 costs 4:18 10:15 11:4 15:19 17:8 council 5:9 17:21 counsel 2:7,9 6:18 7:3,13 8:1,22 31:10,13 32:7,10 country 11:5 course 14:10 covers 4:21 covid 23:12 24:2 create 13:19 creating 13:20 crises 11:5 crisis 13:20 17:18 24:3 critical 8:2 critically 7:19 current 4:3 10:10 15:5,9 20:20 currently 4:7 17:8 customer 4:12,22 17:15 customers 4:7,18 11:12 20:7</p>	<p>d d 3:1 damage 10:6 23:3 dangerous 13:21 23:6 database 29:19 date 1:11 8:16 davis 2:21 days 7:7 dc 1:15 2:11 5:8 6:4 9:17,17,21 10:2 11:10,20 12:4,7,12,13,14 14:5 15:3 17:20 19:16,18 20:7 21:2,9,15 23:8,8 23:20 24:3 26:9 dc's 10:11 11:18 12:10,16 17:20 21:4,18 dc.gov 2:12 dc.gov. 6:6 deadly 13:20 death 23:12 decade 28:8 decided 25:13 decision 7:21 16:4 25:6 26:3 decisions 7:16 19:1 dedicate 28:12 deep 11:21 deeply 13:17,22 default 5:6 defense 14:17 deficiencies 17:14 defies 20:9 defined 8:17 deleterious 23:13 delivery 4:18 5:1 demand 21:20 demonstration 15:18</p>	<p>depreciation 17:2 17:5,15 deserves 24:11 design 14:20 designed 3:18 destroy 10:3 destroyed 10:5 devastation 24:2 develop 22:19 26:20 28:2 differ 24:10 difference 12:8 digital 31:8 32:3 dioxide 22:15,16 23:2,5 dire 23:14 direction 18:11 directly 14:12 20:13 discharge 7:21 discipline 16:3 disconnected 14:5 discuss 3:14 discussion 27:8 disproportionately 23:12 disregards 21:21 dissuade 25:11 distant 22:5 distribute 4:20 distribution 4:17 5:3 district 1:2 3:5,16 4:19 5:2 6:17 7:3 8:10,20 9:2 11:6 12:5 13:22 17:9 20:1,4 21:20 22:3 24:19 26:10,19 27:18 28:11,16 31:20 district's 14:15,21 15:11,15,17 16:17 18:22 26:22 27:5 27:16</p>
--	--	--	--

<p>docket 16:8 29:19 29:20 30:5</p> <p>doing 17:19 25:14</p> <p>dollar 10:21</p> <p>dollars 8:7 10:7 12:11 17:11 18:5 26:5 28:8</p> <p>don't 25:10 28:18 29:7</p> <p>draughts 13:21</p> <p>duly 31:5</p>	<p>encourage 8:14</p> <p>endanger 23:20</p> <p>energy 11:19 12:18 14:11 15:15 15:16 26:7,9,10 26:13 28:17</p> <p>engage 16:15</p> <p>enhance 15:8</p> <p>ensure 5:11</p> <p>ensuring 7:14 20:5 24:20</p> <p>enter 29:21</p> <p>entitled 9:21</p> <p>environmental 8:9 14:17</p> <p>equally 12:1</p> <p>especially 11:4</p> <p>esquire 2:8</p> <p>essential 5:11,16</p> <p>estimates 15:12</p> <p>everybody 6:12 24:14</p> <p>everyday 11:10</p> <p>evidenced 27:3</p> <p>evidently 27:17</p> <p>evolve 18:3,8 26:21</p> <p>examination 17:12</p> <p>example 15:12</p> <p>exchange 26:15</p> <p>execution 16:20</p> <p>existence 9:20</p> <p>existing 1:7 3:7,15</p> <p>expect 17:19</p> <p>expectations 24:10</p> <p>extent 16:14</p> <p>extremely 20:22</p>	<p>facilities 11:18</p> <p>facing 11:5</p> <p>fact 22:2 27:2</p> <p>failed 20:18 27:2 28:2</p> <p>failing 21:21 