

REDACTED

DIRECT TESTIMONY

OF

DAVID REARDEN

POLICY PROGRAM

ENERGY DIVISION

ILLINIOS COMMERCE COMMISSION

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CRS*

THE PEOPLES GAS LIGHT AND COKE COMPANY

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1 **1. Introduction.**

2 **Q: Please state your name, job title and business address.**

3 **A:** My name is David Rearden and I am a Senior Economist on the Staff of the
4 Illinois Commerce Commission ("Staff" and "Commission") in the Policy
5 Program. My business address is 527 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield,
6 Illinois 62701.

7 **Q: Please outline your education.**

8 **A:** I have an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics (specialties in econometrics and
9 microeconomic theory) from the University of Kansas in 1991. I received a
10 Bachelor's in economics and history from Eastern Illinois University in 1982,
11 and studied economics at the Southern Illinois University graduate school
12 from 1982-1984.

13 **Q: Please state your work background.**

14 **A:** Before joining Staff, I was a Manager of Regulatory Policy for Sprint
15 Corporation ("Sprint") from 1998 until 2001. I wrote and defended testimony
16 before state regulatory commissions, helped develop policy for Sprint,
17 provided analysis and advice for the business units and supported other
18 aspects of Sprint's external affairs activity. Sprint had assets in local, long
19 distance and wireless markets, and it was critical to integrate the differing
20 interests in these markets when formulating and advocating policy.

21 I was a Managing Regulatory Economist at the Kansas Commerce
22 Commission from June 1994 until January 1998. I wrote and defended
23 testimony on both energy and telecommunications issues. I was promoted to
24 Chief of Rate Design and Managing Telecommunications Economist in
25 1997. I supervised five employees that analyzed rate design for regulated
26 energy companies in Kansas including purchased gas adjustment ("PGA")
27 proceedings.

55 Peoples Gas uses storage assets to benefit PGA customers and to provide
56 services to third parties. Peoples Gas does not flow the revenues generated
57 from third parties through the PGA. Storage use, coupled with Peoples Gas'
58 complex inter-related dealings with Enron, Enron MW, enovate, PEC, and
59 other Enron and Company affiliates, have necessitated Staff investigations
60 beyond just the GPAA and off-systems sales.

61 The process of evaluating the prudence of Peoples' gas procurement is
62 further complicated by a lack of documentation or analysis to support the
63 Company's decisions. It is notable that neither the Board of Directors for
64 PEC nor Peoples Gas considered the GPAA's prudence prior to signing it.¹
65 The Company conducted no formal numerical analysis to analyze the full
66 economic impact of the decision to sign the GPAA.² In fact, Peoples Gas
67 states in its response to ENG 2.89 that

68 The number of assumptions and variables associated with trying to re-create what
69 would have occurred had Respondent not entered into the Gas Purchase and
70 Agency Agreement with Enron North America (ENA) makes the performance of
71 such a study infeasible. Accordingly, Respondent has not performed such a
72 study.

73 However, Peoples Gas significantly altered the Company's historical
74 purchasing practices by entering into the GPAA. And the absence of
75 analysis is all the more remarkable considering that the contract was
76 awarded following private negotiations rather than a competitive bidding
77 process. If a competitive bidding process had been used to price the
78 contract (e.g., having bidders bid on the size of the discount), it is possible
79 that its results could have supported a finding that signing the GPAA was a
80 prudent decision.

¹ See the Company's responses to POL 1.38 and POL 7.6.

² See the Company's responses to ENG 2.68, ENG 2.75 and ENG 2.88. Staff made other requests for analysis of the GPAA that Peoples Gas might have conducted prior to signing the contract.

81 **Q: Please outline your testimony.**

82 **A:** In Section 2, I discuss the concept of prudence, and how I implement it in this
83 docket. Ratepayers should not pay higher costs if the utility makes an
84 imprudent decision than they would have if the Company had made a
85 prudent decision. Utilities, and not ratepayers, should be at risk for the
86 economic consequences of imprudent decisions.

87
88 In Section 3, I evaluate the GPAA's prudence using a forward-looking
89 approach that employs only information available when the contract was
90 made. I conclude that the GPAA was imprudent. Given information known at
91 the time the agreement was made, my analysis shows that Peoples Gas
92 should have expected that the agreement was likely to increase gas costs
93 above the Company's existing purchasing practices. My analysis
94 complements Staff witness Dennis Anderson's Direct Testimony that
95 addresses, in detail, the lack of numerical review or support for Peoples
96 Gas' decision to execute the GPAA. Either approach supports a finding of
97 imprudent behavior by itself. Together, they illustrate the importance of
98 requiring utilities to justify their actions with sound and verifiable analysis.³

99 In Section 4, my testimony also appraises the prudence of the Company's
100 off-system sales during the reconciliation period. Off-system sales are gas
101 sales that use assets or commodities for which costs pass through the PGA.
102 Off-system sales prior to the GPAA were largely demand credit-type
103 transactions, where Peoples Gas would buy gas at one location and sell it at
104 another for a margin. I find that the Company was imprudent in two of these
105 off-system sales and, as a result, earned less revenue from them than it
106 should have earned. I calculate the revenue deficit and recommend a
107 disallowance.

³ Alternatively, the Company could use competitive bidding under the right circumstances to establish a reasonable price.

108 In Section 5, I support Staff's position, also advocated by Staff witnesses
109 Anderson and Knepler, that revenue from Peoples Gas' non-tariff services
110 revenue should be recorded in Rider 2 (i.e., flowed through the PGA) for
111 policy reasons. Non-tariff transactions consist of Federal Energy Regulatory
112 Commission ("FERC") Operating Statement transactions and third party
113 storage exchanges. Peoples Gas argues that these dealings rely exclusively
114 on the Company's Manlove Field and its Mahomet pipeline, which are assets
115 for which costs are recovered in base rates. The Company concludes that
116 the revenue from non-tariff transactions should therefore be recorded against
117 the costs for those assets as determined in a rate case. However, Staff
118 witness Anderson demonstrates in his Direct Testimony that hub operations
119 are dependent upon all of Peoples Gas' assets, including leased storage
120 and/or flowing gas, the costs of which are recovered through Rider 2 under
121 the Commission's PGA rule. I argue that, absent flowing such transactions
122 through the PGA, the Company has incentives to engage in behavior that
123 increases gas costs. Indeed, I find in Section 5.g. that Peoples Gas
124 substantially raised costs to ratepayers at a time when gas prices were
125 reaching historic levels.

