STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE IMPACTS OF THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT OF 2017 AND POSSIBLE RATE IMPLICATIONS	))))	**CAUSE NO. 45032 S7**

INDIANA OFFICE OF UTILITY CONSUMER COUNSELOR

PUBLIC'S EXHIBIT NO. 1

TESTIMONY OF OUCC WITNESS

ISABELLE L. GORDON

AUGUST 21, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Franson
Attorney No. 27839-49
Deputy Consumer Counselor

TESTIMONY OF OUCC WITNESS ISABELLE L. GORDON
CAUSE NO. 45032 S-7
COMMUNITY NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC.

I. INTRODUCTION

Q: Please state your name and business address.

A: My name is Isabelle L. Gordon, and my business address is 115 W. Washington Street, Suite 1500 South, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.

Q: By whom are you employed and in what capacity?

A: I am employed by the Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor ("OUCC") as a Utility Analyst I. For a summary of my educational and professional experience and my preparation for this case, please see Appendix ILG-1 attached to my testimony.

Q: What is the purpose of your testimony?

A: I discuss and provide background on the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission's ("Commission") Investigation in Cause No. 45032 into the impacts of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 ("TCJA") on regulated utilities (the "Commission Investigation"). I respond to Community Natural Gas Company, Inc.'s ("Respondent" or "Community") proposed amortization and calculation of its excess accumulated deferred income taxes ("EDIT")[1] and address the refund of excess federal income tax expense collected by Community from January 1, 2018 through April 30, 2018, the date on which Respondent's base rates and charges were reduced to reflect the current federal income tax rate of 21%.

[1] Hereafter, ADIT refers to accumulated deferred income tax before the excess (EDIT) is calculated.

II. TCJA BACKGROUND

Q: What are the main effects of the TCJA on regulated utilities?

A: The main effects of the TCJA on regulated utilities are the reduction of the federal income tax rate to 21% and the elimination of bonus depreciation. Regulated utilities are still allowed to deduct all interest expense without limitation.

Q: What adjustments are necessary to reflect these effects in a regulated utility's rates and charges?

A: There are three major adjustments necessary to reflect the impact of the TCJA on a regulated utility's rates and charges: (1) reduction of federal income tax expense embedded in utility rates to reflect the new 21% corporate tax rate on a going-forward basis; (2) refund of the federal income tax expense over-collected by the utility from January 1, 2018 until the federal income tax rate embedded in rates and charges is reduced to 21%;[2] and (3) reduction of federal income tax expense to reflect the return of excess ADIT created when ADIT is revalued at the 21% rate. Item (1) is a Phase 1 issue in the Commission Investigation in Cause No. 45032, and items (2) and (3) are Phase 2 issues in the Commission Investigation.

Q: How are the impacts of the TCJA on Community's rates being addressed?

A: On March 26, 2018, Community made a 30-Day filing in compliance with the Commission's Order in Cause No. 45032 dated February 16, 2018, and implemented revised rates based on the new 21% income tax rate effective on May 1, 2018, resolving Phase 1 of the Commission Investigation. Phase 2 tax

[2] Per the Commission's order dated January 3, 2018 in Cause No. 45032, all Indiana investor-owned utilities are required to begin using regulatory accounting, such as the use of regulatory assets and liabilities, for all calculated differences resulting from the TCJA and what would have been recorded if the TCJA did not go into effect.

issues are being addressed in this subdocket, Cause No. 45032 S-7.

Q: How are deferred income taxes generated?

A: Deferred income taxes are the result of temporary timing differences created by how revenues or expenses are recognized on a company's financial statements or its "books" and how those same revenues or expenses are recognized for tax purposes. For regulated utilities, the primary source of deferred income taxes is due to accelerated tax depreciation. Deferred taxes can also be generated by other items, such as unbilled revenue, accrued wages, capitalized payroll taxes, unamortized rate case expense, pension expenses, bad debts, and capital loss carry forwards. Deferred income taxes can be either a deferred liability (taxes paid are less than book taxes) or a deferred asset (taxes paid are more than book taxes).

Q: What is the difference between book depreciation and tax depreciation?