23:18</p> <p>fails 14:18</p> <p>failure 21:17</p> <p>faith 28:20</p> <p>falls 24:9</p> <p>families 11:20</p> <p>fantastic 13:9 14:8</p> <p>far 10:5 22:4 27:4</p> <p>fc1162 29:20</p> <p>fees 5:8</p> <p>feet 9:18 10:4</p> <p>file 17:1,5</p> <p>filed 3:14 6:2 14:15,17</p> <p>filing 17:16 29:21</p> <p>filings 29:16</p> <p>finally 16:22</p> <p>financially 8:12 20:5 24:20 26:14 31:15 32:11</p> <p>first 9:5,7 15:1 28:15</p> <p>five 5:21 15:9,14</p> <p>flood 10:2,4</p> <p>flooding 13:21 22:5</p> <p>foot 10:2</p> <p>foregoing 31:3,4 32:4</p> <p>form 22:12</p> <p>formal 1:5 3:5 7:5 20:17 30:5,6</p> <p>former 14:6</p> <p>forms 22:15</p> <p>forward 8:13</p> <p>fossil 12:6 17:18 27:19</p>	<p>found 9:22 10:19 10:21</p> <p>fracked 21:1</p> <p>frye 2:8 6:18,21 7:2</p> <p>fuels 12:6 17:18 27:19</p> <p>fulfill 27:2</p> <p>full 4:10</p> <p>fully 5:15 14:11</p> <p>fundamentally 11:20</p> <p>funds 14:18 28:12</p> <p>further 29:15 31:12 32:9</p> <p>future 15:5 17:11</p>
<p>e</p> <p>e 2:1,1 3:1,1 6:5 29:18</p> <p>economic 8:9 11:5 24:1</p> <p>economical 28:17</p> <p>edf 15:4,9 16:8 17:4</p> <p>eds 16:6</p> <p>effective 16:15</p> <p>effects 4:11 23:6 23:13</p> <p>efforts 16:11,12 16:16 17:3</p> <p>eisenstadt 2:18 19:8,8,10,13,15 27:21</p> <p>elaborated 27:22</p> <p>electric 16:12,20</p> <p>electricity 14:3</p> <p>electrification 16:16,18 17:3 21:5</p> <p>electrified 14:6</p> <p>electrifies 17:10</p> <p>emission 16:10</p> <p>emissions 14:2 15:16 21:2,6,11 21:14</p> <p>employed 31:11 31:14 32:8,11</p> <p>employee 31:13 32:10</p>	<p>f</p> <p>faced 8:6</p> <p>faces 17:17</p> <p>facilitates 7:20</p>	<p>g</p> <p>g 3:1</p> <p>gas 1:5,8 3:6,8,16 4:6,18,20 5:2,5,6 5:7,11 9:15 10:8 10:15 11:9,14 12:10 13:18 14:2 14:5,6,14,19 15:8 15:9,12,13,22 16:9,15 17:1,2,4 17:20 18:3,4,6,8,9 20:12,18,21,22 21:1,2,3,6,11,12 21:17 22:8,11,15 22:16,17,20 23:4 23:6,15,18 24:11 26:3,17,20 27:1,9 27:14,19 28:1,3,5 28:8,13,18 29:1</p> <p>gas's 19:20 20:8 20:15</p> <p>generated 14:11 23:4</p> <p>ghg 15:16 16:10</p> <p>given 23:7</p> <p>giving 6:12</p> <p>global 18:22</p>	

goals 15:11 21:9 27:1,5,20 goes 24:22 going 3:3 13:1,9 24:8 good 3:2 6:22 19:14 granted 4:10 grave 24:7 great 13:15 25:22 greenhouse 20:22 21:2,6,11 grid 28:14 ground 22:13 group 10:19 guard 8:6 h half 10:22 hand 29:9,10 handed 28:5 hard 8:6 harming 22:6 health 8:7 21:22 22:3 27:20 healthier 28:16 healthy 20:5 24:20 hear 13:5,6 25:18 25:19 hearing 1:10 3:4 3:12,13 5:17 7:5,6 7:12 8:13,15 29:7 29:15 30:3,6 heat 11:9,15 12:1 14:6,7,7 22:6 heater 14:8 heating 4:12 26:11 heatwaves 13:20 heavily 8:4 held 3:13 5:17 7:6 hereto 31:14 32:11 hi 13:4 high 11:14 23:9,12	highlight 24:16 