

BEFORE THE
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION

KANSAS GAS SERVICE
A DIVISION OF ONE GAS, INC.

DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
BRUCE H. FAIRCHILD

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DIRECT TESTIMONY OF BRUCE H. FAIRCHILD

I. INTRODUCTION

1 Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

2 A. Bruce H. Fairchild, 3907 Red River, Austin, Texas 78751.

3 Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND IN WHAT POSITION.

4 A. I am a principal in Financial Concepts and Applications, Inc. (FINCAP), a firm
5 engaged in financial, economic, and policy consulting to business and govern-
6 ment.

A. Qualifications

7 Q. DESCRIBE YOUR EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, PROFESSIONAL
8 QUALIFICATIONS, AND PRIOR EXPERIENCE.

9 A. I hold a BBA degree from Southern Methodist University and MBA and PhD de-
10 grees from the University of Texas at Austin. I am also a Certified Public Ac-
11 countant. My previous employment includes working in the Controller's Depart-
12 ment at Sears, Roebuck and Company and serving as Assistant Director of Eco-
13 nomic Research at the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("PUCT"). I have also
14 been on the business school faculties at the University of Colorado at Boulder and
15 the University of Texas at Austin, where I taught undergraduate and graduate
16 courses in finance and accounting.

1 **Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR EXPERIENCE IN UTILITY-RELATED**
2 **MATTERS.**

3 A. While at the PUCT, I assisted in managing a division comprised of approximately
4 twenty-five professionals responsible for financial analysis, cost allocation and
5 rate design, economic and financial research, and data processing systems. I testi-
6 fied on behalf of the PUCT staff in numerous cases involving most major inves-
7 tor-owned and cooperative electric, telephone, and water/sewer utilities in the
8 state regarding a variety of financial, accounting, and economic issues. Since
9 forming FINCAP in 1979, I have participated in a wide range of analytical as-
10 signments involving utility-related matters on behalf of utilities, industrial con-
11 sumers, municipalities, and regulatory commissions. I have also prepared and
12 presented expert testimony before a number of regulatory authorities addressing
13 revenue requirements, cost allocation, and rate design issues for gas, electric, tel-
14 ephone, and water/sewer utilities. I have been a frequent speaker at regulatory
15 conferences and seminars and have published research concerning various regula-
16 tory issues. A resume that contains the details of my experience and qualifications
17 is attached as Appendix A, with Appendix B listing my prior testimony before
18 regulatory agencies since leaving the PUCT.

B. Overview

19 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

20 A. The purpose of my testimony is to develop a fair rate of return on equity (“ROE”)
21 for Kansas Gas Service (“KGS”), a division of ONE Gas, Inc. (“ONE Gas”).

1 **Q. WHAT IS THE ROLE OF ROE IN SETTING A UTILITY'S RATES?**

2 A. The ROE included in a utility's overall rate of return serves to compensate share-
3 holders for the use of their capital to finance the plant and equipment necessary to
4 provide utility service to customers. Investors only commit money in anticipation
5 of earning a return on their investment commensurate with that from other in-
6 vestment alternatives having comparable risks. Consistent with both sound regu-
7 latory economics and the standards specified in the U.S. Supreme Court cases of
8 *Bluefield Water Works & Improvement Co. (1923)*¹ and *Hope Natural Gas Co.*
9 *(1944)*², rates should provide the utility a reasonable opportunity to earn a rate of
10 return sufficient to: 1) fairly compensate capital presently invested in the utility,
11 2) enable the utility to offer a return adequate to attract new capital on reasonable
12 terms, and 3) maintain the utility's financial integrity.

13 **Q. IN GENERAL, HOW HAVE YOU DEVELOPED YOUR**
14 **RECOMMENDED ROE RANGE FOR KGS?**

15 A. My evaluation begins with a brief review of the operations and finances of KGS
16 and general conditions in the natural gas industry and capital markets, including a
17 discussion of the actions the Federal Reserve Board ("Fed") took in the aftermath
18 of the financial crisis and Great Recession. With this background, I next develop
19 the principles underlying the cost of equity concept and conduct various quantita-
20 tive analyses to estimate a cost of equity range for KGS. These analyses include
21 applications of the discounted cash flow ("DCF") model, capital asset pricing

¹ *Bluefield Water Works & Improvement Company v. Public Service Commission of West Virginia*, 262 U.S. 679, 692-3, 43 S.Ct. 675, 679 (1923).

² *Federal Power Commission v. Hope Natural Gas Company*, 320 U.S. 591, 603, 64 S.Ct. 281, 288 (1944).

1 model (“CAPM”), risk premium method, and comparable earnings method to de-
2 velop a cost of equity range, from which an ROE for KGS is selected.

C. Summary of Conclusions

3 **Q. PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE CONCLUSIONS OF YOUR TESTIMONY.**

4 A. Application of the DCF model to a proxy group of publicly traded local natural
5 gas distribution companies (“LDCs”) indicates a cost of equity range of between
6 approximately 8.5% and 9.5%, and two applications of the CAPM to the proxy
7 group produce cost of equity estimates of 9.4% and 10.5%. Meanwhile, the risk
8 premium method based on the authorized ROEs for LDCs and current interest
9 rates indicates a cost of equity of between 9.5% and 9.7%, with the comparable
10 earnings method showing that other LDCs are expected to earn between 10.5%
11 and 11.2% on their book equity. Taken together, I conclude that investors current-
12 ly require a return on equity from the LDC industry group in the 9.5% to 10.5%
13 range.

14 **Q. WHAT ROE IS KGS REQUESTING?**

15 A. The outlook for higher capital costs as the Federal Reserve (“Fed”) normalizes its
16 monetary policies implies that the ROE for KGS should be selected from the up-
17 per end of the cost of equity range. However, KGS has elected to request an ROE
18 from the middle of my 9.5% to 10.5% cost of equity range, or 10.0%. I demon-
19 strate the reasonableness of this ROE by comparing KGS’s requested rate of re-
20 turn in this case to those agreed to in recent settlements reached by other ONE
21 Gas divisions in rate cases in Oklahoma and Texas.

II. FUNDAMENTAL ANALYSIS

1 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

2 A. As a predicate to subsequent quantitative analyses, this section briefly reviews the
3 operations and finances of KGS and ONE Gas. It also examines the natural gas
4 distribution industry along with current conditions in the capital markets and the
5 U.S. economy.

A. Kansas Gas Service

6 **Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE KGS.**

7 A. KGS is the operating division of ONE Gas that distributes natural gas to approxi-
8 mately two-thirds of the market in Kansas, including the cities of Kansas City,
9 Overland Park, Topeka, and Wichita. At December 31, 2015, KGS had total as-
10 sets of approximately \$1.36 billion, with revenues for the previous twelve months
11 being \$533.4 million.

12 **Q. BRIEFLY DESCRIBE ONE GAS.**

13 A. ONE Gas is the largest natural gas distributor in Oklahoma and Kansas, and the
14 third largest in Texas, serving a total of over 2.1 million customers. ONE Gas was
15 created when ONEOK spun off its natural gas distribution operations into a sepa-
16 rate entity on January 31, 2014. At December 31, 2015, ONE Gas had total assets
17 of approximately \$4.64 billion, with revenues during 2015 totaling more than
18 \$1.54 billion. ONE Gas's common stock is traded on the New York Stock Ex-
19 change and its debt is rated A- by Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC
20 ("S&P") and A2 by Moody's Investors Services, Inc. ("Moody's").

B. Natural Gas Distribution Industry

1 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION INDUSTRY.**

2 A. Natural gas local distribution companies (“LDCs”) normally transport, deliver,
3 and sell natural gas from receipt points on inter- and intrastate pipelines to house-
4 holds and businesses. LDCs often have an exclusive right to operate in a speci-
5 fied geographic area, with their rates and operations being subject to the jurisdic-
6 tion of state or local regulatory authorities. Historically, LDCs provided only
7 “bundled” service, which included the transportation, distribution, and natural gas
8 itself, although some now allow customers to choose their own gas supplier, with
9 the LDC providing the delivery and service of that gas. Structural changes, which
10 have occurred on both the demand and supply sides, have eroded the traditional
11 monopoly status of many gas utilities, with LDCs experiencing "bypass" as large
12 commercial and industrial customers seek to acquire gas supplies at the lowest
13 possible prices and, in the process, abandon traditional "full-service" utility sup-
14 pliers.

15 **Q. WHAT RISKS DO LDCS FACE THAT ARE OF CONCERN TO**
16 **INVESTORS?**

17 A. LDCs face a variety of market, operating, capital-related, and regulatory risks.
18 The natural gas business is increasingly competitive and complex, with LDCs
19 having to vie with electric companies, oil and propane suppliers, and, in some
20 cases, energy marketers and trading companies. Moreover, past volatility in natu-
21 ral gas prices may negatively impact customers’ perception of natural gas. The
22 demand for natural gas is highly weather sensitive (due both to normal variations

1 and severe conditions) and seasonal, with energy efficiency and technological ad-
2 vances adversely affecting growth over time, especially in the residential sector.
3 The financial results of LDCs are heavily dependent on general economic condi-
4 tions, not only in terms of the overall activity of businesses, but also in the growth
5 of households and use per customer.

6 With respect to operations, gas distribution inherently involves a variety of
7 hazards and operating risks, including leaks, accidents, and third-party damages.
8 Many LDCs are faced with substantial known and unknown environmental costs
9 (*e.g.*, clean-up of manufactured gas plant sites and pipeline integrity testing). In-
10 flation and other increases could adversely impact LDCs' ability to control operat-
11 ing expenses and costs, and interruptions in gas supply, strikes, natural disasters,
12 security breaches, and terrorist activities could disrupt or shutdown operations.
13 Finally, most LDCs are involved in ongoing legal or administrative proceedings
14 before courts and governmental bodies related to a variety of matters (*e.g.*, gen-
15 eral claims, taxes, environmental issues, billing, and credit and collection mat-
16 ters), which could result in detrimental outcomes.

17 **Q. PLEASE ELABORATE ON THE CAPITAL AND REGULATORY RISKS**
18 **FACED BY LDCS.**

19 A. Regarding capital-related risks, virtually all LDCs are facing significant infra-
20 structure improvements to meet customer service requirements and improve sys-
21 tem reliability, as well as satisfy a number of government-mandated safety initia-
22 tives. The ability of LDCs to fund these and other capital expenditures is affected
23 by a variety of factors, including regulatory decisions, maintenance of a sufficient

1 bond rating, capital market conditions (*e.g.*, interest rates), and availability of
2 credit facilities and access to capital markets. In addition, LDCs' ability to retain
3 and attract capital is subject to changes in state and federal tax laws and account-
4 ing standards, which could adversely affect their cash flows and financial condi-
5 tion.

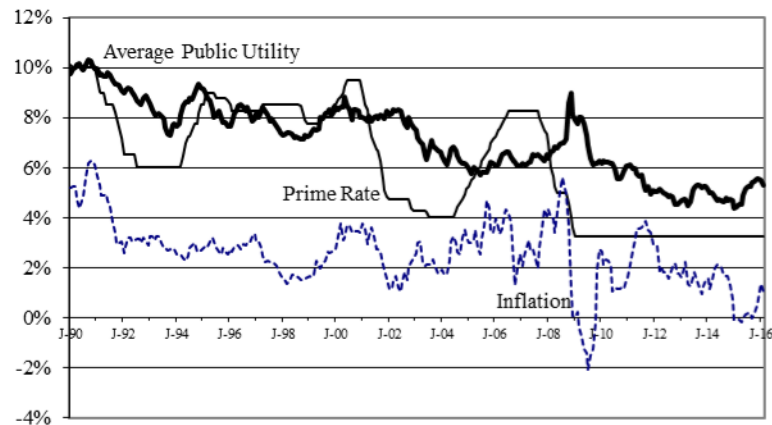
6 Finally, because most aspects of an LDC's operations (*e.g.*, rates; operat-
7 ing terms and conditions of service; types of services offered; construction of new
8 facilities; the integrity, safety, and security of facilities and operations; acquisition,
9 extension, or abandonment of services or facilities; reporting and information
10 posting requirements; maintenance of accounts and records; and relationships
11 with affiliate companies) are subject to government oversight, investors are un-
12 derstandably concerned with rate, safety, and environmental regulation. Potential
13 changes in laws, regulations, and policies, as well as the inherent uncertainty sur-
14 rounding regulatory decisions, all represent significant risks to LDCs.

