

**THE NARRAGANSETT ELECTRIC COMPANY  
d/b/a NATIONAL GRID**

**INVESTIGATION AS TO THE PROPRIETY  
OF PROPOSED TARIFF CHANGES**

**RIPUC DOCKET NO. 4323**

**BEFORE THE  
RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**TESTIMONY AND EXHIBITS  
OF BRUCE A. GAY**

**ON BEHALF OF THE**

**DIVISION OF  
PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS**

**AUGUST 30, 2012**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Introduction and Qualifications.....	1
II.	Purpose of Testimony.....	2
III.	Uncollectible Accounts Performance.....	4
IV.	Factors Affecting Charge-Off Performance.....	4
V.	Review of Charge-Off Performance.....	8
VI.	Recommendations.....	13
VII.	Conclusions.....	13

1 **I. Introduction and Qualifications**

2 **Q. Please state your full name, business address and title.**

3 A. My name is Bruce A. Gay. My business address is 4209 Buck Creek Court, North  
4 Charleston, South Carolina 29420. I am President of Monticello Consulting Group,  
5 Limited.

6

7 **Q. Please describe your educational background and professional experience.**

8 A. I received a Bachelor of Business Administration from the Wharton School,  
9 University of Pennsylvania in 1986 and an M.B.A. from Rensselaer Polytechnic  
10 Institute in 1990. In 2002, I founded Monticello Consulting Group. Since 2002, I  
11 have provided accounts receivable management consulting and advisory services to  
12 utility companies, utility commissions, telecoms and other utility industry related  
13 companies. Since founding Monticello Consulting, I have developed and managed  
14 client relationships with numerous utility companies and utility Commissions in the  
15 United States and Canada. My work is related exclusively to credit, collections,  
16 recovery and performance improvement in the electric and gas utility industries.  
17 Prior to starting Monticello Consulting, I worked at PECO Energy Company  
18 (Exelon Corp.) for five years, where I held several positions, primarily in the  
19 accounts receivable area.

20

21 **Q. Have you previously testified before this Commission or any other regulatory  
22 agency?**

23 A. Yes. I have provided testimony on behalf of the Division in Docket No. 4065. In  
24 addition, I have worked as an expert witness, provided testimony and completed  
25 several investigative reports for State Utility Commissions, including the New  
26 Hampshire Public Utilities Commission, the Maine Public Utilities Commission and  
27 the Rhode Island Division of Public Utilities and Carriers.

28

1 **Q. What was the nature of your previous testimony for the Division and the work**  
2 **for the other Commissions?**

3 A. My testimony in Docket No. 4065 was based on a review and assessment of  
4 Narragansett Electric Company's (d/b/a National Grid) credit and collections  
5 practices and performance.<sup>1</sup> In addition, my testimony included a recommendation  
6 for an appropriate bad-debt percentage for the Electric Company.<sup>2</sup>

7  
8 In 2009, I provided a report for the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission  
9 (NHPUC"), which was based on a review and assessment of EnergyNorth Natural  
10 Gas Company's (d/b/a National Grid) credit and collections practices and  
11 performance. My testimony included a recommendation for an appropriate bad debt  
12 percentage for EnergyNorth Natural Gas, Inc. In 2010, I provided testimony on  
13 behalf of NHPUC, which was based on a review and assessment of EnergyNorth  
14 Natural Gas Company's (d/b/a National Grid) credit and collections practices and  
15 performance. My testimony included a recommendation for an appropriate bad debt  
16 percentage for EnergyNorth.

17  
18 In addition, I have worked on behalf of the Maine Public Utilities Commission  
19 ("MPUC") on a docket related to the review and assessment of Central Maine  
20 Power Company's credit and collections practices and performance.

21  
22 **II. Purpose of Testimony**

23 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

24 A. The purpose of my testimony is to evaluate the Company's historical credit and  
25 collections and delinquent customer account management practices and  
26 performance. In addition, I will evaluate the direct testimony of Ms. Evelyn Kaye  
27 as it relates to the Company's practices and performance and the Company's  
28 proposal to recover uncollectible expense. My testimony includes a

---

<sup>1</sup> Throughout the testimony, when I refer to Narragansett Electric Company, Narragansett Gas Company, or both the Electric Company and the Gas Company, I will use the terms "Electric Company," "Gas Company" or "Company," respectively.

<sup>2</sup> Net annual write-off dollars as a percentage of total annual revenue

1 recommendation for an appropriate uncollectible percentage rate for both the  
2 Electric and Gas Companies.

3  
4 **Q. Is the Company proposing any regulatory or rate change in this proceeding to**  
5 **protect its shareholders from increases in uncollectibles?**

6 A. Yes. The Company has proposed to recover forecasted uncollectible accounts  
7 expense associated with its delivery revenues in base distribution rates (Electric  
8 Company) and base delivery rates (Gas Company). The Electric Company  
9 proposes to recover delivery revenues at a percentage rate of 1.35%, which is its  
10 three-year average of net charge-offs to total billed revenue. The Gas Company  
11 proposes to recover delivery revenues at a percentage rate of 3.35%, which is its  
12 three-year average net charge-offs to total billed revenue. The Company splits  
13 uncollectible expense between “delivery” and “commodity.” That portion of  
14 uncollectible expense assigned to delivery is included as an element of the  
15 distribution cost of service. The portion of uncollectible expense assigned to  
16 commodity is added to standard offer cost, as an element of the proposed standard  
17 offer administrative cost component. The Company has proposed a fully  
18 reconciling mechanism for commodity-related uncollectible expense. The Company  
19 has proposed that changes experienced in charge-offs attributed to standard offer  
20 service would be reconciled annually and recovered through the annual standard  
21 offer reconciliation process. A similar fully reconciling bad-debt proposal has been  
22 requested for the gas business, specifically a fully reconciling bad-debt component  
23 to the Gas Recovery (GCR) mechanism.

