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PHILADELPHIA GAS COMMISSION  
- - -  
FY 2025 CAPITAL BUDGET  
PUBLIC HEARING

- - -  
February 27, 2024  
10:12 a.m.

- - -  
VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCING  
- - -

BEFORE: GEMELA N. McCLENDON, ESQ.  
Executive Director

HEIDI L. WUSHINSKE, ESQ.  
Senior Hearing Examiner  
ROSLYN BELL, ESQ.  
Hearing Examiner

ANNA M. CORRADO ROWE  
Senior Analyst  
TIMOTHY MURTHA  
Financial Analyst/Internal Auditor

- - -  
VERITEXT LEGAL SOLUTIONS  
MID-ATLANTIC DIVISION

1 APPEARANCES:

2

ANDRE C. DASENT, ESQ.

3

Counsel to Philadelphia Gas Works

4

COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICES, INC.

BY: ROBERT W. BALLENGER, ESQ.

5

Counsel to Public Advocate

6

EARTHJUSTICE

BY: DEVIN McDOUGALL, ESQ.

7

CELINE BUSNELLI, Litigation Assistant

DOMINIQUE AGNEW, Intern

8

Counsel to POWER

9

PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGW:

10

WILLIAM J. GALLAGHER

11

Vice President, Budget and Strategic

12

Development

13

FLORIAN TEME

Vice President, Marketing, Sales and Energy

14

Planning

15

DANIEL CASSIDY

Vice President, Technical Operations

16

KELLY ANN DeLUSSEY

17

Vice President, Operations, Resource Management,

and Personnel

18

JOANNE KELLY

19

Vice President, Infrastructure and Service

Management

20

SHANE MAYO

21

Manager, Administrative Services

22

STEPHEN SCHUMMER

Manager, Budget Reporting

23

SHAWN MURRAY

24

Safety Supervisor, Training

1 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PGW: (Continued)

2

CARITA COUNCIL

3 Senior Budget Analyst, Finance

4 MARY LYNN O'BOYLE

Administrative Assistant

5

6 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF GAS WORKS EMPLOYEES' UNION:

7

MIKE McDONOUGH

8

9 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF PUBLIC ADVOCATE:

10

LAFAYETTE MORGAN

11

12 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF POWER:

13

MARK KLEINGINNA

14

15 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC:

16

BEN WEBSTER

17

CAITLIN SHERMAN

18

CAROLYN KLEPSE

19

DON CAMPBELL

20

ELAINE FULTZ

21

EMILY DAVIS, Sierra Club

22

HARRISON MACE, Reclaim Philadelphia

23

24

1 PRESENT ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC: (Continued)

2

JAMIR HUBBARD

3

JORDAN TEICHER, Philly DSA

4

JULIE GREENBERG

5

KAREN MELTON

6

LISA ANZALONE, Sierra Club

7

LINNEA BOND

8

LYNN ROBINSON

9

MAT WRANOVICS

10

MIKE LEMLEY

11

MITCH CHANIN, Reclaim Philadelphia

12

NADINE YOUNG

13

PATRICIA LIBBEY

14

PETER FURCHT

15

RACHEL MULBY

16

STEVE GREENSPAN, POWER CJJ

17

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1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Good morning,  
2 everyone. This is the Philadelphia Gas  
3 Commission's public hearing on PGW's FY '25  
4 Capital Budget.

5 My name is Gemela McClendon, I am the  
6 Executive Director of the Gas Commission,  
7 and I will be presiding over this proceeding  
8 along with Senior Hearing Examiner Heidi  
9 Wushinske.

10 We have a set agenda which we will go  
11 through. At the conclusion of that agenda  
12 and before we do the final cleanup and  
13 housekeeping matters that have to be done  
14 that I will take care of at the end of the  
15 hearing, there will be an opportunity for  
16 members of the public to speak.

17 You will be given three minutes in  
18 order to offer comments on the FY '25  
19 Capital Budget. Comments that do not relate  
20 to the fiscal year '25 Capital Budget are  
21 not being taken at this time. So if you do  
22 opt to speak, we are respectfully requesting  
23 that you keep it on the topic of today,  
24 which is the FY '25 Capital Budget.

1           The transcript of this hearing will  
2           be posted on the Gas Commission's website at  
3           the conclusion of this once we have it so it  
4           can be accessed by anyone if they need to  
5           refer back to anything that was said during  
6           this hearing.

7           Ms. Wushinske, is that everything? I  
8           think that's kind of the opening stuff that  
9           we kind of need, the housekeeping stuff. Is  
10          there anything that you can think of that I  
11          might have missed?

12          HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: I don't  
13          think so. I think you got it all, Executive  
14          Director McClendon.

15          EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

16          At this time we will be swearing in  
17          the individuals who will be offering  
18          testimony during this proceeding. That will  
19          be Mr. Lafayette Morgan, Mr. Mark  
20          Kleinginna. I believe Mr. Teme is in the  
21          room.

22          The individuals who will be offering  
23          testimony on behalf of PGW, if they are  
24          present at this time, please identify

1           yourselves so that Ms. Migatz can begin the  
2           swearing-in process.

3                   MR. GALLAGHER: Bill Gallagher.

4                   MR. TEME: Florian Team.

5                   MS. DeLUSSEY: Kelly Ann DeLussey.

6                   EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. I think  
7           that that is everyone from PGW that's  
8           present at this time.

9                   So, Ms. Migatz, you can proceed with  
10          the swearing in.

11                                 - - -

12                                 (Whereupon, the above-identified  
13          witnesses, FLORIAN TEME, WILLIAM GALLAGHER,  
14          KELLY ANN DeLUSSEY, LAFAYETTE MORGAN, and  
15          MARK KLEINGINNA, were sworn.)

16                                 - - -

17                   EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: My apologies;  
18          just give me one second.

19                   The first item on our agenda are  
20          stipulations. Yesterday evening Mr. Dasant  
21          on behalf of PGW sent over a list of  
22          agreements that are acceptable to PGW at  
23          this juncture of the proceeding. That list  
24          was sent to the Service List.

1           So, Mr. Ballenger and Mr. McDougall,  
2           you both have received that, is that  
3           correct, and have had an opportunity to look  
4           over it?

5           MR. BALLENGER: That's correct.

6           MR. McDOUGALL: Yes, correct.

7           EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

8           Mr. Dasent, you can proceed.

9           MR. DASENT: Thank you.

10          First of all, good morning, everyone.  
11          We have a Summary of Adjustments Agreeable  
12          to PGW that was referenced earlier. We've  
13          circulated that to the parties.

14          On those adjustments, six in all, the  
15          first two relate to "Conditional Expenses."  
16          Those items of expenditure are with respect  
17          to Facilities and 800 Building - First Floor  
18          Renovations in the amount of \$7,075,000 and  
19          the 800 Building - Stair Tower Renovation in  
20          the amount of \$316,000.

21          Both of those were referenced in  
22          Mr. Morgan's testimony for the Public  
23          Advocate and PGW agrees to those adjustments  
24          on a conditional basis as specified in the



1 "Description of Adjustments" in the document  
2 that was circulated.

3 I would be hopeful that we can mark  
4 as a hearing exhibit today the "Summary of  
5 Adjustments Agreeable to PGW" and perhaps  
6 attach that to the transcript. We shared  
7 the adjustments with the stenographer.

8 MR. BALLENGER: We have no  
9 objections, the Public Advocate has no  
10 objections, to including that as an exhibit.

11 MR. DASENT: Okay.

12 MR. McDOUGALL: Likewise.

13 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

14 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Let's just  
15 mark the exhibit. I'm not sure what number  
16 exhibit this would represent for PGW.

17 MR. DASENT: Why don't we call it PGW  
18 Hearing Exhibit 1, if the Hearing Examiners  
19 find that to be appropriate. Hearing  
20 Exhibit 1 I think makes sense for today.

21 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

22 - - -

23 (Whereupon the above-described  
24 document was marked for identification

1           purposes as Hearing Exhibit 1.)

2                           - - -

3                   EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON:   And just so  
4           that everyone is aware, we are keeping a  
5           running track of all exhibits that have been  
6           submitted at this point.

7                   It is our expectation that we will be  
8           circulating the briefing memo by no later  
9           than close of business tomorrow and you'll  
10          receive the complete, as of the close of  
11          today, Exhibits List that we have, the  
12          Commission has, at this juncture either  
13          later today or along with the briefing memo  
14          tomorrow and that will have the final  
15          official title for all exhibits up to this  
16          point.

17                   You may proceed.

18                   MR. DASENT:   Thank you.

19                   Just to conclude on the various  
20          adjustments, in addition to the "Conditional  
21          Expenses," we have listed "Adjustments to  
22          Expenses" and the third line or row  
23          designated there is the "A&G Adder (Gas  
24          Processing)."

1           This matter came up during discovery  
2           and there's a downward adjustment to the  
3           budget of \$84,000 for that particular line  
4           item.

5           "Upgrade Expander Plant H2O and CO2  
6           Analyzers," there's a downward adjustment of  
7           \$574,000, and that was acknowledged in the  
8           response to HE-1 and also referenced in  
9           Mr. Morgan's testimony.

10           The "Calculation of Total Footage and  
11           Weighted Average Cost per Linear Foot" was  
12           raised in Mr. Kleinginna's testimony. It's  
13           a downward adjustment of \$1,205,100 and it  
14           was referenced in POWER Statement 1 at 4-5  
15           and it is explained in detail by PGW in the  
16           footnote or "Description of Adjustments."

17           "Policy Recommendations," we have  
18           "Capital Program Protocols"; and although  
19           there is no amount of adjustments, the  
20           Protocol amended language relates to  
21           cybersecurity issues.

22           The Advocate recommended streamlined  
23           language in that section, so did PGW, but  
24           PGW will acquiesce to the edits that were

1 proposed by Mr. Ballenger for the Public  
2 Advocate.

3 It only addresses cybersecurity  
4 emergencies or really emergencies in  
5 general, but just recognize that we as to  
6 that particular issue are in agreement with  
7 the Public Advocate and our Legal Department  
8 at PGW signed off on that.

9 We will brief the other issues, which  
10 have to do with Capital Budget  
11 reauthorization. We have no agreement as to  
12 that particular issue as of right now, but  
13 we think at PGW that that change also needs  
14 to be made.

15 That's the sum total of the  
16 "Conditional Expenses" and "Adjustments to  
17 Expenses" that we propose to accept at PGW  
18 and hopefully POWER and the Public Advocate  
19 will agree.

20 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you,  
21 Mr. Dasent.

22 Mr. Ballenger, just going down the  
23 list, PGW has indicated that they've  
24 accepted your changes related to the two

1 projects for the 800 Building.

2 Are you okay with that and, if so,  
3 noting that this does appear on the agenda,  
4 if there is agreement on this matter, can  
5 that item be removed from today's agenda?

6 MR. BALLENGER: I do still have one  
7 point of followup today on the 800 Building.  
8 As far as the conditional spending  
9 recommendation, that's what we put into  
10 testimony so we are fine with that. But I  
11 do have just one, really just one, question  
12 I think about the 800 Building and it  
13 relates to the budgeted amount for fiscal  
14 2024. But those two things, that should be  
15 a much shorter conversation.

16 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. So  
17 because you do still have that outstanding  
18 question, we'll leave that on the agenda as  
19 Mr. Cassidy isn't here now to try to address  
20 it.

21 With regard to the other agreed-upon  
22 adjustments that PGW has offered, do you  
23 have any comments or thoughts with regard to  
24 those?

1 MR. BALLENGER: Yes; and it's not to  
2 the stipulation as much as it is just sort  
3 of clarification of where we are overall in  
4 this proceeding.

5 As to Line 3, the "A&G Adder," I just  
6 want to flag that that adjustment as  
7 depicted in Mr. Morgan's testimony applies  
8 to other projects that we have taken a  
9 position on the merits about.

10 So that adjustment, you know,  
11 essentially is a calculation adjustment, but  
12 we still have proposals related to the  
13 underlying merits of the three different  
14 projects shown. That would be the Ivy Hill  
15 project, the H-1 heater upgrade, and the  
16 boil off gas compressors.

17 So we're not changing any of our  
18 substantive positions by presenting that and  
19 by agreeing to that adjustment in terms of  
20 calculation only.

21 The only other thing that I wanted to  
22 comment on is that my understanding and I  
23 think Mr. Morgan's understanding was that  
24 the other issue with the Protocols regarding

1 line item extension or line item  
2 reauthorization was an issue that we were  
3 hoping would be deferred to subsequent  
4 conversations or workshop or something of  
5 that nature led by Gas Commission Staff.

6 I say that because I am not sure  
7 whether the Hearing Officers can provide any  
8 information to help us see through that and  
9 where we may save some time on the brief if  
10 that is an issue that is not really ripe for  
11 a decision in this Capital Budget  
12 Proceeding.

13 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: And I'm not  
14 looking at the transcript from the ID  
15 session so I can't speak confidently to  
16 this, but I thought -- and, Ms. Wushinske,  
17 please weigh in -- I thought that we said  
18 that we were giving everybody until, I feel  
19 like I said, after today's hearing to submit  
20 like what they propose as language after our  
21 conversation that we had.

22 Am I mistaken regarding that?

23 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: I think  
24 that's accurate. But I also recall, as

1 Mr. Ballenger stated, that we discussed  
2 workshopping this issue. So I don't know if  
3 that was discussed in tandem with briefing  
4 it, but I do remember the discussion that it  
5 might be helpful for us all to sit down and  
6 see where we end up with reaching a  
7 resolution.

8 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Well, we had  
9 the meeting, the side meeting, and the  
10 conversation about it and Commission Staff  
11 shared their thoughts on how to proceed, and  
12 I thought that we had said that we would  
13 like to see language and the submission of  
14 language would come after today's hearing  
15 and we would take it from there.

16 MR. BALLENGER: But also that was  
17 related to the emergency circumstances  
18 change in the Protocols, I thought.

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: No. I thought  
20 it was --

21 MR. BALLENGER: Maybe I  
22 misunderstood.

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I thought it  
24 was for both because Commission Staff did



1 make the suggestion regarding a middle  
2 ground about how to approach this issue that  
3 does not undermine City Council's authority  
4 to approve budgets but also provided some  
5 flexibility and we were looking for thoughts  
6 regarding language that kind of went towards  
7 that.

8 So the suggestion was that when it's  
9 a reauthorization for time only, because the  
10 Protocols already concern language that  
11 allows for longer lifespans than two years,  
12 perhaps the answer was if it's a  
13 reauthorization for time, when the request  
14 comes and it's demonstrated that it's just  
15 for time, it automatically becomes a  
16 three-year lifespan project, which keeps it  
17 in the budget year in which the project was  
18 originally approved, thereby negating the  
19 need to go back to City Council because  
20 underlying budget dollars are not changing;  
21 but, also, you know, it doesn't undermine  
22 it. So we were looking for language of what  
23 people thought about that.

