FILED March 2, 2023 INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

### STATE OF INDIANA

## INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

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APPLICATION OF FOUNTAINTOWN GAS COMPANY, INC., FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES AND CHARGES THROUGH THE SMALL UTILITY PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO IND. CODE § 8-1-2-61.5 AND 170 IAC 14-1-1 ET SEQ.

**CAUSE NO. 45802-U** 

### **INDIANA OFFICE OF UTILITY CONSUMER COUNSELOR'S**

### PUBLIC'S EXHIBIT NO. 1 – OUCC REPORT

Respectfully submitted,

Worth

T. Jason Haas Attorney No. 34983-29 Deputy Consumer Counselor

### FOUNTAINTOWN GAS COMPANY, INC.

### REPORT OF THE INDIANA OFFICE OF UTILITY CONSUMER COUNSELOR

### Cause No. 45802-U

### Prepared by Mark Grosskopf

### **Utility's Filing**

Fountaintown Gas Company, Inc. ("Utility" or "Applicant") filed a Small Utility Filing application for a rate increase on November 7, 2022. On November 23, 2022, Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission ("Commission") staff filed a memorandum indicating the application was complete and directed the Office of Utility Consumer Counselor ("OUCC") to file the OUCC's report on or before February 6, 2023. On January 20, 2023, the OUCC filed an Agreed Motion to Amend Procedural Schedule ("Agreed Motion") to give the Utility additional time to compile accounting information through a November 30, 2022 closing date. On February 6, 2023, the Utility filed additional information updating the Utility's rate base and capital structure through November 30, 2022. The Commission granted the Agreed Motion and the date for the OUCC to file its report was moved to March 2, 2023.

In the updated February 6, 2023 filing, the Utility requested a revenue increase of \$603,607, equating to a 31.60% increase over proforma present rate non-gas cost revenues. The Utility's current rates were approved on May 15,2013 in Cause No. 44292 and updated in August 2017 through a compliance filing to remove rate case expense. The Utility's base rates were amended again through 30-day filing #50384 to remove energy efficiency costs in January 2021 and 30-day filing #50553 to remove the repealed utility receipts tax on June 1, 2022.

## **OUCC Review and Adjustments to Revenue Requirements**

The OUCC conducted an analysis of the Utility's application, reviewed the Utility's books and records, analyzed responses to informal discovery, and discussed various issues with the Utility. As a result of the OUCC's analysis and numerous discussions with the Utility, the OUCC accepts a number of pro forma adjustments as originally proposed by the Utility in its filing. The OUCC agrees that pro forma adjustments to gas cost revenue, gas cost expense, payroll and pension expenses, 401-K contribution, health insurance, rate case expense, FICA tax, and gross receipts tax, should be accepted as filed by the Utility. As discussed below, the OUCC agrees with the Utility's cost of equity and capital structure. The OUCC also proposes several adjustments to the revenue requirement set forth in the application submitted by the Utility. The details of the OUCC's revenue requirement calculations are presented in Attachment OUCC-1, Schedules 1-9, and details of proposed adjustments are presented in Attachment OUCC-2 through Attachment OUCC-9.

The OUCC recommends an 8.85% weighted cost of capital applied to an original cost rate base of \$6,992,537 resulting in a net operating income of \$619,056. The OUCC's recommended

revenue increase is \$560,865, a 30.01% increase net of gas cost revenue. (Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 1, Page 1.) The components of the OUCC's recommendations and proposed adjustments are explained below.

## Rate Base

On February 6, 2023, Applicant filed updated schedules reflecting a rate base cut-off period of November 30, 2022. On page 40a of its Small Utility Rate Application, the Utility indicated a total of \$800,048 in additional plant added between July 1, 2022 and November 30, 2022. However, Applicant failed to include \$1,730 in Distribution Meters and \$7,873 in Tools, Shop and Garage Equipment in its update. Both of these plant accounts had additions between July 1, 2022 and November 30, 2022 and therefore should be included in rate base. The OUCC calculated a total of \$809,651 in additional rate base between July 1, 2022 and November 30, 2022. (Attachment OUCC-2.)

Applicant did not update accumulated depreciation in its rate base calculation, on page 47, to account for additional accumulated depreciation between July 1, 2022 and November 30, 2022. The OUCC calculated additional accumulated depreciation of \$107,563 by taking five months of the Utility's total pro forma depreciation expense. (Applicant's test year depreciation expense of \$233,309 plus the OUCC's adjustment to depreciation expense of \$24,841 divided by 12 months multiplied by 5 months.)

Applicant did not update its gas storage underground in its updated schedules filed on February 6, 2023. This amount should represent a 13-month average using a cut-off date of November 30, 2022 to correspond with the rate base cut-off. The 13-month average for gas storage underground is \$631,637 as of November 30, 2022. (Attachment OUCC-3.)

Applicant did not update its materials and supplies in its updated schedules filed on February 6, 2023. This amount should represent a 13-month average using a cut-off date of November 30, 2022 to correspond with the rate base cut-off. The 13-month average for materials and supplies is \$157,064 as of November 30, 2022. (Attachment OUCC-3.)

Due to the changes in operation and maintenance expenses proposed by the OUCC in this case, working capital has been calculated at \$214,262. Working capital was calculated by taking the pro forma at present rates totals for distribution expense, customer expense, sales expense, and administrative and general expense divided by 8, which is the same methodology Applicant used to calculate this amount.

The OUCC's overall rate base as of November 30, 2022 is \$6,992,537, as shown on Attachment OUCC-2.

## **Capital Structure and Weighted Cost of Capital**

<u>Capital Structure</u> - The OUCC agrees with Applicant's Capital Structure as of November 30, 2022, on page 48a of the Revised Application. The weighted cost of capital resulting from Applicant's capital structure is 8.85%, to which the OUCC agrees. However, Applicant uses a

weighted cost of capital of 8.87% to calculate the pro forma net operating income and requested revenue increase, as shown on the Revenue Requirement Calculation on page 49 of the Revised Application. The OUCC corrected the revenue requirement calculation using the 8.85% weighted coat of capital as shown on Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 1, page 1.