24  
25 **Q. Does your testimony address these proposals?**

26 A. No. Mr. Effron will address the proposal for an approved regulatory process for  
27 changing rates resulting from an annual change in the commodity component of  
28 uncollectibles based on actual charge-off experience for the year.

1 **III. Uncollectible Accounts Performance**

2 **Q. Please summarize the Company's charge-off experience over the past several**  
3 **years?**

4 A. During 2007-2011, the Electric Company's total annual gross charge-offs ranged  
5 from \$13,048,089 to \$19,076,567. During 2007-2011, the Gas Company's total  
6 annual gross charge-offs ranged from \$12,320,640 to \$24,832,830. Schedule  
7 MCG-1 shows each Company's 2007-2011 total gross charge-offs.<sup>3</sup>

8  
9 **Q. Why do you show gross charge-offs vs. net charge-offs?**

10 A. Gross charge-offs better reflect the Company's actual performance in a specific  
11 period of time. Net charge-offs are gross charge-offs less offsets, including  
12 payments, balance transfers, credits, billing adjustments, and accounting journal  
13 entries. These offsets to gross charge-offs typically occur weeks, months or even  
14 years after the original balance is charged-off. As a result, it is difficult to assess the  
15 Company's annual accounts receivable management performance by reviewing net  
16 charge-offs. For example, in 2011, the Gas Company offset its gross charge-offs  
17 (i.e., \$17,700,610) by \$1,754,500 worth of customer payments and \$1,877,600  
18 worth of balance transfers.<sup>4</sup> Although the gross charge-off occurred in 2011, many  
19 of these payments and transfers could have been from accounts which were charged  
20 off in previous years.

21  
22 **IV. Factors Affecting Charge-Off Performance**

23 **Q. Do you agree with Ms. Kaye's position that increases in gas commodity costs**  
24 **over the last number of years contributed to the escalation of charge-offs?**

25 A. No I do not. Ms. Kaye's testimony, including Schedule EMK-2 suggests a direct  
26 correlation between the cost of gas adjustment rates and charge-offs. Although  
27 commodity prices experienced volatility over the last decade, there is little evidence  
28 that the increased gas adjustment rates caused an increase in the Gas Company's  
29 charge-offs. In fact, it is difficult to see any relationship between gas adjustment

---

<sup>3</sup> Total residential and non-residential charge-offs.

<sup>4</sup> Previously charged-off balances transferred to active accounts of the same responsible party (i.e., customer).

1 rates and the Gas Company's net charge-offs as depicted in EMK-2. Schedule  
2 MCG-2 offers an alternative perspective. Specifically, it compares 2006-2011  
3 monthly gas adjustment rates to the Company's annual gross charge-offs. Schedule  
4 MCG-2 shows that Gas adjustment rates have trended down since 2006, while the  
5 Company's gross charge-offs have trended up.<sup>5</sup>

6  
7 The trend in the Company's actual customer bills also shows the lack of a causal  
8 relationship between gas adjustment rates and charge-offs. Schedule MCG-3 shows  
9 the Company's 2007-2011 average annual bills for residential heat customers.  
10 Since 2007, there is a clear downward trend in the average annual bills of residential  
11 customers. In contrast, during 2007-2011, there is clear upward trend in the  
12 Company's gross charge-offs on residential heat accounts as shown in Schedule  
13 MCG-4. In fact, during 2007-2009, the Company's gross annual charge-offs on  
14 residential heat accounts increased over 97%.

15  
16 **Q. Did you do the same type of trend analysis on the Gas Company's non-**  
17 **residential customers?**

18 A. Yes. Schedule MCG-3 also shows the Gas Company's 2007-2011 average annual  
19 bills for non-residential customers. Since 2007, there is a clear downward trend in  
20 the average annual bills of non-residential customers. In contrast, during 2007-  
21 2011, there is clear upward trend in the Company's gross charge-offs on non-  
22 residential accounts as shown in Schedule MCG-4. In fact, during 2007-2009, the  
23 Company's gross annual charge-offs on non-residential accounts increased over  
24 169%. After reviewing these trends on both the residential heat account and the  
25 non-residential accounts, it is difficult to understand how the Company equates  
26 changes in gas adjustment rates to increases in charge-offs.

27  
28 **Q. Do you agree with Ms. Kaye's position that increases in electric supply prices**  
29 **had an unfavorable impact on electric uncollectibles prior to 2009?**

---

<sup>5</sup> Gross charge-off data from earlier periods is not available.

1 A. No I do not. Ms. Kaye's testimony, including Schedule EMK-2 suggests a direct  
2 correlation between electric supply costs and charge-offs. Although electric supply  
3 costs experienced volatility over the last decade, there is little evidence that the  
4 increased electric supply costs caused an increase in the Electric Company's charge-  
5 offs. In fact, it is difficult to see any relationship between electric supply costs and  
6 the Company's net charge-offs as depicted in EMK-3. Schedule MCG-5 offers an  
7 alternative perspective. Specifically, it compares 2006-2011 monthly electric  
8 supply costs to the Company's annual gross charge-offs. Schedule MCG-5 shows  
9 that electric supply costs have trended down since 2006, while the Company's gross  
10 charge-offs have trended up.

