

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY

of

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Finance Department  
Financial Analysis Division  
Illinois Commerce Commission

Northern Illinois Gas Company

d/b/a Nicor Gas Company

Proposed General Increase in Gas Rates

Docket No. 08-0363

October 23, 2008

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1 **WITNESS IDENTIFICATION**

2 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

3 A. My name is Janis Freetly. My business address is 527 East Capitol Avenue,  
4 Springfield, Illinois 62701.

5 **Q. Are you the same Janis Freetly who testified previously in this proceeding?**

6 A. Yes, I am.

7 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony in this proceeding?**

8 A. The purpose of my rebuttal testimony is to respond to the rebuttal testimony of  
9 Company witness Douglas M. Ruschau, Co. Ex. 24.0. Specifically, I will address  
10 Mr. Ruschau's testimony regarding the inclusion of short-term debt in the capital  
11 structure and the appropriate balances of the other components of the capital  
12 structure.

13 **COST OF CAPITAL**

14 **Q. Please summarize your findings.**

15 A. I recommend an overall cost of capital for Nicor Gas of 7.35%. The overall cost  
16 of capital for the Company is shown on Schedule 18.1.

17 **Capital Structure**

18 **Q. Do you have any changes to the capital structure you propose for setting  
19 rates?**

20 A. Yes. I have made the following alterations to the capital structure for setting  
21 Nicor Gas' rates: First, I corrected the balance of short-term debt to reflect the

22 average balances for 2009. Next, I adjusted the balance of long-term debt in  
23 accordance with Mr. Ruschau's testimony. Finally, I corrected the adjustments to  
24 the other components of the capital structure that the Commission's Allowance  
25 for Funds Used During Construction ("AFUDC") formula assumes is financing  
26 Construction Work In Progress ("CWIP"). These capital structure adjustments  
27 are more fully explained below. The resulting forecasted average 2009 capital  
28 structure contains 18.32% short-term debt, 35.22% long-term debt, 0.10% non-  
29 redeemable preferred stock and 46.36% common equity, as shown on Schedule  
30 18.1.

31 **Q. Please explain why you revised the balance of short-term debt.**

32 A. I inadvertently excluded the average balance of short-term debt for January 2009  
33 from the average balance for 2009. The correct average for January 2009  
34 through December 2009 is \$257,571,734, as shown on Schedule 18.2.

35 **Q. Please explain why you revised the average balance of the remaining**  
36 **amount of CWIP accruing AFUDC (i.e., the portion of CWIP assumed to be**  
37 **financed with long-term capital) for 2009?**

38 A. In my direct testimony, I inadvertently averaged the balances of CWIP accruing  
39 AFUDC for May through July of 2009, instead of the remaining amount of CWIP  
40 accruing AFUDC for April through June of 2009. The correct average monthly  
41 balance of the remaining amount of CWIP accruing AFUDC for 2009 is  
42 \$8,081,027 as presented in Column (H) on Schedule 18.2. Long-term debt,  
43 preferred stock, and common equity compose 42.12%, 0.12%, and 56.76% of

44 the long-term capital, respectively, based on their balances discussed below.  
45 Thus, 42.12%, 0.12%, and 56.76% of \$8,081,027, or \$3,484,576, \$9,754, and  
46 \$4,586,697, was subtracted from the balances of long-term debt, preferred stock,  
47 and common equity, respectively.

48 **Q. Please discuss the appropriate treatment of unamortized discount and**  
49 **expense attributable to retired debt in the calculation of the long-term debt**  
50 **balance.**

51 A. Mr. Ruschau claims that it is inappropriate to subtract the balance of unamortized  
52 discount and expense attributable to retired debt from the balance of long-term  
53 debt and that the Commission has deemed the deduction inappropriate in prior  
54 rate cases.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Ruschau is wrong and his position is internally inconsistent. In  
55 response to Staff Data Request (“DR”) JF 12.05, Mr. Ruschau only cites Docket  
56 No. 04-0779 when asked to cite the Commission orders that made such a ruling.  
57 The Commission Order in Docket No. 04-0779 did not explicitly make such a  
58 ruling.<sup>2</sup> Further, the Company measured its cost of debt by dividing its total debt  
59 expense by the carrying value of its debt, which reflects unamortized debt  
60 discount/expense for retired issues. Thus, the Company argued that  
61 unamortized debt discount/expense for retired issues should be reflected in its  
62 long-term debt cost but not in its long-term debt balance.

