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1	STATE OF MISSOURI
2	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
3	
4	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
5	
6	Local Public Hearing
7	July 1, 2014
8	Hannibal, Missouri
9	Volume 8
10	
11	In The Matter Of Liberty)
	Utilities (Midstates Natural)
12	Gas) Corp. d/b/a Liberty)
	Utilities' Tariff Revisions)
13	Designed To Implement A)
	General Rate Increase For)
14	Natural Gas Service In The)
	Missouri Service Areas of)
15	The Company)
) File No. GR-2014-0152
16	
17	
	RONALD D. PRIDGIN, Presiding
18	DEPUTY CHIEF REGULATORY LAW JUDGE
19	ROBERT S. KENNEY, Chairman,
	COMMISSIONER
20	
21	REPORTED BY:
	AMANDA N. FARRAR, CCR
22	MIDWEST LITIGATION SERVICES
23	
24	
25	

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1	PROCEEDINGS	
2	(The hearing commenced at 6:26 p.m.)	
3	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Good evening. Welcome	
4	to tonight's local public hearing in Hannibal for	
5	Liberty Utilities Case No. GR-2014-0152. I'm Ron	
6	Pridgin. I'm one of the judges that works at the	
7	Commission. And with me this evening is the	
8	chairman of the Commission, Robert Kenney, and	
9	before I go any further, let me see if the chairman	
10	has any opening remarks for you. Mr. Chairman?	
11	CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you, Judge.	
12	Just to repeat, I'm Robert Kenney, chairman of the	
13	Commission and I hope that the informational session	
14	was helpful and beneficial and you had an	
15	opportunity to have some questions answered.	
16	There are five commissioners. I was the	
17	only one that was able to be here tonight, but you	
18	should know that this is a portion of the local	
19	public hearing where you will have an opportunity to	
20	have your words and your thoughts transcribed. The	
21	court reporter will take down everything that you're	
22	saying and the other commissioners will have an	
23	opportunity to review the transcript and take into	
24	account your thoughts and concerns as we deliberate	
25	on the case.	

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- 1 Your participation here is very critical
- 2 and very important. We do appreciate you being here
- 3 and I look forward to listening to what you have to
- 4 tell us. Thank you.
- 5 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Chairman, thank you.
- And as the chairman said, the purpose of
- 7 this portion of the hearing is to hear from you.
- 8 The company will not present any witnesses this
- 9 evening and won't be answering your questions during
- 10 this portion of the hearing. I believe you've had a
- 11 chance to talk to some company and staff and public
- 12 counsel representatives before the hearing and
- 13 you're certainly welcome to talk to them afterwards
- 14 as well; but this portion of the hearing is your
- 15 chance to testify and your remarks be made a part of
- 16 the record of the case.
- 17 This is an official hearing of the
- 18 Commission and the statements and testimony of
- 19 witnesses must be given under oath and will be
- 20 recorded by the court reporter. If you do testify,
- 21 I'll ask you to be sworn and I'll ask you a few
- 22 preliminary questions, such as how to spell your
- 23 name so the court reporter can spell it correctly
- 24 and I'll ask if you are a customer of Liberty
- 25 Utilities and then I'll ask for your statement to

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- 1 the Commission. When you're done, if you'll please
- 2 stay at the witness area in case the chairman has
- 3 some questions for you or in case I have any
- 4 questions for you.
- If there is somebody who wants to
- 6 testify, but for religious reasons does not wish to
- 7 take an oath, please let me know and I'll ask your
- 8 testimony to be affirmed instead.
- 9 Does anyone have any questions before we
- 10 hear from witnesses?
- 11 All right. Hearing none. David, is it
- 12 Klassen or Klassen? Yes, sir.
- MR. KLASSEN: Yes.
- 14 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And you can either sit
- or stand, however you're comfortable. If you'll
- 16 raise your right hand to be sworn, please.
- 17 DAVID KLASSEN,
- 18 was sworn to tell the truth and testified as
- 19 follows:
- 20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you, sir. You can
- 21 sit or stand, wherever you're comfortable. And if
- 22 you'll state your name and spell it for the court
- 23 reporter, please.
- 24 MR. KLASSEN: Yes. My first name is
- 25 David. I use the middle initial H which stands for