<u>Cost of Equity</u> - The OUCC agrees with Applicant's proposed 10.0% cost of equity. A 10.0% cost of equity will allow Applicant to maintain its financial integrity and reflects a fair rate of return for the Utility's level of investment risk. The 10.0% cost of equity is the same cost of equity percentage agreed to in a recent Westfield Gas rate case, Cause No. 45761. The Westfield Gas settlement agreement was filed with the Commission on February 10, 2023. A Community Natural Gas rate case, Cause No. 45690, was settled at a 10.1% cost of equity and approved by the Commission on October 12, 2022. Westfield Gas, Community Natural Gas, and Fountaintown Gas (Applicant) are similarly positioned as small gas utilities with mostly residential customers, similar financial risk profiles, and at least 75% equity in the capital structure.

<u>Synchronized Interest</u> - The OUCC recommends a revised Calculation of Synchronized Interest from the calculation shown on Applicant's Capital Structure on page 48a of the Application. Applicant's Calculation of Synchronized Interest shows a 0% cost of debt. Interest on Customer Deposits is a tax-deductible interest expense and is typically included in the synchronized interest calculation. The OUCC included Customer Deposits in the synchronized interest calculation, yielding a weighted cost of debt of 0.20%. Applied to the total original cost rate base, the 0.20% weighted cost of debt results in synchronized interest expense of \$14,167 as shown on Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 8.

## Weather Normalized Sales Adjustment

Fountaintown utilizes a Normal Temperature Adjustment ("NTA") Mechanism that was approved by the Commission on December 6, 2006 in Cause No. 43110. The NTA adjusts each customer's monthly billed amount to reverse the impact on margin recovery caused by nonnormal temperatures during the billing period, as measured by actual heating degree day variations from normal heating degree days. The billed amounts for residential service (RS), general service (GS), commercial (B) and industrial (C) are subject to the NTA for each bill rendered during the billing months of October through April. Fountaintown's current tariff, Appendix D approved in Cause No. 44292, utilizes the 30-year average heating degree days from 1971 to 2000, established by the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA"). Applicant's calculation of each customer's NTA charge or credit is based on this outdated 30-year average from 1971 to 2000. Every decade NOAA updates the 30-year average of heating degree days. The most current 30-year average of heating degree days covers the period of 1991 to 2020.

Total heating degree days during the NTA time frame of October through April using the 30year average from 1971 to 2000 was 5,281. Total heating degree days during the NTA time frame of October through April using the 30-year average from 1991 to 2020 was 5,045. Therefore, there are 236 less heating degree days using the updated 30-year average from NOAA. Applying this reduction in heating degree days to Applicant's sales during October 2021 to April 2022 results in 16,561 less Dth that would have been included in the NTA calculation if Applicant was using NOAA's updated 30-year heating degree day average. Multiplying the 16,561 Dth by Fountaintown's last rate block for each customer class results in a reduction in revenue of \$40,674. (Attachment OUCC-4.) This revenue reduction of \$40,674 is included in Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 5. Applicant should update its Normal Degree Days in Appendix D of its tariff to the new 30-year heating degree day averages.

## Accumulated Deferred Income Tax ("ADIT") Amortization

Applicant's Adjustment 14 – Adjustment to Federal Income Tax, on page 40 of the revenue requirement schedules attached to the Small Utility Rate Application, reflects two adjustments pertaining to amortization of ADIT. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 necessitated a regulatory liability to give back excess deferred income taxes to customers through lower rates. As noted in Adjustment 14 and verified through discovery by the OUCC, Applicant erroneously booked ADIT amortization of \$28,510 annually as an increase to revenues. Applicant's Adjustment 14 reduces revenue by \$28,510 to correct this error, and correctly includes ADIT amortization as a reduction to Applicant's federal income tax expense. The OUCC agrees with Applicant's treatment of ADIT in this filing.

## **Operation and Maintenance Expenses**

<u>Rate Case Expense</u> – The OUCC does not object to Applicant's proposed rate case expense included in this filing, or the 3-year amortization period requested. The OUCC recommends Applicant file a revised tariff if new base rates have not gone into effect at the end of the 3-year amortization period to remove rate case expense from Applicant's base rates. If such an adjustment is required, the OUCC supports an adjustment to Applicant's rates and charges on an across-the-board basis. In the event Applicant has new base rates that will be in effect before the end of the 3-year amortization period, any unamortized rate case expenses remaining at the time of Applicant's next rate case order may be included in that proceeding.

<u>Insurance Expense</u> – Applicant included an adjustment of \$9,796 for insurance expense on page 34 in its filing. The OUCC inquired about the \$4,058 for vehicle insurance included in the total adjustment, and Applicant responded the vehicle insurance amount reported on page 34 was incorrect. The correct amount is \$16,859. Applicant also indicated insurance is purchased for Fountaintown and South Eastern Gas Company in the aggregate, with two-thirds of the insurance cost attributable to Fountaintown Gas and the remaining one-third of the cost attributable to South Eastern Gas. This allocation of insurance costs between utilities was not included in Applicant's original filing. Applicant provided the OUCC with a revised page 34, which shows a pro forma adjustment for insurance expense of \$2,822. (Attachment OUCC-5.) This expense increase of \$2,822 is included in Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 6, page 1.