24 Since there's confusion about it,

1 after this we will send out an email, but I  
2 think that we were looking for language from  
3 the participants on what they thought that  
4 something like that might look like. If we  
5 can kind of do that, we can move forward.

6 MR. DASENT: Should we do that as a  
7 part of the briefing process, just include a  
8 section on that? It doesn't have to be  
9 extended.

10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I mean, I  
11 think at this point, yes, that's what we're  
12 going to have to do. It's going to have to  
13 be kind of briefed.

14 MR. DASENT: Okay.

15 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Bear with me  
16 one moment. Someone is trying to enter the  
17 meeting, but I'm going to have to let them  
18 know about the name situation, so please  
19 bear with me for one second.

20 Good morning, C. I'm not sure what  
21 your name is. When you have a moment,  
22 please add your full name to the screen.

23 They're still connecting to audio.

24 My apologies; I am waiting for them

1 to connect to audio to be certain that they  
2 can hear me.

3 C, good morning. As you just joined  
4 us, you didn't hear the announcement made  
5 earlier. We need to have your full name  
6 displayed for the record. So if you could  
7 take the time to please add your name, we  
8 would greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

9 Going back to the original agenda  
10 item, the stipulations, is there anything  
11 else related to that that we need to  
12 discuss?

13 As we said, we're going to have the  
14 issue regarding the reauthorization. That  
15 will be briefed. Commission Staff will  
16 reiterate what we think might be a workable  
17 way to address this issue as a part of our  
18 briefing memo so that all participants know  
19 what to respond to.

20 Is there anything else, Mr. Dasent,  
21 related to that?

22 Oh, wait; I'm sorry.

23 Mr. McDougall, because one of PGW's  
24 agreed-upon adjustments related to one of

1 your issues.

2 MR. McDOUGALL: Thank you,  
3 Ms. McClendon.

4 Yes, we had an opportunity to take a  
5 look at the adjustment. You know, it's  
6 similar to Mr. Ballenger's comment: We have  
7 a position on the merits in addition to our  
8 analysis of the calculations.

9 Mr. Kleinginna testified that the HP  
10 main addition line item should be disallowed  
11 on the grounds that it has not been  
12 substantiated in accordance with the Capital  
13 Program Protocols and also analyzed the  
14 calculations according to the formulas PGW  
15 proposed and found the error in it.

16 So that's the sort of high-level  
17 position of POWER on that. I don't believe  
18 this adjustment can resolve the substantive  
19 position of Mr. Kleinginna.

20 I also wanted to comment briefly, the  
21 number is a little bit different than the  
22 number that Mr. Kleinginna reached and I  
23 just want to make sure Mr. Kleinginna has  
24 time to look at that before sort of

1           commenting further on it.

2           EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Well, as you  
3           noted, you have substantive issues, so that  
4           confirmation of the number can be addressed  
5           as a part of that.

6           So, Mr. Dasent, is there anything  
7           else you have on this?

8           MR. DASENT: As relates to  
9           stipulations, nothing further.

10          EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Then  
11          moving on to the next topic on the agenda,  
12          we have new load addition with Mr. Teme.

13          Whenever you're ready, Mr. Dasent,  
14          you may proceed with your witness.

15          MR. DASENT: Good morning, Mr. Teme.

16          MR. TEME: Good morning.

17          MR. DASENT: I want to speak with you  
18          this morning about new load additions and  
19          what I've characterized as load growth  
20          projects.

21          Now, POWER, Mr. Kleinginna in  
22          particular, has proposed a series of  
23          adjustments related to load growth. These  
24          are Priority IV projects. POWER maintains

1           that these projects should be disallowed in  
2           light of the requirements of the Capital  
3           Program Protocols.

4                     And just to be clear, this series of  
5           adjustments relates to main additions, meter  
6           and regulator additions, service additions,  
7           and meter additions.

8                     Do you agree in this context with  
9           Mr. Kleinginna's recommendation?

10                    MR. TEME:  No, I do not agree with  
11           Mr. Kleinginna's recommendation.

12                    MR. DASENT:  Can you explain?

13                    MR. TEME:  Sure.  PGW in its  
14           discovery responses -- they were factual  
15           responses at the time they were written --  
16           did not say that we don't have a reasonable  
17           expectation that contracts will be signed  
18           during the course of the fiscal year.  I  
19           think it's more of a timing issue.

20                    PGW also showed that a reasonable  
21           return on investment can be expected and is  
22           done as a matter of course during the  
23           economic analysis evaluation.

24                    So we do not agree with

1 Mr. Kleinginna's recommendation on this  
2 matter.

3 MR. DASENT: Now, just to get a  
4 little more specific, with reference to the  
5 Protocols, Part 3, Subpart (b)(4), it states  
6 in relevant part that a proposed line item  
7 assigned a Priority IV status shall be  
8 substantiated by a showing that a  
9 contractual commitment has been, or is  
10 reasonably certain to be, secured during the  
11 budget year and that such commitment  
12 promises an acceptable return on investment.

13 Have I stated the requirements  
14 accurately?

15 MR. TEME: That's correct.

16 MR. DASENT: Now, the Protocols also  
17 in that same subpart go on to state that if  
18 the commitment and/or analysis of investment  
19 is not yet available, the line item may be  
20 considered for conditional funding of a  
21 discrete project if there's a reasonable  
22 likelihood that a contractual commitment  
23 indicating an acceptable return on  
24 investment will be secured during the budget

1 year.

2 Again, have I captured the relevant  
3 provisions of the Protocol?

4 MR. TEME: Yes, that's correct.

5 MR. DASENT: Okay. Now, is there a  
6 reasonable likelihood that a contractual  
7 commitment will be secured for the load  
8 growth projects listed in the Capital Budget  
9 filing at Pages 511 through 513?

10 MR. TEME: Yes, there is.

11 MR. DASENT: Okay. Now, is PGW  
12 required to have a contract at hand with  
13 related return on investment analysis at the  
14 time of budget hearings for budget approval  
15 to be appropriate?

16 MR. TEME: No.

17 MR. DASENT: Now, are load growth  
18 projects approved in every Capital Budget  
19 based upon a reasonable likelihood that a  
20 contract commitment indicating an acceptable  
21 return on investment will be secured during  
22 the budget year?

23 MR. TEME: That's correct.

24 MR. DASENT: Okay. And Rule 10



1 requires these budgets and expenditures to  
2 be based upon a reasonable return on  
3 investment; am I right?

4 MR. TEME: Yes, that is correct as  
5 well.

6 MR. DASENT: Okay. That's all I have  
7 on this issue. The witness is tendered for  
8 cross.

9 MR. McDOUGALL: Thank you,  
10 Mr. Dasent.

11 Mr. Teme, sort of starting with the  
12 HP main contracts as addressed in  
13 Mr. Kleinginna's testimony on Page 3, if we  
14 take the adjusted figure that Mr. Kleinginna  
15 calculated of \$2,752,402, can you walk us  
16 through how PGW has determined that there's  
17 a reasonable certainty that load growth  
18 contracts will be executed during FY '25 in  
19 the amount of dollars specified for that  
20 line item?

21 MR. TEME: So PGW uses historical  
22 data based on actuals and I cannot speak to  
23 the exact dollar figure, but what I can say  
24 is that because it's based on observed or

1 actual data, PGW is recommending that short  
2 of every new business in the City not  
3 requiring natural gas for its business  
4 purposes, our homeowners as well as  
5 builders, that we will see the observed  
6 trend of actuals as used during the budget  
7 process.

8 The second component of that is that  
9 as we get closer to the window that we're  
10 discussing, then the Marketing Department  
11 does an economic analysis and an estimate is  
12 prepared as part of that process.

13 So while the budgeting process uses  
14 actuals, which I believe is a very good  
15 indicator of the potential or of what's to  
16 come, PGW does also do its duty, if you  
17 will, to ensure that these projects have a  
18 return on investment as required.

19 I hope that answers your question.

20 MR. McDOUGALL: Thank you.

21 And just to confirm, these line items  
22 are requested for full approval for  
23 immediate spending; is that correct?

24 MR. TEME: From a budgeting purpose

1 perspective; yes, I mean.

2 MR. McDOUGALL: So any return on  
3 investment analysis would only be performed  
4 after full spending authorization has been  
5 obtained; is that correct?

6 MR. TEME: More likely than not; yes.  
7 And the reason I say that, sometimes  
8 depending on the timing, so as we get closer  
9 to the fiscal year starting, we may have  
10 started an economic analysis at that point  
11 as well. But a year, a year-and-a-half,  
12 sometimes even two years in advance is  
13 typically unreasonable because projects, as  
14 we get closer, you would expect to do an  
15 economic analysis.

16 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. Well, to  
17 confirm, according to your discovery  
18 responses, PGW has not executed any load  
19 growth contracts in association with the  
20 funds requested for authorization for FY  
21 '25.

22 So in terms of this budget, PGW is  
23 seeking full approval for spending on load  
24 growth line items while not having performed

1 any return on investment analysis for those  
2 funds.

3 MR. TEME: That is correct, again,  
4 due to the timing of the budget process,  
5 that it's done so far in advance.

6 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. That's  
7 helpful.

8 I would like to go through some of  
9 your discovery responses. Do you have  
10 available POWER-II-4?

11 MR. TEME: Give me a minute to find  
12 it.

13 MR. McDOUGALL: Absolutely.

14 MR. TEME: Okay. Yes, I have it.

15 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. Thank you.

16 So just as a followup, in the last  
17 sentence of the question there is a question  
18 about whether any written PGW policies exist  
19 that address the use of payback periods for  
20 analysis of load growth capital investments.

21 I didn't see a direct response to  
22 that in the written response. Can you  
23 confirm whether there are any written PGW  
24 policies that exist that address the use of

1           payback periods for analysis of load growth  
2           capital investments?

3                   MR. TEME:   Certainly, Mr. McDougall;  
4           and you'll see the response in the request.  
5           It's stated in the sentence before the last  
6           one:  "These are found in PGW's Tariff  
7           referred to as Rule 10," and that's what we  
8           referred to during the discussions as well.  
9           So it is in the response.

10                   MR. McDOUGALL:  Okay.  And just to  
11           confirm, there's no other written policies  
12           other than what's in the text of Rule 10  
13           that address this issue?

14                   MR. TEME:  Frankly, you know, there  
15           may be other documents, but this is what PGW  
16           refers to when we do an accounting  
17           evaluation.

18                   MR. McDOUGALL:  Okay.  Would you be  
19           able to check on whether there's other  
20           documents and provide them if there are?

21                   MR. TEME:  Sure.  Yes.

22                   MR. McDOUGALL:  Okay.  Appreciate it.  
23           Thank you.

24                   And there's also a question about the

1 use of exceptions to the payback periods.  
2 Can you walk us through how PGW determines  
3 that an exception is appropriate?

4 You mentioned that exceptions may be  
5 used when a project is atypical. If you  
6 could just elaborate on what would make a  
7 project atypical for this purpose.

8 MR. TEME: Sure. So as we say, this  
9 is a good example, maybe an industrial  
10 customer that has a process-related rather  
11 than a heat-related load demand, that would  
12 more or less fall into the atypical.

13 So as mentioned during the hearing,  
14 we see a certain amount of load hours.  
15 Mr. Kleinginna, I think, had requested  
16 during one of the sessions as to how we  
17 determine the projected revenue to offset  
18 inflation costs. So that would be an  
19 example.

20 We would have a better understanding  
21 of the customer's expected operating hours,  
22 if you will, from an equipment standpoint  
23 and then we would evaluate it from that  
24 perspective.

1 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. Thank you.

2 I would like to turn to POWER-25, if  
3 you have that handy.

4 MR. TEME: Yes.

5 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. So in your  
6 response you noted that the majority of  
7 projects are smaller and do not require the  
8 use of different methodologies to evaluate  
9 the return on investment.

10 So just to clarify, when you say  
11 "different methodologies," is it correct  
12 that what you mean there is methodologies  
13 other than simple payback?

14 MR. TEME: That's correct.

15 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. So, you know,  
16 as you say, smaller projects, simple payback  
17 is the approach. And how would you define  
18 "smaller projects"?

19 MR. TEME: I guess the more  
20 appropriate word, Mr. McDougall, would be  
21 standard. But smaller would be typically  
22 commercial or residential-type projects. So  
23 these would fall into more of the standard,  
24 typical evaluations, I think would be the

1 more appropriate word to use.

2 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. When you put  
3 the term "smaller" in your response, what  
4 did you mean by that? Did you mean smaller  
5 in terms of the PGW expenditure or the gas  
6 throughput or some other metric?

7 MR. TEME: Typically the throughput.

8 MR. McDOUGALL: And that's throughput  
9 on an annual basis?

10 MR. TEME: That's correct.

11 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. And what did  
12 you have in mind as a threshold for annual  
13 gas throughput below which it would be  
14 considered a smaller project?

15 MR. TEME: Say 5,000 Mcf or less.

16 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. So when a  
17 project is above 5,000 Mcf, it would require  
18 use of a different methodology according to  
19 your response. So can you walk us through  
20 how you would identify what the appropriate  
21 methodology would be under those  
22 circumstances?

23 MR. TEME: Yes. And, again, just to  
24 clarify, it's not necessarily that



1 particular threshold, Mr. McDougall, from  
2 5,000 Mcf. It would be atypical or  
3 nonstandard, and it would be a net present  
4 value.

5 So we have, as I mentioned earlier,  
6 industrial because even an industrial  
7 customer doesn't mean that it's 10,000 or  
8 above 5,000. It could be 4,000 Mcf from a  
9 throughput standpoint.

10 In that case we could or we would use  
11 a different method -- for example, a net  
12 present value -- rather than a simple  
13 payback method.

14 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. Can you  
15 explain what's the difference between an  
16 atypical or nonstandard project and a  
17 project that would be above this 5,000 Mcf  
18 threshold?

19 It sounds like there's a distinction  
20 in how you're thinking about it and you're  
21 sharing, if I understand you correctly, that  
22 nonstandard is the better sort of yardstick,  
23 and can you add a little color on how you  
24 determine when a project is standard or

1 nonstandard, if not by annual Mcf?

2 MR. TEME: Sure. So, again, it's not  
3 more of a throughput. It's more of an end  
4 use, if you will. Right?

5 So one of the reasons that I'm using  
6 the term "standard" is if a customer,  
7 whether it's residential or commercial or,  
8 say, industrial, if they're using the  
9 facility for heating or, rather, the  
10 equipment for heating the facility as well  
11 as expected hot water needs and such, that's  
12 more of a standard project.