63 Including the unamortized balances of gains and losses on reacquired debt and  
64 the amortization thereof in the balance and embedded cost of long-term debt

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<sup>1</sup> Co. Ex. 24.0, p. 26.

<sup>2</sup> Order, Docket No. 04-0779, September 20, 2005, p. 75.

65 allows the Company to earn a return on long-term debt that has been reacquired.  
66 By excluding the unamortized balances of gains and losses on reacquired debt  
67 from the balance of long-term debt included in the capital structure, the Company  
68 is forfeiting a portion of the return on those unrecovered losses. Although I do  
69 not agree with the Company's position, for the purpose of limiting issues in this  
70 proceeding, I will accept Mr. Ruschau's position to use the average 2009 carrying  
71 value balance for the outstanding long-term debt before subtracting the debt  
72 reacquired in previous years.

73 **Q. What balance of long-term debt did you include in your recommended**  
74 **capital structure?**

75 A. Based on the balances presented on page 1 of Schedule 5.5, the average 2009  
76 carrying value for the Company's long-term debt is \$498,680,270. From that  
77 balance, I subtracted \$3,484,576 to reflect the amount of long-term debt already  
78 incorporated in the calculation of AFUDC, as explained above. This produced a  
79 long-term debt balance of \$495,195,694.

80 **Q. What balance of non-redeemable preferred stock did you include in your**  
81 **recommended capital structure?**

82 A. I began with the forecasted preferred stock balance of \$1,395,898, as presented  
83 on Schedule 5.6. That balance reflects the net proceeds available to the  
84 Company. I then subtracted \$9,754 to reflect the amount of preferred stock  
85 already incorporated in the calculation of AFUDC, as explained above. This  
86 produced a preferred stock balance of \$1,386,144.

87 **Q. What balance of common equity did you include in your recommended**  
88 **capital structure?**

89 A. I began with the average 2009 common equity balance of \$656,405,542, as  
90 presented on Schedule 5.7. That balance reflects the average of the twelve  
91 monthly average balances for January through December 2009. Then I  
92 subtracted \$4,586,697 to reflect the amount of common equity already  
93 incorporated in the calculation of AFUDC, as explained above. This produced a  
94 common equity balance of \$651,818,845.

95 **Q. Did you evaluate your revised proposed capital structure for the Company?**

96 A. Yes. I compared my proposed common equity ratio for the Company to the  
97 common equity ratio for the gas distribution industry. In the second quarter of  
98 2008, the mean common equity ratio for the gas distribution industry was 50.44%  
99 with a standard deviation of 10.18%.<sup>3</sup> My proposed common equity ratio of  
100 46.36% compares favorably with the other companies in the gas distribution  
101 industry.

102 Further, I considered Staff witness Kight-Garlich's analysis of the effect of  
103 Staff's proposed revenue requirement on the Moody's guideline ratios. Ms.  
104 Kight-Garlich concludes that under Staff's proposed revenue requirement, the  
105 financial strength is commensurate with an Aa3 rating for Nicor Gas.<sup>4</sup> The above  
106 suggests that my proposed capital structure for the Company is commensurate  
107 with a strong degree of financial strength.

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<sup>3</sup> Standard & Poor's Compustat database.

<sup>4</sup> Staff Ex. 19.0, pp. 3-4.

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**Short-Term Debt**

**Q. Please summarize your position on the inclusion of short-term debt in Nicor Gas' capital structure.**

A. Due to the fungibility (i.e., perfect substitutability) of capital, one cannot identify which capital sources fund which assets. Thus, the Commission has concluded that all assets, including assets in rate base, are assumed to be financed in proportion to total capital, unless shown otherwise. Since Nicor Gas consistently relies on short-term debt as a source of funds, short-term debt should be included in Nicor Gas' capital structure unless it is shown that short-term debt does not support rate base. Nicor Gas has not shown that short-term debt does not support rate base.