<u>Outside Services (General Manager)</u> – During the test year, Applicant paid Greater Heights Services Corporation a total of \$183,013 for Jerry Klinker to perform "Services as the General Manager on a [sic] interim basis."<sup>1</sup> On February 10, 2023, an attorney representing Applicant

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> "Services as the General Manager on a [sic] interim basis" is as stated on the invoices from Greater Heights Services Corporation.

notified the OUCC of a change in personnel, stating that Jerry Klinker, General Manager, is no longer with the Utility. The OUCC inquired if Mr. Klinker will be replaced with a new General Manager or will Ohio Valley Gas Corporation ("OVG") absorb the costs into its operations. Applicant stated in response, "For the time being, the services previously performed by Mr. Klinker will be performed by other Ohio Valley Gas or Greater Heights Services Corporation personnel and will be billed to Fountaintown Gas in a similar manner as Mr. Klinker's previous salary and payroll costs. A decision on the replacement of Mr. Klinker's position has not yet been made at this time."

The Utility is currently under corporate ownership of OVG, and it is possible OVG could absorb the Utility's General Manager functions at the corporate level without replacing the contractual General Manager services performed by Greater Heights Services Corporation. Applicant admits that some of the General Manager services will be performed by OVG, and the Utility has not decided on the replacement of the position at this time. The OUCC recommends Applicant decide, prior to its response to this report, how the General Manager position will be handled going forward. To the extent OVG absorbs the Utility's General Manager functions, the OUCC recommends Applicant make an adjustment in its Response to the OUCC's Report to reduce the requested base rate increase, recognizing any cost savings from consolidation of some or all of the General Manager functions into OVG's corporate structure. In the alternative, if a new general manager is brought on at a lesser salary, the salary savings should be recognized in Applicant's Response to the OUCC's report.

<u>Outside Services (Engineering)</u> – Applicant incurred \$13,750 in outside service costs for a litigated settlement payment to Amereco, an engineering firm hired to complete a natural gas system evaluation related to pipeline safety division findings relative to Fountaintown Gas. Applicant also incurred legal fees of \$1,696 in relation to this settlement. Litigation relating to payment for a vendor's poor service performance is not an ordinary business expense that happens every year. These expenses are non-recurring in nature and should not be included as recoverable from ratepayers on an on-going basis. Therefore, the OUCC has removed \$15,446 from outside service expenses. (Attachment OUCC-6.) This expense decrease of \$15,446 is included in Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 6, page 1.

<u>Miscellaneous Expense</u> – Applicant incurred \$1,842 in Indiana Energy Association ("IEA") dues that were recorded to miscellaneous expense during the test year. Invoices from IEA indicate the estimated portion of dues allocable to lobbying is 15%. Lobbying expenses are non-deductible for income tax purposes and are typically excluded from a utility's revenue requirements. The Utility's ratepayers should not be responsible for these non-deductible lobbying expenses. The OUCC has removed \$276 for the lobbying expenses included in Applicant's test year miscellaneous expense. (Attachment OUCC-7.) This expense decrease of \$276 is included in Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 6, page 1.

"<u>Below the Line</u>" Other Income and Expenses – Applicant included \$17,258 in other income and expenses in its test year present rates and pro forma proposed rates on page 27 of its Application. These other items represent Interest and Dividend Income, Miscellaneous Non-Operating Income, Miscellaneous Income Deductions, and Other Interest Expense. All of these items are non-operating income or expenses and should not be included in Applicant's revenue

requirements for recovery in rates. The OUCC has made a pro forma adjustment to remove these other income and expense items from the revenue requirements calculation, as shown on Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 6, page 1.

## **Depreciation Expense**

As noted above in the rate base section, the OUCC calculated a total of \$809,651 in additional rate base between July 1, 2022 and November 30, 2022. Applying Applicant's depreciation rates to these rate base additions results in an increase in depreciation expense of \$24,841, as opposed to Applicant's increase of \$24,002. (Attachment OUCC-8.) The depreciation expense increase of \$24,841 is included in Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 6, page 1.

## **Property Taxes**

Applicant's property tax adjustment uses plant additions between July 1, 2022 and November 30, 2022. As noted above in the depreciation expense section, Applicant did not include all plant additions in its updated schedules filed on February 6, 2023. The OUCC recalculated property tax expense using the full \$809,651 in plant additions between July 1, 2022 and November 30, 2022. The OUCC's adjustment for property tax is \$11,205, as opposed to Applicant's increase of \$11,149. (Attachment OUCC-9.) This expense increase of \$11,205 is included in Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 6, page 2.

## **IURC Fee**

Applicant's Adjustment 9 – Adjustment to IURC Fee, on page 35 of the schedules attached to the Small Utility Rate Application, uses a "Current IURC Fee" of 0.1276080%. Likewise, Applicant's Rate Increase Adjustment B – Adjustment to O&M Expense - IURC Fee on page 42 of Applicant's schedules uses a "Current IURC Rate" of 0.1276080%. Effective July 1, 2022, the new IURC fee rate is 0.1163372%. The OUCC corrected the IURC fee rate in the Gross Revenue Conversion Factor on Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 1, page 2, and in the IURC Fee expense from gross revenues at present rates in its IURC Fee expense adjustment. The OUCC deducted bad debt expense from Pro Forma Present Rate Revenue in the IURC Fee expense adjustment on Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 6, page 2, using the test year bad debt expense Applicant used in its Gross Receipt Tax calculation.

## State and Federal Income Taxes

Applicant's Adjustments 13 and 14 – Adjustment of State Income Tax on page 39 and Adjustment of Federal Income Tax on page 40, each use an incorrect Net Operating Income Before Income Taxes ("NOIBIT") amount. Applicant is using a test year NOIBIT for each income tax calculation. The correct pro forma income tax adjustment should start with a pro forma NOIBIT inclusive of all other pro forma adjustments to revenue requirements. The OUCC's pro forma NOIBIT is derived from adjusted pro forma revenues and expenses in the Pro Forma at Present Rates column of Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 4. These pro forma

adjusted amounts are reflected in the Income Tax Expense Adjustment shown on Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 6, page 3.

Additionally, the OUCC's recommended income tax expense calculations on Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 6, page 3 include a synchronized interest deduction from NOIBIT to determine State and Federal taxable income. Interest expense is deductible for tax purposes and, as discussed earlier, the OUCC's synchronized interest expense calculation is shown on Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 8.