13 If the end use is more of a  
14 process-related or a different type of  
15 application, then, again, that would be an  
16 atypical or nonstandard, and that's what I  
17 mean by that.

18 MR. McDOUGALL: And can you walk us  
19 through why it is that the customer end use  
20 of the gas has implications for how PGW  
21 analyzes the return on investment?

22 MR. TEME: Sure; because, again, as  
23 mentioned, if it's a standard use, let's say  
24 heater, hot water heater, range, then

1           there's sort of a reasonable expectation  
2           that it's utilized over a certain number of  
3           hours per year. I think there was a similar  
4           question to Mr. Kleinginna's last request  
5           during the last hearing.

6                         So we want to do our due diligence  
7           and ensure that the customer is both being  
8           treated fairly in terms of getting the rules  
9           applied correctly while also ensuring that  
10          ratepayers are not on the hook for anything  
11          above and beyond what's expected to be  
12          applied to this particular customer for load  
13          growth.

14                        MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. Well, if  
15          there's seemingly some differences in the  
16          amount of gas that is consumed based on the  
17          end use, would that not be captured in  
18          looking at the annual Mcf consumption?

19                        MR. TEME: Yes, it would.

20                        MR. McDOUGALL: So then can you  
21          explain why you don't use annual Mcf  
22          consumption but, instead, are sort of  
23          developing a sort of standard versus  
24          nonstandard framework?

1                   MR. TEME: It's, again, something  
2                   that doesn't fit the typical methodology,  
3                   Mr. McDougall. I mean, simply that's  
4                   basically it. So we sit down with the  
5                   customer and get a better understanding,  
6                   again, so that the rules are applied more  
7                   accurately, if that makes sense.

8                   So the Mcf is driven by the load  
9                   hours as well; correct? So we just want to  
10                  make sure that, again, we're applying it.

11                  Another example, Year 1 they may  
12                  expect to use, say, 2,000 Mcf. Year 2 they  
13                  may use a different pattern. So, again,  
14                  sometimes the formula and the methodology  
15                  that we use may not easily conform to the  
16                  calculation.

17                  I hope that clarifies it a bit more.

18                  MR. McDOUGALL: Thank you. Yes, it  
19                  does. That would illuminate matters.

20                  If there's going to be a  
21                  substantially different annual Mcf over a  
22                  series of years, it would be difficult to  
23                  treat Mcf annual consumption as fixed and do  
24                  annual calculations based on that.

1           Can you give an example of what kind  
2           of end use would result in a substantially  
3           different Mcf consumption over the initial  
4           years of the project?

5           MR. TEME: Off the top of my head, I  
6           cannot. But as I said, again, the majority  
7           of projects that PGW evaluates, as I  
8           mentioned in my testimony, probably about  
9           90% and even above, 95%, typically fall into  
10          the standard evaluation, so a simple payback  
11          type.

12          And, again, this is to allow, from an  
13          evaluation standpoint, another project that  
14          doesn't easily fall into the cookie-cutter,  
15          if you will, type of evaluation that we do  
16          for the majority of the projects.

17          MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. And is there  
18          an example you can recall of a nonstandard  
19          project?

20          MR. TEME: I can follow up after this  
21          meeting and send an example of a project  
22          that doesn't necessarily fall into this  
23          category.

24          MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. That would be

1 very helpful.

2 Would you be able to send the Rule 10  
3 calculation sheet so that we can see how the  
4 calculations were done?

5 MR. TEME: Sure.

6 MR. McDOUGALL: That would be very  
7 helpful. Thank you.

8 Okay. And so you've mentioned net  
9 present value and there's also on the Rule  
10 10 forms a section on internal rate of  
11 return analysis, and I wanted to ask if  
12 there's any difference between how PGW  
13 understands those terms.

14 MR. TEME: I can provide a written  
15 response. But with some projects, again,  
16 going back to evaluating sort of your  
17 cookie-cutter versus atypical, sometimes  
18 it's easier to use net present value. We  
19 also have a minimum threshold we look at  
20 from an IR standpoint.

21 So, yes, I can provide a written  
22 response in followup to your question.

23 MR. BALLENGER: May I request that  
24 maybe that be taken as a TR and, Devin, if

1           you could sort of articulate just  
2           specifically what you would like to have  
3           responded to, that might be helpful.

4                   MR. McDOUGALL: Thank you,  
5           Mr. Ballenger.

6                   HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: I think  
7           that's a good idea, Mr. Ballenger.

8                   Also, I wanted to ask, Mr. Teme, how  
9           long do you think it would take? -- because  
10          I know we have a briefing deadline coming  
11          up.

12                   MR. TEME: Probably within a day or  
13          so.

14                   HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Okay.  
15          Thank you.

16                   MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. And to circle  
17          back and distill the question, as  
18          Mr. Ballenger helpfully suggested, the  
19          question is: Mr. Teme, you've shared that  
20          for nonstandard projects PGW uses a net  
21          present value analysis. On the Rule 10  
22          calculation forms there's a reference to  
23          internal rate of return analysis.

24                   Could you explain how PGW understands

1 the definitions of these terms and what, if  
2 any, difference there is between them and  
3 how the analysis is performed for each?

4 MR. TEME: Yep. We'll provide a  
5 response.

6 MR. DASENT: And this can be  
7 designated TR-1. I'm not sure where we are.

8 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: That would be  
9 TR-1.

10 MR. McDOUGALL: If we're marking TRs,  
11 as Mr. Ballenger helpfully suggested, there  
12 was a question that I had about an example  
13 of a nonstandard project from the last few  
14 years and Mr. Teme had helpfully offered to  
15 provide a Rule 10 form corresponding to an  
16 example of a nonstandard project. So that  
17 may be TR-1 and that latter question may be  
18 TR-2. Apologies.

19 MR. TEME: Okay.

20 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: I think  
21 that makes sense. I have them marked as you  
22 described, Mr. McDougall.

23 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. Thank you.

24 Mr. Teme, I wanted to just circle



1 back to some of your initial comments today.

2 You shared that you do have a  
3 reasonable expectation that load growth  
4 contracts that correspond to the load growth  
5 line item amount that PGW has sought  
6 authorization for will be executed during FY  
7 '25.

8 I was wondering if you could walk us  
9 through on what basis you have that  
10 reasonable expectation.

11 MR. TEME: Certainly. So certainly  
12 large projects -- and that's primarily, I  
13 think, what you're referencing -- PGW and  
14 its customers do engage in advance in terms  
15 of discussions from a load growth  
16 perspective.

17 So, again, these discussions may last  
18 a year, sometimes two, sometimes longer. So  
19 using some of that information, that's how  
20 we developed the list of projects that we  
21 put on there. So that's how we anticipate  
22 and see, again, in discussions with  
23 customers, that these projects are  
24 reasonably expected to come to fruition.

1 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. So if I  
2 understand you right, you're referring to  
3 the list of projects in the Marketing  
4 forecast section of the budget filing; is  
5 that correct?

6 MR. TEME: That's correct.

7 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. Go ahead.

8 MR. TEME: If I may add?

9 MR. McDOUGALL: Please.

10 MR. TEME: It's also based upon  
11 actual observations of load growth requests  
12 over the years. And, again, it is budgeted  
13 in the Capital Budget process that it is  
14 reasonably expected that these projects or a  
15 certain number, if you will, from a load  
16 growth perspective, would come through on an  
17 annual basis.

18 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. Yes. My  
19 question does concern the specific amount  
20 that PGW has requested to be authorized for  
21 immediate spending in the load growth  
22 categories Mr. Kleinginna identified and my  
23 understanding is based on discussions in the  
24 ID sessions as well as the calculations

1 provided in the budget filing itself, of  
2 course, that the dollar amounts requested  
3 for high-pressure main additions, 8" and  
4 smaller, 12" and larger, customer meter and  
5 regulator, 1-1/4" and smaller, 2" and larger  
6 meter additions, that those dollar numbers  
7 were derived through a historical averaging  
8 process based on the dollar spending that  
9 PGW reported for those budget categories in  
10 the last three to five years.

11 Is that correct?

12 MR. TEME: That's correct.

13 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. And with  
14 regard to the projects that you discussed in  
15 the Marketing forecast, did you modify the  
16 numbers for any of the line items that I  
17 just discussed away from what was outputted  
18 through the averaging process based on any  
19 information from the Marketing forecast?

20 MR. TEME: The two are two separate  
21 processes, if you will. The Marketing  
22 forecast is more of an informational here's,  
23 you know, some of the expected large  
24 projects and here's what's to be expected

1 based on some observations; whereas the  
2 Capital Budget, again, in some ways is more  
3 granular based on observed actual  
4 information.

5 MR. McDOUGALL: Understood.

6 Just to clarify, my question is that  
7 the budget categories we discussed, those  
8 numbers for which PGW is seeking  
9 authorization were exclusively derived  
10 through a historical averaging process; is  
11 that correct?

12 MR. TEME: That's correct.

13 MR. McDOUGALL: And no information  
14 from the Marketing forecast was used to  
15 alter those numbers?

16 MR. TEME: I mean, I am not certain.  
17 I can ask Ms. DeLussey to what extent some  
18 of the Marketing load forecast is used in  
19 the actual historical data. But, again,  
20 they were done for two different purposes.

21 MR. DASENT: We can direct that  
22 question to Ms. DeLussey if you'd like. I  
23 believe she is in the room. We can do it  
24 after Mr. Teme is concluded.

1 MR. McDOUGALL: Sure. That would be  
2 helpful.

3 Okay. And so to circle back, the  
4 load growth line items were developed  
5 through a historical averaging process and  
6 the Marketing forecast is a separate process  
7 which is for informational purposes and it's  
8 informed by the conversations that PGW has  
9 with potential customers; is that correct?

10 MR. TEME: That's correct.

11 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. And --

12 MR. TEME: Sorry, Mr. McDougall. It  
13 also uses other data sources, the Marketing  
14 load forecast. So it looks at some of the  
15 aggregate categories, you know, residential  
16 rate class, commercial, and so on.

17 MR. McDOUGALL: Can you say more on  
18 how that process works?

19 MR. TEME: Sure. It's more the  
20 historical at the class level, so the  
21 highest level.

22 As mentioned, part of the forecast  
23 the budget uses as part of the discussion  
24 is, you know, similar to this one. But over

1 the years it has changed and other  
2 information has come into the Marketing load  
3 forecast.

4 I think Mr. Ballenger had a similar  
5 question in terms of how, if you will, the  
6 GCR Proceeding versus this Capital Budget  
7 Proceeding, how they're similar or  
8 different, if you will, in certain  
9 categories.

10 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. So would you  
11 mind turning to Page 514 of the Capital  
12 Budget filing, which concerns the projected  
13 main and service installations of greater  
14 than \$50,000?

15 MR. TEME: I am there.

16 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. Can you  
17 explain, for the category of projected main  
18 and service installations, what line items  
19 does that include?

20 MR. TEME: You mean through Line 26?  
21 I'm sorry; is that your question in terms of  
22 Page 514 or --

23 MR. McDOUGALL: Well, so for the main  
24 and service costs, does that incorporate

1 spending from the high-pressure main  
2 additions, 8" and smaller, 12" and larger,  
3 1-1/4" and smaller, 2" and larger, so all of  
4 those line item categories would be included  
5 here?

6 MR. TEME: I would say yes.

7 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. And then has  
8 PGW performed any projections for the main  
9 and service installations that are equal to  
10 or smaller than \$50,000?

11 MR. DASENT: Could you repeat the  
12 question? I'm sorry.

13 MR. McDOUGALL: The reference page  
14 contains a table of projections for main and  
15 service installations that are greater than  
16 \$50,000.

17 My question is: Has PGW performed  
18 any projections regarding main and service  
19 installations that are equal to or less than  
20 \$50,000 during FY '25?

21 MR. TEME: These are projections,  
22 Mr. McDougall.

23 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. I understand  
24 that these projections concern spending

1 greater than \$50,000. Has PGW performed any  
2 projections for spending that's equal to or  
3 less than \$50,000?

4 MR. TEME: Oh, I'm sorry. There's  
5 quite a few requests that come through on a  
6 regular basis. So we don't have sort of a  
7 similar list, if that's what you're asking.

8 But there are quite a few requests,  
9 probably in the hundreds, if not more, that  
10 are in the queue. So it's not as easy to  
11 pull some of that information together given  
12 that each project is done on an individual  
13 basis.

14 MR. McDOUGALL: My question is: How  
15 does PGW sort of think through its market  
16 forecasting for these smaller projects? Is  
17 it your position that no forecasting is  
18 done, that it's too hard to tally them up,  
19 or if they're not --

20 MR. TEME: I'm sorry; I've gotcha.  
21 I'm sorry; I thought you meant laid out in  
22 this particular format.

23 So, no, as part of the Marketing and  
24 Sales forecast, some of that information is



1           evaluated as well. Again, we look at both  
2           history as well as spending forecasts off of  
3           some of those observed values.

4           I thought you meant whether we had a  
5           similar layout of the greater than 50 for  
6           the less than 50 discussion.

7           MR. McDOUGALL: Well, I would be  
8           interested in that if you have it. But also  
9           if you have it in another format, that would  
10          also be of interest.

11          MR. TEME: We can definitely take a  
12          look. Again, because the data lies in  
13          multiple systems, that may actually take  
14          some time to aggregate and put together, but  
15          we can certainly take a look.

16          MR. DASENT: If I can observe,  
17          Ms. McClendon and Ms. Wushinske, it just  
18          seems like this is discovery being  
19          undertaken during the hearing and because of  
20          the timeline for getting briefs done and  
21          doing the other things that we must do for  
22          the briefing schedule, I'm not sure all of  
23          these things can be accomplished; for  
24          example, if we're talking about over 100

1 smaller projects.

2 And I'm not also sure of the  
3 usefulness of that sort of granular  
4 analysis. If Mr. McDougall has a longer  
5 timeline, that may be different, but for  
6 purposes of this hearing I don't see that we  
7 necessarily can do that.

8 But Mr. Teme can correct me if I'm  
9 wrong.

10 MR. TEME: That's correct,  
11 Mr. Dasent.

12 MR. McDOUGALL: Yes. Mr. Dasent, I  
13 certainly understand the concern. You know,  
14 my questions are to understand the basis for  
15 Mr. Teme's testimony today, which is that  
16 the Marketing load forecast is part of the  
17 basis for the reasonable expectation.

18 In the written response to  
19 POWER-II-11 there was a statement that there  
20 are no expected load growth contracts for FY  
21 '25 as of this writing.

22 And the question also asked for any  
23 expected contracts, please explain the basis  
24 on which you expect it will be executed and

1 the financial specifics by which you can  
2 determine there will be a positive rate on  
3 return, and the only response was: "There  
4 are none."