126 Later in Section 5, I find that the Company imprudently used the Manlove
127 storage field during the reconciliation period, which raised customers' gas
128 costs. I assess the impact of those decisions on costs to ratepayers. During
129 December 2000 and January 2001, Peoples Gas continued to provide non-
130 tariff services using capacity from Manlove Field rather than interrupting
131 those services and using the capacity at Manlove for PGA ratepayers. As a
132 result, the Company's PGA rates closely reflected spot prices during the
133 winter of 2000-2001. Rather than use the storage field to deliver \$6.23 per
134 dekatherm gas to ratepayers, Peoples Gas entered the spot market to buy
135 gas for as much as \$xxxxx a dekatherm.

136 Lastly, in Section 6, I join other Staff witnesses in recommending that the
137 Commission order a management audit of Peoples Gas. See the Direct
138 Testimony of Staff witnesses Anderson and Steven Knepler. I support that
139 recommendation by discussing various actions taken by the Company.

140 **2. Evaluation of prudence and assessing**
141 **disallowances.**

142 **Q: What criteria does the Commission use to determine prudence?**

143 **A:** The Commission has defined prudence as:

144 that standard of care which a reasonable person would be expected to
145 exercise under the circumstances encountered by utility management at the
146 time decisions had to be made. In determining whether or not a judgment was
147 prudently made, only those facts available at the time the judgment was
148 exercised can be considered. Hindsight review is impermissible.

149
150 Imprudence cannot be sustained by substituting one's judgment for that of
151 another. The prudence standard recognizes that reasonable persons can have
152 honest differences of opinion without one or the other necessarily being
153 'imprudent'.

154
155 (Commission v. Commonwealth Edison Company, Docket No. 84-0395,
156 Order dated October 7, 1987, page 17).

157 **Q: Why is the concept of prudence important?**

158 **A:** When a utility is a monopoly, those customers cannot switch to competing
159 providers. They must buy from the utility and consequently rely upon it to
160 prudently purchase gas supplies. A prudence review investigates whether
161 the utility appropriately carried out its obligation as a purchasing agent for its
162 customers in a reasonable manner. If costs were imposed on ratepayers,
163 they should be held harmless from the utility's imprudent action.

164 **Q: How did Staff conduct its prudence review?**

165 **A:** Staff employed a before the fact, or a *priori*, analysis using only the
166 information known at the time Company decisions were made under the
167 alternatives Peoples Gas actually faced; Staff did not conduct hindsight
168 review. Although Staff's determination of imprudence is based on a *priori*
169 analysis, the disallowance is necessarily based on costs actually incurred.

170 **Q: Which of the Commission's rules are the basis for Staff's review and**
171 **disallowances?**

172 **A:** Section 525.70(b) of the Commission's PGA rule states in relevant part,
173 If, after hearing, the Commission finds that the utility has not shown all costs to
174 be prudently incurred...the difference determined by the Commission shall be
175 refunded...along with any interest or other carrying charge authorized by the
176 Commission.

177 Section 525.40 (d) of the PGA rule states in relevant part,

178 Taking into account the level of additional recoverable gas costs that must be
179 incurred to engage in a given transaction, the utility shall refrain from entering into
180 any such transaction that would raise the Gas Charge(s).

181 **Q: If a utility makes an imprudent decision, does this decision always**
182 **result in a staff-recommended disallowance?**

183 **A:** No. A utility can recover reasonable costs incurred. Only when an imprudent
184 decision raised the incurred costs above reasonable costs does Staff
185 recommend disallowances. An imprudent decision that fortuitously results in
186 costs below reasonable costs does not call for a disallowance.

187 **3. The Enron GPAA.**

188 **Q: Please summarize your analysis of the GPAA.**

189 **A:** I first discuss the components of the GPAA. I next address the Company's
190 support for the prudence of the agreement and Staff's evaluation of that
191 support. Given Staff's concerns about Peoples Gas' support for the GPAA, I

192 judge the prudence of the GPAA by performing an *a priori* numerical analysis
193 of the total financial impact of the various terms in the contract. Notably,
194 Peoples Gas did no such analysis prior to entering into the agreement, which
195 itself was imprudent. Since both Mr. Anderson and I determine that the
196 GPAA is imprudent, I next calculate the additional costs imposed upon
197 ratepayers by the GPAA compared to purchasing those same gas volumes
198 without the contract. In this calculation, I employ actual prices and demand for
199 gas that occurred during the test year.

200 **3.a. GPAA terms.**

201 **Q: Please outline the GPAA's terms.**

202 **A:** The GPAA's gas purchases have three main components: (1) Baseload, (2)
203 Summer Incremental Quantity ("SIQ") and (3) Daily Incremental Quantity
204 ("DIQ"). The baseload quantities are specified over the life of the contract,
205 and prices are at the xxx
206 xxx minus a xxxxxxxxxx discount. The
207 SIQ allows Enron to select a quantity of gas between the minimum and
208 maximum specified in the contract that Peoples must buy each day at xxx
209 less a xxxxxxxxxx discount. The DIQ gives Peoples Gas the right to buy gas
210 at the xxx up to the DIQ
211 capacity level specified in the contract.

212 The GPAA has a resale provision that allows Peoples Gas to resell gas back
213 to Enron at the Company's discretion at xx less a penalty that depends on the
214 quantity resold and when the resale quantity is nominated.

215 Enron can reprice various amounts of demand in three parts of the GPAA.
216 They are the Baseload Pricing Adjustment ("BLPA") and two "Flexible
217 Pricing" terms (Article 4.2b and Article 4.2c). These provisions permit Enron
218 to reprice each day, at its option, various amounts from xxx to xx during the

219 Winter Period (December through March). For the BLPA, that amount is
220 xxxxx MMBtus per day; for Article 4.2b, it is xxxxx MMBtus per day; for
221 Article 4.2c, it is xxxxx MMBtus per day.⁴ Peoples Gas insists that Enron
222 never exercised the BLPA.⁵ And the Company never offered any incentives
223 for Enron to refrain from exercising the BLPA.⁶ Nevertheless, an *a priori*
224 evaluation of the GPAA must account for the effect that the BLPA and Article
225 4.2b and 4.2c might have had on gas costs. That is, these elements were in
226 the contract and Peoples Gas exposed itself to Enron exercising them.

227 Finally, Peoples Gas released some of its interstate pipeline capacity into
228 the Chicago citygate to Enron. After Peoples Gas signed the GPAA, its off-
229 systems sales were dominated by resales of gas back to Enron pursuant to
230 GPAA terms. Many of the remaining sales were to the Enron subsidiary
231 Enron MW. The effect of this element of the contract is to lower the revenues
232 that Peoples Gas can earn from engaging in demand credit transactions or
233 releasing unneeded capacity to other shippers.

234 **Q: How does the GPAA address interstate transportation capacity cost**
235 **recovery?**

236 **A:** The GPAA mandates that Peoples Gas ultimately pays for all interstate
237 pipeline transportation capacity costs associated with GPAA volumes. In
238 practice, Peoples Gas released pipeline capacity to Enron. The capacity
239 cost was taken off of the pipelines' bills to Peoples Gas. However, Enron

⁴ Peoples Gas must elect Article 4.2b and 4.2c by xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx and xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx respectively in order to take advantage of them.