C. Capital Markets

15 **Q. WHAT HAS BEEN THE PATTERN OF INTEREST RATES OVER THE**
16 **LAST TWO DECADES?**

17 A. Average long-term public utility bond rates, the borrowing prime rate, and infla-
18 tion as measured by the Consumer Price Index ("CPI") since 1990 are plotted in
19 the graph below. After rising to approximately 10 percent in mid-1990, the aver-
20 age yield on long-term public utility bonds generally fell because of monetary and
21 fiscal policies designed to keep the economy growing. This ended abruptly with
22 the 2008 financial market meltdown and global recession. Investors became ex-

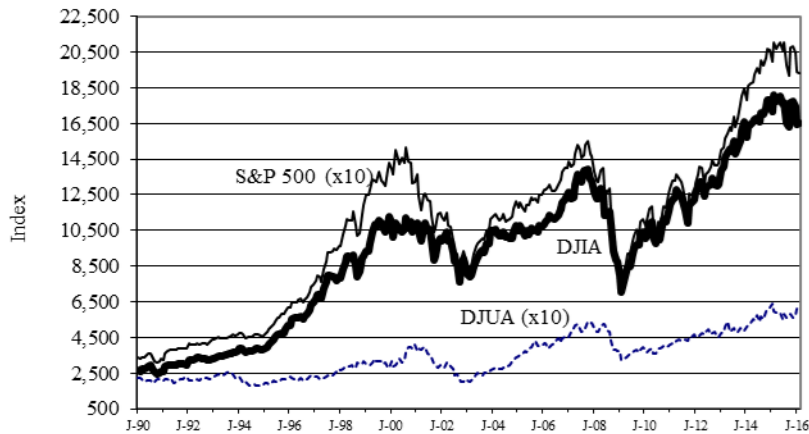
1 ceedingly risk averse, causing interest rates on corporate bonds to spike, while
2 government policies pushed down short-term interest rates and depressed eco-
3 nomic conditions and lower energy prices reduced inflation. Since that time, vari-
4 ous actions by the Fed to stimulate the economy through easy-money policies re-
5 sulted in short- and long-term interest rates reaching record low levels:



Q. HOW HAS THE MARKET FOR COMMON EQUITY CAPITAL PERFORMED OVER THIS SAME PERIOD?

6 A. Between 1990 and early 2000, stock prices pushed steadily higher as the longest
7 bull market in United States history continued unabated. In mid-2000, mounting
8 concerns over prospects for future growth, particularly for firms in the high tech-
9 nology and telecommunications sectors, pushed equity prices lower, in some cas-
10 es precipitously. Common stock prices generally recovered and reached record
11 highs, buoyed in large part by widespread acquisition activity, until the capital
12 market crisis and global recession hit in 2008. Stock prices tumbled by some 40
13 percent, and although they have fully recovered, the market remains volatile, with
14 share values routinely changing in full percentage points during a single day's
15 trading. The graph below plots the performances of the Dow-Jones Industrial Av-

1 erage, the S&P 500, and the Dow Jones Utility Average since 1990 (the latter two
2 indices were scaled for comparability):



3 **Q. WHAT IS THE OUTLOOK FOR THE U.S. ECONOMY?**

4 A. While the U.S. economy appears to have largely recovered from the Great Reces-
5 sion, business and consumer spending remains cautious and economic activity is
6 guarded. To make capital available and to lower short- and long-term interest
7 rates, the Fed implemented extraordinary programs during and in the aftermath of
8 the financial crisis that began in 2007. These programs, which included reducing
9 the federal funds rate from 5.25% to effectively zero and purchasing some \$3.5
10 trillion in mortgage-backed and Treasury securities, are largely still in place. The
11 Fed has announced, however, that it intends to relax its easy-money practices and
12 return to more “normal” monetary policies, which are expected to result in in-
13 creased interest rates (e.g., in its most recent economic forecast, *The Value Line*
14 *Investment Survey* (“*Value Line*”) projects that interest rates on triple-A corporate
15 bonds will increase from their current level of 4.0% to 5.5% in 2017). Although
16 the Fed took the first step in this process in late 2015, it recently indicated that it
17 intends to implement the normalization of monetary policies cautiously. This

1 notwithstanding, persistent stock and bond price volatility provide tangible evi-
2 dence that the U.S. economy and capital markets continue to face considerable
3 uncertainty.

4 **Q. HOW DO THESE ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES AFFECT LDCS?**

5 A. Uncertainties over an economic recovery heighten the risks faced by LDCs,
6 which, as described earlier, face a variety of operating and financial challenges.
7 The capital markets continue to be in a state of turmoil, affecting both the availa-
8 bility and cost of debt and equity that utilities rely on to fund their capital spend-
9 ing requirements. The unprecedented federal deficit spending and government
10 borrowing following the Great Recession portend higher inflation over the long-
11 term and the Fed's monetary policy normalization implies higher capital costs,
12 both of which will place additional pressure on the adequacy of natural gas utili-
13 ties' existing rates. While the impact of the recent troubles in the European and
14 Asian economies is not clear, increasing globalization suggests that the U.S.
15 economy and capital market are not immune from overseas problems, which fur-
16 ther increases the risks faced by the natural gas industry, including LDCs.

III. COST OF EQUITY RANGE

17 **Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS SECTION OF YOUR TESTIMONY?**

18 A. The purpose of this section is to develop a cost of equity range for a proxy group
19 of LDCs having similar risk to KGS. It begins by introducing the cost of equity
20 concept, explaining the risk-return tradeoff principle fundamental to capital mar-
21 kets, and discussing the importance of using multiple approaches to estimate the
22 cost of equity. The DCF model is then developed and applied to a group of pub-

1 licly traded LDCs to estimate their current cost of equity. Next, the CAPM is de-
2 scribed and alternative cost of equity estimates developed using this method.
3 Cost of equity estimates are also developed using the risk premium method based
4 on ROE's previously authorized other LDCs, and a comparable earnings method
5 is applied. The results of these analyses are then combined to arrive at a current
6 cost of equity range for the proxy group of LDCs,

A. Cost of Equity Concept

7 **Q. HOW IS A RETURN ON COMMON EQUITY CUSTOMARILY**
8 **DETERMINED?**

9 A. Unlike debt capital, there is no contractually guaranteed return on common equity
10 capital, since shareholders are the residual owners of the utility. Nonetheless,
11 common equity investors still require a return on their investment, with the "cost
12 of equity" being the minimum rent that must be paid for the use of their money.

13 **Q. WHAT FUNDAMENTAL ECONOMIC PRINCIPLE UNDERLIES THIS**
14 **COST OF EQUITY CONCEPT?**

15 A. The cost of equity concept is predicated on the notion that investors are risk
16 averse and willingly accept additional risk only if they expect to be compensated
17 for bearing that risk. In capital markets where relatively risk-free assets are avail-
18 able, such as U.S. Treasury securities, investors can be induced to hold more risky
19 assets only if they are offered a premium, or additional return, above the rate of
20 return on a risk-free asset. Since all assets compete with each other for investors'
21 funds, riskier assets must yield a higher expected rate of return than less risky as-
22 sets in order for investors to be willing to hold them.

1 Given this risk-return tradeoff, the minimum required rate of return (k)
2 from an asset (i) can be generally expressed as:

3 $k_i = R_f + RP_i$

4 where: R_f = Risk-free rate of return; and
5 RP_i = Risk premium required to hold more risky asset i.

6 Thus, the minimum required rate of return for a particular asset at any point in
7 time is a function of: 1) the yield on risk-free assets, and 2) its relative risk, with
8 investors demanding correspondingly larger risk premiums for assets bearing
9 greater risk.

10 **Q. IS THERE EVIDENCE THAT THE RISK-RETURN TRADEOFF**
11 **PRINCIPLE ACTUALLY OPERATES IN THE CAPITAL MARKETS?**

12 A. Yes. The risk-return tradeoff can be readily documented in certain segments of
13 the capital markets where required rates of return can be directly inferred from
14 market data and generally accepted measures of risk exist. For example, bond
15 yields are reflective of investors' expected rates of return, and bond ratings are in-
16 dicative of the risk of fixed income securities. The observed yields on govern-
17 ment securities and bonds of various rating categories demonstrate that the
18 risk-return tradeoff does, in fact, exist in the capital markets.

19 To illustrate, average yields during February 2016 on 30-year U.S. Treas-
20 ury bonds and public utility bonds of different ratings reported by Moody's are
21 shown in the table below. As evidenced there, as risk increases (measured by
22 progressively lower bond ratings), the required rate of return (measured by yields)
23 rises accordingly. Also shown are the indicated risk premiums over long-term

1 government securities for the additional risk associated with each bond rating cat-
2 egory.

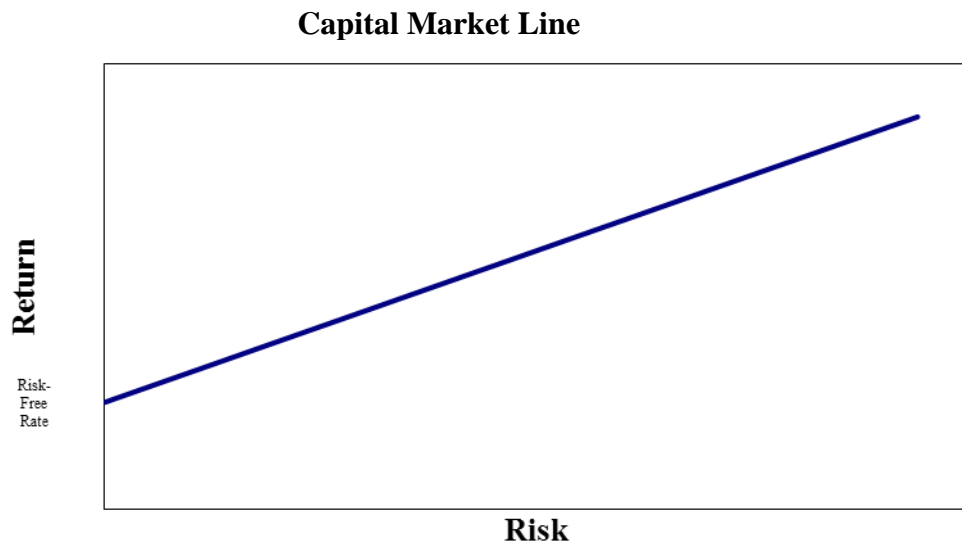
<u>Bond and Rating</u>	<u>February 2016 Yield</u>	<u>Risk Premium Over 30-Year Treasury</u>
U.S. Treasury 30-Year	2.62%	--
Public Utility Aa	3.94%	1.32%
A	4.11%	1.49%
Baa	5.28%	2.66%

3 **Q. DOES THE RISK-RETURN TRADEOFF OBSERVED WITH FIXED**
4 **INCOME SECURITIES EXTEND TO COMMON STOCKS AND OTHER**
5 **ASSETS?**

6 A. Documenting the risk-return tradeoff for assets other than fixed income securities
7 is complicated by two factors. First, there is no standard measure of risk applica-
8 ble to all assets. Second, for most assets (*e.g.*, common stock), required rates of
9 return cannot be directly observed. Yet there is every reason to believe that inves-
10 tors exhibit risk aversion in deciding whether to hold common stocks and other
11 assets, just as when choosing among fixed income securities. Accordingly, it is
12 generally accepted that the risk-return tradeoff evidenced with long-term debt ex-
13 tends to all assets.

14 The extension of the risk-return tradeoff from assets with observable re-
15 quired rates of return (*e.g.*, bonds) to other assets is represented by the concept of
16 a "capital market line." In particular, competition between securities and among
17 investors in the capital markets drives the prices of assets to equilibrium such that
18 the expected rate of return from each is commensurate with its risk. Thus, the ex-
19 pected rate of return from any asset is a risk-free rate of return plus a correspond-

1 ing risk premium. This concept of a capital market line is illustrated below. The
2 vertical axis represents required rates of return and the horizontal axis indicates
3 relative riskiness, with the intercept of the capital market line being the risk-free
4 rate of return.



5 **Q. IS THIS RISK-RETURN TRADEOFF LIMITED TO DIFFERENCES**
6 **BETWEEN FIRMS?**

7 A. No. The risk-return tradeoff principle applies not only to investments in different
8 firms, but also to different securities issued by the same firm. As discussed earlier,
9 the securities issued by a utility vary considerably in risk because they have
10 different characteristics and priorities. Long-term debt secured by a mortgage on
11 property is senior among all capital in its claim on a utility's net revenues and is,
12 therefore, the least risky because mortgage bondholders have a direct claim on the
13 utility's property. Following first mortgage bonds are other debt instruments also
14 holding contractual claims on the utility's net revenues, such as debentures. The
15 last investors in line are common shareholders. They only receive the net reve-

1 nues, if any, that remain after all other claimants have been paid. As a result, the
2 minimum rate of return that investors require from a utility's common stock, the
3 most junior and riskiest of its securities, must be considerably higher than the
4 yield offered by the utility's senior, long-term debt.

5 **Q. WHAT DOES THE ABOVE DISCUSSION IMPLY WITH RESPECT TO**
6 **ESTIMATING THE COST OF EQUITY FOR A UTILITY?**

7 A. Although the cost of equity cannot be observed directly, it is a function of the re-
8 turns available from other investment alternatives and the risks to which the equi-
9 ty capital is exposed. Because it is unobservable, the cost of equity for a particu-
10 lar utility must be estimated by analyzing information about capital market condi-
11 tions generally, assessing the relative risks of the utility specifically, and employ-
12 ing various quantitative methods that focus on investors' required rates of return.
13 These various quantitative methods typically attempt to infer investors' required
14 rates of return from stock prices, by extrapolating interest rates, or through an
15 analysis of other financial data.

16 **Q. DO YOU RELY ON A SINGLE METHOD TO ESTIMATE THE COST OF**
17 **EQUITY?**

18 A. No. Despite the theoretical appeal of or precedent for using a particular method
19 to estimate the cost of equity, no single approach can be regarded as wholly relia-
20 ble. Therefore, I use multiple methods to estimate the cost of equity. Indeed, it is
21 essential that estimates of investors' minimum required rate of return produced by
22 one method be compared with those produced by other methods, and that all cost

1 of equity estimates be required to pass fundamental tests of reasonableness and
2 economic logic.