11  
12 Schedule MCG-6 shows the Company's 2007-2011 average annual bills for electric  
13 residential customers. Overall, since 2007, there is a slight upward trend, but each  
14 annual change is either up or down. During 2007-2011, there is an upward trend in  
15 the Company's gross charge-offs on residential accounts as shown in Schedule  
16 MCG-7. As a result, the trends in residential bill and charge-offs are inconclusive in  
17 establishing a relationship between electric supply costs and charge-offs.

18

19 **Q. Do you think that the up and down trends in the Company's bills are**  
20 **inconclusive because of a time lag between billed revenue and charge-offs?**

21 A. No I do not. First, there is a revenue time lag with charge-offs, but it varies widely.  
22 An account is either current (i.e., no arrearage) or delinquent (i.e., current bill plus  
23 arrearages) when it closes. In either case, if the balance remains unpaid, the  
24 Company charges-off the balance approximately 90 days after the date of  
25 disconnection. As a result, a closed account which closes with no arrearage will  
26 charge-off (assuming no payment) in about 90 days from the date of  
27 disconnection—a time lag of 3 months. A closed account which closes with  
28 arrearage, will also charge-off (assuming no payment) in about 90 days from the  
29 date of disconnection, but the time lag between billed revenue and charge-offs  
30 depends on the age of the arrearage on account. For example, if an account is 180

1 days past due when it closes, then the charge-off revenue time lag on the oldest  
2 revenue will be about 9 months.<sup>6</sup>

3  
4 As a result, if there is a revenue lag as the Company suggests in Schedule EMK-2,  
5 one would expect to see similar up and down annual percentage changes in low and  
6 high-balance accounts. Schedule MCG-8 shows the Electric Company's residential  
7 charge-offs by low and high-balance accounts.<sup>7</sup> For 2007-2011, the low-balance  
8 accounts trend downward, and the high-balance accounts trend upward. In fact, for  
9 2007-2011, the high-balance accounts represent over 53% of the Electric  
10 Company's total charge-offs. These trends in charge-off balances suggest that  
11 changes in electric supply costs are not a factor in the Company's charge-offs.

12  
13 **Q. Does a similar trend analysis on the Electric Company's non-residential**  
14 **customers provide any additional insight?**

15 A. Yes it does. Schedule MCG-6 also shows the Electric Company's 2007-2011  
16 average annual bills for non-residential customers. Since 2007, there is a clear  
17 downward trend in the average annual bills of non-residential customers. In  
18 contrast, during 2007-2011, there is clear upward trend in the Company's gross  
19 charge-offs on non-residential accounts as shown in Schedule MCG-7. In fact,  
20 during 2007-2009, the Company's gross annual charge-offs on non-residential  
21 accounts increased over 140%. In the final analysis, after reviewing all of these  
22 trends on the different types of accounts and balance ranges, a strong case can be  
23 made that there is little or no causal relationship between electric supply costs and  
24 charge-offs.

25  
26 **Q. Do you agree with Ms. Kaye's testimony that the Company's uncollectible**  
27 **expense is influenced by external factors such as the economy, weather events,**  
28 **rising gasoline and health-care costs and the regulatory environment?**

---

<sup>6</sup> At the time of closing, the 180-day past due account has arrearage in the following receivable buckets: current, 31-60, 61-90, 91-120, 121-150 and 151-180. 180 days + 90 days to charge off = 270 days (9 months).

<sup>7</sup> Total residential gross charge-offs with average balances with less than and greater than \$500

1 A. Not to the extent that she suggests. Although the Company is impacted by all of  
2 these factors to some degree, the most important factor in minimizing charge-offs is  
3 the Company's effective management of its accounts receivable portfolios on active  
4 accounts. More specifically, minimizing charge-offs requires effective accounts  
5 receivable management by managing customer arrearages before balances reach  
6 levels where the customers cannot pay. During 2007-2011, the Company charged-  
7 off thousands of accounts with arrearages which were "unmanageable" for  
8 customers. For example, in 2009, the Electric Company charged-off 3,908  
9 residential accounts with an average balance of \$2,041, totaling \$7,974,424. The  
10 average balance of \$2,041 on these accounts is equivalent to about 1.8 years' worth  
11 of arrearage.<sup>8</sup> In 2009, the Gas Company charged-off 7,806 residential heat  
12 accounts with an average balance of \$1,911, totaling \$14,917,925. The average  
13 balance of \$1,911 on these accounts is equivalent to about 1.2 years' worth of  
14 arrearage.<sup>9</sup> In the final analysis, when customer arrearages reach these levels, other  
15 external factors such as impacts from unpredictable weather events and competing  
16 expenses for necessities have a relatively minor impact on charge-offs.