⁵ See the Company's response to POL 1.10 ("ENA [Enron] did not elect the use of the "Baseload Price Adjustment" provision during the reconciliation period. As with other terms and conditions in the agreement, the "Baseload Price Adjustment" provision was part of the negotiation process. By agreeing to the provision Respondent obtained a discount of xxxxx rather than xxxxx on all Baseload and SIQ quantities purchased under the agreement.")

⁶ See the Company's response to POL 1.50 ("The Company did not offer any incentives to ENA [Enron] to deter it from implementing the Baseload Pricing Adjustment during the reconciliation period, since it is at ENA's discretion.").

240 billed the capacity costs back to Peoples Gas under Article 4.3 of the GPAA.
241 Thus, transportation capacity costs are unchanged by the GPAA.

242 **3.b. GPAA prudence.**

243 **Q: Does Peoples Gas view its decision to sign the GPAA as prudent?**

244 **A:** In its response to ENG 2.68, Peoples Gas opines, "Yes, Respondent's Gas
245 Purchase and Agency Agreement with Enron North America is prudent." The
246 remainder of the response produces documents about the method that led to
247 Enron as the entity with which to negotiate the contract. It is clear from the
248 response that the Company did not ask for bids from gas marketers. ENG
249 2.75 requested a "Business Case" for the GPAA. The Company's response
250 to that data request outlined the process that led to the GPAA. It also
251 attempted to explain why the contract was beneficial to ratepayers, but its
252 explanation was perfunctory, and its quantification of an alleged savings was
253 later revealed to have been an after-the-fact calculation (and is later shown in
254 my testimony to have been both inaccurate and misleading as a statement of
255 the net impact of the agreement).

256 Under the terms and conditions of the GPAA, Respondent released a portion of
257 its firm pipeline capacity to ENA and made ENA agent for certain supply
258 agreements. In return, Respondent received index-priced natural gas supplies at
259 the citygate. The default price for natural gas purchased by Respondent is a first
260 of month citygate index for baseload purchases and a daily citygate index for
261 swing purchases. In addition, Respondent received a \$xxx/MMBtu credit on all
262 baseload purchase volumes, which reduced \$xxxxxxxxxxx of gas cost savings.

263 This is the entire "Business Case" that Staff received.

264 The Company's response to ENG 2.88 ("Provide all studies, analyses, and
265 internal communications that address the economic benefits of the ENA
266 contract.") simply refers to its previous responses to ENG 2.68 and ENG
267 2.75, discussed above. Staff can only conclude that Peoples Gas signed a

268 xxxxxxxx contract that purchased hundreds of millions of dollars of gas in
269 fiscal year 2001 without first analyzing its expected effects on PGA gas
270 costs. In fact, the Company "believes that the realization of these five
271 objectives demonstrates the prudence of the GPAA. Respondent does not
272 believe it is essential to a showing of prudence to produce a document
273 memorializing the operation and economic considerations that resulted in
274 the GPAA." (Company's response to POL 2.42.) It appears Peoples Gas
275 believes that such an investigation is not even necessary.

276 **Q: Does Staff agree that the Company's decision to sign the GPAA was**
277 **prudent?**

278 **A:** No. Staff witness Anderson shows in his Direct Testimony that, with neither a
279 bidding procedure nor a credible economic analysis, Peoples Gas cannot
280 demonstrate that it expected the GPAA, at the time it was signed, to be the
281 least cost method of purchasing gas. Only in retrospect and with
282 unsubstantiated assertions does the Company try to show that the contract
283 was prudent.⁷ Notwithstanding the Company's after-the-fact claims, there is
284 no evidence that, before signing the contract, Peoples Gas investigated
285 whether the GPAA provided a given amount of gas at prices no higher than
286 alternative sources.

287 **Q: How does the Company explain why it signed the contract?**

288 **A:** In response to ENG 2.75, Peoples Gas states,

289 Respondent concluded that there existed a strong likelihood that basis at
290 Respondent's field-purchase locations would be negatively affected by the
291 proposed incremental pipeline capacity to the Chicago area. This, in turn, would
292 erode the value of Respondent firm transportation assets, resulting in relatively
293 higher delivered costs for gas supplies connected with field purchases versus
294 those at the citygate. When firm transportation is devalued, Respondent would

⁷ See, for example, the Company's responses to ENG 2.68, ENG 2.75 and
ENG 2.88, POL 1.4 and POL 1.58 as well as the Additional Direct Testimony of
David Wear.

295 also expect a loss of demand credits that are earned through the off-system
296 transactions. The ENA [Enron] proposal would remove that basis-risk by ensuring
297 index-based market pricing for gas supply and guaranteeing demand credits for
298 the term of the GPAA. Therefore, the proposal met two overriding criteria used in
299 evaluating the proposal.

300 **Q: Please explain your understanding of Peoples Gas' statement in this**
301 **data request response.**

302 **A:** Basis, as it is commonly used, is the difference between the price of
303 something at two different points. In this particular case, basis is the
304 difference between the price of gas in the field where it is produced and the
305 price of the gas at the citygate. How much a buyer is willing to pay for the
306 right to move gas between the field and the citygate depends on this basis.
307 The greater the basis, the more valuable the right to transport gas between
308 the two points becomes. Peoples Gas forecast that the basis would fall. A
309 falling basis has two consequences. First, it reduces the value of demand
310 credits from off system transactions. That is, shippers are willing to pay less
311 per MMBtu to transport gas to the citygate. Second, a lower basis means
312 that gas purchased in the field becomes more expensive relative to the
313 citygate price. In other words, a citygate purchase becomes relatively more
314 attractive as the difference in the price of field gas and citygate gas
315 decreases.

316 **Q: Does Company witness David Wear's Additional Testimony provide**
317 **any further explanation of circumstances surrounding the GPAA's**
318 **signing?**

319 **A:** Mr. Wear attempted to address this issue in his Additional Testimony.
320 However, Mr. Wear does not provide any detailed, numerical, before-the-fact
321 analysis. The majority of Company witness Wear's discussion centers on the
322 goals that Peoples Gas had when it entered into negotiations with Enron.
323 While the goals may be admirable, his testimony gives no sense of their

324 relative economic values. For example, while Mr. Wear lists protecting the
325 value of Peoples Gas' leased transportation assets from a falling basis, he
326 does not assign a dollar value to the basis at the beginning of the GPAA,
327 how much the Company expected that dollar value to fall to or how that
328 decline compared to the variable cost to transport gas to Chicago. Since the
329 GPAA is a xxxxxxxx contract, those relative values should have been
330 estimated for the full xxxxxxxx term. Peoples Gas, nowhere in its testimony
331 or in its discovery responses, mentions that it looked at this issue.