B. Discounted Cash Flow Model

3 **Q. HOW ARE DCF MODELS USED TO ESTIMATE THE COST OF**
4 **EQUITY?**

5 A. The use of DCF models to estimate the cost of equity is essentially an attempt to
6 replicate the market valuation process which led to the price investors are willing
7 to pay for a share of a company's common stock. It is predicated on the assump-
8 tion that investors evaluate the risks and expected rates of return from all securi-
9 ties in the capital markets. Given these expected rates of return, the price of each
10 share of stock is adjusted by the market so that investors are adequately compen-
11 sated for the risks to which they are exposed. Therefore, we can look to the mar-
12 ket to determine what investors believe a share of common stock is worth, and by
13 estimating the cash flows they expect to receive from the stock in the way of fu-
14 ture dividends and stock price, their required rate of return can be mathematically
15 imputed. In other words, the cash flows that investors expect from a stock are es-
16 timated, and given the stock's current market price, we can "back-into" the dis-
17 count rate, or cost of equity, investors presumably used in arriving at that price.

1 **Q. WHAT MARKET VALUATION PROCESS UNDERLIES DCF MODELS?**

2 A. DCF models are derived from a theory of valuation which posits that the price of
3 a share of common stock is equal to the present value of the expected cash flows
4 (*i.e.*, future dividends and stock price) that will be received while holding the
5 stock, discounted at investors' required rate of return, or the cost of equity. Nota-
6 tionally, the general form of the DCF model is as follows:

7
$$P_0 = \frac{D_1}{(1 + K_e)^1} + \frac{D_2}{(1 + K_e)^2} + \dots + \frac{D_t}{(1 + K_e)^t} + \frac{P_t}{(1 + K_e)^t}$$

8 where: P_0 = Current price per share;
9 P_t = Future price per share in period t;
10 D_t = Expected dividend per share in period t;
11 K_e = Cost of equity.

12 **Q. HAS THIS GENERAL FORM OF THE DCF MODEL CUSTOMARILY**
13 **BEEN SIMPLIFIED FOR USE IN ESTIMATING THE COST OF EQUITY**
14 **IN RATE CASES?**

15 A. Yes. In an effort to reduce the number of required estimates and computational
16 difficulties, the general form of the DCF model has been simplified to a "constant
17 growth" form. In order to convert the general form of the DCF model to the con-
18 stant growth DCF model, a number of assumptions must be made. These include:

- 19 • A constant growth rate for both dividends and earnings;
20 • A stable dividend payout ratio;
21 • The discount rate exceeds the growth rate;
22 • A constant growth rate for book value and price;
23 • A constant earned rate of return on book value;
24 • No sales of stock at a price above or below book value;
25 • A constant price-earnings ratio;
26 • A constant discount rate (*i.e.*, no changes in risk or interest
27 rate levels and a flat yield curve); and
28 • All of the above extend to infinity.

1 Given these assumptions, the general form of the DCF model can be reduced to
2 the more manageable formula of:

$$3 \quad P_0 = \frac{D_1}{K_e - g}$$

4 where: g = Investors' long-term growth expectations.

5 The cost of equity ("K_e") can be isolated by rearranging terms:

$$6 \quad K_e = \frac{D_1}{P_0} + g$$

7 The constant growth form of the DCF model recognizes that the rate of return to
8 stockholders consists of two parts: 1) dividend yield (D_1/P_0), and 2) growth (g).

9 In other words, investors expect to receive a portion of their total return in the
10 form of current dividends and the remainder through price appreciation.

11 While the constant growth form of the DCF model provides a more man-
12 ageable formula to estimate the cost of equity, it is important to note that the as-
13 sumptions required to convert the general form of the DCF model to the constant
14 growth form are never strictly met in practice. In some instances, where earnings
15 are derived solely from stable activities and earnings, dividends, and book value
16 track fairly closely, the constant growth form of the DCF model may be a reason-
17 able working approximation of stock valuation. However, in other cases, where
18 the circumstances cause the required assumptions to be severely violated, the con-
19 stant growth DCF model may produce widely divergent and meaningless results.
20 This is especially the case if the firm's earnings or dividends are unstable, or if in-
21 vestors are expecting the stock price to be affected by factors other than earnings
22 and dividends.

1 **Q. HOW DID YOU ESTIMATE THE COST OF EQUITY USING THE DCF**
2 **MODEL?**

3 A. I applied the constant growth form of the DCF model to the proxy group of eight
4 publicly traded LDC. Beginning with the twelve companies included in *Value*
5 *Line's* Natural Gas Utility industry, I excluded those that are not predominantly
6 engaged in natural gas distribution (*i.e.*, NiSource, Inc. and UGI Corp.) and not in
7 the midst of a merger or acquisition (*i.e.*, AGL Resources and Piedmont Natural
8 Gas).

9 **Q. HOW IS THE CONSTANT GROWTH FORM OF THE DCF MODEL**
10 **TYPICALLY USED TO ESTIMATE THE COST OF EQUITY?**

11 A. The first step in implementing the constant growth DCF model is to determine the
12 expected dividend yield (D_1/P_0) for the firm in question. This is usually calculat-
13 ed based on an estimate of dividends to be paid in the coming year divided by the
14 current price of the stock.

15 **Q. HOW DID YOU CALCULATE THE DIVIDEND YIELD COMPONENT**
16 **OF THE CONSTANT GROWTH DCF MODEL FOR THE GAS UTILITY**
17 **GROUP?**

18 A. Because estimating the cost of equity using the DCF model is an attempt to repli-
19 cate how investors arrived at an observed stock price, all of its components should
20 be contemporaneous. Price, dividend, and growth data from different points in
21 time, or averaged over long time periods, violate the matching principle underly-
22 ing the DCF model. Therefore, dividend yield was calculated by dividing an es-
23 timate of dividends to be paid by each of the LDCs in the group over the next

1 twelve months, obtained from the index to *Value Line*'s March 4, 2016 edition, by
2 the average closing price of each firm's stock during the month of February 2016.
3 The expected dividends, representative price, and resulting dividend yield for
4 each of the eight gas utilities are displayed on Schedule BHF-1. As also shown
5 there, the average dividend yield for the industry group is 2.97%.

6 **Q. EXPLAIN HOW ESTIMATES OF INVESTORS' LONG-TERM GROWTH**
7 **EXPECTATIONS ARE CUSTOMARILY DEVELOPED FOR USE IN THE**
8 **CONSTANT GROWTH DCF MODEL.**

9 A. In constant growth DCF theory, earnings, dividends, book value, and market price
10 are all assumed to grow in lockstep, and the growth horizon of the DCF model is
11 infinite. But implementation of the DCF model is more than just a theoretical ex-
12 ercise; it is an effort to replicate the mechanism investors used to arrive at observ-
13 able stock prices. Therefore, the only "g" that matters in using the DCF model to
14 estimate the cost of equity is that which investors expect and have embodied in
15 current market prices.

16 **Q. WHAT DRIVES INVESTORS' GROWTH EXPECTATIONS?**

17 A. Trends in earnings, which ultimately support future dividends and share price,
18 play a pivotal role in determining investors' long-term growth expectations. Se-
19 curity analysts' growth forecasts are generally regarded as the closest single
20 measure of the expected long-term growth rate of the constant growth DCF mod-
21 el. While being primarily based on the outlook for a firm, they also reflect the
22 utility's historical experience and other factors considered by investors in forming
23 their long-term growth expectations. Moreover, various empirical studies have

1 found that security analysts' projections are a superior source of DCF growth
2 rates. The 5-year earnings growth projections by security analysts for each of the
3 eight gas utilities reported by *Value Line*, Thomson Reuters' *Institutional Brokers*
4 *Estimate System* ("I/B/E/S"), and *Zacks Investment Research* ("Zacks") are dis-
5 played on Schedule BHF-2, with the averages for the group being 5.9%, 5.3%,
6 and 5.7%, respectively. Also shown on Schedule BHF-2 are the 10-year and 5-
7 year historical earnings growth rates reported by *Value Line* for each of the eight
8 gas utilities, which average 5.9% and 4.6%, respectively.

9 **Q. HOW ELSE ARE INVESTOR EXPECTATIONS OF FUTURE**
10 **LONG-TERM GROWTH PROSPECTS FOR A FIRM OFTEN**
11 **ESTIMATED FOR USE IN THE CONSTANT GROWTH DCF MODEL?**

12 A. In DCF theory and practice, growth in book equity comes from the reinvestment
13 of earnings within the business and the effects of external financing. Accord-
14 ingly, conventional applications of the constant growth DCF model often examine
15 the relationships between variables that determine the "sustainable" growth at-
16 tributable to these two factors.

17 **Q. HOW IS A FIRM'S SUSTAINABLE GROWTH ESTIMATED?**

18 A. The sustainable growth rate is calculated by the formula:

$$19 \quad g = br + sv$$

20 where "b" is the expected earnings retention ratio (one minus the dividend payout
21 ratio), "r" is the expected rate of return earned on book equity, "s" is the percent
22 of common equity expected to be issued annually as new common stock, and "v"
23 is the equity accretion ratio. The "br" term represents the growth from reinvesting

1 earnings within the firm while the “sv” term represents the growth from external
2 financing. This external financing growth results because existing shareholders
3 share in a portion of any excess received from selling new shares at a price above
4 book value.

5 **Q. WHAT GROWTH RATE DOES THE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**
6 **METHOD SUGGEST FOR THE GAS UTILITY GROUP?**

7 A. The sustainable growth rate for each of the gas utilities in the industry group
8 based on *Value Line's* projections for 2019-2021 is developed in Schedule BHF-3.
9 As shown there, the sustainable growth method implies an average long-term
10 growth rate for the gas utility group of 7.4%.

11 **Q. WHAT ARE OTHER PROJECTED AND HISTORICAL GROWTH**
12 **RATES FOR THE INDUSTRY GROUP?**

13 A. Schedule BHF-4 displays *Value Line* projected growth rates and 10- and 5-year
14 historical growth rates in book value per share, dividends per share, and stock
15 price for each of the eight gas utilities in the industry group. The averages for the
16 LDC group range from 1.5% to 10.1%. Besides the fact that several of these
17 growth rates, when combined with the group's approximately 3.0% dividend
18 yield, imply implausible cost of equity estimates, the variation in these other
19 growth rates results in them providing limited guidance as to the prospective
20 growth that investors expect.

1 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR CONCLUSION AS TO THE GROWTH THAT**
2 **INVESTORS ARE EXPECTING FROM THE INDUSTRY GROUP?**

3 A. After excluding clearly unreliable indicators of growth, the plausible growth rates
4 shown on Schedules BHF-2, BHF-3, and BHF-4 indicate a range for the LDC
5 group of between approximately 5.0% and 7.0%. Taken together, I conclude that
6 investors expect long-term growth from the LDC group in the 5.5% to 6.5%
7 range.

8 **Q. WHAT CURRENT DCF COST OF EQUITY ESTIMATES DO THESE**
9 **GROWTH RATE RANGES IMPLY FOR THE GAS UTILITY GROUP?**

10 A. Summing the LDC group's average dividend yield of approximately 3.0% with a
11 5.5% to 6.5% growth rate range indicates a current DCF cost of equity for the in-
12 dustry group of between 8.5% and 9.5%.

C. Capital Asset Pricing Model

13 **Q. HOW ELSE DID YOU ESTIMATE THE COST OF EQUITY?**

14 A. The cost of equity to the gas utility group was also estimated using the CAPM,
15 which is a theory of market equilibrium that serves as the basis for current finan-
16 cial education and management. Under the CAPM, investors are assumed fully
17 diversified, so that the relevant risk of an individual asset (*e.g.*, common stock) is
18 its volatility relative to the market as a whole, which is measured using a "beta"
19 coefficient. Beta reflects the tendency of a stock's price to follow changes in the
20 market, with stocks having a beta less than 1.00 being considered less risky and
21 stocks with a beta greater than 1.00 being regarded as more risky. The CAPM is
22 mathematically expressed as:

1
$$R_j = R_f + \beta_j (R_m - R_f)$$

2 where: R_j = required rate of return for stock j;
3 R_f = risk-free interest rate;
4 R_m = expected return on the market portfolio; and
5 β_j = beta, or systematic risk, for stock j.

6 While the CAPM is not without controversy, it is routinely referenced in the fi-
7 nancial literature and regulatory proceedings, and firms' beta values are widely
8 reported.

9 **Q. HOW DID YOU APPLY THE CAPM?**

10 A. I applied the CAPM using two methods to determine the risk premium for the
11 market as a whole, or the $(R_m - R_f)$ term in the CAPM formula. The first was
12 based on historical rates of return and the second was based on forward-looking
13 estimates of investors' required rates of return. In both instances, the companies
14 included in the S&P 500 index were used as a proxy for the market portfolio and
15 the 30-year U.S. Treasury bond served as the risk-free investment.

16 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE FIRST METHOD BASED ON HISTORICAL**
17 **RATES OF RETURN.**

18 A. Under the historical rate of return approach, equity risk premiums are calculated
19 by first measuring the rate of return (including dividends and capital gains and
20 losses) actually realized on an investment in common stocks over historical time
21 periods. The historical return on bonds is then subtracted from that earned on
22 common stocks to measure equity risk premiums. Widely used in academia, the
23 historical rate of return approach is based on the assumption that, given a suffi-
24 ciently large number of observations over long historical periods, average market
25 rates of return will converge to investors' required rates of return. From a more

1 practical perspective, investors may base their expectations for the future on, or
2 may have come to expect that they will earn, rates of return corresponding to
3 those in the past.