Since Nicor Gas includes in its rate base assets with balances that exhibit a high degree of seasonal variation throughout the test year, there must be financing that fills the seasonal need for funds that Nicor Gas' seasonal, rate based assets create. Nicor Gas does have a source of funds that closely tracks the variability of those seasonal, rate based assets: short-term debt. As Mr. Ruschau explained, short-term debt balances peak at year-end, when gas bills also peak and winter revenues have not yet been collected. As winter revenues are collected, short-term borrowing requirements decline. However, by late summer, short-term borrowing increases through the fourth quarter and the annual cycle repeats itself.<sup>5</sup> There is no short-term debt outstanding in the late spring and

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<sup>5</sup> Co. Ex. 24.0, pp. 9-10.

129 early summer months due to the seasonal nature of the utility's natural gas  
130 operations. This variable source of funding is vital to support gas purchases and  
131 other operations until the Company receives payment from customers.  
132 Therefore, short-term debt is a permanent source of seasonal funds for Nicor  
133 Gas.

134 **Q. Mr. Ruschau claims that Staff is attempting to link short-term debt to**  
135 **certain assets and is therefore tracing capital. Please respond.**

136 A. Staff is not attempting to link short-term debt with particular assets, which would  
137 constitute tracing. I am only pointing out that the variable seasonal components  
138 of rate base create a seasonal need for funds. The average balances of cash  
139 working capital and gas in storage that are included in rate base obscure but do  
140 not negate the fact that actual monthly balances of those accounts vary greatly  
141 with the seasonal pattern of the Company's operations.

142 Although no one can trace funds definitively from source to use, the data  
143 unambiguously demonstrate that the long-term components of Nicor Gas' capital  
144 structure cannot be the sole source of funding for the Company's rate base since  
145 the Company cannot satisfy the seasonal need for funds that the seasonal  
146 portion of Nicor Gas' rate base creates. Therefore, Nicor Gas must be financing  
147 rate base, in part, with short-term debt.

148 Consider a pool of water with several faucets and drains. The pool currently  
149 holds 4,000 gallons of water. Further, assume that 9,000 gallons of water are  
150 needed at the end of drain 1. Clearly, the 2,000 gallons of water currently in the

151 pool are insufficient to send the 9,000 gallons needed at the end of drain 1.  
152 Consequently, faucet A is opened and 3,000 gallons of water flow into the pool.  
153 Since the 5,000 gallons of water now in the pool is still insufficient, faucet B is  
154 opened until 6,000 gallons of water flows into the pool and 9,000 gallons of water  
155 are allowed to empty down drain 1. Of course, one cannot trace specific atoms  
156 of water from any of the three sources (i.e., the 2,000 gallons originally in the  
157 pool, the 3,000 gallons from faucet A and the 6,000 gallons from faucet B) to  
158 either drain 1 or to the 2,000 gallons remaining in the pool after drain 1 is closed.  
159 Nevertheless, we know that it was necessary to open faucet B to send sufficient  
160 amounts of water down drain 1. That is, the 9000 gallon flushing of drain 1 could  
161 not have occurred without opening faucet B.

162 Similarly, while one cannot trace specific dollars from the proceeds of the short-  
163 term debt the Company has issued to any particular use, the Company clearly  
164 resorts to short-term debt to supply the cash that it needs to pay its obligations  
165 (primarily the purchase of gas) during its seasonal build-up of working capital.  
166 During that period, the Company's cash obligations exceed customer receipts.  
167 The Company draws down its working capital during the portion of the year  
168 customer receipts exceed its cash obligations, and uses the surplus cash to retire  
169 short-term debt.

170 **Q. Mr. Ruschau states that “the cash working capital component of rate base**  
171 **represents the permanent funds necessary for the day-to-day running of**  
172 **the utility, in addition to other rate base assets, due to the ongoing lag in**

173 **time between when costs are incurred and payment is received.” He**  
174 **further testifies that the cash working capital component of rate base is**  
175 **supported by a lead-lag study and is recognized as a year-round, long-term**  
176 **investment that must be supported on a permanent basis.<sup>6</sup> Please**  
177 **respond.**

178 A. The cash working capital balance included in rate base is represented by a single  
179 amount, an average, which masks the highly seasonal pattern of its various  
180 components, such as accounts receivable. For the year 2009, the monthly  
181 forecasted balance of customer accounts receivable varies from a high of  
182 \$634,638,000 in March 2009 to a low of \$185,829,000 in August 2009. The  
183 thirteen month average of customer accounts receivable for December 2008  
184 through December 2009 is \$391,980,000<sup>7</sup>, which nearly equals the operating  
185 revenue lag component of the cash working capital requirement of  
186 \$391,001,683.<sup>8</sup> Hence, the number behind the operating revenue lag is highly  
187 seasonal, prompting the need for a seasonal source of capital, short-term debt.