5 We're hearing today that there is a  
6 reasonable expectation of executing  
7 contracts and it's based on the Marketing  
8 forecast. However, the Marketing forecast  
9 is incomplete and only considers projects of  
10 greater than \$50,000.

11 So to understand the responses  
12 offered today, we need to know what  
13 projections, if any, have been performed in  
14 the development of the budget for projected  
15 main and service installations of less than  
16 \$50,000.

17 MR. TEME: Mr. McDougall, if I may  
18 interject, the "none" refers to executed  
19 contracts, and so that's what that's  
20 referencing. So if we don't have any  
21 executed contracts, that's what that's meant  
22 to cover; right?

23 And in terms of timing, we can sort  
24 of guesstimate, but we can't predict the

1 timing of certain contracts because they're  
2 customer-driven, taking a bunch of factors  
3 into account: market conditions, interest  
4 rates, and so on and so forth. I can't say  
5 with certainty that this contract is  
6 expected in this month or this date.

7 But the "none" was meant to respond  
8 to executed, signed contracts.

9 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. So in  
10 POWER-II-10 there was a question about  
11 whether any contracts have been executed and  
12 your answer would be responsive to that.

13 In POWER-II-11 there is a question  
14 about -- well, I'll read it: "Please list  
15 all load growth contracts that PGW has not  
16 yet executed but expects to execute during  
17 FY '25 budget year which would result in  
18 using funds from any of the below-listed  
19 line items?" And it goes on to ask if you  
20 can share the specifics of the expected  
21 contracts.

22 And the answer to that question was  
23 also: "There are none as of this writing."

24 So that's why I'm asking if you're

1 sort of sharing today that you do expect  
2 there to be contracts. That's a little  
3 different from what we saw in the written  
4 response. I'm just trying to understand  
5 that.

6 And, you know, if the answer is that  
7 as part of the preparation of this budget  
8 there were no projections prepared for mains  
9 and services and other load growth line  
10 items other than what's listed in the  
11 Marketing forecast, that's a responsive  
12 answer, too. I'm just trying to understand  
13 what the process was.

14 MR. DASENT: I'm hoping that --  
15 sorry.

16 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Sorry.

17 I'm going to have to interject here  
18 because while we certainly did start late  
19 due to some technical issues and things of  
20 that nature, we are getting way, way past  
21 our schedule.

22 Some of these questions are, to my  
23 ears, sounding like discovery questions.  
24 That does not mean that they don't need to

1 be answered.

2 I am going to ask, please, you know,  
3 Mr. McDougall and Mr. Dasent to weigh in:  
4 Is it possible for this conversation to  
5 continue offline so that we can move forward  
6 with the rest of this agenda?

7 We do have quite a few topics that we  
8 need to address. We want to give members of  
9 the public a chance to speak. So as I'm  
10 looking at this, we have allotted between 30  
11 and 15 minutes for each topic. I'm pretty  
12 sure that we're probably way beyond that on  
13 this issue at this point. And we want to be  
14 mindful of everyone's time, including the  
15 members of the public who have joined us  
16 here.

17 So can these questions be taken  
18 offline? -- obviously, you know, in a  
19 relatively timely fashion because briefs are  
20 due on March 8th.

21 MR. DASENT: From my perspective it  
22 can be taken offline, and we'll also  
23 endeavor to help with written responses so  
24 that there will be something to brief.

1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Please. That  
2 would be great.

3 Mr. McDougall, if you can submit your  
4 questions in writing, PGW, if you guys could  
5 respond in writing, that way everyone that  
6 is on the Service List and charged with  
7 briefing these issues have these full  
8 discussions. But we can kind of move  
9 forward with today's agenda.

10 MR. DASENT: Right. And I'm mindful  
11 also of the short timeline for briefing. So  
12 as long as we can juggle all of that, we're  
13 open to that, but I wanted to be as clear as  
14 possible on that issue.

15 I have one question, though, for  
16 Mr. Teme before he leaves us.

17 MR. BALLENGER: I have some in this  
18 area as well; not a lot, but I do have some.  
19 But you can go ahead, Andre.

20 MR. DASENT: Mr. Teme, I'm not sure,  
21 but let's confirm that PGW is open to  
22 conditional funding as an alternative  
23 because as a practical matter we don't spend  
24 anything on load growth projects until we

1           have contracts and until we have the return  
2           on investment analysis.

3                       So we operate as a practical matter  
4           within the Capital Budget Protocols or  
5           Capital Program Protocols, and I just wanted  
6           to confirm that in the alternative  
7           conditional funding authorization for these  
8           projects is acceptable.

9                       MR. TEME:    Yes, it is.

10                      MR. DASENT:   Okay.

11                      MR. TEME:    Yes.    To your point,  
12           Mr. Dasent, by its very nature these  
13           projects or this funding is almost  
14           conditional in the way that we operate as we  
15           evaluate each project as it comes through  
16           and look at the various requirements.  But,  
17           yes, the answer is that it is acceptable.

18                      MR. DASENT:   Thank you.  That's all I  
19           have.

20                      MR. BALLENGER:   Yes.  I do promise,  
21           I'll try to be brief.

22                      But, Mr. Teme, you brought up a  
23           response to PA-CB-45 and I just wanted to  
24           ask a couple questions about that, if I



1           could. Do you have that in front of you?

2           MR. TEME: I do, Mr. Ballenger.

3           MR. BALLENGER: Okay. So just going  
4 through and what we were trying to do is  
5 really understand the basis and sort of the  
6 differences between the various projections  
7 of throughput, in Part A we asked about  
8 methodological differences; and if I  
9 understand from your response, what I think  
10 I see is that you are identifying some  
11 differences in presentation as well as some  
12 differences in timing.

13                   Are those really the primary  
14 differences?

15           MR. TEME: For the most part; yes.  
16 And I think you had also asked, there was  
17 like about a 12 Bcf difference between the  
18 two and I think the main reason for that was  
19 the one customer, the GTS customer.

20           MR. BALLENGER: GTS, right, right. I  
21 got that. And you were kind enough to share  
22 that during the ID.

23           MR. TEME: Yes.

24           MR. BALLENGER: But for purposes of

1 both of these forecasts, you would use some  
2 common data, customer accounts, usage per  
3 customer, degree days. All of that would go  
4 into the mix for purposes of these  
5 projections, wouldn't it?

6 MR. TEME: That's correct.

7 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. And so I think  
8 the main difference that I picked up on  
9 this -- and I just want to check with you  
10 and make sure I understand -- is that  
11 putting aside the GTS, the main difference  
12 here is the starting point.

13 When we look at the GCR, we're  
14 looking at fiscal '22; and when we look at  
15 your budget, we're looking at fiscal '23.  
16 That seems to be the main difference.

17 Am I right about that?

18 MR. TEME: Correct.

19 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. So I just  
20 wanted to ask you, you know, Mr. Morgan took  
21 a position in testimony that a single year's  
22 data really isn't a reasonable basis for  
23 like a five-year projection.

24 Do you agree with that and, if not,

1           why not?

2                       MR. TEME: Well, so I just want to  
3 clarify to your point, Mr. Ballenger, that I  
4 believe with respect to PA-CB-45, it was  
5 about two years ago for that filing, versus  
6 the most recent year; and they are a lot  
7 closer, so I just wanted to mention that in  
8 terms of the discrepancy.

9                       So, again, the two different times  
10 and it is mentioned in the response, part of  
11 the issue is that customer account, degree  
12 days vary, as you know, depending on  
13 starting points. They can have different  
14 outcomes from a projection perspective. So  
15 I'm not sure if that answers your question.

16                      MR. BALLENGER: Yeah. I'm sorry; I  
17 probably should have brought it up a little  
18 differently.

19                      So what we were looking at in  
20 testimony -- because we didn't have time to  
21 look at this carefully before testimony was  
22 due, but what we looked at in testimony --  
23 was the data included in the budget, which  
24 includes basically a forecast over five

1 years at the same amount of throughput. So  
2 your budget year and your forecast years  
3 showed a consistent level of usage over  
4 time.

5 And Mr. Morgan looked back at prior  
6 years' budgets and saw that in each one of  
7 those your throughput was different, it was  
8 actually declining over the past three  
9 years, and what he has testified was that he  
10 didn't think it was reasonable for your  
11 budget and in your forecast to project the  
12 exact same amount of usage in the five-year  
13 period.

14 And he specifically said that you  
15 should use data-driven trends to project  
16 what your forecasted throughput would be  
17 just for budgeting and forecasting purposes  
18 here in this setting; not in your GCR.

19 And I just wanted to give you a  
20 chance to respond to that, as to whether you  
21 agree; and, if not, why not.

22 MR. TEME: We can certainly take a  
23 look and I believe in one of the prior  
24 discussions, I think that's one of the

1 things that I had mentioned as well, that we  
2 are looking at the Marketing load forecast  
3 and how it's aggregated and utilized.

4 So PGW is not opposed to that,  
5 Mr. Ballenger. I just wanted to point out  
6 that the two filings essentially are done  
7 for different purposes and different time  
8 frames.

9 So, yes, we're not opposed to looking  
10 at the forecast and you're absolutely  
11 correct, from a timeline perspective we do  
12 see a drop from the usage. But also, again,  
13 from year to year that can fluctuate, go up,  
14 down.

15 MR. BALLENGER: Yes.

16 MR. TEME: But we can certainly take  
17 a look and, again, that's one of the things  
18 that we are evaluating. It's not a one- or  
19 two-week project. It's probably a  
20 multi-month project, Mr. Ballenger, in terms  
21 of taking a look at how it applies to this  
22 hearing or this Capital Budget process.

23 MR. BALLENGER: Right. And, you  
24 know, full disclosure, we weren't expecting

1           you to redo the forecast for this  
2           proceeding. I think we were really looking  
3           at how this forecast is put together for  
4           future proceedings.

5           MR. TEME: Yes.

6           MR. BALLENGER: So with that, I think  
7           we can move on, unless Mr. Morgan has any  
8           questions.

9           MR. MORGAN: I don't.

10          MR. BALLENGER: Or I assume  
11          Mr. Kleinginna, if he had questions, would  
12          jump in.

13          Okay, good. Thank you. That's all  
14          we have in this area.

15          MR. DASENT: You are on mute, Gemela.

16          THE COURT REPORTER: Gemela, you are  
17          on mute.

18          EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: My apologies;  
19          I was saying thank you, Mr. Teme, for your  
20          time.

21          We will at this point move on to the  
22          next topic on the agenda, Gas Processing.

23          Is Mr. Cassidy available?

24          MR. CASSIDY: Yes, I'm here.

1 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

2 Ms. Migatz, can you swear Mr. Cassidy in?

3 - - -

4 (Whereupon the above-identified  
5 witness, Daniel Cassidy, was sworn.)

6 - - -

7 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

8 Mr. Dasent, you may proceed.

9 MR. DASENT: Thank you.

10 Good morning, Mr. Cassidy. I wanted  
11 to explore with you this morning three areas  
12 in the Gas Processing area and I think we  
13 have a stipulation on the Facilities  
14 adjustments, but there may be one question,  
15 as I understand it, for followup on the  
16 First Floor Renovations by Mr. Ballenger.

17 My first question deals with the  
18 replacement of a heater and additional  
19 standby generator at the Ivy Hill Station.

20 The Public Advocate proposes that  
21 funding to replace the heater at Ivy Hill be  
22 approved on a conditional basis and that  
23 funding for a standby generator be  
24 disallowed.

1                   Do you agree with this  
2                   recommendation? And you need to break it  
3                   out into two parts obviously.

4                   MR. CASSIDY: No, I do not agree with  
5                   the recommendation.

6                   MR. DASENT: Okay. Now, with respect  
7                   to the conditional funding for the heater,  
8                   can tell me what the reasoning is behind  
9                   your disagreement?

10                  MR. CASSIDY: So the heater is  
11                  required to maintain safe and reliable gas  
12                  service throughout the northwest part of the  
13                  City.

14                  There are a couple comments made in  
15                  the Advocate's response, one of which was  
16                  that we had not shown a document about the  
17                  backup, the need for a backup, with the  
18                  generator.

19                  So since my previous testimony I did  
20                  verify that it's not only common practice  
21                  for PGW to have that in place but also it's  
22                  very common in the natural gas industry in  
23                  the United States for that practice as well.

24                  And then there was another comment, I



1 was asked about whether we can operate the  
2 station manually if we lost power, and I  
3 wanted to verify or further clarify that  
4 statement.

5 So it is possible, but it's not  
6 ideal. It would take time to get someone  
7 out to the station to man the station.

8 In addition, that person would have  
9 to be in constant communication with someone  
10 in our Gas Control Center, which would  
11 require a lot of time for that person. If  
12 there are more failures than at a single  
13 point in the system, we don't have personnel  
14 to cover that.

15 Additionally, if the heater fails and  
16 it's cold, the station will need to be shut  
17 down because we cannot operate the station,  
18 period, so there would be no need for a  
19 person because we would not be able to  
20 operate the station.

21 In summary, we need reliable backup  
22 systems to ensure supply to our customers  
23 and sending a person to the station to  
24 operate it is a last resort.

1 MR. DASENT: How old is the heater  
2 you're replacing?

3 MR. CASSIDY: 50-plus years old.

4 MR. DASENT: And why is the timing  
5 important in terms of the budget this year?

6 MR. CASSIDY: Because the heater has  
7 reached the end of its useful life. It's  
8 the oldest heater in our system.

9 MR. DASENT: Do you plan for  
10 multiple-point loss of operation on PGW's  
11 system?

12 MR. CASSIDY: We do. But, again, we  
13 try to have backup systems in place so that  
14 we have options when those things occur.

15 MR. DASENT: That's all I have on  
16 this issue.

17 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

18 MR. DASENT: The witness is available  
19 for cross. Thank you.

20 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Ballenger?

21 MR. BALLENGER: Yes. Thank you,  
22 Mr. Cassidy. Just a couple of questions.

23 It sounds like based on your first  
24 statement about having sort of gone back and

1 done more investigation that you did a  
2 little more homework on having the backup  
3 generator.

4 Do you have something to show us for  
5 that? You mentioned it being common in the  
6 industry. Can you show us something that  
7 would help us understand what that's based  
8 upon?

9 MR. CASSIDY: I don't have anything  
10 to show, but I can say that we had  
11 conversations with our gas suppliers,  
12 Transco and Texas Eastern, and they  
13 indicated that it is a common practice, not  
14 just for us, but for other gas companies.

15 MR. BALLENGER: One of the pieces  
16 that I think Mr. Morgan latched onto and I  
17 just want to confirm that nothing else has  
18 happened in this regard was that PGW didn't  
19 present any vendor pricing for the  
20 replacement costs for the heater.