A: Accelerated tax depreciation uses a higher depreciation rate than the depreciation rate used for book purposes. This higher rate of depreciation results in more expense being recognized earlier in an asset's life for tax purposes than is recognized for book purposes.

Q: How does the difference between book depreciation and accelerated tax depreciation affect Respondent's payment of income taxes?

A: A lower depreciation expense rate for book purposes results in a higher net income on a company's financial statements. A higher accelerated depreciation expense for tax purposes lowers the net income on which the company is taxed, thereby lowering the income tax payment. But a utility's income tax revenue requirement is not adjusted when it takes accelerated depreciation; therefore, the amount of income tax expense recovered from customers is higher than the actual income tax paid by the utility to the government. With accelerated tax depreciation, the company avoids taxes in the early years, and the temporary timing difference is recognized as deferred income tax. The value recorded for ADIT is based on the utility's current income tax rate and is calculated by taking the difference between book and tax expense and multiplying by the tax rate. ADIT reverses when accelerated tax depreciation is exhausted and the temporary timing difference is eliminated.

Q: What is the effect of the TCJA on Respondent's ADIT?

A: When tax rates change, ADIT balances must be revalued at the new tax rates. The difference between the ADIT balance valued at the old income tax rate (34%) and the new income tax rate (21%) is known as excess deferred tax liability, or excess deferred income tax ("EDIT"). Respondent also has other book to tax differences, not generated from accelerated depreciation, which resulted in either excess deferred tax liabilities or deferred tax assets. As reflected in this filing, Respondent revalued its accumulated deferred taxes using the new 21% income tax rate, which resulted in the EDIT to be returned to customers. As I discuss in more detail below, the amortization period over which the EDIT balance is to be refunded to customers depends on whether the EDIT is deemed protected or unprotected, pursuant to Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") normalization guidelines.

III. COMMUNITY'S PHASE 2 SUBDOCKET

EDIT

Q: Please describe Respondent's calculation of EDIT as shown on Exhibit 1 and the proposed refund amortization period shown on Exhibit 2.

A: Respondent's Exhibit 1, page 1 determines the amount of ADIT at the prior 34% income tax rate and the amount of ADIT at the new 21% income tax rate; the difference being EDIT, which is to be refunded to ratepayers. Respondent's EDIT is mostly derived from book-to-tax depreciation differences, but it is also derived from allowance for doubtful accounts. The book-to-tax depreciation portion is considered protected.[3] To the extent the utility has the detailed information for each of its assets individually, the utility should use the Average Rate Assumption Method ("ARAM") to calculate the remaining lives over which to refund protected EDIT. Respondent is not using ARAM for this calculation. The TCJA allows utilities with less sophisticated accounting records to use a weighted average life or composite rate used to compute depreciation for regulatory purposes. Respondent uses the weighted average life method as summarized on its Exhibit 2, page 1.[4] The allowance for doubtful accounts are considered unprotected and can be returned over a period subject to the Commission's discretion.

Exhibit 1, page 1, lines 1-5 calculates the book-to-tax difference in

[3] EDIT can be protected and unprotected. For protected EDIT, utilities are required to use normalized accounting under which depreciation for ratemaking purposes does not reflect accelerated depreciation for tax purposes. Unprotected EDIT is not subject to such normalization requirements, and the amortization of any refund is subject only to Commission discretion.

[4] Respondent's Exhibit 2 is titled Average Rate Assumption Method ("ARAM"), but ARAM is not used. Respondent indicated in response to discovery Q1.4 "Petitioner does not believe that Exhibit 2 shows an ARAM method." Respondent further indicates that "the calculation on Exhibit 2 is a calculation of the average remaining lives of [the] Petitioner's utility plant in service." (See Attachment ILG-2, pages 2-3.)

depreciation, and subtracts allowance for doubtful accounts as a regulatory asset. The result is multiplied by the old 34% tax rate and the new 21% tax rate to get the difference, which is a regulatory liability shown on line 12. Respondent's Exhibit 1, page 1 calculates unprotected EDIT on lines 13-19. Also, since state income tax is a deduction for federal income tax purposes, the ADIT related to state deferred taxes is deducted from total ADIT to arrive at the federal ADIT balance used to derive the excess deferred taxes that should be refunded to customers.

