

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BEFORE THE
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. § Docket No. RP04-____-000
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**PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF
DR. WILLIAM B. TYE
ON BEHALF OF
MARITIMES & NORTHEAST PIPELINE, L.L.C.**

1 **Q.1 Please state your name, business address, and affiliation.**

2 A. My name is William B. Tye. My business address is *The Brattle Group*, 1133
3 Twentieth Street, NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20036. I am a principal with
4 the firm.

5 **Q.2 Please describe your educational and professional experience relevant to this**
6 **proceeding.**

7 A. I received my Bachelor of Arts in economics from Emory University and my
8 Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.

9 Upon leaving Harvard, I became an assistant professor of economics and
10 management at the U.S. Air Force Academy. I taught qualitative economic
11 theory, econometrics, policy issues in contemporary economics and quantitative
12 decision methods. After leaving the service in 1972, I joined Charles River
13 Associates, a Boston research and consulting firm, as a senior research associate
14 and became program manager for transportation, and later vice president and a
15 director of the company. I joined Putnam, Hayes & Bartlett, Inc. in 1980 as a
16 Principal. In August 1990, I, along with six colleagues, founded *The Brattle*

1 Group, a successor firm resulting from the merger of *The Brattle Group, Inc.* and
2 Incentives, Research, Inc.

3 I am presently a principal of *The Brattle Group*, an economic,
4 management, and environmental consulting firm located in Cambridge,
5 Massachusetts; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco, California; and London, United
6 Kingdom. I have testified before regulatory commissions on the subjects of
7 pipeline regulation generally and more specifically, rate design for regulated
8 industries. These proceedings have involved matters before the Federal Energy
9 Regulatory Commission (“FERC”), the Interstate Commerce Commission
10 (“ICC,” now the Surface Transportation Board (“STB”)) and the Regulatory
11 Commission of Alaska (“RCA”). I have also written numerous books and articles
12 on these subjects. In addition, I will be publishing two chapters in *Transport*
13 *Strategy, Policy and Institutions*, in a handbook forthcoming by
14 Permagon/Elsevier.

15 These qualifications and experience are detailed in my resume, included as
16 Exhibit No. __ (WBT-2) to this testimony. As the resume indicates, I have over
17 thirty years experience as a transportation economist.

18 **Q.3 What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

19 A. I have been asked by Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C. (“Maritimes”) to
20 address, from the perspective of an economist, the appropriate manner to allocate
21 costs and design rates related to the Phase III Project. I conclude that Maritimes’
22 decision to “roll-in” or include the costs of the Phase III Project with Maritimes’
23 existing system costs, and recover those combined costs through the rates for the

1 existing services provided by Maritimes, is consistent with economically rational
2 rate design. My perspective as an economist witness is in addition to the support
3 for the roll-in of Phase III costs provided by Mr. Christopher T. Ditzel (Exhibit
4 No. ____ (CTD-1)) (Operational Benefits of Phase III); Mr. William C. Penney, Jr.
5 (Exhibit No. ____ (WCP-1)) (Billing Determinants; Summary of Phase III Firm
6 Subscriptions and Usage); and Mr. John J. Reed (Exhibit No. ____ (JJR-1))
7 (Benefits of Phase III; Canadian Market Demand). An understanding of the
8 Maritimes pipeline system before and after the completion of the Phase III Project
9 is provided by Mr. Richard J. Kruse in his prepared direct testimony (Exhibit No.
10 ____ (RJK-1)).

11 **Q.4 Could you summarize your conclusions with regard to allocation of Phase III**
12 **costs?**

13 A. Yes. I have concluded that it is appropriate to continue to charge the system-wide
14 rate for the Phase III facilities and, as a consequence, it is appropriate to “roll in”
15 the costs of Phase III with existing system costs. I have also concluded that
16 treating the Phase III Project costs as incremental would be inappropriate based
17 on the facts of this case and would create a precedent which could have serious
18 adverse policy consequences.

19 **The Certificate Policy Statement Supports Roll-In**

20 **Q.5 How does the Commission justify incremental pricing in its Certificate Policy**
21 **Statement?**

22 A. Under the FERC’s Statement of Policy concerning Certification of New Interstate
23 Natural Gas Pipeline Facilities (“Certificate Policy Statement”),¹ the Commission

¹ Certificate Policy Statement, 88 FERC ¶ 61,227 (1999).