21 Do you have anything else to show  
22 regarding your pricing and any vendor  
23 estimates that you have received?

24 MR. CASSIDY: We do. So when we

1 submit our estimates in the Capital Budget  
2 package, we generally don't supply vendor  
3 quotes.

4 But in this case we did receive a  
5 quote in 2022 from a vendor for the heater,  
6 which was approximately \$225,000. That  
7 number was escalated to \$250,000 for the  
8 estimate for this job for the fiscal year  
9 submittal.

10 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. I'm not  
11 exactly sure where we are in the TRs, but I  
12 think it would be helpful just to cover the  
13 record if we have a TR to supply that vendor  
14 quote.

15 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: It would be  
16 TR-3 at this point. Can you provide the  
17 complete language for the question so that  
18 we make sure that we're answering what it is  
19 that you want.

20 MR. BALLENGER: Sure: A vendor quote  
21 for the Ivy Hill heater replacement.

22 MR. DASENT: Got it.

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. And,  
24 again, that is TR-3.

1 MR. BALLENGER: Thank you.

2 Just to run this to ground, at the  
3 time we spoke before, you didn't have any  
4 specific data on fuel savings. I'm assuming  
5 that that has not changed because you don't  
6 have a baseline with which to compare this  
7 heater. Is that still true?

8 MR. CASSIDY: That's still true, yes.

9 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. I will allow  
10 Mr. Morgan, if he has any additional  
11 questions, I'll ask him to please ask them.

12 MR. MORGAN: I don't have any.

13 MR. BALLENGER: Okay.

14 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

15 MR. BALLENGER: Thank you. I think  
16 that's all we have on the Ivy Hill project.

17 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

18 Mr. McDougall, I don't believe that  
19 you addressed this, and I'm not looking at  
20 your testimony. Do you have anything on  
21 this issue?

22 MR. McDOUGALL: That is correct, I do  
23 not have any questions at this time.

24 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Thank

1           you very much.

2                   Then the next --

3           MR. DASENT:   We have another --

4           EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON:   I'm sorry.

5           MR. DASENT:   We have a few  
6           adjustments in this area for Mr. Cassidy.

7           EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON:   Okay.

8           MR. DASENT:   The second one deals  
9           with the H-1 heaters.

10          EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON:   Okay.

11          MR. DASENT:   So turning your  
12          attention, Mr. Cassidy, to the upgrade to  
13          the H-1 heaters at Richmond, the Public  
14          Advocate recommends that the project to  
15          upgrade H-1 heaters be disallowed.

16                 Mr. Morgan specifically indicates  
17          that the consultant's report -- and I'm  
18          referring to the UNIFLUX Exotherm report --  
19          provided to support the project only  
20          recommends that two H-1 heaters be replaced.

21                 Do you agree with Mr. Morgan's  
22          recommendation?

23          MR. BALLENGER:   Can I actually  
24          correct you there?   It's not replacement of

1 the heaters; it's replacement of the  
2 controls on two heaters.

3 MR. DASENT: That's right, an upgrade  
4 of the H-1 heaters. I'm sorry; you're  
5 right.

6 Mr. Cassidy?

7 MR. CASSIDY: I do not agree.

8 MR. DASENT: Okay. Now, can you  
9 explain why you do not agree?

10 MR. CASSIDY: Yes. So the report  
11 that I supplied was basically only referring  
12 to that specific part of the request and we  
13 did not, in fact, ask that technician to  
14 comment or give us any expertise/feedback on  
15 any of the other recommendations.

16 So I did submit a matrix in response  
17 to PA-CB-7 regarding the upgrades that we  
18 have requested showing the reason for all of  
19 those upgrades.

20 I wanted to point out that the  
21 heaters have all been replaced since the  
22 1970s when they were originally installed  
23 and the oldest of those replacements  
24 currently is from the 1990s.

1                   So PGW Engineering and Gas Processing  
2                   personnel reviewed all those heaters and  
3                   determined that other upgrades are necessary  
4                   based on safety and reliability concerns.  
5                   And, again, those were summarized in the  
6                   matrix.

7                   I just wanted to point out that, you  
8                   know, PGW Plant and Engineering personnel do  
9                   have expertise and experience inhouse to  
10                  determine these types of replacements.

11                  MR. DASENT: That's all I have on  
12                  this issue. The witness is available for  
13                  cross.

14                  MR. BALLENGER: Thank you.

15                  Just to be clear, you mentioned the  
16                  response to CB-7. Are you referring to the  
17                  estimate detail for the H-1 heater upgrades  
18                  that was attached to PA-CB-37?

19                  MR. CASSIDY: I'm pretty certain I'm  
20                  referring to PA-CB-7, which is provide a  
21                  matrix and/or consultant report on H-1  
22                  heater upgrades. And I did supply the  
23                  consultant report and the matrix in response  
24                  to that. I believe that's correct.



1 MR. BALLENGER: We checked and we did  
2 not receive a matrix other than what's  
3 appended to PA-CB-37. So I'm going to  
4 assume that's what it is.

5 MR. DASENT: I think that is exactly  
6 what you think it is, Mr. Ballenger.

7 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. Yes. It's an  
8 estimate, the estimator is E. Wickley-Olsen,  
9 and it's approximately three pages, I think,  
10 or four pages. It's fairly extensive. So I  
11 do believe that we have that and it totals  
12 to a 2-million-or-so-dollars-and-change  
13 project.

14 So I wanted to ask a couple of  
15 questions and one of the things that I've  
16 raised offline to Mr. Dasent is a question  
17 as to whether or not the UNIFLUX Exotherm  
18 report should retain its confidential  
19 treatment. I don't personally see anything  
20 confidential there. I don't know if PGW has  
21 made a decision regarding that or has --

22 MR. DASENT: We have. We have. I  
23 have authorization to lift the confidential  
24 status and I will remove it from the

1 appendix so that you can brief fully the  
2 issues, including the technician's comments  
3 I was concerned about. I was disabused of  
4 the need to have it treated confidentially.

5 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. That's  
6 helpful.

7 So I think starting from the report  
8 that was provided, I just wanted to confirm  
9 a couple things.

10 The technician who prepared the  
11 report, the UNIFLUX report, that person  
12 works for the manufacturer of these heaters;  
13 isn't that right?

14 MR. CASSIDY: That's correct.

15 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. And I would  
16 assume then that that person is pretty  
17 knowledgeable about the technology that  
18 these heaters rely upon and how to upgrade  
19 and maintain them over time.

20 Would you agree with that?

21 MR. CASSIDY: I am not sure because I  
22 think the purpose of that report was just to  
23 test the fuel systems of the heaters at that  
24 time for that annual checkup. But that

1 person may only be an expert in those areas.  
2 I would have to check to see if the person  
3 is expert in all areas of the heaters.

4 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. So although I  
5 don't know that everyone is sort of in  
6 possession of these at the moment, I'm  
7 looking at one of the documents appended at  
8 the end. It's a functional test  
9 certificate. Can you explain what a  
10 functional test certificate accomplishes?

11 MR. CASSIDY: Again, this is specific  
12 to the heater fuel train and firing; and  
13 that certificate verifies that the heater or  
14 the heaters are, in fact, rating from a  
15 burner perspective appropriately.

16 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. So there are a  
17 whole bunch of different things that appear  
18 to be checked on these and if I look at the  
19 H-1A heater compared to the H-1B heater, one  
20 of the main differences that jumps off the  
21 page is that the A heater does not have  
22 SMARTLINK control valves and the H-1B heater  
23 does have SMARTLINK control valves, and that  
24 was the basis for the recommendation to

1 replace those control valves.

2 Do you agree with that?

3 MR. CASSIDY: Yes.

4 MR. BALLENGER: All right. And the  
5 same would be true then for I believe it's  
6 H-1E, or is it F? H-1E.

7 MR. CASSIDY: Yeah, I believe it's E,  
8 correct.

9 MR. BALLENGER: Likewise, okay.

10 Okay. So, again, when I then look at  
11 the matrix that you provided -- and I'm  
12 going to try to find it here on my  
13 mini-screen -- that would be one aspect of  
14 the matrix and that would be what's shown in  
15 H-1A, installation of SMARTLINK MRV control  
16 interface.

17 Is that correct as well?

18 MR. CASSIDY: This is a MAXON  
19 SMARTLINK item, correct.

20 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. Let me see. I  
21 just wanted to check one more thing.

22 So there are some other boxes checked  
23 when these functional test certificates are  
24 performed, like signals to customer and

1 signals from customer.

2 Those are presumably not directly  
3 related just with firing the heater and  
4 making sure that it's working appropriately.  
5 Would you agree with that?

6 MR. CASSIDY: I don't have that in  
7 front of me so I --

8 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. Okay. Fair  
9 enough. It was confidential up until a few  
10 minutes ago so it's probably not reasonable  
11 to expect you to be carrying it around.

12 I'll stop there and see if Mr. Morgan  
13 has any questions or Mr. McDougall or  
14 Mr. Kleinginna.

15 MR. MORGAN: No questions from me.

16 MR. McDOUGALL: No questions. Thank  
17 you.

18 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Thank  
19 you.

20 Mr. Kleinginna, do you have questions  
21 for Mr. Cassidy?

22 MR. KLEINGINNA: No, ma'am.

23 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Okay.  
24 Thank you.

1           Mr. Dasent, anything further for this  
2 witness?

3           MR. DASENT: Not on this issue. I  
4 have one more issue, though, the boil off  
5 gas compressors at Passyunk.

6           HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Okay.  
7 Please go ahead. Thank you.

8           MR. DASENT: Mr. Cassidy, turning  
9 your attention to the replacement of the  
10 boil off gas compressors at Passyunk, the  
11 Public Advocate is not convinced that the  
12 compressors should be replaced at this time  
13 based in part on the low maintenance costs  
14 incurred since 2018.

15           The Advocate suggests in the  
16 alternative that conditional funding might  
17 be approved for this project.

18           Do you agree with Mr. Morgan on this  
19 issue?

20           MR. CASSIDY: I do not.

21           MR. DASENT: Can you explain why?

22           MR. CASSIDY: Yes. So these  
23 reciprocating compressors, which are in  
24 cryogenic service, have been in service for

1           50-plus years and have certainly reached the  
2           end of their useful life.

3                   The fact that recent maintenance  
4           costs do not reflect enough spend in the  
5           eyes of the Advocate is not related to the  
6           reason why we're asking for replacement.

7                   The reason is that these units have  
8           been in service for a long time, many with  
9           millions and millions of cycles of  
10          operation, and a failure of repeated stress  
11          after 50-plus years could occur and result  
12          in, for example, a cracked housing on one of  
13          the compressors. This would require  
14          replacement.

15                   Since it takes over a year to replace  
16          a unit, we would be without one of the two  
17          boil off compressors at that time.

18                   And I want to note that at times --

19                                   - - -

20                                   (Interruption in the Zoom meeting.)

21                                   - - -

22                   EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Oh, my God. I  
23          am so, so sorry about that. I don't know who  
24          that person was. My sincerest...

1 I'm sorry; please give me a moment  
2 because that was absolutely appalling. That  
3 was absolutely appalling. I'm making a  
4 report right now.

5 MR. DASENT: Mr. Cassidy --

6 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I'm sorry; go  
7 ahead, Mr. Dasent.

8 MR. DASENT: Mr. Cassidy may have  
9 seen worse. I'm reminding myself of the  
10 Water Department hearings recently. So just  
11 so you know, some. Things happen and we  
12 understand your reaction.

13 Mr. Cassidy was saying it takes a  
14 year or more to replace these BOG  
15 compressors and that's one of the issues  
16 that's presented. And if he can pick up  
17 from there.

18 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Cassidy,  
19 if you can continue.

20 MR. CASSIDY: Okay. So it takes over  
21 a year to replace a compressor and I want to  
22 note here that over time, because of  
23 conditions in the tank, that we need both  
24 compressors operating; and if we didn't have



1 both compressors operating during those  
2 times, we would have to vent gas from the  
3 tank in order not to allow it to  
4 overpressurize.

5 So the key point here being that we  
6 want to, you know, order the compressors and  
7 get them on site and replace them before we  
8 get into a situation like that.

9 MR. DASENT: Now, there are two  
10 phases to this project, as I understand it.  
11 One is to get the boil off gas compressors  
12 in place and the second is related to the  
13 housing for the compressors.

14 Can you explain that a bit more?

15 MR. CASSIDY: Right. So we did  
16 submit the estimate just to purchase the  
17 compressors with backup information in this  
18 submittal because that is our requirement.

19 Right now we have an estimate for  
20 fiscal year '26, which would be, again, the  
21 piping in the building to house the  
22 compressors and connect them into the  
23 system.

24 So the plan is to order the

1 compressors, get them in a year plus, and in  
2 the meantime perform engineering work to do  
3 the design for the second phase so that we  
4 can better estimate that and come back in  
5 fiscal year '26 with a more refined estimate  
6 with backup information for that second  
7 phase.

8 MR. DASENT: Now, the housing and  
9 installation/Phase 2 of this project, are  
10 they the sorts of things PGW has done  
11 routinely in the past?

12 MR. CASSIDY: Yes.

13 MR. DASENT: And is the bulk of the  
14 expenditure for the boil off gas compressor  
15 or for the housing and installation?

16 MR. CASSIDY: Right now we have  
17 4.94 million in Phase 1 for the purchase of  
18 the compressors and we have 6.84 million  
19 approximately for the Phase 2 installation.  
20 So the bulk is Phase 2 right now.

21 MR. DASENT: Okay. That's all I  
22 have. The witness is tendered for cross.

23 MR. BALLENGER: Thank you.

24 So I take it that there is no change

1 to the confidential designation of the  
2 Lisbon Group. I did raise an issue there,  
3 but I note that it purports to be  
4 proprietary information of that firm. So I  
5 just want to confirm that PGW is maintaining  
6 the confidential designation.

7 MR. DASENT: We are.

8 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. That makes it  
9 a little harder to ask questions, but I'm  
10 going to do it anyway, carefully. Okay?  
11 And I don't have a lot.

12 I think one of the things I just want  
13 to confirm is Mr. Morgan testified about  
14 what this is and I think you said this  
15 earlier, Mr. Cassidy, but this report is  
16 intended to estimate the capital costs  
17 associated with replacing the boil off gas  
18 compressors; is that correct?

19 MR. CASSIDY: That is correct.

20 MR. BALLENGER: And isn't it also  
21 correct that this report considers two types  
22 of replacement projects?

23 MR. CASSIDY: It does.

24 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. One of them

1 has a projected capital expense of a little  
2 more than 3 million, another has a projected  
3 capital expense of a little more than  
4 8 million.