Q: Do you agree with Respondent's EDIT, as calculated on its Exhibit 1, page 1?

A: Yes. The necessary components to calculate EDIT are included in Respondent's Exhibit 1, page 1, with supporting documentation on additional pages of Exhibit 1. Using Respondent's book and tax values for protected ADIT, and other deferred income tax balances of unprotected ADIT, I calculated a deferred tax liability shown on Attachment ILG-1. I took the difference between Respondent's net book value and net tax value of its assets, less state deferred taxes, and calculated the difference in deferred balances using the 34% and 21% tax rates, which yields the total protected EDIT to be returned to the ratepayers. (Attachment ILG-1, lines 1-10.) A similar calculation is shown on lines 11-22 for unprotected EDIT, where deferred tax assets (allowance for doubtful accounts) were added, less applicable state deferred taxes, and the difference in deferred balances using the 34% and 21% tax rates, yielded the total unprotected EDIT.

My calculation differs from Respondent's Exhibit 1, page 1 by deducting the state deferred income tax applicable to the protected and unprotected EDIT separately based on the deferred state income tax calculation shown on Respondent's Exhibit 1, page 6, giving a more accurate protected and unprotected EDIT balance. The total protected EDIT and unprotected EDIT is added together on lines 23-25 for a total net regulatory liability to be returned to customers. This total net EDIT of $885,312 is the same net total EDIT amount reflected on line 12 of Respondent's Exhibit 1, page 1.

Q: Is Respondent proposing to refund its EDIT as calculated on Exhibit 1, page 1?

A: No. Respondent proposes to use an alternative calculation shown on its Exhibit 3. As described on page 8 of Ms. Mann's testimony, Respondent recalculated deferred income taxes from the utility's last rate case assuming a 21% federal tax rate. Respondent proposes to refund the difference between this amount and the ADIT at 34% from its last rate case.

Q: Do you agree with using Respondent's Exhibit 3 as the basis for the EDIT refund?

A: No, for several reasons. First, this calculation represents deferred taxes from a point in time years ago. Ratepayers have been paying income taxes embedded in rates each year since the last rate case, and each year deferred income taxes are calculated and reflected on the balance sheet. The December 31, 2017 deferred income tax balance is the most up to date balance before the new 21% income tax rate went into effect on January 1, 2018. For purposes of the calculation on Exhibit 3, Respondent did not update any deferred tax calculations since the last rate case. (Attachment ILG-2, page 3, Q1.9.) Not updating deferred tax calculations since the last rate case ignores ratepayer contributions to income taxes or contributions to depreciation expense for the years between the last rate case and the date of the most current deferred income tax balance before the TCJA went into effect.

Second, Exhibit 3 is not supported by any other schedules. Ms. Mann states on page 9, lines 8-11 of her testimony, "[t]he accumulated deferred federal income tax calculation referenced in [E]xhibit 3 was included in each utilities [sic] last rate case and has therefore been previously vetted by both the OUCC and the IURC." None of the workpapers from the last rate case were presented to support these figures. In contrast, Respondent's Exhibit 1, page 1 is supported by sufficient detail in subsequent pages 2 through 6, and with Exhibit 2, pages 1 through 4. Supporting detail is necessary to verify the calculation of EDIT and would come directly from Respondent's books and records. The supporting detail should show how each pertinent figure in Respondent's EDIT calculation is derived.

Third, in its calculation on Exhibit 3, Respondent subtracted the short term asset, allowance for doubtful accounts, from the calculation because, according to Ms. Mann's testimony on page 8, lines 17-20, "[s]hort term items are items that are deferred for only one year. As a result those taxes have been incurred and paid at the utility's prior tax rate and therefore do not need to be refunded." I do not agree with this statement. The items generating the deferred tax created a liability, or asset, at a higher tax rate. When the liability or asset reverses the following year, it will be at a lower tax rate, being insufficient to offset the full amount, consequently, leaving excess deferred tax. Therefore, I included these items in the calculation of EDIT in Attachment ILG-1.