1 seeks to insulate existing shippers from rate increases caused by later pipeline
2 investments that do not “benefit” such customers. The Commission does not
3 want existing shippers to subsidize large costs of new construction when the new
4 customers will be the only parties benefiting from the new facilities.

5 **Q.6 How does it accomplish this objective?**

6 A. The Certificate Policy Statement indicates that a “threshold” requirement is that
7 new customers must be prepared to support pipeline expansions through rates, and
8 that this requirement creates a presumption in favor of incremental pricing.²

9 **Q.7 Is the “subsidy” rationale that the Commission uses to justify an incremental**
10 **pricing approach applicable to projects such as Maritimes’ Phase III?**

11 A. No. If protecting existing customers from subsidizing projects that do not benefit
12 them is a valid goal, no such subsidy is occurring in this case. In fact, the
13 Commission states explicitly in the Certificate Policy Statement that the
14 presumption favoring the incremental price approach does not apply where the
15 construction project is intended to benefit existing customers. This is so even
16 where rolling in the costs causes rates to increase generally on the system.³

17 **Q.8 Can you please quote the portion of the Certificate Policy Statement that**
18 **makes this point?**

19 A. Yes. The Commission states:

20 Projects designed to improve existing service for existing
21 customers, by replacing existing capacity, improving
22 reliability or providing flexibility, are for the benefit of
23 existing customers. Increasing the rates of the existing
24 customers to pay for these improvements is not a subsidy.
25 Under current policy these kinds of projects are permitted

² See *id.* at p. 61,746.

³ See *id.* at p. 61,746 n.12.

1 to be rolled in and are not covered by the presumption of
2 the current pricing policy.⁴

3 **Q.9 Is the Commission correct to carve out projects that have general benefits for**
4 **existing shippers and to exclude such projects from the presumption in favor**
5 **of incremental pricing?**

6 A. Yes. It makes no sense to apply a bias in favor of incremental pricing to projects
7 designed to benefit existing customers. Attempting to recover the costs of such
8 projects from hypothetical incremental customers means that no one would pay,
9 and therefore no such projects would ever be built, as explained more fully below.

10 **Q.10 What is your view of the rationale for a bias in favor of incremental pricing**
11 **as expressed by the Commission in the Certificate Policy Statement?**

12 A. There are a number of reasons to question the presumption that sound economic
13 analysis necessarily supports a bias towards incremental pricing. Among the
14 reasons are:

15 (1) A bias in favor of incremental pricing is not consistent with economic
16 efficiency, or letting the market decide, because many projects create
17 significant benefits that go beyond just direct benefits to incremental
18 customers;

19 (2) By failing to consider benefits to both new and existing customers, a
20 policy favoring incremental pricing may discourage the investment in
21 pipeline infrastructure necessary to achieve system benefits and grid
22 efficiency;

23 (3) The reluctance of pipeline customers to sign long-term contracts and the
24 burden of the risk of cost recovery on the pipeline under incremental
25 pricing may discourage pipelines from incurring the costs of needed

⁴ *Id.*

1 capacity to prevent bottlenecks, assure system reliability, and to serve
2 future demand additions; and

3 (4) Incremental pricing may not achieve an equitable sharing of the costs and
4 benefits of new additions.

5 At this point, I would emphasize that we do not need to consider these arguments
6 in this case since there are no “new customers” related to Phase III, and the
7 Commission has stated explicitly that the presumption favoring incremental
8 pricing does not apply to projects generally benefiting the system. This is a case,
9 as noted by Mr. Penney in his testimony, where all of the existing long-term firm
10 shippers have executed agreements for service on the Phase III facilities and gas
11 is actually flowing under these agreements. As the Commission stated,
12 “Maritimes’ proposal does not add new load, but merely enhances its existing
13 service to its existing customers.”⁵

14 **Q.11 Did the Commission expect Phase III to benefit existing shippers when it**
15 **authorized the project?**