188 Working capital creates a seasonal need for additional cash, which Nicor Gas  
189 satisfies by issuing short-term debt. Short-term debt is added to the pool of  
190 funds available to the Company, which then enables the Company to fund its  
191 working capital requirements.<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Co. Ex. 24.0, p. 17.

<sup>7</sup> Co. response to Staff DR JF 4.04, Exhibit 1.

<sup>8</sup> Co. Ex. 23.1.

<sup>9</sup> Note that a short-term debt issuance that “enables” a company to fund working capital requirements does not mean that the cash raised through that short-term debt issuance is necessarily used to purchase working capital. Rather, short-term debt fills the company’s pool of funds until it is large enough to purchase working capital.

192 **Q. Please respond to Mr. Ruschau’s insinuation that you imputed a capital**  
193 **structure for Nicor Gas.<sup>10</sup>**

194 A. “Impute” in the context of capital structure means to assign, specifically,  
195 assigning a hypothetical capital structure to Nicor Gas. Capital structures could  
196 be imputed for different reasons: (1) the utility does not have its own capital  
197 structure (e.g., the utility is a division of a larger company); (2) affiliates hold all  
198 the utility’s capital, which makes distinctions between debt and equity financially  
199 meaningless; (3) the capital structure is unreasonably expensive; or (4) the  
200 capital structure does not meet other legal requirements. I did not assign a  
201 hypothetical capital structure to Nicor Gas. I did not increase any of the  
202 components of Nicor Gas’ capital structure above its own forecast on the  
203 grounds that Nicor Gas should increase its use of a particular component. I did  
204 not decrease any of the components of Nicor Gas’ capital structure below its own  
205 forecast on the grounds that Nicor Gas should decrease its use of a particular  
206 component. To the contrary, I did not alter any of the components of Nicor Gas’  
207 own capital structure forecast. One could as validly argue that Mr. Ruschau’s  
208 proposed capital structure is imputed since it fails to include short-term debt that  
209 the Company relies on to meet the capital funding levels needed to support the  
210 seasonal increases in its rate base. In reality, whether a proposal to include the  
211 Company’s own forecast of its balance of short-term debt or alternatively to  
212 exclude the Company’s own forecast of its balance of short-term debt results in  
213 an “imputed” capital structure is an unnecessary distraction from the core issue:

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<sup>10</sup> Co. Ex. 24.0, p. 8.

214 whether the Company uses the proceeds from its issuances of short-term debt to  
215 support the seasonal increases in its rate base.

216 **Q. Mr. Ruschau claims that including short-term debt in the capital structure**  
217 **for ratemaking purposes would result in a dramatically more levered capital**  
218 **structure and introduce a new element of variability into the Company's**  
219 **earnings and rate of return and could degrade Nicor Gas' credit profile.<sup>11</sup>**  
220 **He also claims that use of Staff's capital structure would further impair the**  
221 **Company's ability to earn its authorized return.<sup>12</sup> Please respond.**

222 A. Mr. Ruschau's position is incorrect and misleading. The Company's extensive  
223 reliance on short-term debt, not the inclusion of that variable cost in its capital  
224 structure, is the source of variability in its earnings. The interest rates the  
225 Company pays on its short-term debt will vary regardless of whether or not the  
226 Commission includes that short-term debt in the capital structure it adopts for  
227 setting the Company's authorized rate of return on rate base. The only  
228 difference between the Company's rate of return proposal and Staff's is that by  
229 excluding short-term debt from the capital structure, the Company is  
230 incorporating "cushion" in its requested rate of return. That is, the Company  
231 requests an authorized rate of return that exceeds its cost of capital. In the  
232 Company's own proposal, it would have its customers pay the higher costs of  
233 long-term debt and common equity capital to cover its lower short-term debt  
234 costs. Of course, the higher a utility's rates are relative to its costs, the lower the  
235 risk it will default on its obligations to its debt investors, that is, the lower the risk

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<sup>11</sup> Co. Ex. 24.0, pp. 20-21.