hold 12:15 home 14:5,7,10,13 22:20 homeless 10:6 homes 10:3,5 22:9 22:17 26:11 hook 17:11 hot 14:7 house 10:3 i idea 9:20 25:12 imagined 27:6 imminent 22:2 impact 17:13 impacts 18:21 implicit 25:14 important 7:12,15 7:19 15:3 26:3 importantly 7:9 impossible 21:15 improper 22:22 improve 23:19 improved 20:12 imprudent 10:16 11:2 incentivize 11:17 include 15:5 17:12 21:5 includes 4:5 25:8 25:9,9 including 26:8 27:19 income 26:13 increase 1:6 3:7 3:15,20 4:1,5,11 9:16 12:1,17 15:14 19:21 20:9 20:10 23:19,21 24:6,7 26:4 28:22 independent 10:18 individuals 5:22	indoor 23:13 induction 14:8 inequitable 11:20 info 2:12 information 29:15 infrastructure 18:6 27:11 28:3,9 injustice 24:7 input 6:13 7:9,19 29:19 installed 14:12 institutions 26:12 integrated 15:2 16:7 intend 19:2 intent 11:16 27:3 interest 7:21 8:11 20:4,10 24:19 interested 5:18 31:15 32:12 interests 25:7 intersection 24:3 invest 16:18 involved 15:21 involvement 16:19 involving 7:17 irresponsible 11:3 24:1 irritant 22:14 issued 29:22 issues 7:19 15:4 26:8 27:7,8 j january 3:14 job 1:17 25:14 joined 3:10 29:7,9 joining 6:12 7:1 judge 20:20 justification 11:2 k keep 26:13 knight 32:2,15	knowledge 31:9 32:6 l l 2:3 3:8 lack 14:4 large 11:11,22 largely 10:16 late 10:20 laws 17:14 lead 18:10 leaving 11:13 17:11 left 10:6 legal 22:21 legally 21:3 legitimate 27:12 27:13 level 5:14 9:18 12:5 22:13 levels 10:10 liberty 10:18 light 1:5 3:6 8:5 26:3 line 6:10 9:8 13:3 19:9 listening 18:19 little 13:10 live 9:17 12:4 lived 9:16 lives 17:2,14 living 22:17,19 local 10:14 location 1:14 long 16:9 26:21 28:17 longer 15:10 17:9 look 4:14 8:13 lose 8:8 m mail 6:5 maintain 27:10 major 19:1 22:13 22:14
--	---	--	---

<p>making 14:1 16:4 management 10:21 11:3 28:19 mandate 18:2 march 21:11 27:4 mark 2:16 9:9,9 9:16 mattavous 2:8 6:18,21 7:2 matter 1:4 3:6 matthias 2:17 9:7 13:2,16 maximize 12:12 maximum 5:21,22 meaning 22:22 25:5 means 25:9 measurable 14:1,3 21:14 measured 20:15 meet 20:16,18 21:17 members 19:18 mentioned 12:3 25:1 27:21 mentioning 24:15 merger 20:16 21:13 26:18 meter 4:21 methane 20:21 21:1 22:8,10,14 23:6,13 28:7 metro 19:19 million 3:19,22 4:6 10:9 26:5 28:7 millions 18:5 minutes 5:21 6:1 13:12 missed 24:17 mission 19:5 20:2 22:1 23:17 24:15 24:18 25:4 mist 27:14</p>	<p>model 12:18 18:4 18:8 26:22 modernize 14:19 money 27:9 monthly 4:7,11 mothballed 28:9 move 9:8 moving 11:3</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">n</p> <hr/> <p>n 2:1 3:1 name 9:16 13:16 19:15 26:6 national 22:11 23:9 natural 3:8 4:6,18 4:20 5:2,5,6,6,11 20:21 naturalist 19:17 nearly 11:8 necessary 16:3,11 need 7:9 14:19 15:2 26:10 27:22 28:12 