4 **Q. WHAT IS THE MARKET RISK PREMIUM BASED ON HISTORICAL**
5 **RATES OF RETURN?**

6 A. Perhaps the most exhaustive study of historical rates of return, and the one most
7 frequently cited in regulatory proceedings, is that contained in Morningstar's
8 (formerly Ibbotson Associates) *Market Results for Stocks, Bonds, Bills and Infla-*
9 *tion*. In its most recent publication, Morningstar reports that the annual rate of re-
10 turn realized on the S&P 500 averaged 12.0% over the period 1926 through 2015,
11 while the annual average income rate of return on 30-year Treasury bonds over
12 this same period averaged 5.0%. Thus, the market risk premium based on histori-
13 cal average annual rates of return is 7.0%.

14 **Q. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE SECOND METHOD BASED ON FORWARD-**
15 **LOOKING REQUIRED RATES OF RETURN.**

16 A. Consistent with the CAPM being an expectational (*i.e.*, forward-looking) model,
17 the second method estimated the market risk premium using current indicators of
18 investors' required rates of return. For the market portfolio, the cost of equity was
19 estimated by applying the DCF model to the firms in the S&P 500 paying cash
20 dividends, with each firm's dividend yield and growth rate being weighted by its
21 proportionate share of total market value. The expected dividend yield for each
22 firm was obtained from *Value Line*, with the expected growth rate being based on
23 the earnings forecasts published for each firm by *Value Line*, *I/B/E/S*, and *Zacks*.

1 As shown in footnote (b) on Schedule BHF-5, summing the 2.67% expected divi-
2 dend yield for this market group, which is composed primarily of non-regulated
3 firms, with the average *Value Line*, *I/B/E/S*, and *Zacks* projected growth rate of
4 8.34% produces a required rate of return from the market portfolio (R_m) of
5 11.01%.

6 **Q. WHAT IS THE MARKET RISK PREMIUM BASED ON FORWARD-**
7 **LOOKING REQUIRED RATES OF RETURN?**

8 A. From the 11.01% required rate of return on the market portfolio, a market risk
9 premium is calculated by subtracting the average yield on 30-year Treasury bonds
10 during February 2016 of 2.62%. This produces a forward-looking market risk
11 premium of 8.39%.

12 **Q. WHAT IS THE NEXT STEP IN APPLYING THE CAPM?**

13 A. Having calculated market risk premiums of 7.00% and 8.39% using historical
14 rates of return and forward-looking rates of return, respectively, the next step is to
15 calculate specific risk premiums for the LDC industry group. This is done by
16 multiplying the alternative market risk premium estimates by the LDC group's
17 average beta of 0.76, calculated using firm betas obtained from *Value Line* and
18 shown on Schedule BHF-6, which produces current industry risk premiums of
19 5.29% and 6.35%.

20 **Q. WHAT ARE THE RESULTING THEORETICAL CAPM COST OF**
21 **EQUITY ESTIMATES FOR THE LDC GROUP?**

22 A. As developed in Schedule BHF-5, summing the industry risk premiums of 5.29%
23 and 6.35% with a risk-free interest rate equal to the February 2016 30-year Treas-

1 ury bond yield of 2.62% produces current theoretical CAPM cost of equity esti-
2 mates for the LDC industry group of 7.91% and 8.97%.

3 **Q. ARE THESE THEORETICAL CAPM COST OF EQUITY ESTIMATES**
4 **ACCURATE MEASURES OF INVESTORS' REQUIRED RATE OF**
5 **RETURN FROM THE GROUP OF LDCS?**

6 **A.** No. These cost of equity estimates are based on CAPM theory. However, as ex-
7 plained by Morningstar in its *2015 Classic Yearbook* edition of *Stocks, Bonds,*
8 *Bills and Inflation:*

9 One of the most remarkable discoveries of modern finance is that
10 of a relationship between company size and return. Historically on
11 average, small companies have higher returns than those of large
12 ones. ... The relationship between company size and return cuts
13 across the entire size spectrum; it is not restricted to the smallest
14 stocks. (page 99, footnote omitted)

15 In other words, in addition to the systematic risk measured by beta, investors' re-
16 quired rate of return depends on a firm's relative size. To account for this, Morn-
17 ingstar (now published by Duff & Phelps) has developed size premiums that need
18 to be added to the theoretical CAPM cost of equity estimates to account for the
19 level of a firm's market capitalization in determining the CAPM cost of equity.

20 **Q. WHAT ARE THE CURRENT CAPM COST OF EQUITY ESTIMATES**
21 **FOR THE LDC GROUP ONCE SIZE EFFECTS ARE TAKEN INTO**
22 **ACCOUNT?**

23 **A.** As shown on Schedule BHF-6, the average market capitalization of the LDC
24 group is \$2.909 billion. Based on Duff & Phelps most recent schedule of size
25 premiums, this means that the theoretical CAPM cost of equity estimates need to
26 be increased by 1.49% to account for the industry group's relatively smaller size.

1 As shown on Schedule BHF-5, increasing the theoretical CAPM cost of equity es-
2 timates for the LDC group by this size premium results in current CAPM cost of
3 equity estimates based on historical rates of return and forward-looking rates of
4 return of 9.40% and 10.46%, respectively.

D. Risk Premium Method

5 **Q. HOW ELSE DID YOU ESTIMATE THE COST OF EQUITY?**

6 A. I also estimated the cost of equity using a risk premium method based on ROEs
7 previously authorized LDCs by state regulatory commissions. The risk premium
8 method to estimate investors' required rate of return is an extension of the
9 risk-return tradeoff observed with bonds to common stocks. The cost of equity is
10 estimated by determining the additional return investors require to forego the rela-
11 tive safety of a bond and bear the greater risks associated with common stock, and
12 then adding this equity risk premium to the current yield on bonds.

13 **Q. GENERALLY DESCRIBE THE APPLICATION OF THE RISK
14 PREMIUM METHOD USING AUTHORIZED ROES.**

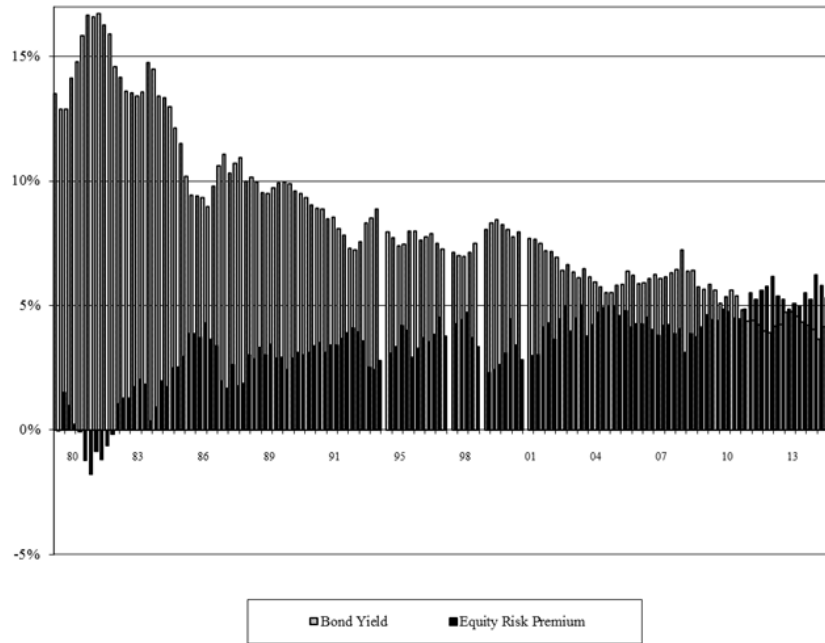
15 A. Application of the risk premium method based on authorized ROEs is predicated
16 on the presumption that allowed returns reflect regulatory commissions' best es-
17 timates of the cost of equity, however determined, at the time they issued their fi-
18 nal orders. A current risk premium is estimated based on the difference between
19 past authorized ROEs and then-prevailing interest rates. This risk premium is
20 then added to current interest rates to estimate the cost of equity.

1 **Q. WHAT WAS THE PRINCIPAL SOURCE OF THE DATA USED TO**
2 **APPLY THIS RISK PREMIUM METHOD?**

3 A. Regulatory Research Associates, Inc. (*RRA*) and its predecessor have compiled
4 the ROEs authorized major electric and gas utilities by regulatory commissions
5 across the U.S. The average ROE authorized natural gas utilities published by
6 *RRA* in each quarter between 1980 and 2015 are displayed in Schedule BHF-7.
7 As shown there, the ROEs granted LDCs over this approximately 36-year period
8 have averaged 11.78%, while the average single-A utility bond yield has averaged
9 8.38%, resulting in an average risk premium of 3.40%.

10 **Q. IS THIS 3.40% AVERAGE RISK PREMIUM THE RELEVANT**
11 **BENCHMARK FOR ESTIMATING THE COST OF EQUITY?**

A. No. It is necessary to account for the fact that authorized ROEs do not move in lockstep with interest rates. In particular, when interest rate levels are relatively high, ROEs tend to be lower (*i.e.*, equity risk premiums narrow), and when interest rates are relatively low, authorized ROEs are greater (*i.e.*, equity risk premiums increase). This inverse relationship can be observed in the data contained in Schedule 10, which is shown graphically below. As evident there, the higher the level of interest rates (shaded bars), the lower the equity risk premiums (the solid bars calculated as the difference between authorized ROEs and bond yields), and vice versa:



1 The implication of this inverse relationship is that for a one percent increase or
 2 decrease in interest rates, the cost of equity may only rise or fall, say, one-half of
 3 a percent, respectively.

4 **Q. HOW DID YOU ACCOUNT FOR THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN**
 5 **EQUITY RISK PREMIUMS AND INTEREST RATES IN ESTIMATING**
 6 **THE COST OF EQUITY FOR THE LDC GROUP USING PAST**
 7 **AUTHORIZED ROES?**

8 A. To account for the fact that equity risk premiums are lower when interest rates are
 9 high and higher when interest rates are low, I developed two regression equations
 10 relating authorized past equity risk premiums to single-A bond yields. The first
 11 was a simple linear regression between equity risk premiums and interest rates
 12 and the second equation adjusted for first order autocorrelation using the Prais-
 13 Winsten algorithm. Shown in the bottom portion of Schedule BHF-7, substituting

1 the February 2016 yield of 4.11% on single-A public utility bonds into the regres-
2 sion equations indicates that the equity risk premium for an LDC at current inter-
3 est rate levels is between approximately 5.38% and 5.58%.

4 **Q. WHAT CURRENT COST OF EQUITY DOES THIS RISK PREMIUM**
5 **IMPLY FOR THE GROUP OF LDCS?**

6 A. Adding the 5.38% and 5.58% equity risk premiums developed on Schedule BHF-
7 7 to the February 2016 yield on single-A utility bonds of 4.11% produces a cur-
8 rent risk premium cost of equity range of between 9.49% and 9.69%.

E. Comparable Earnings Method

9 **Q. WHAT IS THE LAST METHOD THAT YOU USED TO ESTIMATE THE**
10 **COST OF EQUITY?**

11 A. Often referred to as the comparable earnings method, this approach looks to the
12 rates of return that other firms of comparable risk and that compete for investors'
13 capital are expected to earn on their book equity. Reference to the expected re-
14 turn on book equity of other LDCs demonstrates the level of earnings that KGS
15 needs in order to offer investors a competitive return, be able to attract capital on
16 reasonable terms, and maintain its financial integrity.

17 **Q. WHAT RETURNS ON BOOK EQUITY ARE OTHER LDCS EXPECTED**
18 **TO EARN?**

19 A. Schedule BHF-8 displays the return on book equity projected for each of the eight
20 LDCs in the industry group for the 2016, 2017, and the 2019-2021 timeframes,
21 calculated by dividing *Value Line's* projected earnings per share by average book

1 value per share. As shown there, the average expected book ROE for the group is
2 10.5% in 2016, 10.8% for 2017, and 11.2% for 2019-2021.

IV. RECOMMENDED RETURN ON EQUITY

3 **Q. WHAT IS YOUR CONCLUSION AS TO THE CURRENT COST OF**
4 **EQUITY RANGE FOR LDCS?**

5 A. The DCF method indicates a cost of equity range for the LDC group of between
6 8.5% and 9.5%, while the CAPM indicates a cost of equity range of between ap-
7 proximately 9.4% and 10.5%. Meanwhile, the risk premium method based on the
8 authorized ROEs for LDCs and current interest rates indicates a cost of equity of
9 between 9.5% and 9.7%, and the comparable earnings method shows that other
10 LDCs are expected to earn between 10.5% and 11.2% on their book equity. Tak-
11 en together, I conclude that investors currently require a return on equity from the
12 LDC industry group in the 9.5% to 10.5% range.