<sup>12</sup> Co. Ex, 24.0, p. 16.

236 it will fail to meet its required rate of return. However, rate regulation should not  
237 have lowest possible risk to utility investors as its sole objective – that would only  
238 lead to unnecessarily high rates. Rather, rate regulation should seek to establish  
239 rates that compensate the company and its investors for its reasonable costs,  
240 including a reasonable rate of return on investment. Staff proposes to include  
241 short-term debt in the capital structure in order to accurately reflect the cost of  
242 capital to apply to rate base. If the Company truly believed its exposure to the  
243 variable cost of short-term debt was not manageable, it would have reduced its  
244 use of short-term debt. However, given that the Company continues to utilize  
245 short-term debt to support its operations, its rates should include that cost of  
246 capital.

247 Mr. Ruschau's claim that inclusion of short-term debt in the ratemaking capital  
248 structure would impair the Company's ability to earn its authorized return is  
249 wrong. It is an uncontested fact that the Company uses short-term debt.  
250 Whether or not the Commission includes that short-term debt in the capital  
251 structure will not hurt the Company's ability to earn its authorized return as much  
252 as changes to the interest rates it must pay on that short-term debt would. That  
253 is, if short-term interest rates were to rise after this rate case concludes, the  
254 Company must make higher interest payments on its short-term debt borrowings  
255 (thus impairing its ability to earn its authorized return) regardless of whether the  
256 Commission appropriately included short-term debt in the Company's capital  
257 structure. The Company's solution to that exposure to interest rate risk is to  
258 charge its customers a rate of return on rate base that exceeds its cost of capital.

259 That solution is clearly unfair to ratepayers and would result in unjust and  
260 unreasonable rates.

261 **Q. Mr. Ruschau states that rate base is not required to equal capitalization.<sup>13</sup>**  
262 **Do you agree?**

263 A. Because some balance sheet items are excluded from rate base by practice or  
264 law and others are measured using different techniques,<sup>14</sup> I agree that rate base  
265 and capitalization are not required to equal. Nevertheless, it is a basic finance  
266 tenet that all assets must have a source of funding. Therefore, a large  
267 discrepancy between rate base and capitalization proposals merits investigation  
268 because it could indicate a deficiency in either that rate base or capital structure  
269 or both. The Company has refused to perform an investigation into its rate base  
270 and capital structure discrepancy. In my investigation of this difference, I found  
271 that the balances of some of the components of the Company's rate base  
272 proposal fluctuate with the seasons and that fluctuation is highly correlated with  
273 fluctuations in the Company's balance of short-term debt. Thus, I conclude that  
274 the large difference between the Company's rate base and capital structure  
275 proposals is at least in part due to the Company's exclusion of short-term debt  
276 from its proposed capital structure.

277 **Q. Mr. Ruschau claims that even if short-term debt were included in the capital**  
278 **structure, your adjustments to the other components of Nicor Gas' capital**

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<sup>13</sup> Co. Ex. 24.0, pp. 14-15.

<sup>14</sup> For example, the Company measured the average balance of plant for 2009 from beginning and ending year balances, measured the average balance of materials and supplies using a 13-month average, and measured cash working capital using a lead-lag study.

279 **structure based on the calculation of AFUDC balances are improper.**<sup>15</sup>

280 **Please respond.**<sup>16</sup>

281 A. Mr. Ruschau argues that CWIP accruing AFUDC may have been funded by  
282 sources of cash other than permanent capital. This argument ignores the  
283 Commission's formula for calculating CWIP accruing AFUDC as set forth in the  
284 *Uniform System of Accounts for Gas Utilities Operating in Illinois*.<sup>17</sup> While I agree  
285 that from a theoretical finance perspective one cannot identify the specific source  
286 of funds that was used to pay the cost of CWIP, the Commission's formula for  
287 calculating AFUDC (i.e., the cost of financing CWIP) assumes short-term debt is  
288 the *first* source of funds financing CWIP. That formula also assumes that any  
289 CWIP not funded by short-term debt is funded proportionally by the remaining  
290 sources of capital (i.e., long-term debt, preferred stock, and common equity).  
291 Thus, the portions of long-term debt, preferred stock and common equity that the  
292 AFUDC formula assumes is financing CWIP should be removed from the capital  
293 structure to avoid double counting. The Company forecasts a higher balance of  
294 CWIP accruing AFUDC than short-term debt during the months of April, May,  
295 and June of 2009. Hence, the remaining balance of CWIP accruing AFUDC was  
296 properly allocated on the basis of the proportion of total long-term capital that  
297 each long-term capital component represents.