### **Rate Design and Cost of Service**

The OUCC found one issue with Applicant's proposed rate design. As shown in Applicant's Schedule of Present and Proposed Rates on page 26 of the Application, the proposed increase to each rate class's monthly customer charge and distribution charge is designed to achieve an across-the board 31.6% proposed margin increase. However, the Schedule of Present and Proposed Rates and Applicant's updated red-line tariff, Attachment 1, page 13, filed on November 22, 2022, does not reflect an increase to the monthly customer charge for Rate D. Although Applicant does not currently have customers using the Rate D customer rate class, an across-the-board rate increase should apply to all rates in Applicant's tariff. The OUCC recommends this across-the-board rate design method using the Commission's final approved margin increase. The OUCC recommends the approved across-the-board rate increase apply to all charges, including the Rate D monthly service charge, as shown on Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 9.

Applicant's prior Cost of Service Study ("COSS") was performed in 1996. In Cause No. 44292, the Commission's Final Order issued on May 13, 2013, page 7 stated: "Petitioner shall file a cost of service study in its next base rate case." This case represents Petitioner's (Applicant's) next base rate case, but it did not file a COSS.

The OUCC is satisfied with no COSS being performed in this case because the Utility elected to file its rate case using the Small Utility Rate Application, which cuts down on consulting fees and rate case expense, and residential customers continue to account for the vast majority of customers. The residential rate class makes up approximately 91% of all customer meters in Fountaintown's customer base.

The OUCC recommends Fountaintown file a revenue proof and a complete red-lined and clean copy of the tariff after a Final Order is issued by the Commission.

### **Summary**

As a result of the OUCC's analysis of Fountaintown's Small Utility Rate Application, books, records, informal discovery responses, and discussions with the Utility, the OUCC makes the following recommendations:

1. The OUCC recommends an 8.85% weighted cost of capital applied to an original cost rate base of \$6,992,537, resulting in a recommended revenue increase of \$560,865

equating to a 30.01% increase net of gas cost revenue. Details of the revenue requirement calculation are presented in Attachment OUCC-1.

- 2. The OUCC recommends Fountaintown update its Normal Degree Days in Appendix D of its rate tariff to incorporate the new NOAA 30-year heating degree day averages into its NTA rate calculations.
- 3. The OUCC recommends Fountaintown file a revised tariff if new base rates have not gone into effect at the end of a 3-year amortization period to remove rate case expense from the Utility's base rates.
- 4. The OUCC recommends Applicant reduce the requested base rate increase to recognize any cost savings achieved by consolidating some or all of the General Manager functions into OVG's corporate structure, or by hiring a new general manager at a lesser salary, in its Response to the OUCC's Report.
- 5. The OUCC recommends the across-the-board rate increase approved by the Commission apply to all charges, including Rate D monthly service charges as shown on Attachment OUCC-1, Schedule 9.
- 6. The OUCC recommends Fountaintown file a revenue proof and a complete red-lined and clean copy of the tariff after a Final Order is issued by the Commission.

#### Comparison of Applicant's and OUCC's Revenue Requirements

	Per Applicant		Per OUCC		Sch Ref	OUCC More (Less)		
Original Cost Rate Base	\$	7,161,280	\$	6,992,537	7	\$	(168,744)	
Times: Weighted Cost of Capital		8.87%		8.85%	8		-0.01%	
Net Operating Income Required for		635,155		619,056			(16,099)	
Return on Original Cost Rate Base								
Less: Adjusted Net Operating Income		184,752		200,498	4		15,746	
Net Revenue Increase Required		450,403		418,558			(31,845)	
Gross Revenue Conversion Factor		133.9996%		133.9995%	1		0.00%	
Recommended Revenue Increase	\$	603,607	\$	560,865		\$	(42,742)	
Percentage Increase (Net of Gas Cost Revenue)		31.60%		30.01%			-1.59%	

#### **Gross Revenue Conversion Factor**

		Per Applicant	Per OUCC	
1	Gross Revenue Change	100.0000%	100.0000%	\$ 560,865
2	Less: Bad Debt Rate	0.551682%	0.551682%	3,094
3	Sub-total	99.4483%	99.4483%	
4	Less: IURC Fee	0.116337%	0.116337%	652
5	Income Before State Income Taxes	99.331981%	99.331982%	
6	Less: State Income Tax (4.9% of Line 5)	4.867267%	4.867267%	27,299
7	Utility Receipts Tax (0.00% of Line 3)	0.000000%	0.000000%	0
8	Income Before Federal Income Taxes	94.464714%	94.464715%	
9	Less: Federal Income Tax (21% of Line 8)	19.837590%	19.837590%	 111,263
10	Change in Operating Income	74.627124%	74.627125%	\$ 418,557
11	Gross Revenue Conversion Factor	133.9996%	133.9995%	