17  
18 **V. Review of Charge-Off Performance**

19 **Q. Please explain what opportunity the Company had to better manage its**  
20 **account receivable and reduce its charge-offs.**

21 A. Over the years, the company had an opportunity to reduce charge-offs by reducing  
22 the arrearage on many high-balance accounts before they closed. For example,  
23 during 2008-2011, the Electric Company charged-off 2,852 non-residential accounts  
24 with an average balance of \$4,218, totaling \$12,030,445. Of these accounts, the  
25 Company disconnected for non-payment 888 accounts with an average balance of  
26 \$3,394, totaling \$3,013,537. The average balances on these disconnected accounts

---

<sup>8</sup> Average annual bill for an electric residential customer in 2009: \$1,087. Therefore, an residential account with a charge-off amount of  $\$2,041/\$1,087 = 1.88$  years

<sup>9</sup> Average annual bill for a gas residential heat customer in 2009: \$1,489. Therefore, an residential account with a charge-off amount of  $\$1,911/\$1,489 = 1.28$  years

1 are equivalent to about 4 months' worth of arrearage.<sup>10</sup> The remaining 1,964  
2 accounts which closed voluntarily<sup>11</sup> had an average balance of \$4,591 and totaled  
3 \$9,016,908. The average balances on these disconnected accounts are equivalent to  
4 about 6 months' worth of arrearage.<sup>12</sup> As a result, it is difficult to understand why  
5 the Company permitted so many non-residential accounts to reach such high levels  
6 of arrearage. The Company could have applied collection treatment action much  
7 earlier in the delinquency lifecycle of most of these accounts. Clearly, the Company  
8 missed an opportunity to reduce the arrearage on many of these accounts before  
9 they closed.

10  
11 **Q. Did the Electric Company have an opportunity to reduce charge-offs by**  
12 **reducing the arrearage on residential accounts before they closed?**

13 A. Yes. For example, during 2008-2011, the Electric Company charged-off 29,097  
14 residential accounts with an average balance of \$1,335, totaling \$38,835,324. Of  
15 these accounts, the Company disconnected for non-payment 11,289 accounts with  
16 an average balance of \$1,424, totaling \$16,079,987. The average balances on these  
17 disconnected accounts are equivalent to about 15 months' worth of arrearage.<sup>13</sup> The  
18 remaining 17,808 accounts which closed voluntarily had an average balance of  
19 \$1,278 and totaled \$22,755,337. The average balances on these accounts are  
20 equivalent to about 13 months' worth of arrearage.<sup>14</sup> Again, it is difficult to  
21 understand why the Company permitted so many residential accounts to reach such  
22 high levels of arrearage. The Company could have applied collection treatment  
23 action much earlier in the delinquency lifecycle of many of these accounts. Clearly,

---

<sup>10</sup> Average annual bill for an electric non-residential customer in 2009: \$7,697. Therefore, an non-residential account with a charge-off amount of  $\$3,394/\$7,697 = .44$  years or 5.3 months (i.e., current bill + 4 months past due = 5 months)

<sup>11</sup> Closed voluntarily is defined as any account that is closed in any manner other than disconnected for non-payment.

<sup>12</sup> Average annual bill for an electric non-residential customer in 2009: \$7,697. Therefore, an non-residential account with a charge-off amount of  $\$4,591/\$7,697 = .60$  years or 7.2 months (i.e., current bill + 6 months past due = 7 months)

<sup>13</sup> Average annual bill for an electric residential customer in 2009: \$1,087. Therefore, a residential account with a charge-off amount of  $\$1,424/\$1,087 = 1.31$  years or 15.7 months (i.e., current bill + 14 months past due = 15 months)

<sup>14</sup> Average annual bill for an electric residential customer in 2009: \$1,087. Therefore, a residential account with a charge-off amount of  $\$1,278/\$1,087 = 1.18$  years or 14.1 months (i.e., current bill + 13 months past due = 14 months)

1 the Company missed an opportunity to reduce the arrearage on many of these  
2 accounts before they closed.

3  
4 In addition, during 2007-2011, the Gas Company charged-off 52,930 residential  
5 accounts with an average balance of \$1,385, totaling \$73,312,085.<sup>15</sup> The average  
6 balances on these accounts are equivalent to about 15 months' worth of arrearage.<sup>16</sup>  
7 Again, it is difficult to understand why the Company permitted so many residential  
8 accounts to reach such high levels of arrearage. The Company could have applied  
9 collection treatment action much earlier in the delinquency lifecycle of many of  
10 these accounts. Clearly, the Company missed an opportunity to reduce the arrearage  
11 on many of these accounts before they closed.

12  
13 **Q. What was the Gas Company performance on non-residential accounts?**

14 A. The Gas Company appears to be performing well on non-residential accounts.  
15 During 2007-2011, the Gas Company charged-off \$6,634,541 on non-residential  
16 accounts, which is only 7.5% of the total dollars charged-off. In contrast, during  
17 2007-2011, the Electric Company charged-off \$14,654,597 on non-residential  
18 accounts, which is 18.7% of the total dollars charged-off.

19  
20 **Q. Please describe your evaluation of the Company's collection process as**  
21 **summarized in Ms. Kaye's testimony?**

22 A. Over the last several years, the Company has implemented a number of strategies  
23 designed to improve performance of its account receivable management and  
24 customer account management, including the behavioral scoring system (i.e., PMP),  
25 and enhanced account initiation process. These new strategies and tools deployed  
26 by the Company are widely utilized in the utility industry today. While these  
27 process improvements are positive, it is puzzling to understand why the Company  
28 did not deploy many of the tools and strategies years earlier, especially in light of

---

<sup>15</sup> Account-level disconnection data was not provided for the Gas Company accounts.

<sup>16</sup> Average annual bill for a gas residential customer in 2009: \$1,379. Therefore, a residential account with a charge-off amount of \$1,278/\$1,379 = .93 years or 11.1 months (i.e., current bill + 10 months past due = 11 months)

1 the number of high-balance delinquent accounts in its accounts receivable portfolios  
2 and given the magnitude of its charge-offs. For example, Ms. Kaye testified at  
3 length about the Company's PMP scoring program, yet the Gas Company did not  
4 deploy the PMP strategy until January 2012.