16 A. Yes. Indeed, the Commission based its approval on the anticipated benefits to
17 existing shippers. At that time, Maritimes, citing its market/benefit study, stated:

18 [A] more efficient and direct access to a new source of
19 supply . . .; lower natural gas costs to consumers by
20 providing additional pipeline alternatives, thereby
21 eliminating any bottlenecks and increasing the efficiency of
22 the pipeline grid; and increase the reliability of service to
23 LDC and electric generation markets, resulting in economic
24 benefits to the Northeast as well as promote
25 environmentally-sensitive energy consumption through the
26 increased use of gas.⁶

⁵ *Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, L.L.C.*, Preliminary Determinations on Non-Environmental Issues (“Preliminary Determination”), 95 FERC ¶ 61,077, at p. 61,228 (2001).

⁶ Preliminary Determination, 95 FERC at p. 61,226.

1 The Commission agreed, noting that “[t]he evidence presented by Maritimes . . .
2 demonstrates a need for [the] proposed project[.]”⁷ All of these benefits are
3 discussed in greater detail in Mr. Reed’s testimony.

4 The Commission also found that there were no adverse impacts of the
5 Phase III Project that needed to be mitigated, and in any event, the project will
6 “provide benefits that outweigh any adverse impacts.”⁸

7 **Q.12 Have existing customers benefited from the addition of Phase III?**

8 A. Yes. They clearly have. Maritimes shippers now have the benefit of an important
9 additional delivery point at Beverly. This has greatly expanded shipper delivery
10 options, and has allowed them to take advantage of the often higher price
11 increment in this new market, as discussed in the testimony of Mr. Reed (Exhibit
12 No. ____ (JJR-1)). The new delivery option also makes the shippers’ released
13 capacity more valuable to a replacement shipper. This is a benefit that also flows
14 to existing shippers, since their released capacity will tend to be more attractive to
15 replacement bidders, improving the net present value received under the release.
16 Maritimes’ shippers have been able for some time to utilize this new service at no
17 additional charge. They are now getting the benefit of paying rates based on
18 Maritimes’ last rate case, despite the added cost to Maritimes to finance this new
19 service capability. This is in addition to the reliability and efficiency inherent in
20 having these additional facilities available. As discussed by Mr. Reed in his
21 testimony, all of these benefits flow not only to the shippers, but to the indirect
22 recipients of service as well.

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.* at p. 61,229.

1 **Q.13 What is the relevance of the fact that existing shippers have executed new**
2 **Exhibit Bs to their firm agreements for service on Phase III?**

3 A. Their use, as discussed by Mr. Penney in his testimony, of the Phase III system
4 corroborates the predictions of Maritimes and the Commission that existing
5 shippers would benefit from the new facilities. The shippers should, therefore, be
6 obligated to pay for the cost of those facilities.

7 **Incremental Cost Allocation is Inappropriate For Phase III**

8 **Q.14 Would incrementally pricing the Phase III facilities create economic**
9 **inefficiencies?**

10 A. Yes. Indeed, in this case, there is no way to incrementally price the Phase III
11 Project. There are no new shippers. The Phase III Project was built to benefit the
12 existing shippers, the service on the Phase III facilities is the same as on the
13 existing facilities, and the existing customers all amended their contracts to take
14 service on the Phase III facilities. In these circumstances, incrementally pricing
15 the Phase III facilities as discussed in the Certificate Policy Statement makes no
16 sense, and is not a valid concept. Any decision to incrementally price the
17 Phase III facilities would not result in new shippers paying the cost of the new
18 facilities, which is the whole purpose of incremental pricing. The result of
19 incremental pricing, as applied to Phase III, would be that existing shippers would
20 get the significant benefits of the Phase III facilities without having to pay for
21 those facilities. This would create a serious “free rider” problem for the
22 Maritimes system and would have adverse policy implications that would
23 discourage the development of needed pipeline infrastructure.

1 **Q.15 What is a “free rider” problem?**

2 A. In this context, a free rider takes a project’s benefits but does not shoulder the
3 costs of its use of the resource. Free riding is usually considered to be an
4 economic problem when it leads to market inefficiencies.