### Comparison of Net Operating Income Statement Adjustments Pro Forma Present Rates

	Applicant's Pro Forma Adjustments	OUCC's Pro Forma Adjustments	Difference Increase/ (Decrease)
Operating Revenues			
Normalized Sales Adjustment	\$ -	\$ (40,674)	\$ (40,674)
Remove Gas Cost Sales Revenue	(1,961,530)	(1,961,530)	-
Correction for ADIT Amortization	(28,510)	(28,510)	-
Total Revenue Adjustments	(1,990,040)	(2,030,714)	(40,674)
<b>Operation and Maintenance Expense</b>			
Natural Gas Purchased	(1,969,909)	(1,969,909)	-
Distribution Expense			
Payroll Increase and Pension Contribution (Sal	8,611	8,611	-
Payroll Increase (Hourly)	2,899	2,899	-
401K Contribution and Health Insurance	12,085	12,085	-
FICA Tax	546	546	-
Customer Expense			
Payroll Increase (Hourly)	(2,309)	(2,309)	-
401K Contribution and Health Insurance	3,490	3,490	-
FICA Tax	158	158	-
Sales Expense	-	-	-
Administrative and General Expense			
Rate Case Expense	26,667	26,667	-
Insurance Expense	9,796	2,822	(6,974)
Outside Services	-	(15,446)	(15,446)
Miscellaneous Expenses	_	(276)	(276)
Total O&M Expense Adjustments	(1,907,966)	(1,930,662)	(22,696)
Depreciation Expense			
Depreciation Expense	24,002	24,841	839
Total Depreciation Expense Adjustment	24,002	24,841	839
Total Depreciation Expense Adjustment	24,002	24,041	
Taxes Other Than Income Taxes	<i>(</i> <b>2 - 2 - 3</b>	( )	
IURC Fee	(2,079)	(2,397)	(318)
Utility Receipts Tax	(62,082)	(62,082)	-
Property Taxes	11,149	11,205	56
Total Other Tax Adjustments	(53,012)	(53,274)	(262)
Federal and State Income Tax Expense			
State Income Tax	(1,954)	(5,312)	(3,358)
Federal Income Tax	(35,166)	(48,852)	(13,686)
Total Income Tax Adjustments	(37,120)	(54,164)	(17,044)
Other Items	-	(17,258)	(17,258)
Total Operating Expense Adjustments	(1,974,096)	(2,030,517)	(56,421)
Net Operating Income	\$ (15,944)	\$ (197)	\$ 15,747

#### BALANCE SHEET As of June 30, 2022

#### ASSETS

UTILITY PLANT IN SERVICE	
Total Utility Plant in Service	\$ 13,300,406
Construction Work in Progress	419,084
Accumulated Depreciation	(8,012,920)
Net Utility Plant in Service	5,706,570
CURRENT AND ACCRUED ASSETS	
Cash	854,457
Working Funds	8,858
Accounts Receivable	158,186
Accumulated Provision for Uncollectible Accounts	5,750
Receivables from Associated Companies	92,269
Materials and Supplies	185,140
Gas Stored Underground	719,323
Prepayments	17,349
Accrued Utility Revenues	(5,147)
Total Current and Accrued Assets	2,036,185
DEFERRED DEBITS	0.651
DEFERRED DEBITS	9,651
Total Assets and Other Debits	\$ 7,752,406
LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' EQUITY CAPITALIZATION	
Common Stock	\$ 10,000
Appropriated Retained Earnings	5,768,835
Unappropriated Retained Earnings	(312,560)
Total Shareholders' Equity	5,466,275
LONG-TERM DEBT	
DEFERRED INCOME TAXES	633,565
DEFERRED CREDITS	676,997
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts Payable	509,266
Payable to Associated Companies	(78)
Customer Deposits	200,800
Taxes Accrued	194,543
Interest Accrued	41,730
Tax Collections Payable	5,770
Miscellaneous Current and Accrued Liabilities	23,538
Total Current and Accrued Liabilities	975,569
Fotal Current and Accided Elabilities	215,509
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	

## INCOME STATEMENT Twelve Months Ended June 30, 2022

OPERATING REVENUES	
Gas Sales	\$ 3,899,923
Other Operating Revenues	412,584
Total Operating Revenues	4,312,507
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Purchased Gas Costs	1,969,909
Distribution Expense	497,646
Customer Expense	299,178
Sales Expense	(2,864)
Administrative and General Expense	880,885
Depreciation Expense	233,309
Taxes Other Than Income Taxes	138,592
State and Federal Income Taxes	77,899
Total Operating Expenses	4,094,554
Net Operating Income:	217,953
OTHER INCOME AND EXPENSE	
Interest and Dividend Income	(381)
Miscellaneous Non-Operating Income	(4,295)
Miscellaneous Income Deductions	8,112
Other Interest Expense	13,822
Total Other Income and Expense - Net	17,258
Net Income	\$ 200,695

#### Pro Forma Net Operating Income Statement

		Test Year Jnadjusted		Forma istments	Sch Ref		o Forma at esent Rates					Sch Ref		o Forma at posed Rates
OPERATING REVENUES														
Gas Sales	\$	3,899,923				\$	1,869,209	\$	560,865		\$	2,430,074		
Normalized Sales Adjustment	*	-,,		(40,674)	5-1	*	-,,	*			*	_,,		
Remove Gas Cost Sales Revenue			(	(1,961,530)	App.									
Correction for ADIT Amortization			,	(28,510)	App.									
Other Operating Revenues		412,584		( - ) )	11		412,584					412,584		
Total Revenue		4,312,507	(	(2,030,714)			2,281,793		560,865	1		2,842,658		
OPERATING EXPENSES														
Natural Gas Purchased		1,969,909	(	(1,969,909)	App.		0					0		
Distribution Expense		497,646					521,787					521,787		
Payroll Increase and Pension Contribution (Salaried)				8,611	App.									
Payroll Increase (Hourly)				2,899	App.									
401K Contribution and Health Insurance				12,085	App.									
FICA Tax				546	App.									
Customer Expense		299,178					300,517					300,517		
Payroll Increase (Hourly)				(2,309)	App.									
401K Contribution and Health Insurance				3,490	App.									
FICA Tax				158	App.									
Sales Expense		(2,864)		0			(2,864)					(2,864)		
Administrative and General Expense		880,885					894,652		3,094	1		897,746		
Rate Case Expense				26,667	App.									
Insurance Expense				2,822	6-1a									
Outside Services				(15,446)	6-1b									
Miscellaneous Expenses				(276)	6-1c									
Depreciation Expense		233,309		24,841	6-2		258,150					258,150		
Taxes Other Than Income Taxes		138,592					85,318					85,970		
IURC Fee				(2,397)	6-4				652	1				
Utility Receipts Tax				(62,082)	6-3a				0	1				
Property Taxes				11,205	6-3b									
Income Taxes														
State Income Tax		15,605		(5,312)	6-5		10,293		27,299	1		37,592		
Federal Income Tax		62,294		(48,852)	6-5		13,442		111,263	1		124,705		
Below the Line Other Income and Expenses	_	17,258		(17,258)	6-1d		0					0		
Total Operating Expenses		4,111,812	(	(2,030,517)			2,081,295		142,308.00			2,223,603		
Net Operating Income	\$	200,695	\$	(197)		\$	200,498	\$	418,557		\$	619,055		