needs 27:9,13,13 27:18 28:9 neighborhoods 22:9 28:15 neighbors 9:19 neither 31:10 32:7 net 21:7 neurological 23:3 neutrality 18:1 21:7 never 8:4 new 11:17 18:2 nice 13:11 nitrogen 22:15,16 23:2,4 norm 23:1 normalization 4:9 normalized 3:21 northwest 2:10 notary 1:16 31:1 31:19</p>	<p>notes 16:8 november 6:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">o</p> <hr/> <p>o 3:1 objectively 24:8 obligated 21:4 obligation 8:8 obligations 20:1 obsolete 18:6 october 1:11 3:11 offer 6:19 19:19 offering 24:12 office 2:7,9 6:18 7:22 12:7 officer 31:2 okay 9:8 29:13 old 17:19 28:3 omnibus 18:20 26:9 once 24:14 29:13 29:18,20 opc 2:12 open 16:7 29:18 opening 6:19 operate 5:1 operated 28:20 operation 11:17 operationally 26:14 opportunity 5:19 8:19 9:14 12:19 26:2 29:2 oppose 28:22 opposition 19:20 oral 5:21 6:1 order 3:3 15:4 16:2 27:19 29:22 ordinary 11:12 organizations 5:20 outcome 31:15 32:12 outcomes 21:22</p>	<p>outdated 15:10 28:8 outset 11:1 overall 4:1 overruns 10:20 overwhelming 22:5 ozone 22:12,13</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">p</p> <hr/> <p>p 2:1,1 3:1 p.m. 1:12 3:12 30:8 paid 4:7 pandemic 8:5 23:14 24:2 27:14 panels 14:12 paradigm 18:10 parent 26:18 part 4:17 5:4,7 participate 7:11 particular 15:7 16:14 particularly 23:9 parties 31:11,14 32:8,11 parts 12:4 party 6:17 paustian 2:17 9:7 9:8 13:2,4,9,15,16 pay 11:21,22 21:20 penny 32:2,15 people 4:22 10:3,6 25:9,9 people's 2:7,9 6:18 7:2,13,22 8:22 pepco 16:8 percent 4:1 10:1 10:10,10 11:13 19:21 21:2,5,6,10 22:18 perform 23:18</p>
---	---	---	---

<p>performance 20:12,13,15,19 21:18</p> <p>performing 8:2</p> <p>permitted 5:15,20 5:22 26:4</p> <p>perpetrating 24:7</p> <p>personable 13:10</p> <p>personally 14:5</p> <p>persons 5:18</p> <p>phillips 2:3 3:2,9 6:15,22 8:16,21 9:14 12:20 13:6 13:13 18:16 19:14 24:13 25:19 26:1 29:3,13</p> <p>physical 24:1</p> <p>pipe 28:14</p> <p>pipes 4:22</p> <p>place 17:9</p> <p>plan 15:1,2 16:9 21:12,13,16 26:21 27:4,18 28:1</p> <p>planet 12:13 17:17 17:19</p> <p>planning 14:20 15:8,10 16:1,7,20 28:12</p> <p>plans 11:19 16:10 16:13 27:16</p> <p>plants 11:9</p> <p>please 12:21 19:6 19:6 25:15 29:8 29:10</p> <p>point 25:3</p> <p>points 14:18 15:9</p> <p>policies 17:13 19:1 27:16</p> <p>policy 7:18 21:4 26:8,16</p> <p>polluters 11:22</p> <p>poor 28:3</p> <p>portion 21:10 24:17 25:1,4,4</p>	<p>portions 28:13</p> <p>poses 22:2</p> <p>possible 12:11 28:10</p> <p>potent 20:22</p> <p>potential 17:13</p> <p>power 11:9,15 12:2</p> <p>powered 14:11</p> <p>precious 28:20</p> <p>preexisting 23:5</p> <p>preferred 28:6</p> <p>prepared 18:9 32:3</p> <p>preregistered 9:4 29:5</p> <p>presence 