Page 6 Hibert, H-I-B-E-R-T. My last name is Klassen which 1 2 is spelled K-L-A-S-S-E-N. 3 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: All right. And are you a customer of Liberty Utilities? 4 5 MR. KLASSEN: Yes, I am. 6 JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. What is your 7 statement for the Commission, sir? MR. KLASSEN: Let me first indicate that 8 if I had in my possession some of the information that I received here just a few minutes ago, I might 10 have modified or taken a slightly different 11 12 approach, but these are the thoughts that I have 13 compiled prior to coming here, so I hope you will 14 indulge me. 15 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Certainly. 16 MR. KLASSEN: First I want to thank the 17 commissioners for the work that you do on behalf of the citizens of Missouri. 18 19 And several years ago, at a previous 20 hearing here in Hannibal at a rate increase request, 21 I traced the price of natural gas before and after Hurricane Katrina. The typical prices prior to that 22 hurricane were in the neighborhood of \$7 per 23 thousand cubic feet. When the hurricane caused the 24

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wells to temporarily shut down in the Gulf of

25

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- 1 Mexico, the price spiked to \$14 briefly in December
- 2 of 2005. This morning the market price of natural
- 3 gas was listed at \$4.44. This vast reduction in
- 4 price is the only positive thing I can think of to
- 5 say about fracking, which is responsible for an
- 6 increased supply and the lower price of natural gas.
- 7 Given that natural gas costs so much less today than
- 8 it did a few years ago, I cannot understand why any
- 9 economic justification to approve this proposed rate
- increase would happen, with the proposed delivery
- 11 charge going up nearly 45 percent.
- 12 As I said, I wrote that before I came
- 13 here. From the things I've heard here, I now
- 14 understand that there are other issues that are
- 15 going on, but I didn't know that when I wrote this.
- 16 However, I would beg your indulgence to
- 17 allow me to address some issues that I find to be
- 18 related that are of utmost concern to me.
- 19 The energy product that this company
- 20 sells to us is a fossil fuel. That means it is
- 21 derived from substances that have been sequestered,
- 22 buried in the earth and not present in the
- 23 atmosphere, for millions of years. When we burn
- 24 this fuel, carbon dioxide is added to the
- 25 atmosphere. There are claims out there that this is

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- 1 a better, cleaner fuel and can help us transition
- 2 away from fossil fuels; however, Bob Howarth, that's
- 3 H-O-W-A-R-T-H, Professor of Ecology and
- 4 Environmental Biology at Cornell University,
- 5 disagrees. His research shows that, when fracking
- 6 takes place, between 3.6 to 7.9 percent of the
- 7 product is methane that enters the atmosphere. He
- 8 discusses this finding, among other places, in the
- 9 movie "Gasland Part II" (about one hour and 22
- 10 minutes into the movie). Methane is even more
- 11 potent as a greenhouse gas than is carbon dioxide.
- 12 So why worry about greenhouse gases in
- 13 the atmosphere? Permit me to briefly review the
- 14 science and implications. Just over a year ago I
- 15 heard of two tragedies, one in California and one in
- 16 St. Louis. In each instance, a family went
- 17 shopping, and then they returned home with multiple
- 18 packages and children and somehow forgot to take a
- 19 small child out of an infant seat. Each parent
- 20 thought the other had the child. When they
- 21 discovered their error after an hour or 90 minutes,
- 22 they raced to their vehicle, parked in the hot sun,
- 23 and were horrified to discover their child was dead.
- 24 An even more horrific case seems to be developing
- 25 now in Atlanta where apparently a father