Attachment OUCC-1 Schedule 5 Page 1 of 1

## Fountaintown Gas Co., Inc. CAUSE NUMBER 45802-U

## **OUCC Revenue Adjustments**

## (1) Revenue Adjustments

Weather Normalized Sales Adjustment (Attachment OUCC-4) Adjustment Increase (Decrease) \$ (40,674)

#### **OUCC Expense Adjustments**

#### (1) Operation and Maintenance Expenses

(a) Property and Liability Insurance Adjust Insurance Expense to reflect Applicant's revised adjustme	ent. (Attachment OUCC-5)				
	Adjustment Increase (Decrease)	\$	2,822		
(b) Outside Services Adjust Outside Services Expense to remove non-recurring exper	nses. (Attachment OUCC-6) Adjustment Increase (Decrease)	\$	(15,446)		
(c) Miscellaneous Expense Adjust Miscellaneous Expense to remove lobbying expenses. (A	, ,				
	Adjustment Increase (Decrease)	\$	(276)		
(d) Other Items Adjust Pro Forma Operating Expenses to Remove Below the Lir	ne Other Income and Expenses				
	Adjustment Increase (Decrease)	\$	(17,258)		
(2) <u>Depreciation Expense</u> To reflect increase in pro forma depreciation expense.					

Adjust Depreciation Expense due to increase in Rate Base through November 30, 2022 (Attachment OUCC-8)

Adjustment Increase (Decrease) \$ 24,841

#### **OUCC Expense Adjustments**

#### (3) <u>Taxes Other Than Income Taxes</u>

#### (a) Utility Receipts Tax

To reflect utility receipt tax (URT) associated with pro forma operating revenues

Adjusted Present Rate Operating Reve	nue	\$ 2,281,793	
Less: Bad Debt Expense		7,506	
Less: Statutory Exemption		 1,000	
Pro Forma Revenues Subject to URT		 2,273,287	
Times: Utility Receipt Tax Rate		 0.00%	
Pro Forma Utility Receipt Tax		 -	
Less: Test Year Utility Receipt Tax		 62,082	
	Adjustment Increase (Decrease)		\$ (62,082)

(b) Property Taxes

Adjust Property Tax Expense due to increase in Rate Base through November 30, 2022 (Attachment OUCC-9)

Adjustment Increase (Decrease)	\$	11,205
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# (4)

### **IURC Fee**

To reflect IURC fee associated with estimated pro forma operating revenues

Pro Forma Present Rate Revenue (incl. gas costs) from Schedule 4 Less: Bad Debt Expense	\$ 2,281,793 7,506	
Pro Forma Revenues Subject to IURC Fee	2,274,287	
Times: 2022-2023 IURC Fee	 0.1163372%	
Pro Forma IURC Fee	 2,646	
Less: Test Year IURC Fee	 5,043	
Adjustment Increase (Decrease)		\$ (2,397)

#### **OUCC Expense Adjustments**

### (5) <u>Income Tax Expense</u>

To reflect pro forma income tax expense.

	Federal	State
Operating Revenue	\$ 2,281,793	\$ 2,281,793
0.º M E	1 714 002	1 714 002
O&M Expenses	1,714,092	1,714,092
Depreciation Expense	258,150	258,150
Taxes Other Than Income Taxes	85,318	85,318
State Income Tax	10,293	
Net Operating Income Before Income Taxes	213,940	224,233
Less: Synchronized interest	(14,167)	(14,167)
State Taxable Income		210,066
Federal Taxable Income	199,773	
Tax Rates	21.0%	4.9%
Tax at Present Rate	41,952	10,293
Less: Excess ADIT	(28,510)	
Adjusted Tax at Present Rate	13,442	
Less Test Period Expense	62,294	15,605
Income Tax Adjustments	\$ (48,852)	\$ (5,312)

#### Calculation of Pro Forma Original Cost Rate Base

			Per OUCC	OUCC More (Less)		
Utility Plant in Service as of June 30, 2022 Increase in Rate Base through November 30, 2022	\$	13,300,406 800,048	\$	13,300,406 809,651	\$	9,603
Less: Accumulated Depreciation as of June 30, 2022 Less: Added Accumulated Depreciation through November 30, 2022		(8,012,920)		(8,012,920) (107,563)		(107,563)
Net Utility Plant in Service		6,087,534		5,989,574		(97,960)
Add: Working Capital 1,714,092 / 8 Materials & Supplies (13 Month Average) Gas in Storage (13 Month Average)		217,098 119,152 737,496		214,262 157,064 631,637		(2,837) 37,912 (105,859)
Total Original Cost Rate Base	\$	7,161,280	\$	6,992,537	\$	(168,744)

### Pro forma Capital Structure As of June 30, 2022

	 Amount	Percent of Total	Cost	Weighted Cost
Common Equity	\$ 5,432,293	86.53%	10.00%	8.65%
Long-Term Debt	-	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Customer Deposits	211,975	3.38%	6.00%	0.20%
Deferred Income Taxes	633,565	10.09%	0.00%	0.00%
Total Capital	\$ 6,277,833	100.00%	-	8.8531%

#### Synchronized Interest Calculation

Long-Term Debt	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Customer Deposits	3.38%	6.00%	0.20%
Total			 0.20%
Total Original Cost Rate Base			\$ 6,992,537
Synchronized Interest Expense			\$ 14,167