Lastly, the method summarized on Respondent's Exhibit 1, and on my Attachment ILG-1, is the same or similar to methods I have seen with other utilities responsive to Phase 2 of the Commission Investigation, such as NIPSCO's rate case in Cause No. 44988, and Sycamore Gas Company's rate case in Cause No. 45072. In my experience, all utilities recognize December 31, 2017 as the ADIT balance from which to derive the EDIT amount for purposes of a ratepayer refund.

Q: What is the EDIT balance you recommend be returned to ratepayers?

A: As I described earlier and as shown on Attachment ILG-1, I recommend a total EDIT balance of $885,312 be returned to Respondent's customers.

Amortization Period

Q: What method has Respondent proposed for calculating the amortization period for its protected EDIT balance?

A: Respondent uses the alternative weighted average life method, based on the level of property record detail available. Respondent calculated the estimated average useful life of its utility plant in service on Exhibit 2, page 4, and calculated the weighted average to determine the final amortization period by asset class summarized on Exhibit 2, page 1. As I mentioned earlier, although this exhibit is labeled ARAM, the ARAM method is not used. Given the level of property detail available to Community, the OUCC does not object to using the weighted average life method. Respondent's weighted average remaining life calculation for each of its asset classes results in a 15.91 year amortization period, over which protected EDIT is to be amortized back to ratepayers.

Q: Does Respondent propose an amortization period over which unprotected EDIT will be returned to ratepayers?

A: Yes. Even though Respondent recommends using Exhibit 3 for purposes of calculating its proposed ratepayer refund for deferred taxes, which does not show any unprotected EDIT, in an apparent reference to Exhibit 1, it states that due to the relatively small amount, unprotected EDIT should be amortized over the same amortization period as calculated for protected EDIT. Respondent also argues that using the same amortization period for the entire EDIT will make tracking of the amortization easier for both the utility and the regulator. (Testimony of Mann, page 10, lines 16-23.)

Q: Do you agree with Respondent's proposed unprotected EDIT amortization period?

A: For the reasons described below, yes. While the TCJA governs the appropriate normalization method to amortize protected EDIT back to ratepayers, the Commission has discretion over the amortization period for unprotected EDIT. In most instances, it would be appropriate to require a utility to return unprotected EDIT over a shorter timeframe than for protected EDIT. Should the Commission determine that to be the appropriate outcome in this instance, the OUCC would not object; however, I note below the reasons why Respondent's unique characteristics create challenges that make following this general principle difficult.

First, as shown in Attachment ILG-1, which makes use of Respondent's Exhibit 1, I calculate an unprotected EDIT *asset* for Respondent of $3,666. An EDIT asset results in an increase in rates. If Respondent is ordered to amortize this unprotected EDIT asset over a timeframe shorter than its protected EDIT liability, Respondent will have to make separate ratemaking adjustments that both increase and decrease its deferred tax balances and amortization expense until the unprotected EDIT asset is fully amortized. Then Respondent will need an additional tariff filing to remove the ratemaking adjustment for unprotected EDIT, leaving the adjustment for protected EDIT in place. Given Community's relative size and limited resources, it seems unnecessarily burdensome to require that level of complexity and additional tariff submissions.

Second, Respondent's weighted average calculation results in a 15.91 year amortization period for protected EDIT. Relatively speaking, this amortization period will return protected EDIT back to ratepayers more quickly than the time periods that were calculated by NIPSCO and Vectren's gas utilities in the Commission Investigation. Likewise, using the same amortization period for Respondent's unprotected EDIT asset will spread out the rate increase, as a result of this asset, over a reasonable time period so as to mitigate any customer burden. Therefore, I recommend Respondent's protected and unprotected EDIT balances be amortized over 15.91 years.

Q: Can this amortization period be adjusted for rounding?

A: No. Respondent replied in discovery that it "expects that it will likely be required to round that amount to 16 years." (Attachment ILG-2, page 2, Q1.4(b).) Protected EDIT is governed by the TCJA and the weighted average life method resulted in a specific amount. The 15.91 year weighted average remaining life is the proper amortization period used in my calculation on line 27 of Attachment

ILG-1 for both protected and unprotected EDIT, converted to 191 months on line 30.

Q: By what mechanism do you propose to return EDIT?