8:22</p> <p>present 2:15</p> <p>presentation 5:21 6:1</p> <p>presents 16:9</p> <p>pressing 29:9</p> <p>prevalence 23:7</p> <p>priced 5:13</p> <p>primarily 20:21</p> <p>prior 31:4</p> <p>probably 18:15,18</p> <p>problem 22:5 28:4</p> <p>proceed 13:14</p> <p>proceeding 19:2 29:17 30:1,9 32:4</p> <p>proceedings 31:3 31:4,5,8 32:6</p> <p>process 14:20 15:8 15:10 16:1</p> <p>produce 11:15</p> <p>profits 12:12</p> <p>program 10:17 11:1</p> <p>progress 14:1,3,4</p> <p>projectpipes 4:8 10:17,19 11:3</p> <p>projects 10:20</p>	<p>promise 27:2</p> <p>promised 26:20</p> <p>pronouncer 19:15</p> <p>proper 22:18,21</p> <p>property 10:6</p> <p>proposal 10:13 11:7</p> <p>proposals 28:6</p> <p>proposed 4:9,11 9:15 18:12 20:8</p> <p>proposes 4:8 10:15 11:10 16:9 17:4</p> <p>protect 12:14,15 27:20</p> <p>proven 28:18</p> <p>provide 5:18 20:6 24:21 27:10,11 28:16</p> <p>provided 5:12 23:16</p> <p>providing 5:16</p> <p>pse 6:5</p> <p>pubic 24:18</p> <p>public 1:1,13,16 2:2 3:4,9 6:4 7:21 8:1,2 10:12 18:19 19:22 20:3,4,10 21:21 22:1 24:5 24:19 26:1,16 31:1,19</p> <p>published 21:12</p> <p>pump 14:7,7</p> <p>pursuant 5:14 20:16</p> <p>put 13:10 15:13 23:15</p>	<p>quote 10:21 26:21</p> <p style="text-align: center;">r</p> <p>r 2:1 3:1</p> <p>raise 10:9 11:7,12 29:8,10</p> <p>raised 15:4</p> <p>raising 27:7,7</p> <p>range 10:7 16:9</p> <p>rate 4:10,16,21 9:15 10:17 11:4 11:22 12:2,16 13:19 14:14,17,18 14:20 15:1,5 16:2 17:16 18:12 19:21 20:9,10 23:19,21 24:6 25:6,12 27:8 28:22</p> <p>ratepayer 12:11</p> <p>ratepayers 8:19 11:10 12:14 15:3 17:11 18:5 20:11 27:10</p> <p>rates 1:7 3:7,16,18 4:15 7:17 10:9 11:7,12,13 17:15 20:7 23:8,12 24:22 26:4</p> <p>reach 21:15 27:19</p> <p>reacts 22:12</p> <p>reading 4:21</p> <p>reads 20:2</p> <p>really 25:2</p> <p>reasonable 5:13 20:7 24:22</p> <p>reasonably 20:11</p> <p>recession 11:21</p> <p>recognize 6:16</p> <p>recognized 17:21</p> <p>recognizes 7:7</p> <p>record 3:11 7:2 31:9 32:5</p> <p>recorded 31:6</p> <p>recording 30:2 31:8 32:4</p>
		q	
		<p>qualified 31:7</p> <p>qualities 20:13</p> <p>quality 20:6,14 23:13 24:21</p> <p>quite 14:2 18:16</p>	

<p>recover 5:15 17:8 recovery 16:2 reduced 31:6 reducing 14:1 reduction 15:16 16:11 21:6 reductions 21:14 registered 9:3 regulate 5:6 regulated 4:15 regulates 5:3 regulators 5:10 reject 10:12 rejecting 12:16 rejection 18:12 related 31:11 32:7 relative 31:13 32:10 released 22:10 27:4 reliability 20:14 reliable 20:6 24:21 rely 15:21 remained 7:14 remark 6:19 remind 18:19 24:14 reminding 19:22 removal 17:15 render 7:20 renewable 12:18 14:11 rents 12:7 repairs 4:22 repeatedly 24:9 replace 28:8 reported 1:16 represent 21:14 