## Current and Proposed Monthly Service Charges

	_0	Current	-	pplicant roposed		OUCC roposed	P	DUCC roposed ore (Less)
RS - Residential Sales Service	\$	10.45	\$	13.75	\$	13.59	\$	(0.16)
GS - General Sales Service	\$	10.45	\$	13.75	\$	13.59	\$	(0.16)
<b>Rate B - Commercial Sales Service</b>								
Meter Sizes 250 to 800 Dth	\$	20.71	\$	27.25	\$	26.93	\$	(0.32)
Meter Sizes Greater Than 800 Dth	\$	86.77	\$	114.19	\$	112.81	\$	(1.38)
Rate C - Industrial Service	\$	216.92	\$	285.47	\$	282.02	\$	(3.45)
<b>Rate D - General Transportation Service</b>	\$	440.00	\$	440.00	\$	572.00	\$	132.00
<b>Rate GTS - Long-Term Contract</b> <b>Transportation Service</b>	\$1	6,891.00	\$2	2,234.00	\$2	1,960.00	\$	(274.00)
<b>Rate STS - School Transportation Service</b> Meter Sizes Less Than 800 Dth Meter Sizes Greater Than 800 Dth	\$ \$	171.56 256.36	\$ \$	225.77 337.37	\$ \$	223.05 333.29	\$ \$	(2.72) (4.08)

#### Original Cost Rate Base as of June 30, 2022, With Updates Through November 30, 2022

Line	Description	Tes	Column A t Year Ended 6/30/2022	Column B Rate Base Cut-off 11/30/2022		
Number	Description		0/30/2022		11/30/2022	
1	Utility Plant in Service as of June 30, 2022	\$	13,300,406	\$	13,300,406	
1a	Pro Forma Utility Plant Added in Service After June 30, 2022		-		809,651	
2	Less: Accumulated Depreciation		8,012,920		(8,012,920)	
2a	Less: Accumulated Depreciation for July 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022				(107,563)	
3	Net Gas Plant In Service	\$	5,287,486	\$	5,989,574	
4	Add: Gas Storage Undergroun (13 Month Average)	\$	737,496	\$	631,637	
5	Add: Working Capital (O&M Expenses / 8)		217,098		214,262	
6	Add: Materials and Supplies (13 Month Average)		119,152		157,064	
7	Total Original Cost Rate Base	\$	6,361,232	\$	6,992,537	

		Gas Storage Underground	Ν	Materials and Supplies
Closing Balance:				
Nov-21	\$	691,451	\$	114,526
Dec-21		619,544		105,739
Jan-22		351,290		110,154
Feb-22		168,956		116,373
Mar-22		102,464		144,056
Apr-22		306,281		139,235
May-22		539,314		150,398
Jun-22		737,495		184,843
Jul-22		865,087		228,590
Aug-22		1,003,631		189,732
Sep-22		1,038,590		195,119
Oct-22		912,060		182,237
Nov-22		875,123		180,835
13 Month Average	\$	631,637	\$	157,064

#### Fountaintown Gas Company Cause No. 45802-U NTA Adjustment

#### NOAA AVERAGE 1971-2000

#### NOAA AVERAGE 1991-2020

Indianapolis					Indianapolis				
MONTH	ACTUAL NOAA DAYS	30-YEAR AVERAGE	VARIANCE	% VARIANCE	MONTH	ACTUAL NOAA DAYS	30-YEAR AVERAGE	VARIANCE	% VARIANCE
July	0	0	0	0	July	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	August	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	0	0	September	0	0	0	0
October	185	335	150	44.78%	October	185	314	129	41.08%
November	735	659	(76)	-11.53%	November	735	650	(85)	-13.08%
December	711	1,020	309	30.29%	December	711	983	272	27.67%
January	1,220	1,192	(28)	-2.35%	January	1,220	1,131	(89)	-7.87%
February	957	957	0	0.00%	February	957	910	(47)	-5.16%
March	612	724	112	15.47%	March	612	702	90	12.82%
April	423	394	(29)	-7.36%	April	423	355	(68)	-19.15%
May	0	0	0	0	May	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	0	0	June	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	4,843	5,281	438	_	TOTAL	4,843	5,045	202	

Difference in Weather Multiplied by Dth Sales Less Baseload					Difference in Weather Multiplied by Dth Sales Less Baseload				
	Residential	General Sales	Commerical	Industrial Sales		Residential	General Sales	Commerical	Industrial Sales
MONTH	Sales (RS)	(GS)	Sales (B)	(C)	MONTH	Sales (RS)	(GS)	Sales (B)	(C)
	0								
July	0	0	C	0	July	0	0	0	0
August	0	0	0	0	August	0	0	0	0
September	0	0	C	0	September	0	0	0	0
October	1,766	1	5,248	133	October	1,620	1	4,814	122
November	-2,440	-6	-1,679	-113	November	-2,768	-6	-1,905	-128
December	10,998	46	4,292	502	December	10,047	42	3,921	459
January	-1,365	-107	-428	-60	January	-4,570	-358	-1,433	-202
February	0	0	C	0	February	-2,636	-215	-784	-118
March	4,909	547	1,257	222	March	4,068	453	1,042	184
April	-2,065	-218	-454	-67	April	-5,373	-567	-1,180	-174
May	0	0	C	0	May	0	0	0	0
June	0	0	C	0	June	0	0	0	0

	1	Baseload Sales		
	Residential	Industrial Sales		
	Sales (RS)	(GS)	Sales (B)	(C)
July	2,917	1	2,207	914
August	2,689	1	2,124	779
Total	5,606	1	4,331	1,693
Monthly Average	2,803	1	2,166	846