13 **Q. WHAT ROE IS KGS REQUESTING?**

14 A. As discussed earlier, the Fed has begun to begun to discontinue its easy-money
15 practices and normalize monetary policies, which is expected to result in higher
16 interest rates over the next couple of years. So that KGS is able to offer investors
17 a competitive return, attract capital on reasonable terms, and maintain its financial
18 integrity, its ROE should reflect the higher capital market requirements that are
19 expected to exist when rates will be in effect. This outlook for higher capital
20 costs implies an ROE for KGS from the upper end of the cost of equity range.
21 This notwithstanding, KGS has elected to request an ROE from the middle of my
22 9.5% to 10.5% cost of equity range, or 10.0%.

1 **Q. HOW DO YOU RECONCILE THIS REQUESTED 10% ROE FOR KGS**
2 **WITH THE FACT THAT OTHER DIVISIONS OF ONE GAS HAVE**
3 **RECENTLY SETTLED CASES IN OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS WITH**
4 **ROES OF 9.5%?**

5 A. Oklahoma Natural Gas and Texas Gas Service recently settled cases where the
6 ROE was specified as 9.5%. Aside from the benefits of avoiding litigation costs
7 and risks, these settlements contained a variety of other beneficial features, in-
8 cluding that the allowed rates of return are based on capital structure ratios of ap-
9 proximately 40% debt and 60% equity. The capital structure ratios in these set-
10 tled cases contrast with those being used in the present case of 45% debt and 55%
11 equity.

12 **Q. WHY DO CAPITAL STRUCTURE RATIOS MATTER?**

13 A. A higher debt ratio, or lower common equity ratio, translates into increased finan-
14 cial risk for all investors. A greater amount of debt means more investors have a
15 senior claim on available cash flow, thereby reducing the certainty that each will
16 receive his contractual payments. This, in turn, increases the risks to which lend-
17 ers are exposed, and they require correspondingly higher rates of interest for bear-
18 ing this increased risk. Conversely, lower debt and higher equity ratios reduce fi-
19 nancial risk. Indeed, ONE Gas's favorable cost of debt of 3.95% reflects its sin-
20 gle-A bond rating, which is largely predicated on its actual capital structure ratios
21 of approximately 40% debt and 60% equity.

22 From common shareholders' viewpoint, a higher debt ratio means that
23 there are proportionately more investors ahead of common shareholders. This in-

1 creases the uncertainty as to the amount of cash flow, if any, that will remain for
 2 equity investors, who are the residual owners of the utility. In accordance with
 3 the fundamental risk-return trade-off principle discussed earlier, common share-
 4 holders require a correspondingly higher rate of return to compensate them for
 5 bearing the greater financial risk associated with a lower common equity ratio.

6 **Q. HOW DOES KGS’S REQUESTED RATE OF RETURN IN THIS CASE**
 7 **COMPARE WITH THAT OTHER DIVISIONS OF ONE GAS SETTLED**
 8 **FOR IN OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS?**

9 A. KGS’s requested rate of return in this case of 7.28%, which is based on 45%
 10 debt/55% capital structure ratios, a 3.95% cost of debt, and 10.0% ROE, is essen-
 11 tially identical to those agreed to in the recent settlements in Oklahoma and Texas
 12 where the capital structure ratios were approximately 40% debt/ 60% equity, the
 13 cost of debt was also 3.95%, and the ROE was 9.5%:

Capital	% of Total	Cost	Weighted Cost
Debt	40.00%	3.95%	1.58%
Equity	60.00%	9.50%	5.70%
Total	100.00%		7.28%


14 Thus, while KGS’s requested ROE of 10% is higher than the 9.5% agreed to in
 15 recent settlements, it is consistent with the greater financial risk associated with
 16 the 45% debt/55% equity capital structure ratios being used here versus the ap-
 17 proximately 40% debt/60% equity ratios used in Oklahoma and Texas. Moreo-
 18 ver, the 7.28% overall rate of return being requested by KGS is the same as that
 19 agreed to in Oklahoma and Texas, which further supports the reasonableness of
 20 KGS’s requested ROE of 10.0%.

- 1 Q. **DOES THAT CONCLUDE YOUR DIRECT TESTIMONY IN THIS CASE?**
- 2 A. Yes, it does.

VERIFICATION


STATE OF TEXAS)
)
COUNTY OF TRAVIS)

Bruce H. Fairchild, being duly sworn upon his oath, deposes and states that he is an Independent Consultant for Kansas Gas Service, a Division of ONE Gas, Inc.; that he has read and is familiar with the foregoing Testimony filed herewith; and that the statements made therein are true to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.



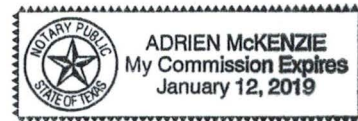
Bruce H. Fairchild

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 22nd day of April, 2016.



Notary Public

Commission/Appointment Expires:



APPENDIX A

BRUCE H. FAIRCHILD

FINCAP, INC.
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Summary of Qualifications

M.B.A. and Ph.D. in finance, accounting, and economics; Certified Public Accountant. Extensive consulting experience involving regulated industries, valuation of closely-held businesses, and other economic analyses. Previously held managerial and technical positions in government, academia, and business, and taught at the undergraduate, graduate, and executive education levels. Broad experience in technical research, computer modeling, and expert witness testimony.

Employment

Principal,
FINCAP, Inc.
(Sep. 1979 to present)

Economic consulting firm specializing in regulated industries and valuation of closely-held businesses. Assignments have involved electric, gas, telecommunication, and water/sewer utilities, with clients including utilities, consumer groups, municipalities, regulatory agencies, and cogenerators. Areas of participation have included revenue requirements, rate of return, rate design, tariff analysis, avoided cost, forecasting, and negotiations. Other assignments have involved some seventy valuations as well as various economic (e.g., damage) analyses, typically in connection with litigation. Presented expert witness testimony before courts and regulatory agencies on over one hundred occasions.

Adjunct Assistant Professor,
University of Texas at Austin
(Sep. 1979 to May. 1981)

Taught undergraduate courses in finance: Fin. 370 – Integrative Finance and Fin. 357 – Managerial Finance.

*Assistant Director, Economic
Research Division,*
Public Utility Commission of Texas
(Sep. 1976 to Aug. 1979)

Division consisted of approximately twenty-five financial analysts, economists, and systems analysts responsible for rate of return, rate design, special projects, and computer systems. Directed Staff participation in rate cases, presented testimony on approximately thirty-five occasions, and was involved in some forty other cases ultimately settled. Instrumental in the initial development of rate of return and financial policy for newly-created agency. Performed independent research and managed State and Federal funded projects. Assisted in preparing appeals to the Texas Supreme Court and testimony presented before the Interstate Commerce Commission and Department of Energy. Maintained communications with financial community, industry representatives, media, and consumer groups. Appointed by Commissioners as Acting Director.

Assistant Professor, College of Business Administration, University of Colorado at Boulder (Jan. 1977 to Dec. 1978)

Taught graduate and undergraduate courses in finance: Fin. 305 – Introductory Finance, Fin. 401 – Managerial Finance, Fin. 402 – Case Problems in Finance, and Fin. 602 – Graduate Corporate Finance.

Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Austin (Jan. 1973 to Dec. 1976)

Taught undergraduate courses in finance and accounting: Acc. 311 – Financial Accounting, Acc. 312 – Managerial Accounting, and Fin. 357 – Managerial Finance. Elected to College of Business Administration Teaching Assistants' Committee.

Internal Auditor, Sears, Roebuck and Company, Dallas, Texas (Nov. 1970 to Aug 1972)

Performed audits on internal operations involving cash, accounts receivable, merchandise, accounting, and operational controls, purchasing, payroll, etc. Developed operating and administrative policy and instruction. Performed special assignments on inventory irregularities and Justice Department Civil Investigative Demands.

Accounts Payable Clerk, Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Corp., Houston, Texas (May. 1969 to Aug. 1969)

Processed documentation and authorized payments to suppliers and creditors.

Education

Ph.D., Finance, Accounting, and Economics, University of Texas at Austin (Sep. 1974 to May 1980)

Doctoral program included coursework in corporate finance, investment theory, accounting, and economics. Elected to honor society of Phi Kappa Phi. Received University outstanding doctoral dissertation award

Dissertation: *Estimating the Cost of Equity to Texas Public Utility Companies*

M.B.A., Finance and Accounting, University of Texas at Austin, (Sep. 1972 to Aug. 1974)

Awarded Wright Patman Scholarship by World and Texas Credit Union Leagues.

Professional Report: *Planning a Small Business Enterprise in Austin, Texas*

B.B.A., Accounting and Finance, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas (Sep. 1967 to Dec. 1971)

Dean's List 1967-1971 and member of Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity.

Other Professional Activities

Certified Public Accountant, Texas Certificate No. 13,710 (October 1974); entire exam passed in May 1972. Member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Participated as session chairman, moderator, and paper discussant at annual meetings of Financial Management Association, Southwestern Finance Association, American Finance Association, and other professional associations.

Visiting lecturer in Executive M.B.A program at the University of Stellenbosch Graduate Business School, Belleville, South Africa (1983 and 1984).

Associate Editor of *Austin Financial Digest*, 1974-1975. Wrote and edited a series of investment and economic articles published in a local investment advisory service.

Military

Texas Army National Guard, Feb. 1970 to Sep. 1976. Specialist 5th Class with duty assignments including recovery vehicle operator for armor unit and company clerk for finance unit.

Bibliography**Monographs**

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- "The Cost of Equity to Wholly-Owned Electric Utility Subsidiaries," with William L. Beedles, Financial Management Association, Minneapolis, Minnesota (October 1978).
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APPENDIX B

BRUCE H. FAIRCHILD SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY BEFORE REGULATORY AGENCIES

No.	Utility Case	Agency	Docket	Date	Nature of Testimony
1.	Arkansas Electric Cooperative	Arkansas PSC	U-3071	Aug-80	Wholesale Rate Design
2.	East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative	Oklahoma CC	26925	Sep-80	Retail Rate Design
3.	Kansas Gas & Electric Company	Kansas CC	115379-U	Nov-80	PURPA Rate Design Standards
4.	Kansas Gas & Electric Company	Kansas CC	128139-U	May-81	Attrition
5.	City of Austin Electric Department	City of Austin	--	Jun-81	PURPA Rate Design Standards
6.	Tarrant County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1	Texas Water Commission	--	Oct-81	Wholesale Rate Design
7.	Owentown Gas Company	Texas RRC	2720	Jan-82	Revenue Requirements and Retail Rate Design
8.	Kansas Gas & Electric Company	Kansas CC	134792-U	Aug-82	Attrition
9.	Mississippi Power Company	Mississippi PSC	U-4190	Sep-82	Working Capital
10.	Lone Star Gas Company	Texas RRC	3757; 3794	Feb-83	Rate of Return on Equity
11.	Kansas Gas & Electric Company	Kansas CC	134792-U	Feb-83	Rate of Return on Equity
12.	Southwestern Bell Telephone Company	Oklahoma CC	28002	Oct-83	Rate of Return on Equity
13.	Morgas Company	Texas RRC	4063	Nov-83	Revenue Requirements
14.	Seagull Energy	Texas RRC	4541	Jul-84	Rate of Return
15.	Southwestern Bell Telephone Company	FCC	84-800	Nov-84	Rate of Return on Equity
16.	Kansas Gas & Electric Company, Kansas City Power & Light Company, and Kansas Electric Power Cooperatives	Kansas CC	142098-U; 142099-U; 142100-U	May-85	Nuclear Plant Capital Costs and Allowance for Funds Used During Construction
17.	Lone Star Gas Company	Texas RRC	5207	Oct-85	Overhead Cost Allocation
18.	Westar Transmission Company	Texas RRC	5787	Nov-85 Jan-86 Jul-86	Rate of Return, Rate Design, and Gas Processing Plant Economics
19.	City of Houston	Texas Water Commission	RC-022; RC-023	Nov-86	Line Losses and Known and Measurable Changes
20.	ENSTAR Natural Company	Alaska PUC	TA 50-4; R-87-2; U-87-2	Nov-86 May-87 May-87	Cost Allocation, Rate Design, and Tax Rate Changes
21.	Brazos River Authority	Texas Water Commission	RC-020	Jan-87	Revenue Requirements and Rate Design
22.	East Texas Industrial Gas Company	Texas RRC	5878	Feb-87	Revenue Requirements and Rate Design
23.	Seagull Energy	Texas RRC	6629	Jun-87	Revenue Requirements

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Summary of Testimony Before Regulatory Agencies
(Continued)