5 **Q.16 Would the application of an incremental pricing regime to Phase III create a**
6 **free rider problem?**

7 A. Yes. The Phase III facilities are integrated into the entire Maritimes system.
8 Every shipper elected to add the Phase III facilities as a primary service point
9 under its contract. But, even if they had not, the Beverly delivery point is
10 nonetheless available to all of Maritimes’ firm shippers on a secondary basis. As
11 explained in more detail below, under the Commission’s Order No. 637 policies,
12 shippers will have the option to use the Phase III facilities. The service associated
13 with deliveries to Algonquin at the Phase III interconnection in Beverly is
14 basically the same service as the one Maritimes provides for deliveries to
15 Tennessee at Dracut. Both services move gas utilizing the same pipeline and
16 compression facilities in an intermingled fashion from the Sable Offshore Energy
17 Project (“SOEP”) fields to New England markets. Both services are provided at
18 identical firm service levels, are subject to the same balancing, curtailment, and
19 other generalized terms and conditions of service, and utilize shared amounts of
20 fuel, O&M costs, A&G costs, and other overhead costs of running the Maritimes
21 system. Shippers are able to go back and forth between the Dracut and Beverly
22 delivery points. Since Maritimes cannot exclude existing customers from the
23 Phase III facilities, and since there are no new customers to pay incremental rates,
24 rolled-in prices are needed to prevent free riding by pre-existing customers.

1 **Q.17 Would the creation of such free rider problems affect pipeline investment?**

2 A. Yes, very much so. The interstate natural gas pipeline business is extremely
3 capital intensive and, once those costs are sunk, the investment decision is
4 impossible to reverse. Infrastructure investments in the pipeline grid entail high
5 fixed costs that private investors are reluctant to sink unless the beneficiaries of
6 those investments contribute to cost recovery. If all construction costs were
7 allocated incrementally, and if repaired or upgraded facilities were available to all
8 customers—paying or not paying—no party would opt to pay. There would be
9 nonpaying parties using upgraded infrastructure, *i.e.*, getting a free ride. Under a
10 purely incremental regime, private investors would under-invest in infrastructure
11 maintenance and in long-term improvements that benefited the system as a whole.

12 **Q.18 You stated earlier in your testimony that, in general, a bias towards**
13 **incremental pricing had shortcomings as a policy, but that it was not**
14 **necessary to consider those criticisms because the Commission’s Certificate**
15 **Policy Statement made it clear that the presumption in favor of incremental**
16 **pricing does not apply in the facts of this case. In the event it is argued that**
17 **incremental pricing should nevertheless be applied to the Phase III facilities,**
18 **can you describe the problems that such an application would create?**

19 A. Yes. To begin with, a bias in favor of incremental pricing is not necessarily
20 consistent with economic efficiency, because many projects create significant
21 benefits that go beyond direct benefits to incremental customers. The difficulty
22 with a bias in favor of incremental pricing may be seen by examining the
23 Certificate Policy Statement’s “threshold requirement” as cited by the
24 Commission in Maritimes’ Preliminary Determination:

25 Under this policy, the threshold requirement for pipelines
26 proposing new projects is that the pipeline must be

1 prepared to support the project financially without relying
2 on subsidization from the existing customers.⁹

3 As the Commission stated, normally the threshold requirement would create a
4 presumption in favor of incremental pricing. However, project benefits often go
5 beyond those that can be captured from new shippers via long-term contracts, as
6 the Commission itself stated:

7 The reliance solely on long-term contracts to demonstrate
8 demand does not test for all the public benefits that can be
9 achieved by a proposed project. The public benefits may
10 include such factors as the environmental advantages of gas
11 over other fuels, lower fuel costs, access to new supply
12 sources or the connection of new supply to the interstate
13 grid, the elimination of pipeline facility constraints, better
14 service from access to competitive transportation options,
15 and the need for an adequate pipeline infrastructure. The
16 amount of capacity under contract is not a good indicator of
17 all these benefits.¹⁰

18 A policy biased in favor of incremental pricing would never account for such
19 public benefits if the “threshold question” is “whether the project can proceed
20 without subsidies from their existing customers,”¹¹ which creates a presumption
21 in favor of incremental pricing.