332 **Q: Does Staff believe that Peoples Gas' limited analysis is sufficient**
333 **explanation for signing the GPAA?**

334 **A:** No. The entire "Business Case" offered by Peoples Gas in response to ENG
335 2.75 is a verbal explanation of some of the factors it considered. But it
336 constitutes neither a rigorous nor complete analysis. Some aspects of the
337 GPAA could be beneficial to ratepayers, while others are demonstrably not.
338 A serious evaluation of the contract should forecast the key factors that
339 influence the value of the contract. Assumptions should all be supported and
340 documented. Then the analysis should carefully project the Company's
341 expected purchases under the GPAA and determine how they compare to
342 expected purchases without the GPAA. Peoples Gas apparently performed
343 no such analysis. Indeed, Peoples Gas apparently performed no rigorous
344 analysis of any kind.

345 **Q: Peoples Gas witness Wear contends that the xxxxxxxxxx "discount"**
346 **off the citygate price in the GPAA protects Peoples Gas and its**
347 **ratepayers against a falling basis. Does Staff agree?**

348 **A:** Staff disagrees. See the Direct Testimony of Dennis Anderson for a
349 discussion of this issue. The GPAA needs to be evaluated in its entirety. The
350 xxxxxxxxxx discount is just one aspect among many in an examination of the
351 GPAA's prudence. Peoples Gas does not indicate in its data request

352 responses or in testimony the relationship it believes exists between the
353 xxxxxxxx discount and what it expects the basis to do.

354 Mr. Wear also ignores several points that undermine his favorable
355 assessment of the GPAA based on just one factor. First, a large initial
356 differential between the basis and variable transportation costs⁸ may mean
357 that an eroding basis does not alter whether the basis is larger or smaller
358 than variable transportation cost, if the difference is large enough at the
359 beginning of the period under consideration. In the present case, the basis
360 may not fall fast enough to make the three cents compensatory over the
361 entire, xxxxxxxx GPAA term. The most basic comparison is between the
362 variable cost of transport and the basis. If the variable transport cost plus
363 three cents is less than the basis, it is cheaper to buy gas in the field and pay
364 the variable transport costs rather than buy gas at the citygate under the
365 GPAA with the xxxxxxxx discount.

366 Consider the following example. Suppose the price in Chicago is \$4 per
367 MMBtu, while the price is \$3.90 per MMBtu at the Henry Hub. The basis is
368 10¢. First suppose that the variable cost of transportation from the Henry Hub
369 to Chicago is 15¢. When a shipper buys gas at Henry Hub, its delivered cost
370 of gas is \$4.05. This is a higher price than if it bought the gas at the Chicago
371 citygate. On the other hand, consider the case when the variable cost of
372 transport from the Henry Hub to Chicago is 5¢. Here, a shipper could buy
373 gas at Henry Hub and deliver it to Chicago at a cost of \$3.95. When the
374 basis is less than the variable transport cost, it's cheaper to buy at the
375 citygate. But gas bought at Henry Hub is cheaper when variable transport
376 cost is lower than the basis. This illustrates Peoples xas' contention that a
377 falling basis makes citygate purchases more attractive.

⁸ I discuss this concept more fully below. It is the sum of the commodity rate and fuel costs.

378 **Q: Does Peoples Gas show that the GPAA is the best way to deal with a**
379 **falling basis?**

380 **A:** No. While Peoples Gas witness Wear indicates that the GPAA protects the
381 value of leased transportation assets from a falling basis, the Company
382 nowhere indicates that it considered any alternatives to the GPAA to deal
383 with this perceived Company concern.

384 **Q: Peoples Gas advances the flexible pricing term in the GPAA as a**
385 **major benefit. Does Staff believe that flexible pricing within the GPAA**
386 **has significant benefits?**

387 **A:** No. The flexible pricing term is not a significant benefit of signing the GPAA.
388 First, the flexibility afforded by Article 4.2a merely restores flexibility lost by
389 signing such a long-term contract. Furthermore, this article is the only
390 element that provides flexibility to Peoples Gas. All other parts of Article 4.2
391 decrease Peoples Gas' flexibility and enhance Enron's flexibility, allowing
392 Enron to raise gas prices to Peoples Gas. Peoples Gas did invoke Article
393 4.2a to price some baseload (and minimum SIQ) gas forward within the
394 GPAA by locking in those prices during the reconciliation period. While this
395 practice may have protected Peoples Gas ratepayers from price spikes, the
396 GPAA does not uniquely provide this opportunity. Peoples Gas can always
397 purchase gas in the forward market without a xxxxxxxx contract. Thus, the
398 value of the flexibility in Article 4.2a is largely a function of the xxxxxxxx term
399 of the GPAA. Shorter contracts obviate the need for flexibility terms.

400 Second, Peoples Gas cannot unilaterally invoke pricing changes within the
401 GPAA. The counter party (Enron) must agree to the change. Presumably
402 Enron will only agree to a change if it sees a benefit for itself as well. If the
403 initial price is very good for Enron, it is unlikely to agree to a change that
404 erodes that value without appropriate compensation. In other words, flexible
405 pricing does not compensate for pricing provisions that do not provide least

406 cost gas. Based upon my professional experience, almost every contract can
407 be changed through a mutual agreement of the parties, so the flexibility to
408 alter a term in a contract through mutual consent provides no unique value.

409 **3.c. Expected value of the GPAA relative to standard**
410 **purchase practices.**

411 **Q: How do you evaluate the GPAA?**

412 **A:** Staff's analysis compares the total cost of all delivered and used gas under
413 the GPAA during the term of the contract versus what Peoples would have
414 paid for those volumes by buying in the field and transporting them to
415 Chicago. This is an *a priori* forward-looking analysis that uses only
416 information available at the time Peoples Gas entered into the GPAA to
417 estimate the costs for alternatives relative to the GPAA. In effect, I create an
418 analysis that I believe that Peoples Gas should have done before signing the
419 GPAA. See the Appendix to Exhibit 1.00 for the algebraic derivation of the
420 equation underlying this analysis.

421 **Q: Does the GPAA differ from standard gas purchasing methodology?**

422 **A:** Yes. The GPAA is not simply a purchase of a given quantity of gas for a fixed
423 price or relative to an index. Commodity pricing in the GPAA has several
424 components at varying prices. While baseload volumes are set over the term
425 of the contract, the seller (not the buyer) chooses some volumes each day.
426 An arrangement whereby a seller can choose the amount of a utility's
427 purchases to serve its utility load is anomalous. Further, Peoples Gas
428 surrenders control of a portion of its leased interstate pipeline capacity to
429 Enron. That surrender means the value of transportation capacity must be
430 evaluated along with the commodity pricing terms. Therefore, comparisons
431 between the GPAA with standard gas deals are not straightforward.⁹ The

⁹ Mr. Wear describes the contract terms in his Additional Direct Testimony. In his Direct Testimony, Staff witness Mr. Anderson also discusses the GPAA.