No.	Utility Case	Agency	Docket	Date	Nature of Testimony
24.	ENSTAR Natural Company	Alaska PUC	U-87-42	Jul-87 Sep-87 Sep-87	Cost Allocation, Rate Design, and Contracts
25.	High Plains Natural Gas Company	Texas RRC	6779	Sep-87	Rate of Return
26.	Hughes Texas Petroleum	Texas RRC	2-91,855	Jan-88	Interim Rates
27.	Cavallo Pipeline Company	Texas RRC	7086	Sep-88	Revenue Requirements
28.	Union Gas System, Inc.	Kansas CC	165591-U	Mar-89 Aug-89	Rate of Return
29.	ENSTAR Natural Gas Company	Alaska PUC	U-88-70	Mar-89	Cost Allocation and Bypass
30.	Morgas Co.	Texas RRC	7538	Aug-89	Rate of Return and Cost Allocation
31.	Corpus Christi Transmission Company	Texas RRC	7346	Sep-89	Revenue Requirements
32.	Amoco Gas Co.	Texas RRC	7550	Oct-89	Rate of Return and Cost Allocation
33.	Iowa Southern Utilities	Iowa Utilities Board	RPU-89-7	Nov-89 Mar-90	Rate of Return on Equity
34.	Southwestern Bell Telephone Company	FCC	89-624	Feb-90 Apr-90	Rate of Return on Equity
35.	Lower Colorado River Authority	Texas PUC	9427	Mar-90 Aug-90 Aug-90	Revenue Requirements
36.	Rio Grande Valley Gas Company	Texas RRC	7604	May-90	Consolidated FIT and Depreciation
37.	Southern Union Gas Company	El Paso PURB	--	Oct-90	Disallowed Expenses and FIT
38.	Iowa Southern Utilities	Iowa Utilities Board	RPU-90-8	Nov-90 Feb-91	Rate of Return on Equity
39.	East Texas Gas Systems	Texas RRC	7863	Dec-90	Revenue Requirements
40.	San Jacinto Gas Transmission	Texas RRC	7865	Dec-90	Revenue Requirements
41.	Southern Union Gas Company	Austin; Texas RRC	-- 7878	Feb-91 Feb-91	Rate of Return and Acquisition Adjustment
42.	Southern Union Gas Company	Port Arthur; Texas RRC	-- 8033	Mar-91 Aug-91 Oct-91	Rate of Return and Acquisition Adjustment
43.	Cavallo Pipeline Company	Texas RRC	8016	Jun-91	Revenue Requirements
44.	New Orleans Public Service Inc.	New Orleans City Council	CD-91-1	Jun-91 Mar-92	Rate of Return on Equity
45.	Houston Pipe Line Company	Texas RRC	8017	Jul-91	Rate of Return

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Summary of Testimony Before Regulatory Agencies
(Continued)

No.	Utility Case	Agency	Docket	Date	Nature of Testimony
46.	Southern Union Gas Company	El Paso PURB	--	Aug-91 Sep-91	Acquisition Adjustment
47.	Southwestern Gas Pipeline, Inc.	Texas RRC	8040	Jan-92 Feb-92	Rate Design and Settlement
48.	City of Fort Worth	Texas Water Commission	8748-A 9261-A	Mar-92 Aug-92 Dec-92 Oct-94 Nov-94	Interim Rates, Revenue Requirements, and Public Interest
49.	Southern Union Gas Company	Oklahoma Corp. Com.	--	Jun-92	Rate of Return
50.	Minnegasco	Minnesota PUC	G-008/GR-92-400	Jul-92 Dec-92	Rate of Return
51.	Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority	Texas PUC	11266	Sep-92	Cost Allocation and Bond Funds
52.	Dorchester Intra-State Gas System	Texas RRC	8111	Oct-92 Nov-92	Rate Impact of System Upgrade
53.	Corpus Christi Transmission Company GP and GPII	Texas RRC	8300 8301	Oct-92 Oct-92	Revenue Requirements
54.	East Texas Industrial Gas Company	Texas RRC	8326	Mar-93	Revenue Requirements
55.	Arkansas Louisiana Gas Company	Arkansas PSC	93-081-U	Apr-93 Oct-93	Rate of Return on Equity
56.	Texas Utilities Electric Company	Texas PUC	11735	Jun-93 Jul-93	Impact of Nuclear Plant Construction Delay
57.	Minnegasco	Minnesota PUC	G-008/GR-93-1090	Nov-93 Apr-94	Rate of Return
58.	Gulf States Utilities Company	Municipalities	--	May-94 Oct-94 Nov-94	Rate of Return on Equity
59.	Louisiana Power & Light Company	Louisiana PSC	U-20925	Aug-94 Feb-95	Rate of Return on Equity
60.	San Jacinto Gas Transmission	Texas RRC	8429	Sep-94	Revenue Requirements
61.	Cavallo Pipeline Company	Texas RRC	8465	Sep-94	Revenue Requirements
62.	Eastrans Limited Partnership	Texas RRC	8385	Oct-94	Revenue Requirements
63.	Gulf States Utilities Company	Louisiana PSC	U-19904	Oct-94	Rate of Return on Equity
64.	Entergy Services, Inc.	FERC	ER95-112-000	Mar-95 Nov-95	Rate of Return on Equity
65.	East Texas Gas Systems	Texas RRC	8435	Apr-95	Revenue Requirements
66.	System Energy Resources, Inc.	FERC	ER95-1042-000	May-95 Dec-95 Jan-96	Rate of Return on Equity

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Summary of Testimony Before Regulatory Agencies
(Continued)

No.	Utility Case	Agency	Docket	Date	Nature of Testimony
67.	Minnegasco	Minnesota PUC	G-008/GR-95-700	Aug-95 Dec-95	Rate of Return
68.	Entex	Louisiana PSC	U-21586	Aug-95	Rate of Return
69.	City of Fort Worth	Texas NRCC	SOAH 582-95-1084	Nov-95	Public Interest of Contract
70.	Seagull Energy Corporation	Texas RRC	8589	Nov-95	Revenue Requirements
71.	Corpus Christi Transmission Company LP	Texas RRC	8449	Feb-96	Revenue Requirements
72.	Missouri Gas Energy	Missouri PSC	GR-96-285	Apr-96 Sep-96 Oct-96	Rate of Return
73.	Entex	Mississippi PSC	96-UA-202	May-96	Rate of Return
74.	Entergy Gulf States, Inc.	Louisiana PSC	U-22084	May-96	Rate of Return on Equity (Gas)
75.	Entergy Gulf States, Inc.	Louisiana PSC	U-22092	May-96 Oct-96	Rate of Return on Equity
76.	American Gas Storage, L.P.	Texas RRC	8591	Sep-96	Revenue Requirements
77.	Entergy Louisiana, Inc.	Louisiana PSC	U-20925	Sep-96 Oct-96	Rate of Return on Equity
78.	Lone Star Pipeline and Gas Company	Texas RRC	8664	Oct-96 Jan-97	Rate of Return
79.	Entergy Arkansas, Inc.	Arkansas PSC	96-360-U	Oct-96 Sep-97	Rate of Return on Equity
80.	East Texas Gas Systems	Texas RRC	8658	Nov-96	Revenue Requirements
81.	Entergy Gulf States, Inc.	Texas PUC	16705	Nov-96 Jul-97	Rate of Return on Equity
82.	Eastrans Limited Partnership	Texas RRC	8657	Nov-96	Revenue Requirements
83.	Enserch Processing, Inc.	Texas RRC	8763	Nov-96	Interim Rates
84.	Entergy New Orleans, Inc.	City of New Orleans	UD-97-1	Feb-97 Mar-97 May-98	Rate of Return on Equity
85.	ENSTAR Natural Gas Company	Alaska PUC	U-96-108	Mar-97 Apr-97	Service Area Certificate
86.	San Jacinto Gas Transmission	Texas RRC	8741	Sep-97	Revenue Requirements
87.	Missouri Gas Energy	Missouri PSC	GR-98-140	Nov-97 Apr-98 May-98	Rate of Return
88.	Corpus Christi Transmission Company LP	Texas RRC	8762	Dec-97	Revenue Requirements
89.	Texas-New Mexico Power Company	Texas PUC	17751	Feb-98	Excess Cost Over Market
90.	Southern Union Gas Company	Texas RRC	8878	May-98	Rate of Return

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Summary of Testimony Before Regulatory Agencies
(Continued)

No.	Utility Case	Agency	Docket	Date	Nature of Testimony
91.	Entergy Louisiana, Inc.	Louisiana PSC	U-20925	May-98 Jul-98	Financial Integrity
92.	Entergy Gulf States, Inc.	Louisiana PSC	U-22092	May-98 Jul-98	Financial Integrity
93.	ACGC Gathering Company, LLC	Texas RRC	8896	Sep-98	Cost-based Rates
94.	American Gas Storage, L.P.	Texas RRC	8855	Oct-98	Revenue Requirements
95.	Duke Energy Intrastate Network	Texas RRC	8940	Jun-99	Rate of Return
96.	Aquila Energy Corporation	Texas RRC	8970	Aug-99	Revenue Requirements
97.	San Jacinto Gas Transmission	Texas RRC	8974	Sep-99	Revenue Requirements
98.	Southern Union Gas Company	El Paso PURB	--	Oct-99	Rate of Return
99.	TXU Lone Star Pipeline	Texas RRC	8976	Oct-99 Feb-00	Rate of Return
100.	Sharyland Utilities, L.P.	Texas PUC	21591	Nov-99	Rate of Return
101.	TXU Lone Star Gas Distribution	Texas RRC	9145	Apr-00 Aug-00	Rate of Return
102.	Rotherwood Eastex Gas Storage	Texas RRC	9136	May-00	Revenue Requirements
103.	Eastex Gas Storage & Exchange, Inc.	Texas RRC	9137	May-00	Revenue Requirements
104.	Eastex Gas Storage & Exchange, Inc.	Texas RRC	9138	Jul-00	Revenue Requirements
105.	East Texas Gas Systems	Texas RRC	9139	Jul-00	Revenue Requirements
106.	Eastrans Limited Partnership	Texas RRC	9140	Aug-00	Revenue Requirements
107.	Reliant Energy – Entex	City of Tyler	--	Oct-00	Rate of Return
108.	City of Fort Worth	Texas NRCC	SOAH 582-00-1092	Dec-00	CCN – Rates and Financial Ability
109.	Entergy Services, Inc.	FERC	RTO1-75	Dec-00	Rate of Return on Equity
110.	ENSTAR Natural Gas Company	Alaska PUC	U-00-88	Jun-01 Aug-01 Nov-01 Sep-02 Dec-02	Revenue Requirements, Cost Allocation, and Rate Design
111.	TXU Gas Distribution	Texas RRC	9225	Jul-01	Rate of Return
112.	Centana Intrastate Pipeline LLC	Texas RRC	9243	Aug-01	Rate of Return
113.	Maxwell Water Supply Corp.	Texas NRCC	SOAH-582-01-0802	Oct-01 Mar-02 Apr-02	Reasonableness of Rates
114.	Reliant Energy Arkla	Arkansas PSC	01-243-U	Dec-01 Jun-01	Rate of Return
115.	Entergy Services, Inc.	FERC	ER01-2214-000	Mar-02	Rate of Return on Equity

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Summary of Testimony Before Regulatory Agencies
(Continued)

No.	Utility Case	Agency	Docket	Date	Nature of Testimony
116.	TXU Lone Star Pipeline	Texas RRC	9292	Apr-02	Rate of Return
117.	Southern Union Gas Company	El Paso PURB	--	Apr-02	Rate of Return
118.	San Jacinto Gas Transmission Co.	Texas RRC	9301	May-02	Rate of Return
119.	Duke Energy Intrastate Network	Texas RRC	9302	May-02	Rate of Return
120.	Reliant Energy Arkla	Oklahoma CC	200200166	May-02	Rate of Return
121.	TXU Gas Distribution	Texas RRC	9313	Jul-02 Sep-02	Rate of Return
122.	Entergy Mississippi, Inc.	Mississippi PSC	2002-UN-256	Aug-02	Rate of Return on Equity
123.	Aquila Storage & Transportation LP	Texas RRC	9323	Sep-02	Revenue Requirements
124.	Panther Pipeline Ltd.	Texas RRC	9291	Oct-02	Revenue Requirements
125.	SEMCO Energy	Michigan PSC	U-13575	Nov-02	Revenue Requirements
126.	CenterPoint Energy Entex	Louisiana PSC	U-26720	Jan-03	Rate of Return
127.	Crosstex CCNG Transmission Ltd.	Texas RRC	9363	May-03	Revenue Requirements
128.	TXU Gas Company	Texas RRC	9400	May-03 Jan-04	Rate of Return
129.	Eastrans Limited Partnership	Texas RRC	9386	May-03	Rate of Return
130.	CenterPoint Energy Entex	City of Houston		Jun-03	Rate of Return
131.	East Texas Gas Systems, L.P.	Texas RRC	9385	Jun-03	Rate of Return
132.	ENSTAR Natural Gas Company	Alaska RCA	U-03-084	Aug-03 Nov-03	Line Extension Surcharge
133.	CenterPoint Energy Arkla	Louisiana PSC		Nov-03	Rate of Return
134.	ENSTAR Natural Gas Company	Alaska RCA	U-03-091	Feb-04	Cost Separation and Taxes
135.	Sid Richardson Pipeline, Ltd.	Texas RRC	9532	Jun-04 Nov-04	Revenue Requirements
136.	ETC Katy Pipeline, Ltd.	Texas RRC	9524	Sep-04	Revenue Requirements
137.	CenterPoint Energy Entex	Mississippi PSC	03-UN-0831	Sep-04	Rate Formula
138.	Centana Intrastate Pipeline LLC	Texas RRC	9527	Sep-04	Rate of Return
139.	SEMCO Energy	Michigan PSC	U-14338	Dec-04	Revenue Requirements
140.	Atmos Energy – Energas	Texas RRC	9539	Feb-05	Regulatory Policy
141.	Crosstex North Texas Pipeline, L.P.	Texas RRC	9613	Sep-05	Revenue Requirements
142.	SiEnergy, L.P.	Texas RRC	9604	Dec-05	Rate of Return, Income Taxes, and Cost Allocation
143.	ENSTAR Natural Gas Company	Alaska RCA	TA-140-4	Feb-06	Connection Fees
144.	SEMCO Energy	Michigan PSC	U-14984	May-06 Dec-06	Revenue Requirements