5 Is that also correct?

6 MR. CASSIDY: Yes, that sounds  
7 correct.

8 MR. BALLENGER: Can you tell us which  
9 of the two PGW is trying to do of those two  
10 projects?

11 MR. CASSIDY: So we picked the  
12 lower-cost option, which was approximately  
13 \$4.3 million of lower costs, than the  
14 higher-cost option or the cryogenic-rated  
15 units. We picked the lower-cost option,  
16 where a system could be installed with the  
17 lower-cost compressors.

18 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. And I think  
19 what Mr. Morgan testified about was not  
20 being able to really get from the Lisbon  
21 Group's estimate to PGW's budget estimate.

22 MR. CASSIDY: Correct.

23 MR. BALLENGER: Is that something you  
24 can help with?

1 MR. CASSIDY: Yes. So the report  
2 states a cost of \$1,882,000 for the  
3 compressor cost. We escalated that by  
4 approximately 4% to get to the \$1,956,300  
5 number that's in the estimate.

6 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. And that's the  
7 equipment cost. What about the rest of the  
8 project costs in the '25 Capital Budget?

9 MR. CASSIDY: So that is the only  
10 piece that comes from the Lisbon report. So  
11 the construction costs as well come from the  
12 Lisbon report and I think they're pretty  
13 straightforward except for they are likely  
14 escalated as well.

15 MR. BALLENGER: I see. So the other  
16 components of the capital expenditure  
17 summary included in the report, you've also  
18 escalated those for purposes of determining  
19 your budget?

20 MR. CASSIDY: Correct.

21 MR. BALLENGER: Okay.

22 Andre, I don't know if you have the  
23 report in front of you.

24 MR. DASENT: I do not. But go ahead.

1 I didn't realize I would need it.

2 MR. BALLENGER: Without revealing  
3 specifically what's in there, there's a  
4 table on Page 4 that includes the various  
5 cost components that Lisbon utilized and I  
6 think Mr. Cassidy was talking about as the  
7 equipment cost was escalated and these  
8 various other component costs were  
9 escalated.

10 Would it be possible to get a  
11 depiction of how those costs were escalated  
12 for purposes of the '25 Capital Budget  
13 starting with what's shown in Case 1 in the  
14 Lisbon report and culminating with PGW's  
15 budget numbers?

16 MR. CASSIDY: We can clarify.

17 MR. DASENT: You're asking for a  
18 written response on that?

19 MR. BALLENGER: Yes. I would love  
20 that to be designated TR-4.

21 So the --

22 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I'm sorry; can  
23 we get a complete formulation of the  
24 question or the request?

1 MR. BALLENGER: Yes. Provide a table  
2 showing escalating Lisbon Group's Case 1  
3 cap ex summary to PGW's budget request for  
4 fiscal '25.

5 Does that make sense? I hope that  
6 makes sense, Bill and Mr. Cassidy,  
7 Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Cassidy.

8 MR. GALLAGHER: Not a problem.

9 MR. CASSIDY: We understand, yes.

10 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. Great.

11 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Thank  
12 you.

13 MR. BALLENGER: And one other thing I  
14 wanted to check, although the Lisbon summary  
15 does say that the Phase 2 -- and I'm  
16 paraphrasing, of course, because it's  
17 confidential -- would require some  
18 refinements, my understanding from looking  
19 at this was that this was a full projection  
20 of the cost of the project.

21 Am I correct about that?

22 MR. CASSIDY: It's a projection of  
23 the cost but at a lower-level design. So we  
24 would need to do more design to get more

1 comfortable with the details of what would  
2 be required to finish the job.

3 MR. BALLENGER: Well, okay. It just  
4 strikes me that the total project costs that  
5 you've summarized are, you know,  
6 \$11.5 million or so and this consultant's  
7 report gets you maybe, you know, 25% of the  
8 way there.

9 MR. CASSIDY: Well, it's for estimate  
10 purposes and, again, this is next year's  
11 estimate. We asked them to do an initial  
12 level of design to get us an indication of  
13 what the costs will be.

14 To further refine that number would  
15 require more engineering and we would  
16 recommend that we do more engineering to,  
17 again, get a better number for next year's  
18 submittal.

19 MR. BALLENGER: And would you agree  
20 that if PGW's budget and this project is  
21 approved in fiscal '25 for Phase 1, that  
22 basically it would not have the ability to  
23 scale back or reconsider the project for  
24 Phase 2 and whatever costs PGW may project



1 at that time?

2 MR. DASENT: Wait a minute. That  
3 asks for a hypothetical because we don't  
4 even have the numbers yet.

5 MR. BALLENGER: Well, that's part of  
6 the concern, that's part of the concern, is  
7 that as Mr. Morgan testified, I think, you  
8 know, we don't have the full cost of this  
9 project at this time.

10 And I do appreciate Mr. Cassidy  
11 giving us your best estimates for Phase 2  
12 sitting here today. But wouldn't you agree  
13 that those costs could change for Phase 2,  
14 it could be more or less than the  
15 6.84 million you identified?

16 MR. CASSIDY: So the price that we  
17 provided for Phase. 2 is based on, again,  
18 preliminary engineering from an experienced  
19 vendor that we believe is indicative of what  
20 the final number will be. But we are just  
21 stating that we need to refine that number  
22 for the following phase.

23 And, in fact, this is a critical  
24 infrastructure replacement so we intend to

1 do our due diligence with Engineering and  
2 get as close as we can to the correct number  
3 and expect it to be close to the number that  
4 we have provided for Phase 2.

5 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. I think that's  
6 all I have on the boil off gas compressors.  
7 I want to make sure that Lafayette and POWER  
8 are okay.

9 MR. MORGAN: I have one question.  
10 A couple of times, Mr. Cassidy,  
11 you've mentioned that there will be  
12 refinements and then you also mention about  
13 getting better engineering for the second  
14 phase.

15 Why not wait until we have better  
16 numbers before submitting this project?

17 MR. CASSIDY: Because of the lead  
18 time on the compressors. We need to get the  
19 compressors ordered because it takes over a  
20 year to get them.

21 MR. MORGAN: Okay. Thank you.

22 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Is there  
23 anything else on this topic?

24 MR. DASENT: Nothing else in Gas

1 Processing.

2 MR. McDOUGALL: No questions from  
3 POWER, Ms. McClendon. Thank you.

4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Thank  
5 you.

6 Then if there's nothing else on Gas  
7 Processing, we will move to Facilities, and  
8 I guess the easiest way to do this instead  
9 of our standard procedure would be,  
10 Mr. Ballenger, if you could just go ahead  
11 and pose your question to Mr. Cassidy.

12 MR. BALLENGER: And it may honestly  
13 be a Mr. Gallagher question as well, so I'm  
14 open to whoever can answer it.

15 But at the first ID session we talked  
16 about the 800 Building projects that were  
17 included in the 2024 Capital Budget and my  
18 recollection was that no work had been  
19 performed and, in fact, PGW confirmed it had  
20 no intention of spending or opening a work  
21 order regarding those Capital Budget line  
22 items from fiscal 2024.

23 And the reason why I bring that up is  
24 that I noticed in PGW's authorization

1 spending report that there has been  
2 expenditure from the "Lobby Improvements"  
3 line item, less than \$10,000 so not a lot,  
4 but I just wanted to sort of wrap that  
5 together and understand what's going on  
6 there.

7 If you could please explain what the  
8 expenditures were for, that would really  
9 help us.

10 MR. CASSIDY: I can answer that.

11 The expenditures were for some  
12 engineering work and it was not supposed to  
13 be put in that account, so we are going to  
14 transfer that out of that account.

15 MR. GALLAGHER: Since we don't have a  
16 capital project, it would be put against an  
17 operating expense.

18 MR. BALLENGER: I kind of expected it  
19 was for engineering since you came in with a  
20 conceptual design. So that's all I have on  
21 the 800 Building. Thank you.

22 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Thank  
23 you very much.

24 And thank you, Mr. Cassidy.

1           The next topic is Miscellaneous  
2           Server, Network, and Hardware Additions with  
3           Joanne Kelly and Shane Mayo. I believe both  
4           have joined us.

5           So, Ms. Migatz, if you could swear  
6           them both in.

7           - - -

8           (Whereupon, the above-identified  
9           witnesses, JOANNE KELLY and SHANE MAYO, were  
10          sworn.)

11          - - -

12          MR. DASENT: If I may proceed,  
13          Ms. McClendon?

14          EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Yes.

15          MR. DASENT: Okay.

16          I'll direct the questions to  
17          Ms. Kelly, but let me treat you as a panel  
18          if you don't mind. So if you can harmonize  
19          with one another or answer or supplement  
20          each other's responses, that's fine.

21          I'm going to direct your attention to  
22          Miscellaneous Server, Network and Hardware  
23          Additions and my question is: The Public  
24          Advocate recommends reducing the contingency

1 funding in the IS budget in this area.

2 Instead, the Public Advocate  
3 indicates that the COO conditional funding  
4 is available for IS for such contingency  
5 expenses should they arise.

6 Do you agree with this approach for  
7 your budget?

8 MS. KELLY: I do not.

9 MR. DASENT: Okay. Can you explain  
10 why?

11 MS. KELLY: Sure. So PGW has  
12 routinely included a line item for  
13 contingencies in the IS budget.  
14 Contingencies are basically earmarked for  
15 unforeseen needs that we would not be able  
16 to forecast 18 months in advance; for  
17 example, failing hardware or software that  
18 may need to be implemented due to a pay  
19 point that needs to be resolved.

20 So this is something that we have  
21 done many years, always had contingency  
22 money in there for hardware and software,  
23 just due to the fact that we can't always  
24 forecast when we'll need it so we earmark

1           some funds in case some unforeseen events  
2           happen.

3                       MR. DASENT:   Are these expenditures  
4           subject to sort of any restrictions or would  
5           you need to necessarily make these  
6           expenditures should the need arise in the  
7           Company?

8                       In other words, sometimes there are  
9           restrictions on how you use conditional  
10          funding and the timing of the use of  
11          conditional funding.

12                      I suspect that you have made these  
13          expenditures routinely in the past.   Help me  
14          understand if I am right or wrong in that  
15          assumption.

16                      MS. KELLY:   We have used these funds  
17          routinely in the past and usually, like I  
18          said, I'll take hardware, for example, let's  
19          say we have a server that is malfunctioning  
20          and we need to replace it or it's not under  
21          warranty anymore, something along those  
22          lines, or, you know, software that needs to  
23          be updated, you know, we typically pull from  
24          these funds for anything that's unforeseen

1 and wasn't planned that we have other line  
2 items for.

3 MR. DASENT: Thank you very much.  
4 That's all I have. The witnesses are  
5 available for cross.

6 MR. BALLENGER: I don't have any  
7 further questions about this issue.

8 Mr. Morgan, do you have any  
9 additional questions?

10 MR. MORGAN: No, I don't.

11 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

12 Mr. McDougall, do you have any  
13 questions on this, even though you didn't  
14 address this in your testimony?

15 MR. McDOUGALL: Yes, that's correct,  
16 POWER has no questions. Thank you,  
17 Ms. McClendon.

18 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Well,  
19 Mr. Dasent, if there is nothing else on this  
20 particular topic, we will move forward to  
21 Field Operations.

22 MR. DASENT: I believe Kelly DeLussey  
23 has joined us. I thought I saw her earlier.

24 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Yes.



1                   Ms. DeLussey you were here at the  
2                   start of the meeting, correct, and you were  
3                   sworn in?

4                   MS. DeLUSSEY:   That's correct.

5                   EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON:   So you can  
6                   proceed, Mr. Dasent.

7                   MR. DASENT:    Good morning, first of  
8                   all.

9                   MS. DeLUSSEY:   Good morning.

10                  MR. DASENT:    I believe we're still  
11                  there.

12                  I wanted to discuss the Distribution  
13                  cost escalation with you this morning.

14                  The Advocate proposes to lower the  
15                  escalation used in the Distribution budget.  
16                  It specifically proposes using a 2.4%  
17                  inflation rate rather than the 4.6%  
18                  inflation rate that is referenced in the  
19                  budget by PGW.

20                  Can you explain, first of all, how  
21                  you apply these escalation rates, is it one  
22                  or two years, and give us some of the  
23                  particulars behind the use of escalation  
24                  rates in the budget?

1 MS. DeLUSSEY: Sure. In the  
2 calculation of Distribution's Capital Budget  
3 for main and service additions and  
4 replacements PGW primarily uses a historical  
5 approach to look at average historical  
6 spending by year and average footage  
7 installed for each main and service  
8 replacement and addition category.

9 In order to escalate the historical  
10 costs to present-day prices, PGW uses the  
11 CPI for urban consumers for our area,  
12 Camden, Wilmington, and Philadelphia, to  
13 escalate when it's available.

14 When it's not, such as the example  
15 that was pointed out in testimony for fiscal  
16 2024, PGW escalates the historical prices to  
17 present-day prices by utilizing the  
18 budgeting factor that's provided by PGW's  
19 budgeting section.

20 So in the case of escalating 2023  
21 costs to 2025 costs, PGW utilized the 4.63%  
22 escalation factor that was agreed upon and  
23 used in PGW's 2024 Capital Budget filing,  
24 plus the 2.1% escalation factor that was

1 used for PGW's 2025 Capital Budget filing.

2 This is the same methodology that has  
3 been used in the past several years for  
4 Distribution's Capital Budget calculations  
5 and has seemed to identify the expenditures  
6 needed to fund PGW's capital program pretty  
7 closely to what the needs are.

8 MR. DASENT: Mr. Gallagher, can you  
9 direct us to where in the budget filing the  
10 reference is made to the 4.6% factor and the  
11 2.1% factor used in 2025?

12 MR. GALLAGHER: These are both  
13 provided in our kickoff letters for the  
14 fiscal years.

15 The 4.63, what we did was looked at  
16 the Congressional Budget Office and we came  
17 up with a three-year average because we were  
18 concerned about the prices. You know,  
19 historically we had been using 2.4 as far as  
20 the general escalation factor. But what was  
21 happening with the pandemic, we were very  
22 concerned about the way that the prices were  
23 going, so we used an average.

24 The Congressional Budget Office,

1 their actual was 4.7. They were forecasting  
2 fiscal '22 at 6.1% and fiscal '23 at 3.1 to  
3 give us 4.63% as the composite we used for  
4 the budget.

5 And that is very conservative when  
6 you take fiscal 2022 I believe was only 6.1%  
7 and I think the actual came in probably in  
8 the 8, 9 percent increase of actual  
9 expenses. So it was very conservative as  
10 far as that was concerned.

11 And as you can see, for 2023 we went  
12 back to, I'll call it, a more general 3.1%.

13 MR. DASENT: Okay. The kickoff  
14 letters are included in the filing at around  
15 Page 486, just so everyone can have the  
16 clarity that Bill shared with me earlier.

17 MR. GALLAGHER: That is correct.

18 MR. DASENT: Okay. That's all we  
19 have. The witnesses are tendered for cross.

20 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. Thank you.  
21 Just a couple of questions.