representatives 5:20 represents 3:20 21:17</p>	<p>request 10:9 19:20 20:20 23:21 requested 3:18 requesting 29:1 requests 3:15 require 5:12 15:18 16:19 17:1 18:3,7 required 17:5,21 18:21 requirements 8:10 21:18 22:21 requiring 12:17 reserve 17:14 residences 22:3 27:21 resident 13:17 26:7 residential 4:12 residents 9:2 12:12,13 20:2 21:20 23:20 24:4 28:16 resources 15:19 28:21 respective 7:22 respiratory 22:14 respondents 29:12 response 14:20 21:13 24:1 responsibility 8:3 responsible 21:1 restoration 4:22 result 3:22 14:4 24:8 resulting 12:6 returns 27:11 revenue 4:2,5,9 revenues 3:20,22 reviewed 29:17 rewarding 11:2 richard 2:4 3:10 6:8 rife 10:19</p>	<p>right 14:12 18:17 rights 5:15 rigorous 16:4 rise 12:5 risk 17:3,7 road 26:17 robust 26:14 rodeffer 2:16 9:9 9:9,10,13,16 role 5:10 roles 7:22 roof 14:13 roughly 10:22 rules 26:16 run 28:17</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">s</p> <hr/> <p>s 2:1 3:1 safe 20:6 23:16 24:21 safer 24:8 safety 20:14 22:3 23:16 sales 15:13 sandra 2:8 6:18 7:2 says 24:17 27:9 schedules 7:11 sea 9:18,22 12:5 search 29:19,20 seat 7:15 second 7:6 9:9 secretary 2:5 6:4 9:5 12:22 29:4 sedgwick 2:5 6:3 9:6,11 13:1,8 19:7 19:11 25:16,21 29:6 see 10:2 13:11 29:21 seeks 17:8 sending 6:3 separated 14:22 serious 17:10</p>	<p>seriously 12:9 serve 20:4,9,10 24:19 26:22 service 1:1,8,13 2:2 3:4,8,16 4:22 5:7,11,16 6:4 8:1 10:12 17:14 18:19 20:3 21:21 22:1 23:16,19 24:5,8 24:18 26:1 services 5:13 7:18 20:6 24:21 27:10 set 5:9 setting 3:13 shareholders 27:12 shift 10:15 18:10 short 24:9 side 14:3 sight 8:8 signature 31:17 32:14 signed 26:19 simply 17:7 23:15 sir 9:7,12 29:6,11 sits 9:18 six 9:18 10:2 skills 31:10 32:6 smog 22:13 society 19:17 solar 14:12 soon 18:6 28:10 sorry 18:14,14 sources 28:17 southwest 9:17 10:2 12:4,7 space 12:7 speak 26:2 29:8 spend 28:7 spending 18:4 spent 10:21 squeeze 12:11 stable 8:12</p>
--	---	--	---

<p>staff 26:2 stakeholders 25:8 standards 20:19 star 29:9 statement 20:2 24:16 25:4 states 22:21 statute 25:5 statutory 5:14 6:17 step 18:11 27:4 stifling 22:5 stop 27:18 storms 5:1 13:21 stove 14:9 22:15 22:18,20,22 stoves 23:4 stranded 17:4 stream 26:13 street 2:10 stressed 16:6 stretch 8:7 structure 4:10 struggling 11:21 study 9:21 17:2,5 17:12 subject 4:16 13:19 submit 8:15 26:15 subsequent 29:16 subsidize 11:10 suffocating 22:8 suite 2:10 sunlight 22:12 supplier 12:10 supplies 26:12 supply 5:6 14:5 15:8,9 16:10 22:11 support 21:4,18 26:9,22 supporters 19:18 surcharges 4:8 5:8 surely 24:10</p>	<p>surging 9:22 survive 17:19 sustainability 8:10 sworn 31:5 system 4:6 5:2</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">t</p> <hr/> <p>tab 