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<sup>15</sup> Co. Ex. 24.0, p. 26.

<sup>16</sup> Mr. Ruschau confuses AFUDC with CWIP accruing AFUDC, which is the portion of CWIP on which a utility records financing costs. CWIP, as an asset, is financed with capital. AFUDC represents the dollar cost of that capital. For the purpose of this discussion, I will use the correct term, "CWIP accruing AFUDC."

<sup>17</sup> 83 Ill. Adm. Code 505, Uniform System of Accounts for Gas Utilities, effective August 1, 2007.

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**Cost of Short-term Debt**

299 **Q. What is Nicor Gas' cost of short-term debt?**

300 A. Nicor Gas' cost of short-term debt is 2.50%, including bank commitment fees. As  
301 noted by Mr. Ruschau, I did not include bank commitment fees in my calculation  
302 of the Company's cost of short-term debt of 2.09%, which I presented in my  
303 direct testimony.<sup>18</sup> From the \$600,000,000 five-year Senior Credit Facility  
304 established in September 2005 and the \$600,000,000 9-month Senior Credit  
305 Facility established in August 2008 and the associated fee letters,<sup>19</sup> I estimated  
306 the bank commitment fees required to maintain the bank lines of credit that  
307 supports the Company's commercial paper program.

308 The \$600,000,000 five-year Senior Credit Facility established in September 2005  
309 is shared with Nicor Inc., which has a borrowing sub-limit of \$300 million:  
310 therefore, I allocated half of the fees to Nicor Gas. I included 50% of the  
311 \$300,000 arrangement fees, the \$300,000 upfront fees, and the \$12,500 annual  
312 administration fee charged by the joint-lead arrangers of the credit facility. Since  
313 the arrangement and upfront fees are one-time fees, I annualized the amounts  
314 over the 5-year period for which the credit facility is effective. I also estimated  
315 \$195,000 in annual facility fees charged to Nicor Gas in accordance with the  
316 provisions of the agreement.

317 For the \$600,000,000 9-month Senior Credit Facility, I included the \$200,000  
318 arrangement fees, the \$300,000 upfront fees, and the \$15,000 administration fee

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<sup>18</sup> Co. Ex. 24.0, p. 25.

<sup>19</sup> Co. Response to Staff DRs JF 5.05 and JF 5.03 Supplemental.

319 charged by the joint-lead arrangers. I also estimated \$420,000 in facility fees  
320 charged to Nicor Gas in accordance with the provisions of the agreement.

321 I determined that approximately \$1.2 million in fees should be included in the  
322 cost of short-term debt. I divided that amount by the average balance of total  
323 short-term debt outstanding, \$306,200,000,<sup>20</sup> to derive the 41 basis point  
324 increase to my estimate of the Company's cost of short-term debt (2.09% +  
325 0.41% = 2.50%).

#### 326 **RATE OF RETURN ON RATE BASE**

327 **Q. What is your recommended rate of return on rate base for Nicor Gas?**

328 A. I recommend a 7.35% rate of return on Nicor Gas' rate base. This rate of return  
329 incorporates the 9.68% rate of return Staff witness Sheena Kight-Garlich  
330 recommends for Nicor Gas' common equity. The rate of return I recommend on  
331 Nicor Gas' rate base is shown on Schedule 18.1.

332 **Q. Does this conclude your direct testimony?**

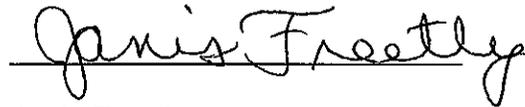
333 A. Yes, it does.

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<sup>20</sup> This figure represents total short-term debt (i.e., before allocation of a portion of short-term debt to CWIP accruing AFUDC) since the credit facilities support all commercial paper Nicor Gas issues.