22 I haven't looked at the page in the  
23 budget filing that Mr. Dasent just referred  
24 to, but the 4.63% is I believe a familiar

1           number.  Isn't that the same catchall  
2           adjustment that PGW used for certain cost  
3           items in its most recent base rate case?

4                   MR. GALLAGHER:  That is correct.  
5           There was nothing specific.  This was the  
6           escalation factor that we used.

7                   MR. BALLENGER:  Okay.

8                   MR. GALLAGHER:  I think in the rate  
9           case there was a discussion about this and a  
10          lot of our expenses have specific ones, some  
11          of the major ones.  Labor, PGW labor, is  
12          based upon the Union contract.  Field test  
13          was a special study.  Healthcare was a  
14          special study.

15                   So a lot of them, at least the  
16          Operating Budget is taken by specific  
17          escalation factors.  If there is no one out  
18          there, then this is the one that people use  
19          as far as that's concerned.

20                   MR. BALLENGER:  Okay.  And as I  
21          recall correctly, that catchall applied to  
22          somewhere around 20% of PGW's estimated  
23          operating expenses.

24                   MR. GALLAGHER:  Subject to check, I

1 believe that is correct.

2 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. And I'm just  
3 looking at the data response. I have too  
4 many tabs open so I can't get to it very  
5 quickly.

6 Okay. And I guess what I'm trying to  
7 understand is if that was applied to sort of  
8 the minority of operating expenses, why  
9 would it be appropriate to apply it sort of  
10 across the board in Distribution? Can you  
11 explain why that would be appropriate?

12 MR. GALLAGHER: It's a general number  
13 as far as that's concerned and, you know,  
14 we've used it in the past and it's been  
15 accepted as far as the general escalation  
16 factor.

17 MR. BALLENGER: Okay. Are you  
18 familiar with how the PUC came down on that  
19 particular assumption, that escalation  
20 factor?

21 MR. GALLAGHER: I don't think it was  
22 too successful. I think they argued that  
23 there should be no escalation factor, if I'm  
24 not mistaken.

1 MR. BALLENGER: I think, yes. I  
2 believe they said it was unsupported, but  
3 they did not allow it and I think I can  
4 leave it at that.

5 That's all I have on this issue.

6 Mr. Morgan or POWER?

7 MR. MORGAN: Nothing further from me.

8 MR. McDOUGALL: No questions from  
9 POWER. Thank you.

10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

11 MR. DASENT: Ms. McClendon, just one  
12 followup because I have heard Mr. Gallagher.

13 Mr. Gallagher, if you recall, in the  
14 fiscal '24 Operating Budget was an  
15 escalation factor of 4.63% approved by the  
16 Philadelphia Gas Commission?

17 MR. GALLAGHER: I assume by approving  
18 our budget it was incorporated in there.

19 MR. DASENT: And so subject to check,  
20 yes?

21 MR. GALLAGHER: Yes.

22 MR. DASENT: All right. Thank you.

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

24 Is there anything else remaining in

1 the area of Field Operations, Mr. Dasent, or  
2 is that everything?

3 MR. DASENT: I think that's it.

4 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Thank  
5 you, Ms. DeLussey and Mr. Gallagher.

6 The next topic is the issue of  
7 Protocol changes, which we kind of did begin  
8 to touch upon earlier.

9 Mr. Ballenger, I know that you  
10 circulated your suggested language and in  
11 the earlier discussion regarding PGW's  
12 agreed-upon adjustment, subject to legal  
13 signoff, PGW agreed to accept the changes  
14 with regard to the cybersecurity issue.

15 Just to confirm, that's correct from  
16 all sides?

17 MR. DASENT: That's correct.

18 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. So then  
19 the remaining issue is the issue of  
20 reauthorization, and I think that when we  
21 had the Zoom conference, I guess at this  
22 point it was two weeks ago --

23 MR. DASENT: It seems longer.

24 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Yes, two weeks



1 ago, on the 13th -- I guess there was some  
2 misunderstanding about what was happening.

3 Mr. Dasent, I will go ahead and let  
4 you kind of take the lead on this, but I  
5 think what ultimately is going to happen is  
6 the issue on reauthorizations will have to  
7 be briefed. But you can proceed,  
8 Mr. Dasent.

9 MR. DASENT: Well, we have basically  
10 summed up our position in the filing. It's  
11 on Page 4 under Attachment A. And it  
12 indicates very simple language that we think  
13 is appropriate for budget reauthorizations.

14 The policy underlying all of that I  
15 think is sort of the wrinkle, as opposed to  
16 the drafting. The drafting the Public  
17 Advocate and myself can probably come to a  
18 resolution on relatively quickly. But the  
19 underlying has to do with are we yielding  
20 authority or is the Commission yielding  
21 authority that otherwise should reside in  
22 City Council.

23 We're suggesting and I think the  
24 elegant solution was to follow the lead of

1 the PGC Staff, which suggested that it just  
2 automatically revert to the longer lifespan,  
3 which is well within the authority or at  
4 least we have used that approach respecting  
5 City Council's prerogative and exercising  
6 also administrative prerogative that sort of  
7 makes sense because City Council doesn't  
8 understand why we're coming back for a  
9 time-only change in the budget.

10 And it seems like it makes it much  
11 more clear and much more administratively  
12 feasible, having gone through this a number  
13 of times in the recent past, where there is  
14 no money changing, no increased spending  
15 authority asked for, only we need more time  
16 to order the car, to get the order of a car,  
17 or cars, plural, for the fleet, or different  
18 other expenditures of the like, that might  
19 just run over the two-year lifespan.

20 So we think this is administratively  
21 feasible. It's an efficient use of all of  
22 our time. And the result is usually we go  
23 through a roat exercise of looking at it and  
24 that's a good thing, but I think you can do

1           that without going down to City Council and  
2           making sure that our budget process works a  
3           little more efficiently. And that's the sum  
4           and substance of what we're asking.

5                     EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Ballenger?

6                     MR. BALLENGER: Yes. I mean, there  
7           were certainly other pieces to the  
8           discussion that was had and I guess I kind  
9           of reverted back to where I think things  
10          were during the second ID meeting as opposed  
11          to where we left off in the discussion on  
12          the 13th, I believe, basically because I  
13          don't see a whole lot of movement toward  
14          identifying what the guardrails are and what  
15          the process looks like.

16                    I think there was discussion, for  
17          example, of at least a notice obligation to  
18          City Council upon amendment to extend the  
19          lifespan beyond what was provided in the  
20          originally approved Capital Budget  
21          Ordinance.

22                    I don't see any of those things  
23          coming to the table and I don't know that  
24          sitting here today I've really thought of

1 all of the various guardrails that would  
2 make something like this not only  
3 appropriate in light of the fact that this  
4 is an Ordinance, again, and I don't think  
5 unfettered discretion is intended to be  
6 given to the Gas Commission when it comes to  
7 oversight of PGW's compliance with an  
8 Ordinance, but I believe there is room for  
9 some discretion.

10 So what I'm kind of struggling with  
11 is whether it's really ripe for us to even  
12 brief at this point given where we left off  
13 in the last discussion and, again, I think  
14 now maybe more discussion about this in my  
15 mind might be helpful because I don't know  
16 that I've really had the ability to identify  
17 and collaborate with PGW staff on this issue  
18 in this compressed time.

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: I think that  
20 that's why on the 13th I'm pretty certain  
21 that I did request, you know, suggested  
22 language to try to accomplish this so that  
23 at least we could have a baseline to begin  
24 those discussions.

1           The Protocols are adopted at the same  
2           time that the Capital Budget is adopted by  
3           City Council, so if this is something that  
4           makes sense to move forward, we really do  
5           need to take care of it as part and parcel  
6           of this.

7           I think the issue of notice to City  
8           Council, that would be something that would  
9           be coming from Commission Staff. We have no  
10          issue with that. We think that that  
11          certainly does make sense, to let them know  
12          under the framework that we suggested.

13          And so I am going to again officially  
14          on the record request that perhaps there's  
15          some discussion that takes place and  
16          language developed that can be proposed as a  
17          part of this.

18          I don't think that this is one of  
19          those ultra-complicated issues that we need  
20          to drag out beyond this Capital Budget  
21          process. I think it's a matter of having  
22          conversations, talking and workshopping some  
23          language, because, again, I see both sides,  
24          I absolutely see both sides.

1 I see PGW's position that if we're  
2 just talking about a time extension for  
3 things that are completely outside of PGW's  
4 control, so the easiest example is with  
5 regards to Fleet Operations, a vehicle  
6 delivery for a specialized truck is taking  
7 longer than PGW anticipated, you know, there  
8 is no dollar amount changing, anything of  
9 that nature, if we can find a way to let  
10 City Council know, hey, this is what's  
11 happening, but not have to go through the  
12 full City Council approval process, I think  
13 that that makes sense.

14 But to the Advocate's point and  
15 position, you know, there should be some  
16 guardrails. There should be reporting to  
17 City Council. Do we want to have this  
18 happen in every instance where we need a  
19 timeline extension? There could be a  
20 situation where it's not as cut-and-dried as  
21 it is, let's say, in Fleet Operations.

22 Recognizing that briefs are due on  
23 March 8th, it sounds like, Mr. Ballenger,  
24 you feel like there needs to be more

1 conversation, so just asking for you guys to  
2 submit proposed language maybe doesn't  
3 satisfy your concern.

4 Is there any sort of availability for  
5 us to have a phone call within the next day  
6 or two or a Zoom meeting within the next day  
7 or two where there can be some sort of  
8 discussion regarding this issue? -- because  
9 I feel like we can get to the answer on this  
10 possibly before briefs are due, but in any  
11 case have a final answer in time for this  
12 Protocol change to be made, adopted by the  
13 Commission when it adopts the Capital  
14 Budget, and sent over to City Council.

15 MR. DASENT: I think a less formal  
16 approach would probably be the best and I  
17 mean by that I pick up the phone and call  
18 Rob.

19 MR. BALLENGER: I agree.

20 MR. DASENT: I think also as a part  
21 of briefing I might be able to lay something  
22 out that gets us a little further along and  
23 then maybe conclude it before the  
24 Recommended Decision, and that might give us

1 a little more time.

2 But I like the idea of working it out  
3 as opposed to having an order. The order  
4 can very well just approve the negotiation  
5 between the parties. And we would share  
6 that discussion also with Mr. McDougall so  
7 everybody is in the loop.

8 MR. BALLENGER: Yes. I think it's a  
9 three-person call, quite frankly. I think  
10 it would be helpful and I'm sort of, as  
11 we're talking, taking a few notes about some  
12 of the phrases that I might like to pitch.

13 But I'm mindful that we have a  
14 Protocol for emergency circumstances that  
15 didn't define the term and I think we just  
16 can probably put our heads together and come  
17 up with something that will avoid the need  
18 to revisit it in short order because I don't  
19 think that suits our interests either.

20 So I appreciate Mr. Dasent's  
21 suggestion and I will be amenable to a call  
22 to try to talk through this.

23 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. So then  
24 I'm going to request that we do have that



1 call take place, that you report back to  
2 Commission Staff on the result of that  
3 conversation, so that we can kind of at  
4 least maybe tie this issue up before briefs  
5 are due, certainly before a Recommended  
6 Decision is issued by the Hearing Examiners.

7 MR. DASENT: Okay.

8 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Since that is  
9 the last thing on the Protocol changes, at  
10 this time I am going to open the floor up to  
11 comments from members of the public.

12 As a reminder, as I stated earlier,  
13 you have three minutes to speak.  
14 Unfortunately, we are already over the  
15 scheduled time that we had for that. We are  
16 going to allow everyone who wishes to speak  
17 the chance to speak, but we are going to be  
18 very firm regarding the three-minute time  
19 limit. We will give you a warning. If you  
20 exceed those three minutes, we are going to  
21 have to unfortunately mute you whether  
22 you're done speaking or not.

23 So if anyone wishes to offer  
24 comments -- and, again, strictly on the

1 fiscal year 2025 Capital Budget; not on any  
2 other issues or concerns that you may have  
3 with the Commission -- raise your hand using  
4 the hand-raising function in Zoom.

5 Right now I see three hands raised,  
6 four.

7 At this point, not seeing any others,  
8 I am going to take you all in the order in  
9 which your hand was raised.

10 So first we have Peter Furcht.  
11 Again, you have three minutes. You may  
12 begin speaking now.

13 MR. FURCHT: Thank you,  
14 Ms. McClendon, for the opportunity to  
15 testify and for three minutes to speak  
16 rather than your typical two. That's much  
17 appreciated.

18 My name is Peter Furcht. I'm a  
19 Philly resident. I represent myself and I'm  
20 a small PGW gas user, small because I  
21 installed a heat pump last spring to replace  
22 my gas furnace, and I still plan to replace  
23 my range and my hot water heater.

24 So it's another year and it's another

1 budget that reflects PGW business as usual,  
2 continued investment on the expansion of gas  
3 distribution networks and gas delivery  
4 equipment that they may never need.

5 I couldn't find a mention of any  
6 money going towards geothermal and NPAs or  
7 any sort of energy transition initiatives  
8 and it's interesting how this budget does  
9 not square with PGW's sustainability report  
10 presentation I attended only a week ago  
11 where PGW claimed to be so innovative and  
12 progressive in their sustainability efforts.  
13 PGW's money does not seem to be where their  
14 mouth is.

15 Be that as it may, I want the Gas  
16 Commission to know that despite the  
17 testimony not being completed this morning,  
18 I strongly support POWER Interfaith's  
19 position.

20 In these times of heightened  
21 awareness to the climate change and a move  
22 away from fossil fuels, how can PGW be  
23 certain of future gas growth based on  
24 historical data?

1           The developers PGW referenced could  
2           very likely decide to build all electric  
3           units. I see no reason whatsoever for PGW  
4           to spend money on expanding their gas  
5           network.

6           PGW's needs, I believe, are quite the  
7           opposite. PGW should spend money to prepare  
8           their network for shrinking, not increasing,  
9           gas sales; and they should spend money to  
10          build a new network of whatever that may be  
11          that by 2050 is going to largely replace  
12          their gas network.

13          By the way, I know where PGW can get  
14          \$19,356,000 from within the currently  
15          proposed budget to start this work. It's  
16          the exact amount POWER is suggesting is not  
17          needed for gas network expansion.

18          Gas Commission, I ask you, if PGW  
19          asks are you ready to, are you willing to,  
20          would you approve them spending \$19,356,000  
21          on green infrastructure instead of on gas  
22          infrastructure? Gas Commission, is it time  
23          for you to consider changing your name to  
24          Energy Commission?

1                   Story in short, PGW must have a  
2                   budget plan that removes spending on gas  
3                   infrastructure expansion in favor of  
4                   spending on green infrastructure and  
5                   efficiency programs.