22 **Q.19 How can this problem be solved?**

23 A. Rather than impose a “threshold” requirement that creates a bias towards projects
24 that can only be financed incrementally, the appropriate test is to ensure that total
25 benefits justify the project. Looking at benefits only to incremental customers
26 under the “threshold test” of the incremental pricing standard is too narrow. If all

⁹ *Id.* at p. 61,227.

¹⁰ Certificate Policy Statement, 88 FERC ¶ 61,227, at p. 61,744.

¹¹ *Id.* at p. 61,745.

1 of the benefits of a project are considered, rolled-in pricing may prove to be a
2 better approach because it requires both new and pre-existing customers to pay for
3 the benefits they receive.

4 **Q.20 Would a policy biased in favor of incremental pricing tend to discourage**
5 **worthy pipeline investments?**

6 A. Yes. By failing to consider benefits to both new and existing customers, a policy
7 favoring incremental pricing may discourage investment in pipeline infrastructure
8 necessary to achieve system benefits and grid efficiency. The Certificate Policy
9 Statement explains that the bias toward incremental pricing did not apply to
10 “facilities constructed solely for flexibility and system reliability” under the 1995
11 Pricing Policy for New and Existing Facilities Constructed by Interstate Natural
12 Gas Pipelines, nor would the bias apply under the 1999 Certificate Policy
13 Statement where facilities were designed to improve service by improving
14 reliability or flexibility for existing customers.¹² But, this begs the question of
15 what to do with hybrid projects. If they generate benefits both to new and pre-
16 existing customers, they may never get constructed if there is a bias in favor of
17 incremental pricing, because it requires that only new customers pay for the
18 benefits they receive.

19 **Q.21 Could incremental pricing discourage pipelines from incurring the costs of**
20 **needed capacity to prevent bottlenecks, assure system reliability, and serve**
21 **future demand additions?**

22 A. Yes. The Certificate Policy Statement intends that the pipeline and its new
23 customers, not old customers, should bear the risks of new projects. As the

¹² See *id.* at p. 61,746 n.12 (citing *Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership*, 80 FERC ¶ 61,105 (1997)).

1 Certificate Policy Statement explains, “the industry has been moving to a practice
2 of relying on short term contracts.”¹³ These two factors substantially increase the
3 risks to pipelines from adding new capacity, and therefore will discourage needed
4 investments.

5 **Q.22 Why is that?**

6 A. Incremental pricing is not necessarily consistent with economic efficiency,
7 because projects that are intended to benefit the system as a whole do not
8 generally have “incremental customers,” as distinguished from those customers
9 existing prior to the beneficial system repair, enhancement or addition. Such
10 projects may create significant benefits that go beyond direct benefits to
11 incremental customers. A bias in favor of incremental pricing could also
12 discourage pipelines from incurring the costs of needed capacity to prevent
13 bottlenecks, assure system reliability, and serve future demand additions.
14 Incremental pricing, combined with the lack of long-term contracts, would place
15 all the risk on the pipeline investor with little hope of recovering project benefits
16 from any group except incremental customers. Obviously, the result would be to
17 discourage investments in projects where benefits flowed to existing customers
18 and the public at large, rather than to a discrete class of incremental customers.
19 Adding new capacity under these circumstances and not charging the existing
20 customers for those benefits creates a “free rider” problem, where pipelines and
21 their customers would have little incentive to invest in worthwhile projects that
22 could not be financed solely out of incremental revenues from new customers.

¹³ *Id.* at p. 61,744.

1 Such a result would run contrary to the stated goals of the Commission to
2 encourage the development of a “robust natural gas pipeline infrastructure . . .
3 critical for the reliability of the Nation’s energy supply and for competitive
4 market development.”¹⁴

5 **Q.23 Could incremental pricing fail to achieve an equitable sharing of costs and**
6 **benefits of new projects?**

7 A. Yes. Incremental cost allocation can lead to unfair and arbitrary rate differences
8 between similarly situated shippers. This is assuming that the new facilities in
9 question are built *at all* since there is an incentive for under-investment in
10 infrastructure when a purely incremental approach is imposed. Incremental
11 pricing may create artificial distinctions among customers based on the order in
12 which they arrive on the system. From an economic perspective, such distinctions
13 are not cost-based. In reality, all customers are incremental in the sense that
14 existing customers are continuing to use a service which they might elect to forgo
15 if they were required to pay its incremental costs.¹⁵ This is just one example
16 where an incremental pricing policy might create inequitable distinctions among
17 customers that incur the same costs to the system but that pay different rates.