29:19 table 7:15 tackling 28:4 take 12:8 14:15,19 18:21 taken 7:10 17:10 31:3,12 32:9 talk 29:2 talking 4:4 taxes 5:8 tbd 1:15 telephone 29:8 tenure 7:13 term 26:21 testify 9:15 12:19 13:11 testifying 10:8 31:5 testimony 12:4,21 14:16 19:19 24:10 24:14 29:4 thank 6:11,13,15 7:4,10 8:18,21,22 9:6,11,13 12:18 12:20 13:15 19:3 19:11,13,13 24:12 24:13 25:16,22 29:1,3,11,14 30:6 theoretical 9:20 things 14:22 think 19:4 24:17 25:3 third 5:7 thorough 15:18 threat 9:20 22:2 three 5:22 13:12</p>	<p>tied 20:13 time 1:12 7:11 8:8 8:18 13:16 17:9 18:13 28:21 timing 15:19 today 3:11 6:12 7:1 8:5 9:15 10:8 13:12 19:19 22:6 22:8 29:2,14 today's 7:5 8:13 8:15 27:8 30:2 told 13:2 tomorrow 22:7 30:3 total 3:19 tough 28:4 toxic 22:16 tradeoffs 15:21 tragically 22:20 transcriber 32:1 transcript 30:4 32:3,5 transcriptionist 31:7 transition 12:17 28:1,5,13 transitioned 28:15 tropospheric 22:12 trouble 4:4 true 28:11 31:8 32:5 tuesday 1:11 turn 9:3 19:5 29:11 twice 23:9 typewriting 31:7</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">u</p> <hr/> <p>unchanged 11:13 understand 8:11 15:20 understated 23:7 undertake 28:19</p>	<p>undeserved 23:22 unfortunately 27:1 united 22:20 unjust 11:12 23:22 unquote 11:1 unsuccessful 10:16 unwarranted 23:22 upgrades 4:6 uphold 17:22 urge 15:4 urgent 28:2 urgently 22:7 usage 15:16 use 17:16 useful 17:2 user 11:8 users 11:11,14 usual 28:7 utility 5:15 12:7 12:17 16:3,21 17:20 18:11 20:5 20:6 24:20,21 25:8 26:12,15 utility's 8:11 10:9 16:12 20:20</p> <hr/> <p style="text-align: center;">v</p> <hr/> <p>ventilation 22:18 22:22,22 videoconference 1:14 view 7:7 virtual 3:3,13 7:12 virtually 21:15 voice 7:15 voices 7:12 volume 11:14 vulnerable 12:5</p>
--	--	--	--

[want - zealous]

Page 10

w	24:15 25:15,17 31:4
want 6:16 7:10 18:18 19:22 24:14 24:16 25:2,11	witnesses 7:10 8:14 9:4 29:5
wants 12:10	wonder 4:15
ward 13:17 26:7	word 6:6
washington 1:5,15 2:11 3:6 9:15,21 10:15 14:14 15:12 16:15 17:1,4 18:3 18:8,9 19:20 20:8 20:12,15,18 21:2 21:3,9,12,17 23:8 23:15,18 24:11 26:3,17,20 27:1,9 27:14 28:1,5,18 28:22	work 10:22 26:9 27:15 28:19 worse 10:5 28:14 worsens 13:19 23:5 written 6:1 8:16 wrought 24:3 www.dcpssc.org. 29:18
washingtonians 22:6,8 23:10	y
waste 28:20	year 14:10 15:9 years 9:17 10:1 15:14 26:8
water 14:7,8	z
way 16:16 17:19 21:8	zealous 9:1
wealthy 11:14	
weatherized 3:21	
website 29:17,18 30:4	
weighed 8:4	
welcome 18:18	
went 10:4 18:14	
westbrook 2:5 6:3 9:6,11 13:1,8 19:7 19:11 25:16,21 29:6	
wgl 3:14 4:18,18 5:19 15:5 16:8,9 16:20	
wgl's 27:2 29:15	
who've 7:10	
whopping 11:13	
willie 2:3 3:8	
wish 5:18	
witness 9:5,7,9 12:21 19:6,6,8	