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- 1 deliberately killed his young son in this manner.
- 2 He cooked him to death in his car.
- 3 Science says that sunlight is energy,
- 4 and we use glass precisely because it is
- 5 transparent, meaning that visible light passes
- 6 through it readily. That energy strikes things
- 7 inside a car, the dashboard, the seats, the carpets,
- 8 and they heat up. Hot things radiate energy away,
- 9 but here's the catch: that radiant energy is a
- 10 different color, a different wavelength than the
- 11 visible light, it is infrared. Glass is not a great
- 12 insulator, but infrared does not travel through
- 13 glass as readily as visible light does. So the heat
- 14 is trapped and builds up rapidly. We construct
- 15 greenhouses out of glass precisely to take advantage
- 16 of this characteristic.
- More than 150 years ago, scientists
- 18 began to wonder if the presence of even small
- 19 amounts of certain chemicals in our atmosphere could
- 20 have the same effect as glass in regards to impeding
- 21 the transfer of heat through the air. In 1859 a
- 22 scientist John Tyndall conducted the necessary
- 23 experiments. He measured the flow of heat through
- 24 air with and without certain trace chemicals
- 25 present, and he discovered that minute quantities of

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- 1 certain gases made a huge difference in conducting
- 2 heat. In particular, he identified carbon dioxide
- 3 as having this characteristic. It produces the same
- 4 changes as glass on a greenhouse and for this
- 5 reason, carbon dioxide and methane and water vapor
- 6 are referred to as greenhouse gases.
- 7 Greenhouse gases roll up the windows on
- 8 planet earth. Burning a gallon, which is 6.25
- 9 pounds of gasoline, adds 20 pounds of carbon dioxide
- 10 to the atmosphere. We live here. We can't get out
- 11 of this vehicle. We cannot park it in the shade.
- 12 Scientists consider 350 parts per million of carbon
- 13 dioxide in the atmosphere to be a tipping point to
- 14 catastrophe. Recently, for the first time in human
- 15 history, we exceeded 400 parts per million. We're
- 16 in completely unknown territory. If we were ancient
- 17 mapmakers, we would pencil in the notation, "Here
- 18 there be monsters."
- 19 This number would be much higher except
- 20 for the fact that our oceans absorb billions of tons
- 21 of carbon dioxide as the level increases in the air,
- 22 but this fact is not good news. On April 29, 2008,
- 23 my wife went to sleep and I started channel surfing.
- 24 I found C-SPAN and here is a confession. I might
- 25 have clicked on by, but the women who were

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- 1 testifying were so great looking that I stopped to
- 2 see what they were talking about. It turned out
- 3 they were scientists, marine biologists.
- 4 From their testimony I first learned
- 5 that the ocean absorbs vast quantities of carbon
- 6 dioxide and that carbon dioxide makes the ocean more
- 7 acidic. Acid dissolves seashells, and these
- 8 scientists explained that we were already in 2008
- 9 dangerously close to a point where there would be
- 10 too much acid in the ocean for animals there to
- 11 produce shells. They were unanimous in their
- 12 conclusions and predictions. In contrast, they
- 13 suggested that if a catastrophe wiped out all of the
- 14 tropical rain forests on earth, we might possibly
- 15 still be able to muddle through. However, they were
- 16 adamant in the simple stark statement: "If the
- 17 oceans die, we die. Animals that live in shells are
- 18 a crucial part of the food chain in the ocean. If
- 19 they can no longer produce shells, they will die and
- 20 the ocean will die.
- 21 Last Thursday I read an article about
- 22 scientists who placed baby clams in mud flats in a
- 23 cove in Maine. Their shells, quote, rapidly
- 24 dissolved. The dire situation predicted in 2008 is
- 25 happening now. In the past two months, I have