A: Amortizing EDIT of $885,312 over 15.91 years or 191 months yields an annual amortization of $55,645. Respondent's base rates should be reduced by this annual amount using the same revenue requirement schedules applicable to the approved rates in Respondent's last rate case, reflecting the revised 21% income tax rate effective on May 1, 2018 in Cause No. 45032. This method is commonly used to remove rate case expense amortization from base rates and will account for any flow-through tax effects of the adjusted rates. New rates should also be based on customer allocation and rate design as approved in Respondent's last rate case. I suggest this be accomplished using a 30-Day filing process to allow sufficient time for review by the OUCC and IURC.

<u>Refund of Over-Collection</u>

Q: Did Respondent provide a calculation and propose a method for returning over-collected taxes beginning January 1, 2018?

A: Yes. Respondent provided a calculation of its tax over-collection in Exhibit 4, pages 1 and 3-6, and a proposed refund credit tracker on page 2. The over-collection represents Respondent's tracking of the difference in revenue collected at the 34% tax rate and what would have been collected at the 21% tax rate during the period January 1, 2018 through April 30, 2018. Respondent's calculations of the over-collection are by customer class, and the proposed refund mechanism is also by customer class at the same volumes as collected. Respondent is proposing to refund the over-collection over the same four months it was collected, January through April starting January 1, 2019. Respondent recommends the refund be administered through a temporary tracker mechanism with variances recovered through Respondent's next GCA that includes a reconciliation of April 2019.

Q: Is there any element in Respondent's over-collection refund proposal with which you disagree?

A: Yes. I agree with Respondent's calculation of the over-collection and with making the refund over the proposed four month period in 2019. I agree with the temporary tracker mechanism proposal. However, the GCA is an inappropriate mechanism for tax refunds. Not all customer classes receiving refunds are included in the GCA mechanism. Additionally, all seven small utilities represented by Ms. Mann's testimony have one GCA rate for all customer classes, so the allocation of variances would deviate from the customer class allocation approved in the last rate case. I recommend any variances in the temporary tracker mechanism be reconciled and refunded in the same temporary tracker mechanism.

<u>Other Concerns</u>

Q: Does Respondent address other concerns it believes are relevant to this Cause?

A: Yes. First, Respondent is concerned that non-calendar year taxpayers will refund more than they should because of a split tax year where the utility will pay a blended rate. Respondent's witness Mann admits on page 14, lines 7-8 of her testimony that "It will be a blended rate based on the number of months at each tax rate during their tax year." This is not a problem for the income tax refund. For the period up to December 31, 2017, base rates were based on a 34% federal tax rate, and from January 1, 2018 through April 30, 2018, a 21% federal tax rate applies. Utilities with a blended rate tax year will only refund an over-collection back to January 1, 2018. The blended rate will match the appropriate rates collected for the appropriate months.

Second, Respondent seeks approval to defer the cost of its participation in this proceeding as a regulatory asset that can be reviewed and eventually recovered in the next full base rate case. I do not recommend approval for this unknown amount. Given that Respondent's income tax rate has been changed, it would have had to calculate its EDIT in order to adhere to the IRS's normalization requirements; therefore, it is not entirely accurate to suggest that Respondent's costs to participate in the Commission Investigation would not have been required anyway. However, even so, in a regulatory environment, unexpected, one-time legal and accounting bills occur occasionally. Respondent has legal and accounting fees embedded into its current rates and no additional compensation should be necessary.

Also, since this is a single issue case and Respondent's testimony is considerably similar for each of seven utilities, and litigation should be minimal, I would hope the costs for each utility are a reasonable amount as the actual costs incurred have not been presented in this subdocket. Further, Respondent has an interest in arguing for an outcome in this case that minimizes any refunds it owes to its customers. Those same customers should not be required to pay for the regulatory expense Respondent incurs in making such arguments.

Third, Respondent argues that a lower ADIT with a 0% cost of capital could have the effect of increasing the overall cost of capital, so authorized earnings should increase. I do not disagree that overall cost of capital could increase, but this issue is outside the scope of this proceeding.

Last, Respondent believes the fact the Commission initiated the tax investigation has created uncertainty for the utility, increasing the risk for its shareholders. A regulated utility facing regulatory action is inherent to its business model.

IV. OUCC RECOMMENDATIONS

Q: What are your recommendations in this Cause?