432 contract must be evaluated in its entirety. I break up my analysis into smaller
433 pieces, and then I determine whether it is prudent by summing the effects of
434 all the pieces.

435 **Q: Does Staff consider the GPAA to be imprudent only because it is**
436 **complex?**

437 **A:** No. Staff does not object to the complexity of the contract. However, the
438 complexity does underscore the need for the Company to have performed a
439 quantitative analysis of the GPAA before signing it.

440 **Q: How do you disaggregate the elements of the GPAA so that you can**
441 **compare gas costs between the GPAA and purchasing gas in the**
442 **field?**

443 **A:** I break the comparison down into seven factors.

444 **GPAA Discount.** The value of the xxxxxxxx discount for all baseload
445 volumes and SIQs is the first factor. A Local Distribution Company ("LDC")
446 like Peoples Gas should normally be able to purchase gas at the citygate at
447 the xxx price. The xxxxxxxx discount represents real savings to ratepayers
448 relative to purchases at the citygate, if all other factors are held constant.

449 **Variable transport-basis comparison.** The second factor compares the
450 variable cost of transporting field gas versus the basis. When Peoples Gas
451 buys gas at the citygate, it avoids paying variable transportation costs to the
452 pipeline as well as the cost of gas used for compressor fuel, both of which
453 are a part of the cost of gas that is bought in the field and delivered to
454 ratepayers. To the extent that the basis (citygate price less field price) is less
455 than the variable cost to transport field gas to the citygate (including cost of

Mr. Wear does not agree that the contract represents a change in purchasing practices. See his Additional Direct Testimony at lines 44-67. He argues that the GPAA is not a major deviation from the Company's usual practices. My

456 gas for compressor fuel), the GPAA lowers cost to Peoples Gas versus
457 Peoples Gas buying gas and transporting it from the field. The applicable
458 volumes for this term are the baseload volumes plus minimum SIQs. The
459 SIQs are included since they have the same pricing as baseload, but the
460 incremental SIQs (SIQ volumes above the minimum) can be avoided outside
461 the GPAA and therefore are not part of the comparison.

462 **Foregone demand credits.** When Peoples Gas surrendered control over
463 its pipeline capacity, it lost the ability to use that capacity to generate
464 revenues by buying gas at one location and re-selling it at another. These
465 purchases and resales are called demand credits. They take advantage of
466 idle capacity to generate revenues that offset PGA costs. If, on the other
467 hand, the basis falls, as Peoples Gas assumes, potential demand-credit
468 revenues will be reduced. For example, suppose the variable cost of
469 transportation to the Chicago citygate is 10¢ and the basis is 12¢. The LDC
470 can earn a 2¢ margin and offset transportation capacity costs for its
471 ratepayers by buying gas downstream and reselling it upstream. If the basis
472 falls by 3¢ to 9¢, then that transaction is not available to it. Furthermore, even
473 transactions that do remain profitably available earn smaller margins.

474 **Repricing Options.** There are three elements in the fourth factor. The BLPA
475 is the first of these. The BLPA allows Enron to change the price of a portion
476 of baseload volumes from xxx to xx during the Winter Period (December
477 through March) without notice or limit. This change increases costs when xx
478 exceeds xxx.¹⁰ Enron did not in fact invoke this clause during the
479 reconciliation period. However, in an *a priori* analysis that uses information

considerable analysis evaluating the contract, below, undermines his
contention.

¹⁰ In its response to xxxxxxxx, Peoples Gas asserts that this option does not
necessarily raise costs, since Enron does not know the prices before it elects
the option. I note here that the motive for the BLPA becomes highly mysterious
unless it could be predicted to have some effect on the price that Peoples Gas
buys gas.

480 available only at the time a decision is made, the BLPA must nonetheless be
481 evaluated. The second and third elements of this factor are the "Flexible
482 Pricing" terms of the GPAA (Articles 4.2b and 4.2c). These terms allow
483 Enron, upon notice to Peoples Gas, to reprice volumes during the Winter
484 Period to the daily price. They have a similar effect on gas costs as the
485 BLPA. As with the BLPA, Enron did not invoke either of these terms.
486 However, the potential monetary impact of both of these terms must be
487 evaluated to determine whether the decision to enter into the GPAA was a
488 prudent one. The volumes that apply to this factor are specified in the GPAA:
489 xxxxx MMBtus per day for the BLPA, xxxxx MMBtus per day for Article 4.2b
490 and xxxxx MMBtus per day for Article 4.2c after xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx, all during
491 the Winter Period specified in the GPAA.

492 **Resale penalty.** The fifth factor is the resale penalty that Enron assesses on
493 resales by Peoples Gas back to Enron. The relevant volumes are the resales
494 back to Enron.

495 **Avoided demand charge.** The last factor takes into account the Company's
496 claim that the GPAA enabled it to buy swing gas without a demand charge.
497 Peoples Gas considers DIQ availability a replacement for swing contracts
498 (defined as contracts for which Peoples Gas does not have to purchase on a
499 given day) and DIQs have no explicit demand charge or other premium. DIQ
500 is available up to the capacity of the pipelines leases released to Enron. In
501 his Additional Direct Testimony, Company witness Wear estimates that
502 avoided swing premiums are worth \$xxxxxx per year to ratepayers. (See
503 Wear's Additional Direct Testimony at lines 362-366.)

504 **SIQ option.** The GPAA gives Enron the power to nominate incremental SIQ
505 volumes priced at xxx. The minimum amount is specified in the agreement at
506 xxxxx MMBtus per day. In addition, Enron can nominate up to xxxxx
507 MMBtus per day in the Summer Period. Those incremental volumes are at

508 Enron's choice. For Enron to fully exploit the economic potential of the
509 GPAA, Enron should nominate the entire amount of the possible incremental
510 volumes when xxx exceeds xx. I estimate the value that Peoples Gas
511 surrendered due to this aspect of the GPAA.