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Summary of Testimony Before Regulatory Agencies
(Continued)

No.	Utility Case	Agency	Docket	Date	Nature of Testimony
145.	Atmos Energy – Mid-Tex	Texas RRC	9676	May-06 Oct-06	Revenue Requirements
146.	EasTrans Limited Partnership	Texas RRC	9659	Jun-06	Rate of Return
147.	Kinder Morgan Texas Pipeline, L.P.	Texas RRC	9688	Jul-06	Rate of Return
148.	Crosstex CCNG Transmission Ltd.	Texas RRC	9660	Aug-06	Revenue Requirements
149.	Enbridge Pipelines (North Texas), LP	Texas RRC	9691	Oct-06	Rate of Return
150.	Panther Interstate Pipeline Energy	FERC	CP03-338-00	Mar-07	Revenue Requirements
151.	El Paso Electric Company	Texas PUC	34494	Jul-07	CCN
152.	El Paso Electric Company	NM PRC	07-00301-UT	Jul-07	CCN
153.	Atmos Energy	Kansas CC	08-ATMG- 280-RTS	Sep-07 Feb-08	Rate of Return on Equity
154.	Centana Intrastate Pipeline LLC	Texas RRC	9759	Sep-07	Rate of Return
155.	Texas Gas Service Company	Texas RRC	9770	Nov-07	Rate of Return
156.	ENSTAR Natural Gas Company	Alaska RCA	U-08-25	Jun-08	Rate Class Switching
157.	ConocoPhillips Transportation Alaska	Alaska RCA	TL-131-301	Oct-08	Rate of Return
158.	ExxonMobil Pipeline Co.	Alaska RCA	TL-140-304	Nov-08	Rate of Return
159.	Crosstex North Texas Pipeline, L.P.	Texas RRC	9843	Dec-08	Revenue Requirements
160.	Koch Alaska Pipeline Company	Alaska RCA	TL 128-308	Dec-08	Rate of Return
161.	Unocal Pipeline Company	Alaska RCA	TL 118-312	Dec-08	Rate of Return
162.	ETC Katy Pipeline, Ltd.	Texas RRC	9841	Dec-08	Revenue Requirements
163.	Oklahoma Natural Gas	Oklahoma CC	200800348	Jan-09	Rate of Return on Equity
164.	Entergy Mississippi, Inc.	Mississippi PSC	EC-123-0082	Mar 09	Rate of Return on Equity
165.	ENSTAR Natural Gas Company	Alaska RCA	U-09-69 U-09-70	Jun-09 Jul-09 Oct-09	Revenue Requirements, Cost Allocation, and Rate Design
166.	EasTrans, LLC	Texas RRC	9857	Jun-09	Rate of Return
167.	Oklahoma Natural Gas	Oklahoma CC	200900110	Jun-09	Rate of Return
168.	Crosstex CCNG Transmission Ltd.	Texas RRC	9858	Jun-09	Revenue Requirements
169.	ConocoPhillips Transportation Alaska	Alaska RCA	TL-137-301	Jul-09	Rate of Return
170.	ENSTAR Natural Gas Company	Alaska RCA	U-08-142	Jul-09	Gas Cost Adjustment
171.	Kinder Morgan Texas Pipeline, LLC	Texas RRC	9889	Jul-09	Rate of Return
172.	Koch Alaska Pipeline Company	Alaska RCA	TL 133-308	Aug-09	Rate of Return
173.	ExxonMobil Pipeline Co.	Alaska RCA	TL-147-304	Nov-09	Rate of Return
174.	Texas Gas Service Company	El Paso PURB	--	Dec-09	Rate of Return
175.	Unocal Pipeline Company	Alaska RCA	TL126-312	Dec-09	Rate of Return

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Summary of Testimony Before Regulatory Agencies
(Continued)

176. Kuparuk Transportation Company	Alaska RCA	P-08-05	Apr-10	Rate of Return
177. Trans-Alaska Pipeline System	FERC	ISO9-348-000	Apr 10 Octo 10	Rate of Return
178. Texas Gas Service	Texas RRC	9988	May 10 Aug 10	Rate of Return
179. SEMCO Energy Gas Company	Michigan PSC	U-16169	Jun 10 Dec 10	Revenue Requirements
180. ConocoPhillips Transportation Alaska	Alaska RCA	TL-137-301	Jul 10	Rate of Return
181. Koch Alaska Pipeline Company, LLC	Alaska RCA	TL-138-308	Aug 10	Rate of Return
182. CPS Energy	Texas PUC	36633	Sep 10 Apr 11	Rate of Return for MOU
183. ExxonMobil Pipeline Co.	Alaska RCA	TL-151-304	Dec 10	Rate of Return
184. Unocal Pipeline Company	Alaska RCA	TL132-312	Feb 11	Rate of Return
185. New Mexico Gas Company	NM PRC	11-00042-UT	Mar 11	Rate of Return
186. ConocoPhillips Transportation Alaska	Alaska RCA	TL-143-301	May 11	Rate of Return
187. Enbridge Pipelines (Southern Lights)	FERC	IS11-146-000	Jun 11 Nov 11	Rate of Return
188. Koch Alaska Pipeline Company, LLC	Alaska RCA	TL-138-__	Jul 11	Rate of Return
189. Unocal Pipeline Company	Alaska RCA	TL126-__	Dec 11	Rate of Return
190. Kansas Gas Service	Kansas CC	12-KGSC- 835-RTS	May 12 Oct 12	Rate of Return
191. ExxonMobil Pipeline Co.	Alaska RCA	TL-157-304	Jun 12	Rate of Return
192. ConocoPhillips Transportation Alaska	Alaska RCA	TL-149-301	Jul 12	Rate of Return
193. Seaway Crude Pipeline Company	FERC	IS12-226-000	Aug 12 Feb 13	Rate of Return
194. Cross Texas Transmission, LLC	Texas PUC	40604	Aug 12 Oct 12 Nov 12	Revenue Requirements
195. Wind Energy Transmission Texas	Texas PUC	40606	Aug 12 Nov 12	Revenue Requirements
196. Lone Star Transmission LLC	Texas PUC	40798	Nov 12	Revenue Requirements
197. West Texas Gas Company	Texas RRC	10235	Jan 13	Rate of Return
198. Cross Texas Transmission, LLC	Texas PUC	41190	Feb 13	Revenue Requirements
199. ExxonMobil Pipeline Co.	Alaska RCA	TL-162-304	Apr 13	Rate of Return
200. EasTrans, LLC	Texas RRC	10276	Jul 13	Rate of Return
201. ConocoPhillips Transportation Alaska	Alaska RCA	TL-152-301	Jul 13	Rate of Return
202. BP Pipelines (Alaska) Inc.	Alaska RCA	TL-143-311	Sep 13	Rate of Return
203. Wind Energy Transmission Texas	Texas PUC	41923	Oct 13	Revenue Requirements
204. Oliktok Pipeline Company	Alaska RCA	P-13-013	Nov 13	Rate of Return

Bruce H. Fairchild
Summary of Testimony Before Regulatory Agencies
(Continued)

205.	Aqua Texas Southeast Region-Gray	Texas CEQ	2013-2007- UCR	Apr 14	Revenue Requirements
206.	Entergy Mississippi	Mississippi PSC	EC-123-0082	Jun 14	Rate of Return on Equity
207.	Westlake Ethylene Pipeline	Texas RRC	10358	Jul 14 Aug 15	Rates
208.	ExxonMobil Pipeline Co.	Alaska RCA	TL-164-304	Jul 14	Rate of Return
209.	ConocoPhillips Transportation Alaska	Alaska RCA	TL-154-301	Aug 14	Rate of Return
210.	Enstar Natural Gas Company	Alaska RCA	TA-262-4	Sep 14 Jun 15	Revenue Requirements, Cost Allocation, and Rate Design
211.	Oliktok Pipeline Company	Alaska RCA	TL-44-334	Mar 15	Rate of Return
212.	Entergy Arkansas, Inc.	Arkansas PSC	15-0150U	Apr 15 Oct 15 Dec 15	Return on Equity
213.	Wind Energy Transmission Texas	Texas PUC	44746	Jun 15	Revenue Requirements
214.	Texas City	Texas RRC	10408	Jun 15 Nov 15	Pipeline Annual Assessment
215.	Oklahoma Natural Gas	Oklahoma CC	201500213	Jul 15 Nov 15	Rate of Return
216.	PTE Pipeline LLC	Alaska RCA	P-12-015	Sep 15	Rate of Return
217.	Northeast Transmission Development, LLC	FERC	ER16-453	Dec 15	Formula Rates
218.	Oncor Electric Delivery	Texas PUC	45188	Dec 15	Public Interest of Acquisition
219.	Corix Utilities (Texas)	Texas PUC	45418	Dec 15	Rate of Return
220.	Texas Gas Service	Texas RRC	10488	Dec 15	Rate of Return
221.	Texas Gas Service	Texas RRC	10506	Mar 16	Rate of Return

DCF MODEL -- DIVIDEND YIELD

<u>Company</u>	<u>Expected Dividend (a)</u>	<u>Price (b)</u>	<u>Dividend Yield (c)</u>
Atmos Energy	\$ 1.74	\$ 70.12	2.48%
Chesapeake Utilities	\$ 1.21	\$ 64.04	1.89%
Laclede Group	\$ 1.96	\$ 65.06	3.01%
New Jersey Resources	\$ 0.96	\$ 34.72	2.76%
Northwest Natural Gas	\$ 1.87	\$ 52.24	3.58%
South Jersey Industries	\$ 1.08	\$ 26.06	4.14%
Southwest Gas Corp	\$ 1.80	\$ 59.62	3.02%
WGL Holdings	\$ 1.95	\$ 67.40	2.89%
LDC GROUP AVERAGE			<u>2.97%</u>

(a) *The Value Line Investment Survey* (March 4, 2016).

(b) *Yahoo! Finance* (February 1 - February 29, 2016).

(c) Expected Dividend / Price.

DCF MODEL -- EARNINGS GROWTH RATES

<u>Company</u>	<u>Projected Growth</u>			<u>Historical Growth</u>	
	<u>Value</u>				
	<u>Line (a)</u>	<u>I/B/E/S (b)</u>	<u>Zacks (c)</u>	<u>10-Year (a)</u>	<u>5-Year (a)</u>
Atmos Energy	6.0%	6.4%	6.6%	5.0%	4.5%
Chesapeake Utilities	8.5%	3.0%	N/A	8.5%	10.5%
Laclede Group	9.0%	4.7%	4.8%	4.0%	-1.0%
New Jersey Resources	1.5%	6.5%	6.5%	7.5%	7.5%
Northwest Natural Gas	5.0%	4.0%	4.0%	2.5%	-4.0%
South Jersey Industries	5.5%	6.0%	N/A	8.0%	6.5%
Southwest Gas Corp	7.0%	4.0%	5.0%	8.5%	11.0%
WGL Holdings	5.0%	8.0%	7.3%	3.5%	1.5%
LDC GROUP AVERAGE	<u>5.9%</u>	<u>5.3%</u>	<u>5.7%</u>	<u>5.9%</u>	<u>4.6%</u>

(a) *The Value Line Investment Survey* (March 4, 2016).

(b) *Yahoo! Finance* (Retrieved March 8, 2016).

(c) *Zacks Detailed Estimates* (Retrieved March 8, 2016).

DCF MODEL -- SUSTAINABLE GROWTH RATES (a)

Company	2019-2021 Projected				Shares Outstanding		Earnings Retention Growth			External Financing Growth				Sustainable Growth		
	Earnings per Share	Dividends per Share	Book Value per Share	Price per Share	2015	Proj. 19-21	Retention Ratio	Return on Equity	"b x r"	2019-2021 Market-to-Book Ratio	Growth Rate in Shares	"s"	"v"		"s x v"	
	Atmos Energy	\$ 4.00	\$ 2.15	\$ 36.65	\$ 80.00	101.48	120.00	46.3%	10.9%	5.0%	2.18	3.4%	7.4%		54.2%	4.0%
Chesapeake Utilities	\$ 4.00	\$ 1.50	\$ 30.45	\$ 80.00	15.50	20.00	62.5%	13.1%	8.2%	2.63	5.2%	13.7%	61.9%	8.5%	16.7%	
Laclede Group	\$ 4.20	\$ 2.20	\$ 44.45	\$ 65.00	43.36	48.00	47.6%	9.4%	4.5%	1.46	2.1%	3.0%	31.6%	0.9%	5.4%	
New Jersey Resources	\$ 1.90	\$ 1.02	\$ 16.90	\$ 27.50	85.19	85.00	46.3%	11.2%	5.2%	1.63	0.0%	-0.1%	38.5%	0.0%	5.2%	
Northwest Natural Gas	\$ 3.15	\$ 2.05	\$ 35.40	\$ 55.00	27.42	28.00	34.9%	8.9%	3.1%	1.55	0.4%	0.7%	35.6%	0.2%	3.3%	
South Jersey Industries	\$ 2.20	\$ 1.40	\$ 18.60	\$ 35.00	70.00	78.00	36.4%	11.8%	4.3%	1.88	2.2%	4.1%	46.9%	1.9%	6.2%	
Southwest Gas Corp	\$ 4.80	\$ 2.30	\$ 37.75	\$ 72.50	47.38	53.00	52.1%	12.7%	6.6%	1.92	2.3%	4.4%	47.9%	2.1%	8.7%	
WGL Holdings	\$ 3.55	\$ 2.03	\$ 31.80	\$ 55.00	49.79	50.00	42.8%	11.2%	4.8%	1.73	0.1%	0.1%	42.2%	0.1%	4.8%	
LDC GROUP AVERAGE																7.4%
																2.2%
																5.2%

(a) The Value Line Investment Survey (March 4, 2016).

