

BEFORE THE IDAHO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF QUESTAR GAS)
COMPANY’S PETITION TO CLARIFY ITS) **CASE NO. QST-G-15-01**
SERVICE TERRITORY BOUNDARIES)
) **ORDER NO. 33367**

On June 22, 2015, Questar Gas Company petitioned the Commission for an Order clarifying that its certificated service area boundaries include all of Franklin County, Idaho. The Commission then issued a Notice of Petition and Notice of Modified Procedure and set deadlines for interested persons to file comments in this case, and for the Company to file reply comments. *See* Order No. 33335. Commission Staff filed the only comments in the case, and supports the Company’s Petition.

Having reviewed the record, we grant the Company’s Petition as specified below.

THE PETITION

In its Petition, Questar explains that, in 1990, its predecessor, Mountain Fuel Supply Company, applied to the Commission for an Order allowing Mountain Fuel Supply to provide “natural gas service to communities in Franklin County, the town of Franklin, the city of Preston, and other communities in the vicinity of the proposed extension where service is determined to be economically feasible.” Petition at 1-2. Questar explains that the Commission ultimately granted Mountain Fuel Company’s request and issued Certificate No. 315, which requires Mountain Fuel Company and its successors to provide natural gas service “in the southeast Idaho County of Franklin and the Franklin County cities of Franklin and Preston. . . .” *Id.* at 2, *quoting* Order No. 23282 at 6, and Certificate No. 315. Mountain Fuel Company and its successor, Questar, have served the cities of Preston and Franklin since that time. *Id.* at 1-2.

Questar’s Petition states that entities in Dayton, another city in Franklin County, have recently asked Questar to provide natural gas service in the Dayton area. Questar believes Certificate No. 315 authorizes it to serve all of Franklin County, including Dayton. However, Questar would like the Commission to issue an Order clarifying that fact. *Id.* at 2-3.

THE COMMENTS

Commission Staff filed the only comments in the case, and supports Questar’s Petition. Staff notes that, besides the documents referenced in the Petition, the Commission also issued a First Amendment to Certificate No. 315, Case No. QST-G-01-01, which changed the

Certificate holder's name from Mountain Fuel Supply Company to Questar Gas Company. However, Staff notes that the First Amendment also described Questar's service area as the "southeastern portion of Franklin County," and not the "Southeast Idaho county of Franklin" as specified in the original Certificate. Staff is unclear why the First Amendment changed the service area description; the case ostensibly involved only a name change. However, because both the original Certificate No. 315 and the First Amendment specifically reference Order No. 23282, which describes the service area as "the southeast Idaho County of Franklin" (*Id.* at 6), Staff suspects the change in the service area description was inadvertent. Staff believes Questar's service area is most accurately described in Order No. 23282 and original Certificate No. 315, and includes all of Franklin County.

Staff opines that allowing Questar to serve all of Franklin County does not conflict with any other utility providing natural gas service in Idaho, and is consistent with Commission Order No. 23282. Staff notes that Questar ultimately would serve Dayton under the line extension provisions described in Questar's Utah Natural Gas Tariff PSCU 400, and specifically under provisions 9.03 (Main Extensions – Company Installed) and 9.04 (Service Line Extensions – Company Installed). Staff opines that Questar's existing Idaho customers would not be adversely impacted if Questar were to serve Dayton under these provisions.

For these reasons, Staff recommended the Commission find it is in the public interest to:

- (1) Issue a Second Amendment to Certificate No. 315 that clarifies the service territory includes all of Franklin County, as requested by Questar, with references to the Southeastern portion of Franklin County and the cities of Franklin and Preston being deleted; and
- (2) Direct Questar to provide the Commission with copies of all documents filed with Utah for the permitting, construction and operation of Questar's system to provide gas service to Dayton, including without limitation the calculation of the surcharge, the underlying workpapers documenting the components of the surcharge calculation, and the cost-benefit analysis demonstrating the feasibility of the service.

DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

Questar is a gas corporation and public utility. The Commission has jurisdiction over Questar and the matters in this case under Title 61 of the Idaho Code. Based on our review of the record, we find it is in the public interest to grant Questar's Petition by clarifying prior Order

No. 23282 and Certificate No. 315 and establish that Questar's service territory includes all of Franklin County, Idaho. We find that the First Amendment to Certificate No. 315, which was "predicated upon and issued pursuant to the findings contained in Order No. 23282," misdescribed the service area as noted above. And that notwithstanding the First Amendment to Certificate No. 315, Questar's service area remains "the southeast Idaho County of Franklin" as described in Order No. 23282. We thus find it reasonable to issue a Second Amended Certificate No. 315 that clarifies the service area includes all of Franklin County.

We also find it reasonable to direct Questar to provide the Commission with copies of all documents it files with Utah related to the permitting, construction and operation of Questar's system so Questar can provide gas service to Dayton or areas in Franklin County that Questar does not currently serve. Further, as the Utah Public Service Commission and this Commission have entered into a contract under which the Utah Public Service Commission regulates Questar's service in Idaho (*see* Order No. 23282, attaching the Contract for Regulatory Services), we find it reasonable to direct that copies of the Petition, this Order, and the Second Amendment to Certificate No. 315 be served on the Utah Public Service Commission.

ORDER


IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a Second Amendment to Certificate No. 315 shall be issued to Questar Gas Company that describes the service area to include all of Franklin County, Idaho.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Company shall promptly provide the Commission with copies of all documents it files with Utah related to the permitting, construction, and operation of Questar's system to serve Dayton or other areas in Franklin County that Questar does not currently serve.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that copies of the Company's Petition, this Order, and the Second Amendment to Certificate No. 315 shall be served on the Utah Public Service Commission.

THIS IS A FINAL ORDER. Any person interested in the Order (or in issues decided by this Order) may petition for reconsideration within twenty-one (21) days of the service date of this Order with regard to any matter decided in this Order and in this case. Within seven (7) days after any person has petitioned for reconsideration, any other person may cross-petition for reconsideration. *See Idaho Code* §§ 61-626.

DONE by Order of the Idaho Public Utilities Commission at Boise, Idaho this 27th
day of August 2015.



PAUL KJELLANDER, PRESIDENT

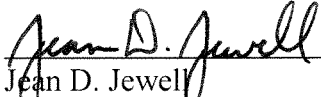


MARSHA H. SMITH, COMMISSIONER



KRISTINE RAPER, COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:



Jean D. Jewell
Commission Secretary

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