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- 1 discovered, excuse me, that a group of climate
- 2 scientists have begun to speak about the
- 3 unthinkable. They are asking each other in
- 4 publications available on the internet if the human
- 5 race can survive past the year 2050. This group is
- 6 focused primarily on the danger that climate change
- 7 will move so rapidly that plants cannot keep up, and
- 8 we will be unable to raise corn, rice, wheat, and
- 9 other essential foods.
- 10 Any continued use of any fossil fuels
- 11 increases the danger to the human race and to other
- 12 creatures on our planet. Individuals can try to
- 13 make intelligent decisions, but they are limited by
- 14 the economic choices available. Corporations are
- 15 chasing bottom-line profits and will not make the
- 16 necessary changes without the proper incentives.
- 17 Only government agencies such as you, commissioners,
- 18 can make these changes happen.
- 19 The California Air Resources Board
- 20 passed the zero emission vehicle mandate in 1990.
- 21 If auto manufacturers were to be allowed to continue
- 22 to sell cars in California, they had to make certain
- 23 percentages of them to be emission-free. The
- 24 mandate was 2 percent in 1998, 5 percent in 2001 and
- 25 10 percent in 2003. As a result, General Motors

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- 1 began to produce the EV1, electric vehicle 1. When
- 2 political pressure caused this board to back down,
- 3 the electric vehicles disappeared, literally. They
- 4 were collected, taken to junkyards and crushed.
- 5 Our energy future is in your hands. I
- 6 would be happy if you gave this company twice as
- 7 much or ten times as much of a rate increase as they
- 8 are requesting if you first obtained from them an
- 9 ironclad guarantee that they would transition at the
- 10 highest technically possible speed to supplying us
- 11 with energy that does not come from fossil fuels.
- 12 We have caused breakthroughs on the manufacture of
- 13 solar panels. We have breakthroughs on both the
- 14 cost and capacity of storage batteries. We have the
- 15 technical know-how to try to stop plunging over this
- 16 climate cliff. It may indeed be too late, but we
- 17 must try. As our representatives in a government
- 18 agency dealing with energy, I believe you have both
- 19 the responsibility and the power to address this
- 20 human crisis. Thank you.
- JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Klassen, thank you
- 22 very much. Mr. Chairman, do you have any questions?
- 23 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Mr. Klassen, thanks.
- 24 Your comments were, obviously, very well researched
- 25 and I appreciate the time that you took to express

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- 1 your concerns. Those are important in our
- 2 decisions.
- I want to switch gears slightly if you
- 4 don't mind and ask you some questions about your
- 5 customer service experience with the company. Do
- 6 you have any experiences along the lines of the
- 7 quality and caliber of customer service that you've
- 8 received from the company thus far?
- 9 MR. KLASSEN: At this point I would
- 10 basically say no. The bills I receive are readable.
- 11 You know, everyone would love to have them be a
- 12 little bit lower, but, you know, I have not had any
- 13 specific issues with the company, no, sir.
- 14 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Again, I do appreciate
- 15 you taking the time and obvious thought and
- 16 consideration and concern that you put into
- 17 preparing your remarks. I appreciate it very much.
- MR. KLASSEN: Thank you, sir.
- 19 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: Thank you.
- 20 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Klassen, thank you
- 21 for your time and your testimony.
- I don't have anyone else who has signed
- 23 up to testify. Does anyone else have any remarks?
- Yes, sir. If you'll come forward and be
- 25 sworn, please. If you'll raise your right hand to

		Page 15
1	be sworn.	
2	DAVID JOHNSON,	
3	was sworn to tell the truth and testified as	
4	follows:	
5	JUDGE PRIDGIN: Thank you very much,	
6	sir. You can stand or sit as you're comfortable.	
7	If you'll state your name and spell it for the court	
8	reporter, please.	
9	MR. JOHNSON: David Johnson,	
10	J-O-H-N-S-O-N.	
11	JUDGE PRIDGIN: And are you a customer	
12	of Liberty Utilities?	
13	MR. JOHNSON: Yes, I am.	
14	JUDGE PRIDGIN: All right. What is your	
15	statement, sir?	
16	MR. JOHNSON: On my customer experiences	
17	with Liberty Utilities since they've taken over,	
18	there have been zero problems. The only interaction	
19	with them has been on the billing and it's fine.	
20	The only comment that I have, they were	
21	talking earlier about the rate pie, how the	
22	different rates are set, and I would like to ask	
23	that if a rate increase is granted, that	
24	consideration be given to put the increase in the	
25	commodity rate and keep the monthly delivery charge	