5  
6 In addition, many of the strategies the Company utilizes are designed to work when  
7 arrearages are still manageable for the customer. For example, reminder notices and  
8 outbound calling campaigns work well with customers who can still afford to pay  
9 the arrearage or enter into an alternative plan such as a payment arrangement. The  
10 problem for the Company is that many of these strategies are marginally effective  
11 on high-balance accounts.

12  
13 **Q. You stated that the Company missed an opportunity to reduce arrearages on**  
14 **many accounts before they closed, how much of a financial impact would it**  
15 **have made on lowering charge offs if the Company had improved its**  
16 **performance earlier?**

17 A. During 2007-2011, the Gas Company could have reduced its charge-offs by  
18 \$10,637,707 by reducing the arrearage on high-risk, high-balance residential  
19 accounts before the accounts closed. Specifically, during 2008-2011, the Gas  
20 Company charged-off 2,583 non-heat accounts with average balances of \$1,283,  
21 totaling \$3,312,988; and 38,854 heat accounts with average balances of \$1,414,  
22 totaling \$54,927,100; and 2,993 low-income heat accounts with average balances of  
23 \$1,602, totaling \$4,795,470. As a result, the residential non-heat accounts had  
24 charge-off balances greater than 2.5 their actual average annual bill amount. In  
25 addition, the residential heat accounts had charge-off balances greater than their  
26 actual average annual bill amount. The low-income heat accounts also had charge-  
27 off balances greater their actual average annual bill amount.

28  
29 As a result, the charge-off reduction of \$10,637,707 is calculated by assuming the  
30 same exact accounts would have charged-off, but with lower balances. Specifically,  
31 the calculation assumes that the 2,583 non-heat accounts should have charged-off

1 with balances no greater than 1.5 times their corresponding average annual bill. In  
2 addition, the calculation assumes that the 38,854 heat accounts should have  
3 charged-off with balances no greater than 10 months' worth of arrearage. Finally,  
4 the calculation assumes that the 2,993 low-income heat accounts should have  
5 charged-off with balances no greater than their corresponding average annual bill.

6  
7 During 2007-2011, the Electric Company could have reduced its charge-offs by  
8 \$11,229,473 by reducing the arrearage on high-risk, high-balance residential and  
9 non-residential accounts before the accounts closed. Specifically, during 2008-  
10 2011, the Electric Company charged-off 24,186 standard residential accounts with  
11 average balances of \$1,319, totaling \$31,912,365; and 4,886 residential low-income  
12 accounts with average balances of \$1,410, totaling \$6,886,857; and 1,778 non-  
13 residential accounts with average balances of \$4,389, totaling \$7,804,142. As a  
14 result, the standard residential accounts had charge-off balances greater than their  
15 actual average annual bill amount. In addition, the residential low-income accounts  
16 had charge-off balances greater than their actual average annual bill amount. The  
17 non-residential accounts had charge-off balances equal to about 6 months' worth of  
18 arrearage.

19  
20 As a result, the charge-off reduction of \$11,229,473 is calculated by assuming the  
21 same exact accounts would have charged-off, but with lower balances. Specifically,  
22 the calculation assumes that the 24,186 standard residential accounts should have  
23 charged-off with balances no greater than 10 months' worth of arrearage. In  
24 addition, the calculation assumes that the 4,886 residential low-income accounts  
25 should have charged-off with balances no greater than their corresponding average  
26 annual bill amount. Finally, the calculation assumes that the 1,778 non-residential  
27 accounts should have charged-off with balances no greater than 4 months' worth of  
28 arrearage.

29  
30 **Q. Is there any other issues related to the Company's charge-offs that are factored**  
31 **into your final recommendation for appropriate uncollectible percentage rate?**

1 A. Yes. There is \$1,434,017 worth of non-usage-type (as coded in the Company's  
2 system) charge-offs included in the Company's charge-off calculations which do not  
3 appear to be applicable or appropriate as charge-offs for utility service. For  
4 example, the Company included in its charge-off calculations such items as water  
5 heater rental revenue. As a result, the final recommendation for an uncollectible  
6 percentage rate removes these types of charges.

7

8 **VI. Recommendations**

9 **Q. Based on your evaluation of the Company's performance, what are your**  
10 **recommendations for charge-off levels and uncollectible percentage rates in**  
11 **this proceeding?**

12 A. The recommendation for the Electric Company is shown in Schedule MCG-9. The  
13 Company's Schedule EMK-1 is shown for reference. The recommended charge-off  
14 percentage rate for the Electric Company's is 0.92%, which reduces the Electric  
15 Company's proposal by 0.43%, based on a charge-off reduction of \$11,229,473 that  
16 the Company should have achieved over the three-year period.