6                   EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: You have 20  
7                   seconds.

8                   MR. FURCHT: Thank you.

9                   This is what the public that PGW  
10                  ultimately works for wants. The need for  
11                  gas isn't going away tomorrow or the next  
12                  day, but PGW urgently needs to plan and  
13                  start spending for that money today now.  
14                  PGW's budget should reflect this urgency.

15                  Thank you.

16                  EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

17                  Next we have Linnea Bond. You may  
18                  begin speaking now.

19                  MS. BOND: My name is Linnea Bond and  
20                  I'm a PGW customer and also the Health and  
21                  Environmental Education Director of  
22                  Physicians for Social Responsibility -  
23                  Pennsylvania. Thank you for the opportunity  
24                  to comment today.

1           An expenditure of \$19 million on new  
2           gas infrastructure will make it harder to  
3           achieve our City's goal of eliminating  
4           greenhouse gas emissions.

5           Over the next to last year that I  
6           have begun actively following these  
7           hearings, I have been increasingly concerned  
8           about PGW's lack of transition preparation  
9           in light of the City's climate resolutions,  
10          the absence of non-pipeline alternatives in  
11          their budgets, and their efforts to expand  
12          their gas infrastructure without efforts  
13          that were to transition in line with the  
14          City's climate resolution.

15          In addition to the health risks that  
16          gas poses, including as a cause trigger  
17          asthma and as an explosion risk in  
18          Philadelphia's aging housing stock, gas is  
19          becoming a financial risk to ratepayers  
20          where families who can afford to transition  
21          their home will do so, leaving those who  
22          can't who are already struggling with  
23          utility affordability and also are likely  
24          the most vulnerable to effects of climate

1 change to foot the bill for PGW's stranded  
2 assets.

3 I appreciate the important role that  
4 the Gas Commission plays in overseeing PGW's  
5 budgets and in protecting ratepayers and so  
6 I ask the Commission to insist on a more  
7 thorough review of continued investment on  
8 gas infrastructure.

9 I'm also disappointed that PGW has  
10 not included a proposal for a geothermal  
11 pilot project in this Capital Budget. The  
12 Gas Commission approved funds for initial  
13 planning in the summer of 2022, but there  
14 have not been substantive updates for the  
15 public since then.

16 Thank you.

17 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

18 Next we have Mitch Chanin. You may  
19 begin speaking now.

20 MR. CHANIN: Great. Thanks so much  
21 for the opportunity to testify today. I  
22 would echo the comments from Peter and  
23 Linnea.

24 Similarly, I'm very disappointed to

1 see that this is just a business-as-usual  
2 capital budget proposal at a time when the  
3 climate crisis is getting more and more  
4 intense and at a time when PGW itself says  
5 it is working on its medium-term and  
6 long-term plans to comply with the City's  
7 climate goals, which will require phasing  
8 out the use of natural gas over the next 25  
9 years.

10 So I did my best to follow the  
11 conversation about the Budget Protocols, how  
12 the proposed expenditure for load growth is  
13 justified, et cetera, and I confess I didn't  
14 fully understand every aspect of it.

15 But I am confused as to how, if  
16 historical data shows that throughput  
17 declines, that without a serious evaluation  
18 of the potential return on investment for  
19 investment in infrastructure to serve new  
20 customers, like it just doesn't really  
21 square in my mind at all.

22 How is it that these expenditures  
23 could be approved without a serious and  
24 thorough examination of the potential



1 financial impact for all of us looking at  
2 all the various elements of the system that  
3 would be in play at a time when throughput  
4 has declined, our winters are getting  
5 warmer, and there's an accelerating push to  
6 decarbonize this City through City policy,  
7 federal investment through the Inflation  
8 Reduction Act and a number of other factors,  
9 and at a time when we know we have to be off  
10 of fossil fuels, not expanding their use?

11 So I hope the Commission will require  
12 a very serious and thorough examination of  
13 these proposals for new infrastructure to  
14 serve new customers and for load growth. I  
15 think that's really necessary to protect the  
16 financial interests of the City, the  
17 well-being of ratepayers like my family, and  
18 also the whole planet.

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.

20 MR. CHANIN: That's all. Thank you.

21 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

22 And last we have Julie Greenberg.

23 You may begin speaking now.

24 MS. GREENBERG: Thank you so much.

1 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My  
2 name is Julie Greenberg and I am a PGW  
3 ratepayer.

4 I know exactly how important this  
5 year's Capital Budget is because I am a  
6 clergy person and I hear people pouring out  
7 their stories about building their lives in  
8 a state of lots of energy burdens and also  
9 climate crisis. And also I am the mother of  
10 five kids who are young adults who are  
11 trying to build their lives in this  
12 situation.

13 We know the climate emergency is  
14 getting worse every day and the only way to  
15 stop it is to stop burning fossil fuels.

16 We live in a democracy. Our City  
17 Council has empowered the Gas Commission to  
18 scrutinize PGW's budget to make sure that we  
19 are moving in the direction we need to move  
20 to have sustainable communities here in our  
21 City.

22 I'm shocked to see that PGW is  
23 proposing a \$19 million expansion of fossil  
24 fuel infrastructure, \$19 million which could

1 contribute to increasing rates for people  
2 who are already struggling, but also would  
3 definitely make it harder to achieve the  
4 City's goal of eliminating greenhouse gas  
5 emissions. It will take our City in the  
6 wrong direction.

7 I'm also disappointed that PGW has  
8 not included a proposal for a geothermal  
9 pilot project in this Capital Budget, which  
10 so many of us, as citizens having input into  
11 our energy futures, recommended and spent  
12 lots of time discussing, especially around  
13 the Business Diversification Study that was  
14 being done by our City.

15 The Gas Commission itself approved  
16 funds for initial planning back in summer  
17 2022 for a geothermal project, but there  
18 really have not been substantive updates to  
19 the public since then. There have been  
20 brief, meager, quarterly updates to the  
21 Commission.

22 But we really don't know, we don't  
23 have enough information to assess what's  
24 going on, and we need to move from fossil

1 fuels to clean energy as quickly as  
2 possible.

3 So I want to ask the Gas Commission,  
4 you know, would it be possible to wait to  
5 approve this budget proposal until there is  
6 more information about a plan reflected in  
7 the budget to move towards the City's  
8 democratically chosen decarbonization goals  
9 and also --

10 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: 30 seconds.

11 MS. GREENBERG: Thank you -- to  
12 approve the geothermal pilot project that we  
13 have all been waiting for? When can we  
14 expect a substantive update on that?

15 I recommend not approving this  
16 proposed budget until we see reflected in it  
17 some of those really important items.

18 Thank you very much.

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

20 That concludes the public portion of  
21 this hearing at this time.

22 The last matter on the agenda is  
23 final cleanup and issuance of, I guess,  
24 instructions from the Hearing Examiners.

1           So as the first matter, according to  
2 my notes taken during this meeting, we have  
3 four TR requests. The language that I have  
4 written down isn't necessarily perfect.

5           I'm sure, Ms. Wushinske, between the  
6 two of us we have a clear understanding.

7           But under new load addition we have  
8 TR-1, an example from Mr. Teme. What was  
9 the exact formulation? Unfortunately, I  
10 just have "example" written. What was the  
11 complete formulation of that TR request?

12           HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE:  
13 Ms. McClendon, I have: Please provide an  
14 example of a nonstandard project. I believe  
15 that was POWER's request.

16           So, Mr. McDougall, is that accurate?

17           MR. McDOUGALL: Correct. And to add  
18 a little bit of color, it's in reference to  
19 the statement of Mr. Teme that it is for  
20 nonstandard projects that the simple payback  
21 methodology is replaced with an alternative  
22 methodology.

23           EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

24           Next we have TR-2: PGW uses the net

1 present value analysis. Can PGW explain how  
2 PGW understands the definition?

3 Mr. McDougall, can you add more color  
4 to that?

5 MR. McDOUGALL: Absolutely. The  
6 question would be sort of put as: Mr. Teme  
7 stated that for nonstandard projects net  
8 present value is used to assess the return  
9 on investment. On the Rule 10 return on  
10 investment calculation sheets there is a  
11 reference to internal rate of return.

12 Please explain the definitions of  
13 both of these terms and how they're  
14 calculated, including any differences.

15 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. We have  
16 under Gas Processing TR-3: Please provide a  
17 vendor quote for the Ivy Hill replacement.

18 MR. BALLENGER: That's correct.

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. And  
20 then for TR-4 we have: Provide a table  
21 escalating the Lisbon Group's calculations.

22 MR. BALLENGER: Right. So  
23 Mr. Cassidy testified that PGW was using the  
24 lower capital expenditure estimate provided

1 by the Lisbon Group but it had escalated the  
2 components of that calculation for purposes  
3 of its budget requests.

4 Just by way of reference, if I can  
5 find it here, yes, on Page 4 there's Table 1  
6 and it includes Case 1, which is the case to  
7 be escalated to show how PGW derived its  
8 budget in this proceeding.

9 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. Thank  
10 you.

11 And then, Ms. Wushinske, just to make  
12 sure we're clear, our standard TR request at  
13 this juncture is for all participants to  
14 provide a list of adjustments that are  
15 acceptable to them at this juncture in the  
16 proceeding; is that correct?

17 HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE: Yes,  
18 Ms. McClendon, with a few additions. We  
19 usually ask for record support, so it would  
20 read: Provide a schedule setting forth all  
21 adjustments to the proposed fiscal year 2025  
22 Capital Budget that you believe are  
23 supported by the record at this point,  
24 including a brief narrative describing each

1           that references the record support as well  
2           as the calculation showing the impact of  
3           each adjustment on the budget.

4                   EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON:   Right.  And to  
5           be clear, these will be included and I think  
6           this year let's just include them in the  
7           briefing memo, make it all just one thing  
8           instead of sending out the TR requests as a  
9           separate document and then the briefing memo  
10          as another one.

11                   So that will be TR-5.  Everything  
12          will be clearly stated and formulated for  
13          everyone.

14                   As requested with regards to the  
15          Protocol changes, we are asking that those  
16          conversations take place as soon as humanly  
17          possible and that a detailed report be  
18          provided to Commission Staff once that  
19          conversation is concluded.

20                   Is there anything that I am missing,  
21          Ms. Wushinske?

22                   HEARING EXAMINER WUSHINSKE:  I don't  
23          have anything further.

24                   EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON:  Okay.



1                   Mr. Dasent, is there anything from  
2 your end?

3                   MR. DASENT: Nothing further. Thank  
4 you.

5                   EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Mr. Ballenger?

6                   MR. BALLENGER: Just to make sure I  
7 heard correctly, are the TRs due on the 5th?  
8 Is that correct?

9                   EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Well, we  
10 didn't say when the TRs were due. We didn't  
11 give a date. But the 5th I think sounds  
12 about right. But we didn't give a due date.

13                   MR. BALLENGER: I just want to have  
14 it on my calendar and I'll look forward to  
15 speaking with Mr. Dasent and Mr. McDougall  
16 about the Protocols.

17                   EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Thank you.

18                   Mr. McDougall, do you have anything?

19                   MR. MCDUGALL: Yes. If I may, I  
20 have a suggestion to expedite resolution of  
21 my cross with Mr. Teme.

22                   There was a suggestion that we  
23 reconvene offline to continue, but I think  
24 it's possible from my perspective to wrap it

1 up with a TR that we can add to the list and  
2 avoid the need for another phone call.

3 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay.

4 MR. DASENT: Well, whether it's  
5 treated as a TR or just a written request,  
6 but I see the advantage of a TR, because  
7 then it will have a point in the record.

8 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. So what  
9 is your question, Mr. McDougall? And we'll  
10 make that TR-5 and TR-6 will become the  
11 adjustments question.

12 MR. McDOUGALL: Okay. Thank you.

13 The question is: Please confirm  
14 whether PGW has performed any projections  
15 for main and service additions installations  
16 for FY '25 that are equal to or less than  
17 \$50,000. Please provide copies of any such  
18 projections.

19 EXEC. DIR. McCLENDON: Okay. And  
20 TR-6, as I said, will be the agreed-upon  
21 adjustments. Again, everything will be  
22 clearly stated in the TR list that will come  
23 out with the briefing memo.

24 Again, I sincerely want to apologize

1 to everyone on here for what happened during  
2 this hearing. You know, it is open to the  
3 public. We want public engagement.  
4 Unfortunately, that person chose to abuse  
5 it.

6 I sincerely apologize. A report has  
7 been made to Zoom. I don't know how much  
8 value it is, but I do want to apologize  
9 again for what took place. I personally am  
10 still a bit shaken up by that. So my  
11 sincerest apologies.

12 I thank you for your time and this  
13 will for the time adjourn this hearing.  
14 Thank you very much.

15 If Ms. Migatz and Commission Staff  
16 can please stay on the Zoom, I would  
17 appreciate it. Thank you all and have a  
18 good day.

19 MR. DASENT: Thanks very much.

20 - - -

21 (Whereupon the hearing adjourned at  
22 12:40 p.m.)

23 - - -

24 Reported By: Susan Marie Migatz, RMR, CRR

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PHILADELPHIA GAS COMMISSION EXHIBITS

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
Hearing Exhibit 1	Summary of Adjustments Agreeable to PGW	9

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INDEX OF TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PG. LN
TR-1	Please provide an example of a nonstandard project. This is in reference to the statement of Mr. Teme that it is for nonstandard projects that the simple payback methodology is replaced with an alternative methodology.	40.17 125.11
TR-2	Mr. Teme stated that for nonstandard projects net present value is used to assess the return on investment. On the Rule 10 return on investment calculation sheets there is a reference to internal rate of return. Please explain the definitions of both of these terms and how they're calculated, including any differences.	40.7 126.3
TR-3	Please provide a vendor quote for the Ivy Hill replacement.	68.16 126.19

(Continued on Page 134.)

INDEX OF TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS (CONTINUED)		
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	TR-4 Provide a table escalating the Lisbon Group's calculations. Mr. Cassidy testified that PGW was using the lower capital expenditure estimate provided by the Lisbon Group but it had escalated the components of that calculation for purposes of its budget requests. Just by way of reference...on Page 4 there's Table 1 and it includes Case 1, which is the case to be escalated to show how PGW derived its budget in this proceeding.	86.20 126.23
10 11 12	TR-5 Please confirm whether PGW has performed any projections for main and service additions installations for FY '25 that are equal to or less than \$50,000. Please provide copies of any such projections.	130.16
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	TR-6 Provide a schedule setting forth all adjustments to the proposed fiscal year 2025 Capital Budget that you believe are supported by the record at this point, including a brief narrative describing each that references the record support as well as the calculation showing the impact of each adjustment on the budget.	127.23
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