A: I recommend amortizing EDIT of $885,312 over 15.91 years, resulting in a return of EDIT to the ratepayers at an annual amortization of $55,645. This amortization should be reflected as a reduction to existing rates using revenue requirement schedules from Respondent's last rate case, updated to the new tax rate as of May 1, 2018, using the same customer allocation and rate design as approved in Respondent's last rate case, to be submitted for review through a 30-Day filing process. I also recommend Respondent be required to file a compliance filing initiating a temporary tracker to return the excess federal tax collected from January 1, 2018 through April 30, 2018, allocated to each rate class based on actual revenues received during the period collected. This temporary tracker should also be used to reconcile and return or collect any variances. I do not recommend approval to defer the cost of this proceeding as a regulatory asset.

Q: Does this conclude your testimony?

A: Yes.

AFFIRMATION

I affirm, under the penalties for perjury, that the foregoing representations are true.

Isabelle Gordon

Isabelle L. Gordon
Utility Analyst I
Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counsel
Cause No. 45032 S7
Commission Investigation/Community
Natural Gas Corporation, Inc.

8/21/2018

Date

APPENDIX ILG-1 TO TESTIMONY OF
OUCC WITNESS ISABELLE L. GORDON

Q: Please describe your educational background and experience.

A: I graduated from the School of Business at Bob Jones University in Greenville, South Carolina in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting. In July 2017, I began working at the OUCC as a Utility Analyst I in the Natural Gas Division. My responsibilities include reviewing, analyzing, and preparing testimony for Gas Cost Adjustment ("GCA") cases, Gas Demand Side Management ("GDSM") cases, and base rate cases filed by Indiana natural gas utilities.

Q: Have you previously testified before the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission?

A: Yes, I have testified in Gas Cost Adjustment cases, GDSM cases, special contract cases, and base rate cases.

Q: Please describe the review and analysis you conducted to prepare your testimony.

A: I reviewed Respondent's direct testimony, exhibits, workpapers and other supporting documentation provided in this Cause. I also analyzed Respondent's responses to the OUCC's discovery requests.

Community Natural Gas Corporation
Deferred Tax Asset/Liability

Line		After Tax Act	Prior to Tax Act
	Protected EDIT:		
1	Net Book Value, Petitioner's Exhibit 1 Page 2	12,145,800	12,145,800
2	Net Tax Value, Petitioner's Exhibit 1 Page 3	5,091,525	5,091,525
3	Difference in Net Book Value	7,054,275	7,054,275
4	State Deferred Tax Asset/(Liability), Petitioner's Exhibit 1 Page 6	(215,984)	(215,984)
5	NBV less State Deferred Tax Estimate	6,838,291	6,838,291
6	Tax Rate	21.0%	34.0%
7	Current Period Deferred	1,436,041	2,325,019
8	Deferred Tax under old rate	2,325,019	
9	Deferred Tax under new rate	1,436,041	
10	Protected EDIT - Regulatory Liability	888,978	
		After Tax Act	**Prior to Tax Act**
	Un-Protected EDIT:		
11	Other Deferred Taxes, Petitioner's Exhibit 1 Page 6:		
12	Allowance for Doubtful Accounts	(30,000)	(30,000)
13	Total Other Deferred Taxes	(30,000)	(30,000)
14	State Deferred Tax Asset/(Liability), Petitioner's Exhibit 1 Page 6	1,800	1,800
15	Less Deferred Tax not applicable to utility rates:		
16	N/A	-	-
17	Total Applicable Other Deferred Taxes	(28,200)	(28,200)
18	Tax Rate	21.0%	34.0%
19	Current Period Deferred (Line 14 * Line 15)	(5,922)	(9,588)
20	Deferred Tax under old rate	(9,588)	
21	Deferred Tax under new rate	(5,922)	
22	Un-Protected EDIT - Net Regulatory Asset	(3,666)	
	Total EDIT:		
23	Protected EDIT - Regulatory Liability	888,978	
24	Un-Protected EDIT - Net Regulatory Asset	(3,666)	
25	Total Net EDIT	885,312	
	EDIT Amortization:		
26	Total Net EDIT	885,312	
27	Amortization Period (years), Petitioner's Exhibit 2 Page 1	15.91	
28	Annual Amortization	55,645	
29	Total Net EDIT	885,312	
30	Amortization Period (months)	191	
31	Monthly Amortization	4,637	