## VERIFICATION

I, Janis Freetly, being first duly sworn, depose and state that I am a Senior Financial Analyst in the Finance Department of the Financial Analysis Division of the Illinois Commerce Commission; that I sponsor the foregoing Rebuttal Testimony of Janis Freetly; that I have personal knowledge of the information stated in the foregoing Rebuttal Testimony; and that such information is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.



Janis Freetly  
Senior Financial Analyst  
Illinois Commerce Commission

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
this 23rd day of October, 2008.

  
Notary Public

**Nicor Gas Company**

Weighted Average Cost of Capital  
 Average 2009

**Staff Proposal**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent of Total Capital</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Weighted Cost</u>
Short-term Debt	\$257,571,734	18.32%	2.50%	0.4580%
Long-term Debt	\$495,195,694	35.22%	6.80%	2.40%
Preferred Stock	\$1,386,144	0.10%	4.77%	0.00%
Common Equity	<u>\$651,818,845</u>	<u>46.36%</u>	9.68%	<u>4.49%</u>
Total Capital	\$1,405,972,416	100.00%		
<b>Weighted Average Cost of Capital</b>				<b>7.35%</b>

**Company Proposal**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Percent of Total Capital</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Weighted Cost</u>
Long-term Debt	<u>\$498,452,000</u>	43.11%	6.80%	2.93%
Preferred Stock	\$1,401,000	0.12%	4.77%	0.01%
Common Equity	<u>\$656,406,000</u>	<u>56.77%</u>	11.15%	<u>6.33%</u>
Total Capital	\$1,156,259,000	100.00%		
<b>Weighted Average Cost of Capital</b>				<b>9.27%</b>

**Nicor Gas Company**

Balance of Short-term Debt  
 December 31, 2009

Date (A)	Gross Short-term Debt Outstanding (B)	CWIP (C)	CWIP Accruing AFUDC (D)	Net Short-term Debt Outstanding (E)	Monthly Average (F)	Remaining CWIP Accruing AFUDC (G)	Monthly Average (H)
Dec-08	\$ 676,300,000	\$ 25,669,489	\$ 18,463,799	\$ 656,891,200			
Jan-09	\$ 355,000,000	\$ 26,664,990	\$ 19,408,800	\$ 334,653,970	\$ 495,772,585	\$ -	
Feb-09	\$ 194,700,000	\$ 27,652,720	\$ 20,346,030	\$ 172,023,750	\$ 253,338,860	\$ -	\$ -
Mar-09	\$ 96,300,000	\$ 30,083,940	\$ 22,676,250	\$ 70,893,287	\$ 121,458,519	\$ -	\$ -
Apr-09	\$ -	\$ 32,965,903	\$ 25,406,713	\$ -	\$ 35,446,644	\$ 25,406,713	\$ 12,703,357
May-09	\$ -	\$ 36,121,066	\$ 28,410,376	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,410,376	\$ 26,908,545
Jun-09	\$ -	\$ 43,087,901	\$ 35,074,211	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 35,074,211	\$ 31,742,294
Jul-09	\$ 87,000,000	\$ 47,198,816	\$ 38,882,126	\$ 44,570,099	\$ 22,285,050	\$ -	\$ 17,537,106
Aug-09	\$ 253,900,000	\$ 51,049,591	\$ 42,429,901	\$ 206,657,213	\$ 125,613,656	\$ -	\$ -
Sep-09	\$ 432,900,000	\$ 56,165,477	\$ 47,242,787	\$ 382,716,979	\$ 294,687,096	\$ -	\$ -
Oct-09	\$ 587,100,000	\$ 59,408,711	\$ 50,183,021	\$ 583,613,703	\$ 483,165,341	\$ -	\$ -
Nov-09	\$ 674,100,000	\$ 12,913,987	\$ 3,486,297	\$ 655,636,201	\$ 619,624,952	\$ -	\$ -
Dec-09	\$ 623,300,000	\$ 9,488,290	\$ 18,463,799	\$ 623,300,000	\$ 639,468,101	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$306,200,000</b>				<b>\$ 257,571,734</b>		<b>\$ 8,081,027</b>

Notes: Column (E) = the greater of [Column (B) - Column (C)] or [Column (B) - Column (B) / Column (C) \* Column (D)]  
 Column (G) = Column (D) - [Column (B) - Column (E)]