18 **Q.24 Is there a problem if the “threshold” test is taken too literally?**

19 A. Yes. The “threshold” test, if taken literally, means that benefits to existing
20 ratepayers are not taken into account in evaluating the economic feasibility of the

¹⁴ See FY 2005 Congressional Performance Budget Request of the FERC, at 4 (Feb. 2004). The Commission went on to explain that: “Our policies must provide a fair opportunity for cost recovery, allowing those who propose expansion projects to gain access to capital markets. Without such assurances, investors will bear greater risks, find it more difficult to obtain financing, and invest in fewer projects than the Nation needs.” *Id.* at 17.

¹⁵ Of course, there may be legitimate reasons for differing treatment based on order of arrival. The point is that incremental pricing necessarily enforces these differences.

1 project. If the test is taken literally, any project that passes the threshold would
2 confer benefits to existing ratepayers at no risk or cost, while new customers
3 would shoulder the entire burden of the expansion. It is easy to imagine
4 circumstances where such an unequal burden of costs and benefits is inequitable.

5 **Q.25 Do the exceptions to the policy of a bias in favor of incremental pricing solve**
6 **these problems?**

7 A. Not necessarily. In practice, the Certificate Policy Statement has often been
8 applied in a manner that confers all the benefits of successful expansion projects
9 on pre-existing ratepayers via rolled-in pricing and imposes the costs of
10 unsuccessful projects on investors through incremental pricing with no
11 compensation for the additional risk. This occurs in certificate cases when it
12 appears that the inexpensive expansibility test has been reduced to merely testing
13 whether rolling in the costs of successful projects would lower rates for existing
14 ratepayers because project revenues exceed project costs.

15 In this way, a policy that was designed to prevent subsidies from existing
16 ratepayers to new construction has materialized into a policy that at times appears
17 to require subsidies from new ratepayers to existing customers.

18 **Q.26 What is the consequence for incentives to investment?**

19 A. The policy exposes investors to asymmetric risk with no upside compensation. If
20 a pipeline is required to roll-in the revenues and costs of successful projects and
21 bear the risks of unsuccessful projects through incremental pricing, clearly
22 existing ratepayers can only win. Conversely, pipeline investors can only lose.

1 **Q.27 Has the pendulum swung too far in the direction of favoring incremental**
2 **pricing?**

3 A. Yes. The Commission in 1999 was clearly worried about potentially misguided
4 incentives resulting from a “bias for rolled-in pricing” in the previous method.
5 The Certificate Policy Statement made references to incentives for “overbuilding
6 of capacity and subsidization of an incumbent pipeline.”¹⁶ The proposed cure for
7 this “bias” was apparently a bias in the other direction, in favor of incremental
8 pricing. This new bias works in the opposite direction, potentially discouraging
9 economically worthy projects.

10 **Q.28 Have circumstances changed since 1999?**

11 A. Yes. To begin with, starting with statements by the Chairman of the Federal
12 Reserve, the most serious concern is over the effect of natural gas spikes on the
13 economic recovery (see Greg Schneider, *Natural Gas Imports Key, Greenspan*
14 *Says*, Wash. Post, April 28, 2004, at E2). A lack of pipeline infrastructure and the
15 effect it may have on commodity prices is a much more serious concern now than
16 it was five (5) years ago.

17 **Q.29 Are there other changes in the natural gas industry that affect the rolled-in**
18 **vs. incremental debate?**

19 A. Yes. As mentioned above, the unwillingness of customers to sign long-term
20 contracts was discussed in the Certificate Policy Statement. Another significant
21 development is the increasing contracting flexibility granted shippers during the
22 last five (5) years, particularly under Order No. 637.

¹⁶ Certificate Policy Statement, 88 FERC ¶ 61,227, at 61,745.