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE IMPACTS OF THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT OF 2017 AND POSSIBLE RATE IMPLICATIONS.	)))))	**CAUSE NO. 45032 S7**

COMMUNITY NATURAL GAS COMPANY, INC. RESPONSES TO THE INDIANA OFFICE OF UTILITY CONSUMER COUNSELOR'S FIRST SET OF DATA REQUESTS

Comes now Community Natural Gas Company, Inc., by counsel, and submits to the Indiana Office of the Utility Consumer Counselor ("OUCC") its responses to the OUCC's First Set of Data Requests dated July 3, 2018, as follows:

II. Data Request.

Q 1.1: What is Respondent's balance of deferred taxes on the balance sheet as of December 31, 2017?

A. Petitioner's balance of deferred taxes on the balance sheet as of December 31, 2017 was $2,529,003.

Q 1.2: Regarding Respondent's Exhibit 1:

a. Please provide a list of the types of accounts, assets, expenses, or other items that produced the balance of Deferred Tax on line 9, as of December 31, 2017, including the amount of each item.
b. On the list from a. above, identify the items as protected or unprotected balances.
c. On the list from a. above, identify the items as property or non-property.
d. On the list from a. above, identify short term items.
e. On the list from a. above, identify non-income statement items.
f. On the list from a. above, identify regulatory liabilities and regulatory assets.

A. a. Each item and the amount are listed in lines 1-4 of Exhibit 1, all numbers on Exhibit 1 are for December 31, 2017.

b. Items which are protected are listed including the amounts on lines 1– 2 of Exhibit 1 and the remaining items are unprotected as shown in the unprotected calculation section of Exhibit 1 starting on line 13.
c. Petitioner is assuming that by "property" the request is asking which lines include utility plant information, that information is included on lines 1 and 2 of Exhibit 1.
d. Short term items are items shown on line 4 of Exhibit 1.
e. Petitioner is unsure of what is meant by "non-income statement items". Utility plant included on lines 1 and 2 of Exhibit 1 are not reflected on the income statement however annual depreciation associated with those items is reflected. The amount of depreciation differs between the financial statements and the tax return. Item on line 4 of Exhibit 1 appears on the income statement but appears differently on the tax return.
f. No regulatory liabilities and regulatory assets present.

Q 1.3: Regarding Respondent's Exhibit 1, line 10, Deferred Tax under old rate:
a. Is any of Respondent's deferred income tax balance derived from expense deductions available for tax purposes for costs that were capitalized for book purposes?
b. If yes, are these deferred tax amounts considered as associated with property or non-property?
c. Please provide the balance for the property or non-property for (a.) and (b.) above.

A.
a. No.
b. N/A
c. N/A

Q 1.4: Page 9, lines 19-20 of Ms. Mann's testimony mentions using the alternative weighted average life method, but Exhibit 2 shows an ARAM calculation.
a. Is ARAM or the alternative weighted average life method used? Please explain.
b. Is Respondent proposing an amortization period of 15.91 years?
c. Please show the calculation of the 15.91 years. (i.e. What numbers were used?)
d. Please provide the IRS publication and any other authoritative source Ms. Mann relied upon to support the calculation method on Exhibit 2.

A.
a. Petitioner does not believe that Exhibit 2 shows an ARAM method. It is Petitioner's understanding that ARAM requires the calculation and amortization of the excess deferred federal income tax amount for each underlying item separately. Petitioner is not proposing to calculate the excess deferred federal income tax amount to that level of detail, but instead calculate the average remaining of life of its assets at the greatest level of detail available to it.
b. Petitioner expects that it will likely be required to round that amount to 16 years.
c. Please review the formula in cell k20 of the tab labeled (Ex 2 Pg 1) NAV in the excel file filed as workpapers in this cause and sent to the OUCC as part of the workpaper package.

d. Ms. Mann believes that the calculation on Exhibit 2 is a calculation of the average remaining lives of the Petitioner's utility plant in service. She relied on her training as an accountant and her 30 years of consulting in the utility industry to make the calculation.