512 **(1) GPAA discount.**

513 **Q: How did you calculate the expected value of the GPAA's xxxxxxxxxxxx**
514 **discount?**

515 **A:** I estimate this value by multiplying the sum of baseload and expected SIQ
516 volumes by the xxxxxxxxxxxx discount. Baseload volumes are laid out in the
517 GPAA for each month for the entire xxxxxxxxxxxx of the agreement. In its
518 response to POL 1.2, Peoples Gas asserted that it expected SIQ volumes
519 selected by Enron to be xxxxxxxxxxxx MMBtus, xxxxxxx between the minimum
520 possible amount (xxxxxxxxxx) and the maximum (xxxxxxxxxx). This implies that
521 the incremental SIQ (the volumes of SIQ that Enron chooses above the
522 minimum level) averages xxxxx MMBtus per day. Under the assumption that
523 Peoples Gas chooses the minimum or maximum SIQ each day, the
524 response implicitly assumes the xxx exceeds the xx on xx% of the days in the
525 Summer Period. The Company's response to POL 1.51 and POL 1.52
526 provided daily and monthly price data back through fiscal year 1997. And xxx
527 exceeds xx only xx% of the days during the Summer Period in those fiscal
528 years. The average price differential when xxx is greater than xx is based on
529 this same data. I substitute xx% for value implied by the Peoples Gas'
530 estimate. This substitution provides an expected SIQ value that is smaller
531 than that estimated by Peoples Gas. The expected value of the xxxxxxxxxxxx
532 discount is the product of the expected sum of baseload volumes and SIQs
533 times xxxxxxxxxxxx.

534 **Q: What is the expected value of the GPAA's xxxxxxxxxxxx discount per**
535 **year?**

536 **A:** I calculate the expected discount for each month during the entire term of the
537 GPAA. See Discount WP for these values. Exp Volumes WP provides the
538 expected volumes by month. Table 2 below shows the estimated value of the
539 discount by fiscal year.

540 **(2) Variable transport-basis comparison.**

541 **Q: How do you evaluate the cost of transport versus the basis?**

542 **A:** I compare the cost to buy and transport gas from the field to the citygate to
543 the price differential or basis between those two locations. This factor is
544 crucial to Peoples Gas' claim made in its "Business Case" above. The
545 Company focused on the basis falling over time. Staff believes the relevant
546 consideration is the level of variable transport cost relative to the basis' value
547 over the contract's xxxxxxxx term. If the basis is initially high enough, this
548 element of the GPAA may raise gas costs despite a basis decline over time.
549 Therefore, my analysis makes a direct comparison between the basis and
550 variable transport cost rather than just the basis by itself.

551 **Q: Please discuss the Company's basis forecast.**

552 **A:** The Company's response to ENG 2.92, Exhibit D provides a basis forecast.
553 PEC's "risk management area conducted the survey. It solicited quotes from
554 xx. It received quotes from
555 xx...The quotes from xxxx were not used."¹¹ The
556 forecast for the Chicago-Henry Hub basis declined at approximately a penny
557 a year. This agrees with Peoples Gas conclusion that the bases were falling.
558 I use this information to calculate the expected value of transportation.
559 According to this document, Peoples Gas expected the Henry Hub to
560 Chicago basis to be xxx¢ per MMBtu in fiscal year 2000 and fall to xxx¢ per
561 MMBtu by fiscal year 2004 using a weighted average where expected GPAA
562 volumes are the weights. I also calculate the basis between the Ventura

¹¹ See the Company's response to POL 2.12.

585 Table 1 below provides the weighted average transportation cost per MMBtu
 586 by fiscal year. The weighted average variable transportation rate averages
 587 5.31¢ per MMBtu over all fiscal years. See Transport WP for the calculation.
 588 The gas price used for the relevant month at the Henry Hub (the location for
 589 NYMEX futures delivery) is the price on September 15, 1999 for that month
 590 (or September 14, 1999 if there are no trades for a given month on that date)
 591 up to September 2002. For all remaining months, I use \$3 per MMBtu.

592 Table 1 also shows the difference by fiscal year under the heading "Net." All
 593 are negative numbers. That means that for every fiscal year, buying gas in
 594 the field and transporting it to the citygate was cheaper than buying at the
 595 citygate price.

596 **Table 1**

597 **Transport costs and basis per MMBtu by fiscal year**

| Fiscal Year | Weighted Average Transport Cost | Weighted Average Basis | Net |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| 1999 | xxxx¢ | xxxxx¢ | — xxx¢ |
| 2000 | Xxxx¢ | xxxxx¢ | — xxx¢ |
| 2001 | xxxx¢ | xxxxx¢ | — xxx¢ |
| 2002 | Xxxx¢ | xxxxx¢ | — xxx¢ |
| 2003 | xxxx¢ | xxxxx¢ | — xxx¢ |
| Sources: Exhibit 3.12 | | | |

598

599 My approach makes the basis-transport comparison appear more favorable
600 for the Company than a complete modeling might suggest, because one
601 expects price differentials to be positively correlated with gas prices. When
602 gas prices are higher, the cost to transport gas to the citygate increases.
603 This increase, in turn, raises the basis between the field and citygate. A full
604 evaluation of the GPAA's cost should take this phenomenon into account. I
605 do not account for this effect, so the comparison between the Henry Hub to
606 Chicago and Ventura to Chicago basis and the variable transportation cost
607 is more favorable to the Company as the price of gas rises.

608 **Q: What is your conclusion with respect to the variable transport-basis**
609 **comparison?**

610 **A:** I estimate that this aspect of the GPAA is responsible for an increase in
611 expected gas costs. See Exhibit 3.11 for the annual calculations.

612 **(3) Foregone demand credits.**

613 **Q: Should an evaluation of the GPAA take lost demand credit revenues**
614 **into account?**

615 **A:** Yes. Demand credit transactions enable an LDC, such as Peoples Gas, to
616 use its excess transportation capacity to offset pipeline capacity costs. The
617 LDC buys gas from a trader in one location and resells it to the same (or
618 perhaps another) trader in another location for a margin. When the margin
619 exceeds variable cost (commodity transportation plus fuel), the extra amount
620 is flowed through the PGA to offset demand costs. But, by signing the GPAA,
621 Peoples Gas surrendered the ability to engage in demand credit
622 transactions on the capacity given up to Enron. The Company also yielded to
623 Enron its ability to release capacity to other parties. This value needs to be
624 assessed to fully gauge the cost of gas under the GPAA.

625 **Q: Did Peoples Gas estimate the amount of foregone demand credits?**

626 **A:** No. In his Additional Direct Testimony and in discovery, Peoples Gas
627 witness Wear states that the Company did not estimate the foregone
628 demand credits. He further asserts that these credits cannot be estimated.¹⁵
629 In his Additional Direct Testimony, Mr. Wear estimated that the basis
630 decreases by a penny per year, "[w]hen one looks at the various supply
631 basins in aggregate." (lines 171 -172). But that estimate does not indicate
632 the initial amount given up by Peoples Gas. It merely asserts that, absent the
633 GPAA, the Company would get \$xxxxxxx (line 179) less revenue to offset
634 transportation demand charges.