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- 1 as low as possible. I feel that gives an incentive
- 2 to people to use less of the utility and I just
- 3 think trying to get people to conserve is probably a
- 4 good thing. I'd rather the rates not increase, but
- 5 if an increase is granted, I would rather see it in
- 6 that charge and not the monthly charge. That's
- 7 basically all I've got.
- JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Johnson, thank you.
- 9 Mr. Chairman?
- 10 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No questions. Thank
- 11 you very much. I appreciate it.
- 12 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Johnson. Thank you.
- 13 Again, I've had nobody else sign up to
- 14 testify. Does anyone else wish to testify to the
- 15 Commission?
- Seeing no hands. Counsel, anything in
- 17 closing?
- 18 MR. DORITY: No, sir.
- MR. OPTIZ: No, sir.
- JUDGE PRIDGIN: I'm sorry. I think I
- 21 did neglect to take entries of appearance. Let me
- 22 do that real quickly.
- Mr. Dority for the company, please.
- 24 Thank you.
- MR. DORITY: Thank you, Judge.

Page 17 Appearing on behalf of Liberty Utilities, my name is 2 Larry Dority. I'm with the firm of Fischer & Dority 3 in Jefferson City. Our address is 101 Madison, Suite 400, Jefferson City 65101. 4 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Dority, thank you. 5 On behalf of the staff, please. 7 MR. OPTIZ: Thank you, Judge. Appearing on behalf of the staff of the Commission Tim Opitz, 8 P.O. Box 360, Jefferson City, Missouri 65102. 10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Opitz, thank you. On behalf of the Office of Public 11 12 Counsel, please. 13 MR. POSTON: Thank you. Marc Poston appearing for the Office of the Public Counsel and 14 15 the public. 16 JUDGE PRIDGIN: Mr. Poston, thank you. 17 Have I overlooked anyone? All right. 18 Nobody else wishes to testify? 19 Mr. Chairman, any closing remarks? 20 CHAIRMAN KENNEY: No. Just again, 21 thanks for taking the time on a Tuesday evening to come out and participate in the process. It's 22 23 important. 24 This is one portion of the overall 25 process. This will culminate the two-week hearing

Page 18 that will take place in Jeff City at which time 2 evidence will be presented and the Commission will 3 sit and make a decision and make a written decision. You're free to come to Jefferson City and watch the 4 5 hearing live or you can watch it streaming on the 6 internet as well at our website and I encourage you 7 to do that if you're so inclined. Again, thank you for being here tonight 8 and safe driving home. 10 JUDGE PRIDGIN: And I thank you for those comments. Thank you for your time and your 11 12 interest in the hearing this evening. If there's nothing further, we will go 13 off the record in the Hannibal local public hearing 14 in GR-2014-0152. Thank you very much. We're off 15 16 the record. (The hearing concluded at 6:46 p.m.) 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 2.4 25

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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER	
2	I, Amanda N. Farrar, a Certified Court	
3	Reporter for the State of Missouri, do hereby	
4	certify that the witnesses whose testimony appears	
5	in the foregoing transcript were duly sworn; the	
6	testimony of said witnesses was taken by me to the	
7	best of my ability and thereafter reduced to	
8	typewriting under my direction; that I am neither	
9	counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the	
10	parties to the action in which this hearing was	
11	taken, and further that I am not a relative or	
12	employee of any attorney or counsel employed by the	
13	parties thereto, nor financially or otherwise	
14	interested in the outcome of the action.	
15		
16		
17		
18	Certified Court Reporter	
19		
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