17

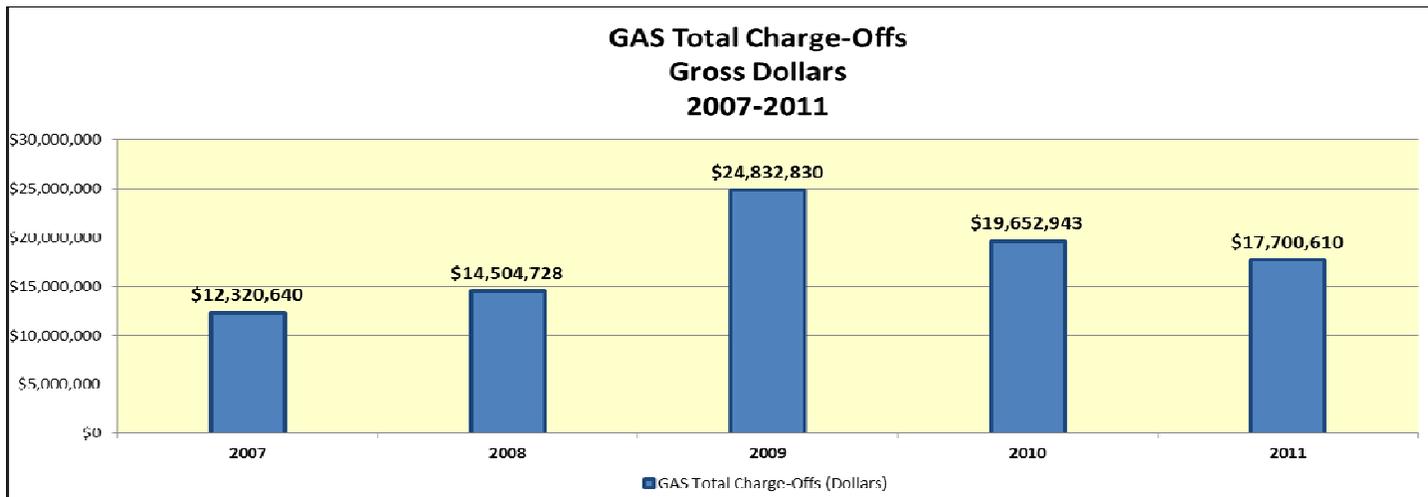
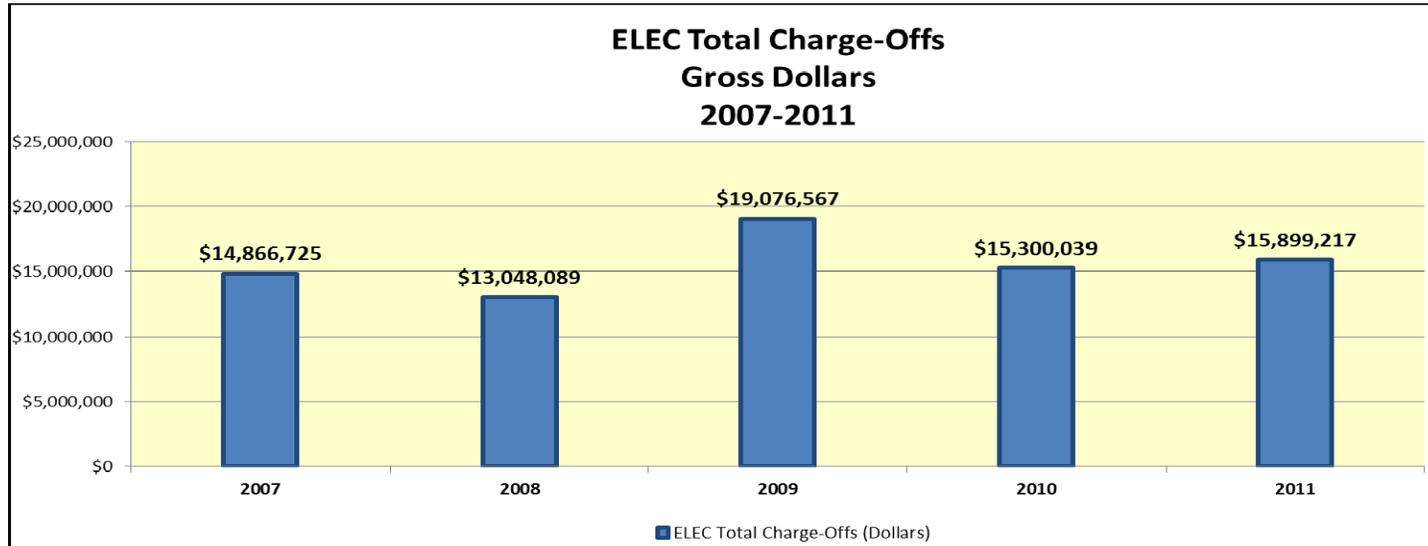
18 The recommendation for the Gas Company is shown in Schedule MCG-10. The  
19 Gas Company's Schedule EMK-1 is shown for reference. The recommended  
20 charge-off percentage rate for the Gas Company's is 2.81%, which reduces the Gas  
21 Company's proposal by 0.98%, based in part on the removal of \$1,434,017 worth of  
22 non-usage-type (as coded in the Company's system) charge-offs included in the  
23 Company's charge-off calculations which do not appear to be applicable or  
24 appropriate as charge-offs for utility service. The larger component of the  
25 adjustment to the Gas Company's bad-debt proposal is a charge-off reduction of  
26 \$10,637,707 based on historical charge-off levels that the Company should have  
27 achieved over the three-year period.

