PUBLIC NOTICE OF HEARING ON THE APPLICATION OF SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL OF A RATE INCREASE (DOCKET NO. G-01551A-21-0368)

Summary

On December 3, 2021, Southwest Gas Corporation ("SWG" or "Company") filed a rate application with the Arizona Corporation Commission ("Commission"), requesting an increase in the retail natural gas utility service rates in its Arizona jurisdiction, continuation of its currently approved rate design, and approval of proposed tariff modifications. SWG asserts that for the test year ending August 31, 2021 ("TY"), the Company had adjusted operating income of \$119,106,029 and an original cost rate base ("OCRB") of \$2,642,067,983 and a fair value rate base ("FVRB") of \$3,414,416,189 resulting in a rate of return of 4.51 percent. SWG proposes rates and charges that would produce an overall revenue increase of \$90.7 million or approximately 11.4 percent, to produce a 5.48 percent rate of return on Southwest Gas Corporation's FVRB.

Under SWG's proposal, the residential basic service charge would remain at \$10.70 per month; however, the monthly bill for a single-family residential customer with an annual average monthly usage of 24 therms would increase by \$5.12, from \$44.28 to \$49.40.

NEITHER THE COMMISSION'S UTILITIES DIVISION ("STAFF") NOR ANY INTERVENOR HAS YET MADE ANY RECOMMENDATION REGARDING SWG'S APPLICATION. THE COMMISSION IS NOT BOUND BY THE PROPOSALS OF SWG, STAFF, OR ANY INTERVENORS. THE COMMISSION WILL DETERMINE THE APPROPRIATE RELIEF TO BE GRANTED IN RESPONSE TO SWG'S APPLICATION BASED ON THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED IN THIS MATTER. THE FINAL RATES APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION MAY BE HIGHER, LOWER, OR DIFFERENT THAN THE RATES PROPOSED BY SWG OR BY OTHER PARTIES.

If you have any questions concerning how the Application may affect your bill or other substantive questions about the Application, you may contact Southwest Gas Corporation at: **2200 North Central Avenue**, **#101**, **Phoenix, Arizona 85004, by phone at 1-877-860-6020, or by e-mail at customerinfo@swgas.com**.

How You Can View or Obtain a Copy of the Application

Copies of the Application are available from Southwest Gas Corporation **upon request by contacting the Company at 1-877-860-6020.** Copies can be viewed at 2200 North Central Avenue, #101, Phoenix, **Arizona 85004 and 3401 East Gas Road, Tucson, Arizona 85714.** The filing is also available by visiting <u>www.swgas.com/investedinaz</u>; at the Commission's Docket Control Center at 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona, and 400 West Congress Street, Suite 218, Tucson, Arizona, during regular business hours; and on the Commission website (<u>www.azcc.gov</u>) using the e-Docket function. During the COVID-19 pandemic, access to Southwest Gas Corporation and Commission offices may be restricted.

All documents filed in this docket are available online (usually within 24 hours after docketing) at the Commission's website (<u>www.azcc.gov</u>) using the e-Docket function and Docket No. G-01551A-21-0368.

Arizona Corporation Commission Public Hearing Information

The Commission will hold a hearing on this matter beginning **September 26, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.**, at the Commission's offices, 1200 West Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona. In addition, **telephonic public comment** will be taken on **September 26, 2022**, at the beginning of the hearing.

Telephonic Public Comment Meetings

Due to federal and state COVID-19 pandemic safety guidelines, public comment will be taken telephonically. The Commission will take telephonic public comment on the following dates and times:

Date	Time
Tuesday, August 9 , 2022	6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., or until the last caller is finished speaking, whichever comes first
Friday, August 12 , 2022	6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., or until the last caller is finished speaking, whichever comes first
Wednesday, August 24 , 2022	10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or until the last caller is finished speaking, whichever comes first
Monday, August 29 , 2022	10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or until the last caller is finished speaking, whichever comes first
Monday, September 19 , 2022, at the beginning of the pre-hearing conference	10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or until the last caller is finished speaking, whichever comes first

To provide telephonic public comments, please call, 1-866-705-2554 and enter this code: 241497#.