	Dth Sales less Basload					Imapct of 30-Year Average Change on Sales				
	Residential	General Sales	Commerical	Industrial Sales		Residential	General Sales	Commerical	Industrial Sales	
	Sales (RS)	(GS)	Sales (B)	(C)	MONTH	Sales (RS)	(GS)	Sales (B)	(C)	
July	-	-	-	-	July	0	0	0	0	
August	-	-	-	-	August	0	0	0	0	
September	-	-	-	-	September	0	0	0	0	
October	3,943	3	11,718	297	October	-146	0	-434	-11	
November	21,165	49	14,561	977	November	-328	-1	-226	-15	
December	36,310	153	14,171	1,658	December	-951	-4	-371	-43	
January	58,064	4,548	18,203	2,569	January	-3,205	-251	-1,005	-142	
February	51,085	4,166	15,194	2,278	February	-2,636	-215	-784	-118	
March	31,733	3,537	8,125	1,434	March	-841	-94	-215	-38	
April	28,059	2,960	6,162	909	April	-3,308	-349	-727	-107	
May	-	-	-	-	May	0	0	0	0	
June	-	-	-	-	June	0	0	0	0	
						-11,415	-914	-3,761	-474	
					RATE	2.7371	2.7371	1.6405		
						-31,245	-2,501	-6,170		

Adjustment

-40,674

### Adjustment of Operating Revenues for Pro Forma Insurance Expense

Line			Column A Current		olumn B est Year	Column C Adjustment		
Number	Type of Insurance		Cost	E	xpense	•	- Col. A)	
1	Workman's Compensation	\$	6,961					
2	Liability		35,011					
3	Comprehensive		-					
4	Property		-					
5	Vehicle		16,859					
6	Other - Crime Coverage		500					
7	Total Current Insurance Expense:	\$	59,331					
8	Fountaintown Portion (2/3):	\$	39,556					
9	Less: Test Year Insurance Expens	e:		\$	36,734			
10	Pro Forma Adjustment - Insurance	e Exp	ense:			\$	2,822	

**Note:** Insurance is purchased for Fountaintown and South Eastern Gas Company in aggregate, with 2/3 of the insurance cost attributable to Fountaintown Gas and the remaining 1/3 of the cost attributable to South Eastern Gas.

## Adjustment of Operating Expenses for Outside Services

Line Number	Description	Amount				
1	Amereco - Amount Paid in Settlement	\$	13,750			
2	Cohen, Garelick & Glazier - Amereco Settlement		1,216			
3	Cohen, Garelick & Glazier - Amereco Settlement		480			
4	Total Settlement Expense	\$	15,446			
5	Pro Forma Adjustment - Oustide Services	\$	(15,446)			

## Adjustment of Operating Expenses for Miscellaneous Expense

Line Number	Description	A	mount
1	Indiana Energy Association - July 1, 2021	\$	421
2	Indiana Energy Association - October 1, 2021	\$	421
3	Indiana Energy Association - November 1, 2021	\$	425
4	Indiana Energy Association - March 15, 2022		149
5	Indiana Energy Association - June 15, 2022		425
6	Total Indiana Energy Association Dues Paid	\$	1,842
7	15% Non-Deductible	\$	276
8	Pro Forma Adjustment - Miscellaneous Expenses	\$	(276)

#### Pro Forma Adjustment of Utility Plant In Service and Depreciation Expense For Pro Forma Additional Plant Placed in Service After June 30, 2022

Line Number	Description of Plant Asset Category	Plant Number	Additional Plant Added	Depreciation Rate	Pro Forma Depreciation
1	Organization	(301)	\$-	0.00%	\$ -
2	Land and land rights	(374)	-	0.00%	-
3	Structures and improvements	(375)	-	3.00%	-
4	Mains	(376)	138,674	3.00%	4,160
5	Equipment General	(378)	-		-
	Measuring and regulating station				
6	equipment-city gate check stations	(379)	600,124	3.00%	18,004
7	Services	(380)	31,750	3.00%	953
8	Meters	(381)	1,730	3.00%	52
9	House regulators	(383)	-	3.00%	-
	Industrial measuring regulating station				
10	equipment	(385)	29,500	3.00%	885
11	Structures and improvements	(390)	-	3.00%	-
12	Office furniture and equip.	(391)	-	10.00%	-
13	Transportation equipment	(392)	-	20.00%	-
14	Tools, ship and garage equip.	(394)	7,873	10.00%	787
15	Power operated equipment	(396)	-	10.00%	-
16	Communication equipment	(397)	-	10.00%	-
17	Miscellaneous equipment	(398)	-	10.00%	-
18	Other tangible property	(399)	-	0.00%	-
19	Total Pro Forma Plant and Depreciation		\$ 809,651		\$ 24,841

#### Plant Added:

Project 1 - US 52 Main, Regulator Station, and Services necessary to fix several challenges with first cuts, valves, and Project 2 - Reconstruction of the Morristown Purchase station including all components necessary to deliver gas to the

## Adjustment of Taxes Other Than Income Taxes - Property Tax

Line Number	Description	Totals
1	Property Tax:	
2	Property Tax Assessment	\$3,976,449
3	Weighted Tax Rate	1.9471%
4	Pro Forma Property Tax	\$ 77,425
5	Property Tax for Plant Additions after June 30, 2022:	
6	Plant Additions Made After June 30, 2022	\$ 809,651
7	Times: Average Property Tax Assessment Percentage:	29.90%
8	Property Tax Assessment for Plant Additions:	\$ 242,086
9	Weighted Tax Rate	1.9471%
10	Pro Forma Property Tax - Plant Additions	\$ 4,714
11	Total Pro Forma Property Tax	\$ 82,139
12	Less: Test Year Property Tax Expense	70,934
13	Adjustment for Property Tax:	\$ 11,205

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that a copy of the has been served upon the following captioned proceeding by electronic service on March 2, 2023.

Nicholas K. Kile Hillary J. Close Lauren M. Box **BARNES & THORNBURG LLP** Email: nicholas.kile@btlaw.com hillary.close@btlaw.com lauren.box@btlaw.com

T. Jason Haas Attorney No. 34983-29 Deputy Consumer Counselor

## INDIANA OFFICE OF UTILITY CONSUMER COUNSELOR

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