635 **Q: How does Staff estimate the expected value of the lost demand**
636 **credits?**

637 **A:** I examine evidence for the potential decrease in profitable off-system sales. I
638 begin by examining the off-system transactions during fiscal year 1999
639 (before Peoples Gas signed the GPAA). According to Mr. Wear's Additional
640 Direct at line 173, the basis will fall by a penny per year. For each off-system
641 sale, I calculate the margin including transportation costs. For each
642 additional fiscal year after 1999, I subtract one more cent from that margin
643 and calculate the positive net revenues for those transactions. This provides
644 the possible demand credits for all off-system transactions. Using the
645 pipeline capacities that Peoples Gas released to Enron, I pro-rate the total
646 demand credits possible between those lost due to the GPAA and retained
647 by Peoples Gas. This approach provides an estimate of Peoples Gas' lost
648 demand credits due to signing the GPAA. These calculations are shown in
649 the workpapers 'PGL FY99' and 'off-syst FY99'.

¹⁵ See Company's response to POL 1.11, "Respondent has not prepared an estimate of the value of demand credits that Respondent would have received had the Gas Purchase and Agency Agreement (GPAA) with Enron North America not been in effect, nor would it be feasible to prepare such an estimate give the many unpredictable factors that affect the types of transactions that generate demand credits."

650 **Q: What is Staff's estimate of the expected value of the lost demand**
651 **credits?**

652 **A:** I estimate demand credits of \$xxxxxxx for fiscal year 1999. And the
653 estimates for lost demand credits for the GPAA term vary from (minus)
654 \$xxxxxxx in fiscal year 2000 to (minus) \$xxxxxxx for fiscal year 2004. Those
655 estimates are in Table 2 below.

656 **(4) Repricing terms.**

657 **Q: What are the elements in the GPAA that reprice volumes?**

658 **A:** There are three elements in the GPAA that allow Enron to reprice volumes
659 sold to Peoples Gas during the Winter Period from the xxx to the xx. One is
660 the BLPA, which is explained in Article 1.4. The Flexible Pricing terms are
661 Articles 4.2b and 4.2c. All three elements are detailed above.

662 **Q: Did Peoples Gas invoke any of the repricing terms during fiscal year**
663 **2001?**

664 **A:** No. For the BLPA, see the Company's response to POL 1.10

665 ENA [Enron] did not elect the use of the "Baseload Price Adjustment" provision
666 during the reconciliation period. As with other terms and conditions in the
667 agreement, the "Baseload Price Adjustment" provision was part of the negotiation
668 process. By agreeing to the provision Respondent obtained a discount of \$xxx
669 rather than \$xxx on all Baseload and SIQ quantities purchased under the
670 agreement.

671 For Articles 4.2b or 4.2c, see the Company's response to POL 1.9, "ENA
672 [Enron] did not request that either pricing provision be implemented, and they
673 expired before the reconciliation year that is the subject of this proceeding."
674 However, an *a priori* analysis must nonetheless evaluate this element of the
675 contract. Again, these terms are in the contract and *a priori* affected the price
676 of gas in the contract.

677 **Q: Why didn't Enron invoke the BLPA during fiscal year 2001?**

678 **A:** That is unclear to Staff. During the month of December 2000, Enron appears
679 to have left millions of dollars on the table by not invoking the BLPA. Peoples
680 Gas response to POL 1.50 states "The Company did not offer any incentives
681 to ENA [Enron] to deter it from implementing the Baseload Pricing
682 Adjustment during the reconciliation period, since it is at ENA's discretion."

683 **Q: Explain your analysis of the repricing terms.**

684 **A:** The BLPA allows Enron to alter the price of some amount of baseload
685 volumes from xx to xxx. In its response to POL 1.49, Peoples Gas asserts
686 that the BLPA does not raise gas costs.

687 In order for the Baseload Price Adjustment to result in higher gas cost, the Seller
688 would need to exercise its right to change the price from the first of month index
689 to the daily index on days when then [sic] daily index is the greater of the two.
690 Since the daily index is not known at the time that election takes place, it is
691 impossible to assert that it will result, or would have resulted, in higher gas costs.

692 While Enron does not know the daily price for the relevant day by the
693 deadline for nominating the BLPA (as well as the provisions in Article 4.2b
694 and 4.2c), Enron had little difficulty nominating SIQ in essentially the same
695 time frame under essentially the same criteria (except that it apparently
696 wanted to nominate the maximum SIQ amount when xx was less than xxx).
697 While exact prices may not be precisely known at the time of nomination,
698 there are many instances when the relative values of the daily and monthly
699 prices were obvious. As an example, Enron mandated the maximum SIQ
700 when xx was less than xxx and the minimum when xxx was less than xx on
701 95% of the days during the reconciliation period. Thus, Enron should have
702 been highly confident that it could easily make this same sort of decision
703 when faced with a similar lag in other circumstances.

704 **Q: How did you develop your estimate for the cost of the repricing**
705 **terms?**

706 **A:** I calculated the percentage of the time xx was higher than xxx by using the
707 data from the Winter Periods during FY1997-FY1999. I also computed the
708 average differential between xxx and xx when xx was higher during the same
709 period. The expected monthly value of the BLPA is then xxxxx MMBtus
710 times the percentage of the time that xx was higher than xxx times the
711 average differential times the number of days in the month. Similarly for
712 Article 4.2b and 4.2c, I substituted xxxxx MMBtus and xxxxx MMBtus
713 respectively into the calculations.

714 **Q: What is the expected value of the repricing terms?**

715 **A:** The estimated probability that xx exceeds xxx is approximately 41%. The
716 average price differential conditional on the daily price exceeding the
717 monthly price is \$0.2154. Therefore, the BLPA is worth \$xxxxxx per year
718 (xxxxxx times 41% times \$0.2154 times 121 days). Article 4.2b has an
719 expected annual value of \$xxxxxx, while Article 4.2c has an expected valued
720 of \$xxxxxx per year.¹⁶ On a per MMBtu basis, all three terms together are
721 worth from xxx¢ to xxx¢ depending on the fiscal year (see Exhibit 3.06).

722 **(5) Resale penalty.**

723 **Q: Please explain the resale provision.**

724 **A:** The re-purchase provision (Article 4.1e of the GPAA) "allows" Peoples Gas
725 to return up to xxxxx MMBtus back to Enron at daily citygate prices minus a
726 penalty. The penalty's magnitude depends on two factors: (1) how timely
727 Peoples Gas is at nominating the resale (the later the nomination, the larger
728 the penalty), and (2) the amount of the resale (the larger the quantity being

¹⁶ For the first fiscal year of the contract, the amount is smaller, since Article 4.2c doesn't become effective until January 1, 2000.

729 resold, the larger the penalty). The penalty ranges from xxxxxxxxxxxx to xxx
730 xxxxx per MMBtu.