1 **Q.30 What is the significance of this contracting flexibility?**

2 A. The entire premise of incremental pricing is that there exists a group of
3 incremental customers who can be identified and required to pay all the costs
4 under incremental pricing. However, increased contractual flexibility which
5 began with Order No. 636 and increased with Order No. 637 greatly undermines
6 the contractual restrictions on shippers by allowing them discretion to effectively
7 modify the terms of their contracts. Given all this flexibility, shippers have an
8 incentive to either “wait and see” rather than commit to pay for incremental
9 projects, or to look for opportunities to avoid paying for higher cost new capacity
10 by effectively modifying the terms of their contracts. In this environment,
11 pipelines can have less confidence that shippers can be required to pay the cost of
12 more expensive incremental capacity.

13 **Q.31 Has retail unbundling affected this as well?**

14 A. Yes. When natural gas was being purchased from pipelines at bundled prices by
15 Local Distribution Companies (“LDCs”), direct competition among pipeline
16 customers may have been minimal. But, if much of the demand is among
17 competing customers, such as gas-fired electricity generation, customers may
18 simply be unable to compete on equal terms if they are paying different prices to
19 transport the gas.

20 **Q.32 Are these changed circumstances necessarily a bad outcome?**

21 A. No. But, they may indicate that the expectation that incremental projects can be
22 financed by incremental rates higher than rates paid by pre-existing customers

1 may not be realistic; and they indicate that the factual circumstances that
2 motivated the Certificate Policy Statement no longer apply.

3 **Q.33 Since the 1999 Policy Statement, the FERC has issued a number of notices of**
4 **inquiry, rules, and policy statements on the matter of heightened concerns**
5 **related to pipeline infrastructure and the issue of safeguarding “Critical**
6 **Energy Infrastructure Information” (“CEII”). Does the threat of terrorist**
7 **attacks represent a changed circumstance since 1999?**

8 A. Yes. Shortly after the September 11, 2001 attacks, the Commission immediately
9 recognized that publicly available information might be of use by terrorists in
10 identifying critical links in the energy supply infrastructure. In its Statement of
11 Policy in Docket No. PL01-6-000, Extraordinary Expenditures Necessary to
12 Safeguard National Energy Supplies, September 14, 2001, the Commission
13 assured the companies it regulates that it would approve recovery of “prudently
14 incurred costs necessary to further safeguard the reliability and security of our
15 energy supply infrastructure” (96 FERC ¶ 61,299). Increased reliability of service
16 means decreasing reliance on critical links in the grid system that are potentially
17 vulnerable to a terrorist attack. By the same token, costs of projects to eliminate
18 such reliance may not be recoverable from incremental customers alone, nor
19 should they be if all customers benefit from increased system reliability. Rolling
20 in the costs may be the only feasible way of recovering the costs.

21 **Q.34 Can you please summarize your conclusions?**

22 A. Yes. I have concluded that treating the Phase III Project costs as incremental in
23 this case would be inappropriate. I conclude that it is instead appropriate, given
24 the benefits to existing customers brought about by the addition of the Phase III
25 facilities, to “roll in” the costs of Phase III with existing system costs.

1 **Q.35 Does this conclude your testimony?**

2 A. Yes, it does.

3

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
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FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

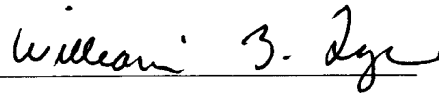
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Docket No. RP04-

AFFIDAVIT OF DR. WILLIAMS B. TYE

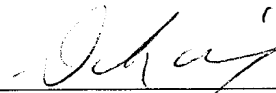
DR. WILLIAM B. TYE, being first duly sworn, on oath states that he is the witness whose Prepared Direct Testimony is filed herein; that, if asked the questions which appear in the text of aforesaid Prepared Direct Testimony, affiant would give the answers that are herein set forth; and that affiant adopts the aforesaid Prepared Direct Testimony as his sworn, direct testimony in this proceeding.



DR. WILLIAM B. TYE

**District of Columbia, ss:
Washington, DC**

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me, this __ day of June, 2004.



**Notary Public
Deborah Bailey**

**Deborah Bailey
Notary Public District of Columbia
My Commission Expires: April 14, 2008**

My commission expires: _____