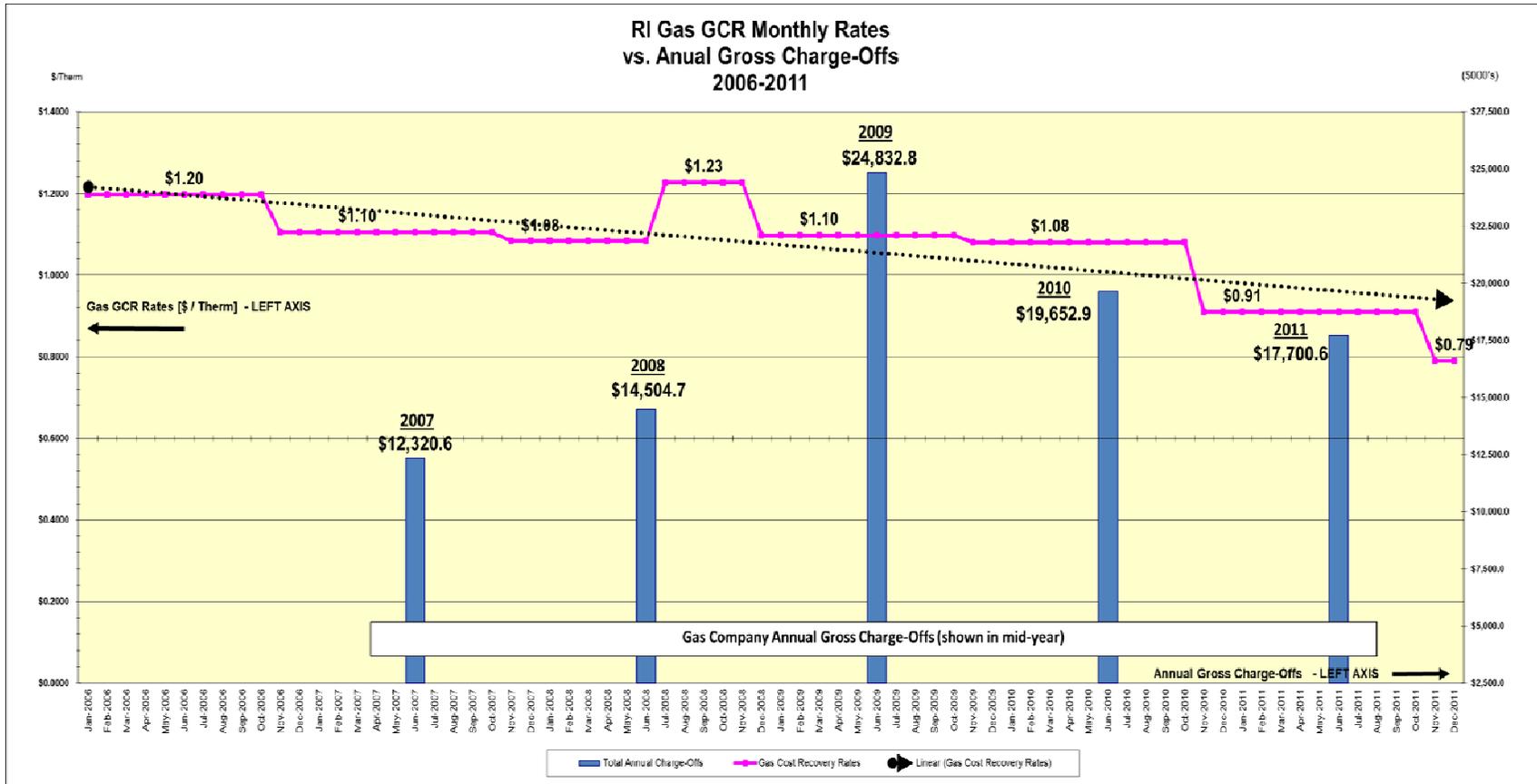
28

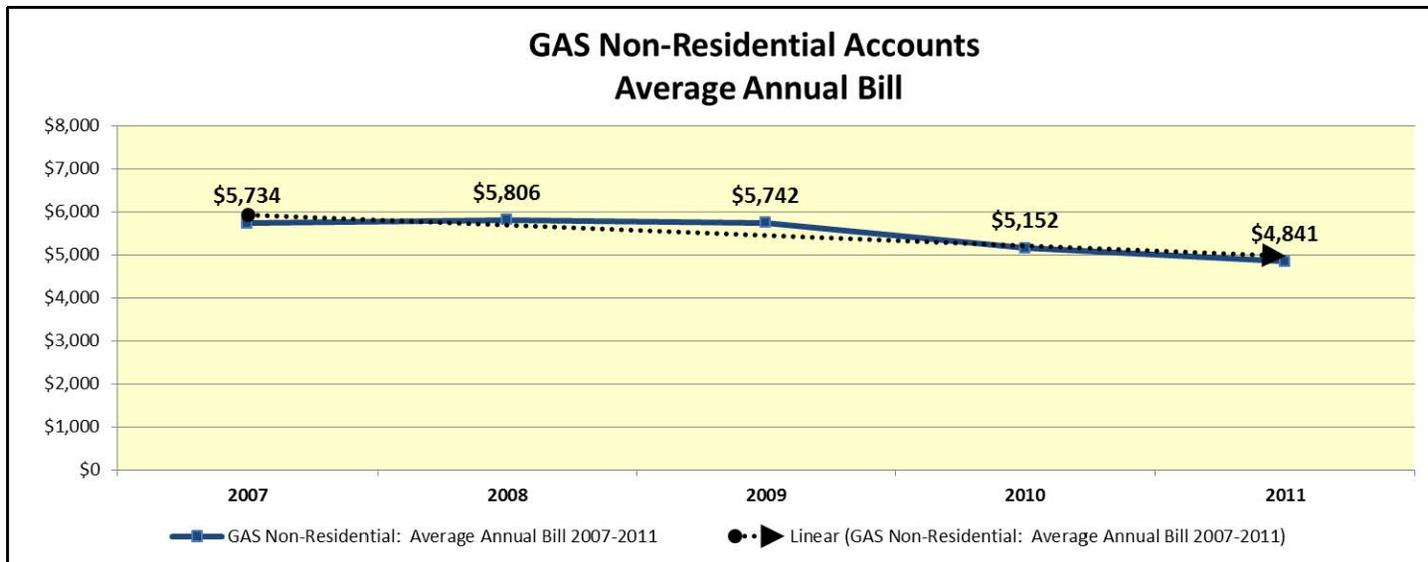