731 **Q: Why does Peoples Gas claim this GPAA feature as a benefit?**

732 **A:** The resale provision affords Peoples Gas the opportunity to sell unneeded
733 gas back to Enron. Peoples Gas touts this feature as a benefit, since it
734 provides a guaranteed outlet for excess gas (up to xxxxxx MMBtus per day).
735 However, the very existence of the resale provision might indicate that the
736 Company expected to have to purchase significant excess supplies under
737 the GPAA. I note again that before it entered into the GPAA almost all off-
738 system sales by Peoples Gas sales generated a positive margin. Thus, while
739 an LDC may anticipate accidentally and unavoidably purchasing excess
740 supplies in the normal course of its business, Peoples Gas apparently had
741 little difficulty disposing of these supplies at prevailing market prices prior to
742 the GPAA. Peoples Gas does not estimate the value of the resale benefit,
743 but simply claims it as another element of the contract.

744 The Company made no serious attempt to demonstrate that GPAA Article
745 4.1e was superior to its own efforts to market excess supplies. And it did not
746 show that the penalty structure improved upon its opportunities under the
747 GPAA. That is, the Company provides no evidence that it investigated
748 whether it would do better self-marketing the gas rather than surrendering the
749 gas back to Enron.

750 **Q: When did People Gas generally invoke the resale provision of the**
751 **GPAA?**

752 **A:** Resales occurred most often when Enron had already forced Peoples Gas to
753 purchase the maximum amount under the SIQ component of the contract.
754 Only xxx% of re-sales during the Summer Period¹⁷ were made on days that
755 the maximum (or near maximum) SIQ was not chosen by Enron. Further,

756 Peoples Gas made re-sales back to Enron on xxxx% of the days that Enron
757 forced Peoples Gas to buy the maximum (or near maximum) SIQ. Thus, on
758 days when Enron opted for the maximum SIQ, it almost always forced
759 Peoples Gas to buy more gas than the Company could use.

760 **Q: Does Staff agree that the resale provision is a benefit?**

761 **A:** No. When Peoples Gas has excess gas supply, it must either market the gas
762 itself or return it back to Enron. When the Company chooses to invoke the
763 resale term of the GPAA, it does so at terms that ensure a loss for Peoples
764 Gas compared to the average conditions existing in the market at the time.
765 The resale provision cannot be considered a benefit bestowed by the GPAA.
766 Rather, it is a result largely engendered by the SIQ provision of the GPAA
767 that forces Peoples Gas to buy volumes that it does not need and cannot
768 otherwise dispose of.

769 **Q: Did you develop expected re-sale volumes?**

770 **A:** I estimate this particular quantity by assuming a relationship between
771 incremental SIQs and re-sales. A detailed model for that relationship would
772 take the interaction of unknown demand with the SIQ, baseload and any
773 other purchases (non-GPAA) that the Company may be making along with
774 the interactions between prices and these quantities.

775 However, sufficient information to derive such a model is not currently
776 available. Instead I assume that re-sales are a fixed percentage of
777 incremental SIQs. In this particular case, I arbitrarily assume xxxxx MMBtus
778 is resold on average from the incremental xxxxx MMBtus.

779 **Q: What is the estimate for the re-sale penalty per MMBtu?**

780 **A:** I chose 1¢ per MMBtu as the average penalty.

¹⁷ When the SIQ provision applies.

781 **Q: What is the estimate for total re-sale penalties?**

782 **A:** I estimate that this term is raised gas costs by \$xxxxxx per year.

783 **(6) Avoided demand charges.**

784 **Q: How does Peoples Gas characterize the benefits from the GPAA for**
785 **its gas portfolio?**

786 **A:** According to Mr. Wear's testimony, the DIQ element of the GPAA enabled
787 Peoples Gas to buy "swing" gas with no reservation charges.¹⁸ That is,
788 LDC's typically pay demand charges for swing gas. Absent the GPAA, under
789 this thinking, the demand charges rise and add to costs. Mr. Wear estimates
790 that this aspect of the GPAA is worth \$xxxxxxx for the reconciliation period.¹⁹
791 I adopt this estimate for my GPAA evaluation.

792 **(7) SIQ option.**

793 **Q: Please explain the background information you considered in this**
794 **aspect of your evaluation.**

795 **A:** The contract enabled Enron to force Peoples Gas to purchase maximum SIQ
796 volumes only when xx was less than xxx. In fact, that is precisely what
797 occurred, except in only x out of the xxx days during the fiscal year's Summer
798 Period. Hence, Enron seldom missed picking the right days for maximizing
799 the SIQ.

800 In effect, the GPAA granted Enron guaranteed arbitrage opportunities, which
801 it exercised at Peoples Gas' expense. Furthermore, Peoples Gas should
802 have anticipated that this arbitrage would occur, since it was such an obvious
803 implication of the GPAA.

¹⁸ See Mr. Wear's Additional Direct Testimony at lines 350-366.

¹⁹ Line 366. He calculates this by estimating the demand charge at xxx¢ per MMBtu times the available DIQ under the GPAA.

804 **Q: How did you estimate expected increased gas costs caused by this**
 805 **provision?**

806 **A:** Using the fiscal years 1997-1999, I calculated the percentage of days during
 807 the Summer Period (April through November) for which xx was below xxx. I
 808 also calculated the average differential on those days. Therefore, the value of
 809 the SIQ provision by month is the average percentage of days for which xx is
 810 less than xxx (xx%) times the average differential on those days (xx¢) times
 811 xxxxx MMBtus times the number of days in the month.

812 **Q: What is your estimate for the expected increase in gas costs caused**
 813 **by SIQ provision?**

814 **A:** The value generated by this term is (minus) \$xxxxxxxx per year for all years
 815 during the GPAA's term. The calculation is constant over the GPAA's term
 816 since the same parameters are used for the entire contract term.

817 **(8) Summary.**

818 **Q: Please summarize the results of your forward-looking evaluation of**
 819 **the GPAA.**

820 **A:** In the table below, I present the results from my calculations. A positive
 821 number represents a savings to ratepayers due to the GPAA. That is, a
 822 positive number is the lower gas costs due to the GPAA. On the other hand a
 823 negative number means that the GPAA would increase costs. It implies that
 824 costs would be higher under the GPAA than not.

825 **Table 2**

826 **Expected cost savings due to the GPAA**

| FY | Discount | Transport – Basis | Repricing Terms | Foregone Demand Credits | SIQ Option | Avoided Demand Charges | Resale Penalty | Total |
|------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 2000 | xxxxxxxxx x | xxxxxxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxx x | xxxxxxxxxxxxx x | xxxxxxxxxxxxx x | xxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxx x |
| 2001 | xxxxxxxxx x | xxxxxxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxx x | xxxxxxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxx x | xxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxx x |
| 2002 | xxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxx | xxxxxxxxxxxxx |