Q 1.5: Referring to Exhibit 3, please provide the separate amounts to be refunded for protected and unprotected excess deferred federal income tax.

A. The protected amount of Exhibit 3 is calculated by taking the Total Accumulated Federal Deferred Income Taxes on Exhibit 3 page 2 less the Total Accumulated Federal Deferred Income Taxes on Exhibit 3 page 3 to determine the total protected excess deferred federal income tax which nets to $(743,230).

There are no unprotected amounts of Exhibit 3 calculated.

Q 1.6: What are the depreciation rates used by Respondent, for each asset class, as of December 31, 2017?

A. Federal, State and Book depreciation reports were previously submitted with this cause and sent to the OUCC as part of the workpaper package. These reports reflect the method of depreciation and useful life of that assets.

Q 1.7: What are the utility-plant-in-service balances, for each asset class, as of December 31, 2017?

A. See attached.

Q 1.8: Please provide the balance sheet for Respondent as of December 31, 2017.

A. See attached.

Q 1.9: On page 8, lines 4-5, Ms. Mann states, "I have recalculated the deferred income taxes from each utility's last base rate case assuming a federal tax rate of 21%."

a. Did Ms. Mann recalculate the deferred income taxes for each tax year after the last base rate case through December 31, 2017? Please explain.
b. If yes, please provide the workpapers and calculations.
c. Please provide the IRS publication and any other authoritative source Ms. Mann relied upon to support this method of calculating excess deferred income tax.

A.

a. No, the deferred income taxes for each tax year after the last base rate case through December 31, 2017 was not recalculated.
b. N/A
c. The method used to calculate deferred income taxes follows the proscribed method of generally accepted accounting principles as accepted in the United States and dictated by the Federal Accounting Standards Board in ASC 740.

Q 1.10: Referring to Exhibit 1, page 1:

a. Please confirm the line description for line 2 should read "Plant Costs per Federal Depr Report, Exhibit 1 Page 3." If this is incorrect, what should the line description be?
b. Please confirm the line description on line 6 should read "State Deferred Tax Estimate, Exhibit 1 Page 4." If this is incorrect, what should the line description be?
c. Please confirm the line description for line 5 should read "Difference in NBV ((Sum Line 2 – 4) – Line 1)." If this is incorrect, what should the line description be?
d. Please confirm the line description for line 7 should read "NBV less State Deferred Tax Estimate (Line 5 – Line 6)." If this is incorrect, what should the line description be?
e. Please confirm the line description on line 9 should read "Current Period Deferred (Line 7*Line 8)." If this is incorrect, what should the line description be?
f. Please confirm the line description on line 11 should read "Deferred Tax under new rate (Line 9)." If this is incorrect, what should the line description be?
g. Please confirm the line description on line 12 should read "Reg Liablity (acc 253.050) (Line 10-Line 11)." If this is incorrect, what should the line description be?
h. Please confirm the line description on line 23 should read "Total Unprotected excess ADIT (Line 19 + Line 22)." If this is incorrect, what should the line description be?
i. Please provide documentation supporting the amounts on lines 4 and 13.
j. Please explain why Respondent included a state deferred tax estimate on lines 6 and 20-22.
k. Please confirm the correct calculation of Respondent's protected portion of EADIT as line 12 less line 23, or as line 12 less line 19.

A.

a. Confirmed
b. Confirmed
c. Confirmed
d. Confirmed
e. Confirmed
f. Confirmed
g. Confirmed
h. Confirmed
i. See attached
j. Because state income taxes are a deduction in the calculation of federal income taxes
k. The calculation of Respondent's protected portion of EADIT is line 12 less line 23.

Q 1.11: On page 6, lines 13-20, Ms. Mann discusses a retirement component. Please explain whether this retirement component is applicable to Community Natural Gas. If so, please provide a copy of the retirement study.

A. There is no retirement component applicable to Community Natural Gas Corporation.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that a copy of the foregoing ***Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Public's Exhibit No. 1 Testimony of OUCC Witness Isabelle L. Gordon*** has been served upon the following counsel of record in the captioned proceeding by electronic service on August 21, 2018.

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