

**BEFORE THE
LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

EVANGELINE GAS COMPANY, INC.,
EX PARTE

DOCKET NO. _____

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR ADJUSTMENT IN
GAS SERVICE RATES AND REQUEST FOR
APPROVAL OF RATE STABILIZATION PLAN

**DIRECT TESTIMONY OF BRYAN SAVANT
ON BEHALF OF EVANGELINE GAS COMPANY, INC.**



INTRODUCTION

Q. PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS.

A. My name is Bryan Savant and my business address is 5581 Vidrine Road, Ville Platte, Louisiana 70586.

Q. BY WHOM ARE YOU EMPLOYED AND WHAT IS YOUR POSITION?

A. I am employed by Evangeline Gas Company, LLC, and I have held the position of Secretary-Treasurer since July 2010 and General Manager since September 2024.

Q. WHAT ARE YOUR DUTIES AS SECRETARY-TREASURER AND GENERAL MANAGER?

A. As Secretary-Treasurer and General Manager, my duties include implementing the policies of the Board of Directors of Evangeline Gas Company, advising the Board and making recommendations on the operations of Evangeline Gas Company, ensuring the provision of safe and reliable gas services to our customer at reasonable rates, and reporting the financial status and condition of Evangeline Gas Company to the owners.

PURPOSE OF TESTIMONY

Q. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR TESTIMONY?

A. My testimony explains the basis of Evangeline Gas Company's request for a rate increase.

Q. COULD YOU PROVIDE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF EVANGELINE'S GAS SYSTEM?

A. Evangeline Gas Company provides natural gas services to approximately 2,975 residential, commercial, and public authority customers in the parishes of Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Evangeline and St. Landry, Louisiana. It has approximately 271 miles of gas distribution pipeline consisting of steel, PVC, polyethylene ("PE") pipe and plastic pipe, with 13 purchase points.

NEED FOR RATE INCREASE

Q. WHEN WAS EVANGELINE'S LAST RATE INCREASE?

A. Evangeline's last application for a rate increase before the Louisiana Public Service

Commission (“LPSC”) was in 2021, which was granted by the LPSC in January of 2023 in LPSC Order No. U-36312. In 2024, Evangeline also sought and obtained approval from the LPSC for a Pipeline Replacement Surcharge granted in December of 2024 in LPSC Order No. U-37197. This Pipeline Replacement Surcharge is being used to fund the replacement of pipe relating to LDENR MAOP regulation compliance, and it is not being used to cover any operational expenses.

Q. SINCE THE LAST RATE INCREASE, HOW HAVE THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE COMPANY CHANGED?

A. Since its last rate case, Evangeline has experienced a sharp increase in operating costs due to inflation such that its current rates fail to cover operating expenses, generate adequate funds to keep the gas system in good working order, or provide sufficient revenues over operating and maintenance expenses for the financial stability of the Company.

Q. PLEASE EXPLAIN.

A. Overall, Evangeline Gas Company’s Operating Costs have increased by approximately \$88,000, or 9.3% since its last rate increase, including repairs and maintenance expense increasing by over 100% since 2022.

Q. ARE THERE ANY SIGNIFICANT ITEMS IMPACTING EVANGELINE SINCE THE LAST RATE INCREASE? PLEASE EXPLAIN.

A. Yes, Briar Fontenot, the Company’s Assistant General Manager and Comptroller has filed Direct Testimony providing details on the increase in Evangeline’s operating expenses, including labor and O&M, and capital expenditures.

Q. WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF THE INCREASE THE COMPANY IS SEEKING THROUGH ITS APPLICATION?

A. As further explained in Briar Fontenot’s Direct Testimony, Evangeline is seeking an increase in revenue of \$421,649 based on its financial condition, which results in approximately a \$6.39 increase per month for the average residential customer consuming 2.33 mcf per month.

Q. IS EVANGLINE SEEKING ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS APPLICATION?

A. Yes. Evangeline is also seeking approval of a Rate Stabilization Plan to allow the Company to more efficiently react to increases or decreases in its cost of service, which would also mitigate large changes in rates for our customers from year to year, rather than experience a rate increase after periodic rate cases.

CONCLUSION

Q. DOES THIS CONCLUDE YOUR TESTIMONY?

A. Yes.