Members of the public are encouraged to use landline telephones to call into the telephonic public comment meetings, as mobile telephones do not consistently provide adequate audio quality to permit verbatim transcription of telephonic comments by a court reporter.

Written public comments may be submitted by mailing a letter referencing **Docket No. G-01551A-21-0368** to Arizona Corporation Commission, Consumer Services Section, 1200 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007, or by submitting comments on the Commission's website (<u>www.azcc.gov</u>) by clicking on "Cases and Open Meetings" and "Make a Public Comment in a Docket." If you require assistance, you may contact the Consumer Services Section at 602-542-4251 or 1-800-222-7000.

If you do not intervene in this proceeding, you will receive no further notice of the proceedings in this docket unless you sign up to Follow the Docket. However, all documents filed in this docket are available online (usually within 24 hours after docketing) at the Commission's website (<u>www.azcc.gov</u>) using the e-Docket function. Information on how to Follow a Docket is available on the Commission's website using "Cases and Open Meetings" and "Follow a Docket or Document Type."

About Intervention

The law provides for an open public hearing at which, under appropriate circumstances, interested persons may intervene. An interested person may be granted intervention if the outcome of the case will directly and substantially impact the person, and the person's intervention will not unduly broaden the issues in the case. Intervention, among other things, entitles a party to present sworn evidence at hearing and to cross-examine other parties' witnesses. Intervention is not required for you to stream or listen to the hearing, provide public comment, file written comments in the record of the case, or receive emailed notice of each filing made in the case by following the docket.

Information about what intervention means, including an explanation of the rights and responsibilities of an intervenor, is available on the Commission's website (<u>www.azcc.gov</u>) by clicking on "Cases and Open Meetings" and then clicking on "Intervene in a Case." The information includes a Sample Intervention Request and a Fillable Intervention Request Form.

To request intervention, you must file a written request to intervene, either (a) by filing a hard copy request (meeting filing requirements) with Docket Control (Docket Control, 1200 West Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007), or (b) by eFiling the request. Your request **must be filed or eFiled no later than April 11, 2022.** Instructions and restrictions for eFiling are available on the Commission's website at <u>http://azcc.gov/hearing/efile-for-utilities-instruction</u>. You also **must** serve a copy of the request to intervene on each party of record, on the same day that you file the request to intervene with the Commission. Your request to intervene **must** contain the information below:

- 1. Your name, address, and telephone number;
- 2. The docket number for the case in which you are requesting to intervene;

- 3. A short statement explaining:
 - a. Your interest in the proceeding (e.g., a customer of the regulated company involved, etc.),
 - b. How you will be directly and substantially affected by the outcome of the case, and
 - c. Why your intervention will not unduly broaden the issues in the case;
- 4. A statement certifying that you have sent a copy of your request to intervene to the regulated company or its attorney and to all other parties of record in the case; and
- 5. If you are not represented by an attorney who is an active member of the Arizona State Bar, and you are not representing yourself as an individual, sufficient information and any appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with Arizona Supreme Court Rules 31, 31.1, 31.2, 31.3, 38, 39, and 42, as applicable. This only applies if you are NOT representing yourself and you are not a licensed attorney.

The granting of motions to intervene shall be governed by A.A.C. R14-3-105, except that <u>all motions to</u> intervene must be filed on or before **April 11, 2022**.

ADA/Equal Access Information

The Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to its public meetings. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation such as a sign language interpreter, as well as request this document in an alternative format, by contacting the ADA Coordinator, Carolyn Buck, E-mail <u>ADACoordinator@azcc.gov</u>, voice phone number 602-542-3931. Requests should be made as early as possible and no later than 48 hours in advance of the event to allow time to arrange the accommodation.