DCF MODEL -- OTHER PROJECTED AND HISTORICAL GROWTH RATES

Company	Net Book Value (a)			Dividends per Share (a)			Price per Share		
	Pro- jected	Historical		Pro- jected	Historical		Pro- jected (a)	Historical (b)	
		10-Year	5-Year		10-Year	5-Year		10-Year	5-Year
Atmos Energy	3.5%	5.0%	5.0%	6.5%	2.0%	2.5%	3.3%	10.3%	15.9%
Chesapeake Utilities	7.0%	8.5%	8.5%	6.0%	3.0%	4.5%	5.7%	12.0%	19.3%
Laclede Group	4.5%	7.5%	8.0%	3.5%	2.5%	3.0%	0.0%	7.1%	10.9%
New Jersey Resources	6.5%	8.0%	5.5%	3.0%	7.0%	7.5%	-5.7%	8.9%	10.9%
Northwest Natural Gas	3.5%	3.5%	3.0%	1.5%	3.5%	3.5%	1.3%	4.2%	2.9%
South Jersey Industries	5.5%	8.5%	8.0%	6.5%	8.5%	10.0%	7.6%	6.1%	-0.5%
Southwest Gas Corp	3.0%	5.0%	5.0%	7.5%	5.0%	8.0%	5.0%	8.1%	9.4%
WGL Holdings	4.5%	4.0%	3.0%	2.5%	2.5%	3.0%	-5.0%	8.2%	12.4%
LDC GROUP AVERAGE	4.8%	6.3%	5.8%	4.6%	4.3%	5.3%	1.5%	8.1%	10.1%

(a) *The Value Line Investment Survey* (March 4, 2016).

CAPITAL ASSET PRICING MODEL

	Historical Rates of Return (a)	Forward- Looking Rates of Return (b)
Market Required Rate of Return	12.00%	11.01%
Long-term Government Bond Return	5.00%	2.62%
Market Risk Premium (d)	7.00%	8.39%
LDC Group Beta (e)	0.76	0.76
LDC Group Risk Premium (f)	5.29%	6.35%
Risk-free Rate of Interest (c)	2.62%	2.62%
Theoretical CAPM Cost of Equity Estimate (g)	7.91%	8.97%
Size Premium (h)	1.49%	1.49%
CAPM Cost of Equity Estimates (i)	9.40%	10.46%

(a) Morningstar SBBI Presentation: *Morningstar Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation (1926-2015)*.

(b) Calculated by applying DCF model applied to S&P 500 firms paying dividends:

Expected Dividend Yield	2.67%
Projected Earnings Growth Rate:	
Value Line	8.57%
I/B/E/S	8.31%
Zacks	8.15%
Average	8.34%
Market Required Rate of Return	11.01%

(c) February 2016 yield on 30-yr U.S. Treasury bonds (FederalReserve.gov). 2.62%

(d) Market Required Rate of Return minus Long-term Government Bond Return.

(e) Schedule BHF-6.

(f) Market risk premium times beta.

(g) Sum of Risk Premium and Risk-free Rate of Interest.

(h) Duff & Phelps: *2016 Valuation Handbook (Preview Edition)*.

(i) Sum of Unadjusted CAPM Cost of Equity Estimate and Size Premium.

BOND RATINGS, BETA, AND MARKET CAPITALIZATION

<u>Company</u>	<u>Bond Rating</u>		<u>Beta (c)</u>	<u>Market Capitalization (millions) (c)</u>
	<u>Moody's (a)</u>	<u>S&P (b)</u>		
Atmos Energy	A2	A-	0.80	\$ 7,200
Chesapeake Utilities	N/R	N/R	0.65	\$ 975
Laclede Group	Baa2	A-	0.70	\$ 2,800
New Jersey Resources	Aa2	A	0.80	\$ 2,900
Northwest Natural Gas	A3	A+	0.65	\$ 1,400
South Jersey Industries	A2	BBB+	0.85	\$ 1,800
Southwest Gas Corp	A3	BBB+	0.80	\$ 2,800
WGL Holdings	A3	A+	0.80	\$ 3,400
LDC GROUP AVERAGE	A2	A-	<u>0.76</u>	<u>\$ 2,909</u>

(a) Moody's.com (March 9, 2016).

(b) StandardandPoors.com (Retreived March 9, 2016)

(c) *The Value Line Investment Survey* (March 4, 2016).

RISK PREMIUM METHOD -- LDC AUTHORIZED RATES OF RETURN ON EQUITY

Year	Qtr.	Allowed ROE (a)	Single-A Utility Bond Yield (b)	Risk Premium	Year	Qtr.	Allowed ROE (a)	Single-A Utility Bond Yield (b)	Risk Premium	
1980	1	13.45%	13.49%	-0.04%	1998	2	11.37%	7.12%	4.25%	
	2	14.38%	12.87%	1.51%		3	11.41%	6.99%	4.42%	
	3	13.87%	12.88%	0.99%		4	11.69%	6.97%	4.72%	
	4	14.35%	14.11%	0.24%	1999	1	10.82%	7.11%	3.71%	
1981	1	14.69%	14.77%	-0.08%		2	(c)	10.82%	7.48%	3.34%
	2	14.61%	15.82%	-1.21%		4		10.33%	8.05%	2.28%
	3	14.86%	16.65%	-1.79%	2000	1		10.71%	8.29%	2.42%
	4	15.70%	16.57%	-0.87%		2		11.08%	8.45%	2.63%
1982	1	15.55%	16.72%	-1.17%		3		11.33%	8.25%	3.08%
	2	15.62%	16.26%	-0.64%		4		12.50%	8.03%	4.47%
	3	15.72%	15.88%	-0.16%	2001	1		11.16%	7.74%	3.42%
	4	15.62%	14.56%	1.06%		2	(c)	10.75%	7.93%	2.82%
1983	1	15.41%	14.15%	1.26%		4		10.65%	7.68%	2.97%
	2	14.84%	13.58%	1.26%	2002	1		10.67%	7.65%	3.02%
	3	15.24%	13.52%	1.72%		2		11.64%	7.50%	4.14%
	4	15.41%	13.38%	2.03%		3		11.50%	7.19%	4.31%
1984	1	15.39%	13.56%	1.83%		4		10.78%	7.15%	3.63%
	2	15.07%	14.72%	0.35%	2003	1		11.38%	6.93%	4.45%
	3	15.37%	14.47%	0.90%		2		11.36%	6.40%	4.96%
	4	15.33%	13.38%	1.95%		3		10.61%	6.64%	3.97%
1985	1	15.03%	13.31%	1.72%		4		10.84%	6.35%	4.49%
	2	15.44%	12.95%	2.49%	2004	1		11.10%	6.09%	5.01%
	3	14.64%	12.11%	2.53%		2		10.25%	6.48%	3.77%
	4	14.44%	11.49%	2.95%		3		10.37%	6.13%	4.24%
1986	1	14.05%	10.18%	3.87%		4		10.66%	5.94%	4.72%
	2	13.28%	9.41%	3.87%	2005	1		10.65%	5.74%	4.91%
	3	13.09%	9.39%	3.70%		2		10.52%	5.52%	5.00%
	4	13.62%	9.31%	4.31%		3		10.47%	5.51%	4.96%
1987	1	12.61%	8.96%	3.65%		4		10.40%	5.82%	4.58%
	2	13.13%	9.77%	3.36%	2006	1		10.63%	5.85%	4.78%
	3	12.56%	10.61%	1.95%		2		10.50%	6.37%	4.13%
	4	12.73%	11.05%	1.68%		3		10.45%	6.19%	4.26%
1988	1	12.94%	10.32%	2.62%		4		10.14%	5.86%	4.28%
	2	12.48%	10.71%	1.77%	2007	1		10.44%	5.90%	4.54%
1988	3	12.79%	10.94%	1.85%		2		10.12%	6.09%	4.03%
	4	12.98%	9.98%	3.00%		3		10.03%	6.22%	3.81%
1989	1	12.99%	10.13%	2.86%		4		10.27%	6.08%	4.19%
	2	13.25%	9.94%	3.31%	2008	1		10.38%	6.15%	4.23%
	3	12.56%	9.53%	3.03%		2		10.17%	6.32%	3.85%
	4	12.94%	9.50%	3.44%		3		10.49%	6.42%	4.07%
1990	1	12.60%	9.72%	2.88%		4		10.34%	7.23%	3.11%
	2	12.81%	9.91%	2.90%	2009	1		10.24%	6.37%	3.87%
	3	12.34%	9.93%	2.41%		2		10.11%	6.39%	3.72%
	4	12.77%	9.89%	2.88%		3		9.88%	5.74%	4.14%
1991	1	12.69%	9.58%	3.11%		4		10.27%	5.66%	4.61%
	2	12.53%	9.50%	3.03%	2010	1		10.24%	5.83%	4.41%
	3	12.43%	9.33%	3.10%		2		9.99%	5.61%	4.38%
	4	12.38%	9.02%	3.36%		3		9.93%	5.09%	4.84%
1992	1	12.42%	8.91%	3.51%		4		10.09%	5.34%	4.75%
	2	11.98%	8.86%	3.12%	2011	1		10.10%	5.60%	4.50%
	3	11.87%	8.47%	3.40%		2		9.85%	5.38%	4.47%
	4	11.94%	8.53%	3.41%		3		9.65%	4.81%	4.84%
1993	1	11.75%	8.07%	3.68%		4		9.88%	4.37%	5.51%
	2	11.71%	7.81%	3.90%	2012	1		9.63%	4.39%	5.24%
	3	11.39%	7.28%	4.11%		2		9.83%	4.23%	5.60%
	4	11.15%	7.22%	3.93%		3		9.75%	3.98%	5.77%
1994	1	11.12%	7.55%	3.57%		4		10.07%	3.92%	6.15%
	2	10.81%	8.29%	2.52%	2013	1		9.57%	4.18%	5.39%
	3	10.95%	8.51%	2.44%		2		9.47%	4.23%	5.24%
	4	(c)	8.87%	2.77%		3		9.60%	4.74%	4.86%
1995	2	11.00%	7.93%	3.07%		4		9.83%	4.76%	5.07%
	3	11.07%	7.72%	3.35%	2014	1		9.54%	4.56%	4.98%
	4	11.56%	7.37%	4.19%		2		9.84%	4.32%	5.52%
1996	1	11.45%	7.44%	4.01%		3		9.45%	4.20%	5.25%
	2	10.88%	7.98%	2.90%		4		10.28%	4.03%	6.25%
	3	11.25%	7.96%	3.29%	2015	1		9.47%	3.66%	5.81%
	4	11.32%	7.62%	3.70%		2		9.43%	4.10%	5.33%
1997	1	11.31%	7.76%	3.55%		3		9.75%	4.35%	5.40%
	2	11.70%	7.88%	3.82%		4		9.68%	4.35%	5.33%
	3	12.00%	7.49%	4.51%						
	4	(c)	11.01%	7.25%						
					Average		11.78%	8.38%	3.40%	

Unadusted:

Risk Premium = Intercept + (Slope X Interest Rate)

RP	=	0.07280	+	-0.46280	X	4.11%
RP	=	0.07280	+	-0.01902		
RP	=	5.38%				

Cost of Equity = Interest Rate + Risk Premium

ROE	=	4.11%	+	5.38%
ROE	=	9.49%		

Adjusted (Using Iterative Prais-Winsten algorithm):

Risk Premium = Intercept + (Slope X Interest Rate)

RP	=	0.07683	+	-0.51248	X	4.11%
RP	=	0.07683	+	-0.02106		
RP	=	5.58%				

Cost of Equity = Interest Rate + Risk Premium

ROE	=	4.11%	+	5.58%
ROE	=	9.69%		

(a) Regulatory Research Associates, Inc., Major Rate Case Decisions, (January 14, 2016, January 24, 2002, January 18, 1995, and January 16, 1990).
(b) Mergent Public Utility Manual (2003); Mergent Bond Record (September 2005); Moody's Credit Perspectives (Various Editions).
(c) No decisions reported for following quarter.
(d) Moody's.com for September 2015.

COMPARABLE EARNINGS METHOD

<u>Company</u>	<u>Projected Earned Return on Book Equity (a)</u>		
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2019-21</u>
Atmos Energy	10.3%	10.8%	10.9%
Chesapeake Utilities	12.4%	12.8%	13.1%
Laclede Group	9.1%	9.3%	9.4%
New Jersey Resources	12.0%	12.8%	11.2%
Northwest Natural Gas	7.5%	7.7%	8.9%
South Jersey Industries	10.8%	11.1%	11.8%
Southwest Gas Corp	9.4%	10.0%	12.7%
WGL Holdings	12.3%	11.8%	11.2%
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
LDC GROUP AVERAGE	<u>10.5%</u>	<u>10.8%</u>	<u>11.2%</u>

(a) *The Value Line Investment Survey* (March 4, 2016).