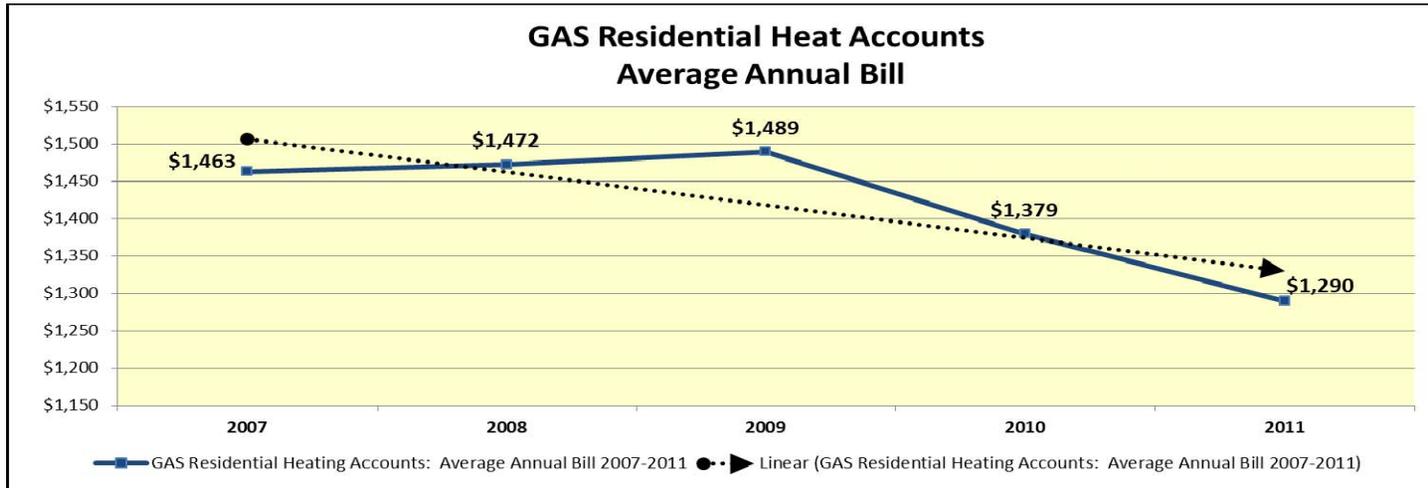
29 **VI. Conclusions**

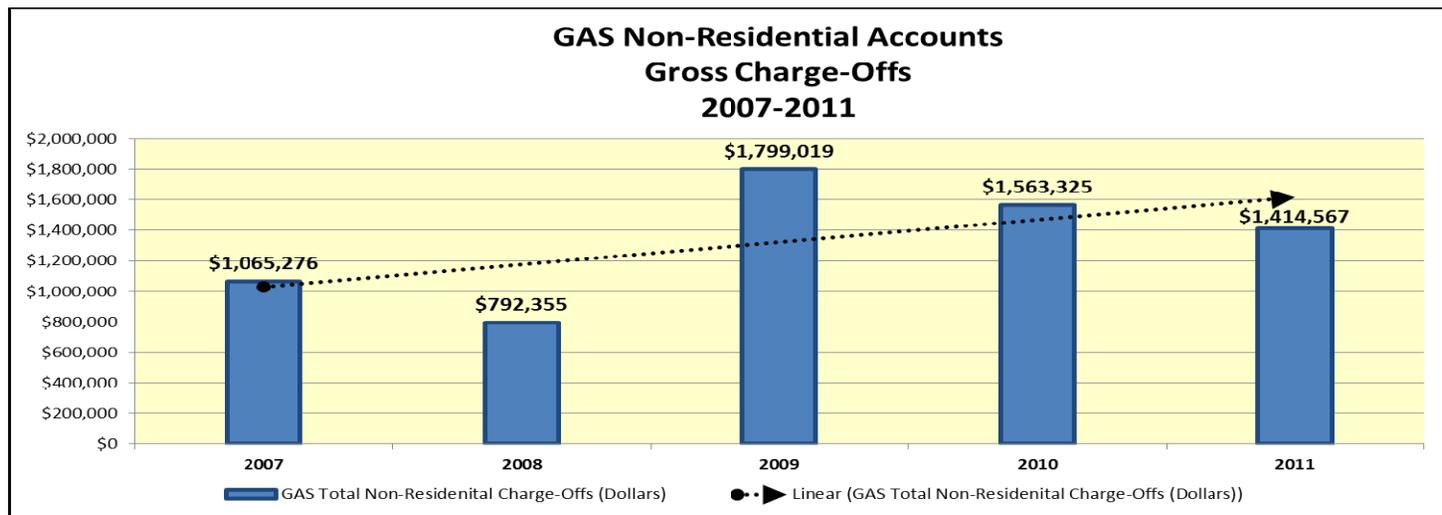
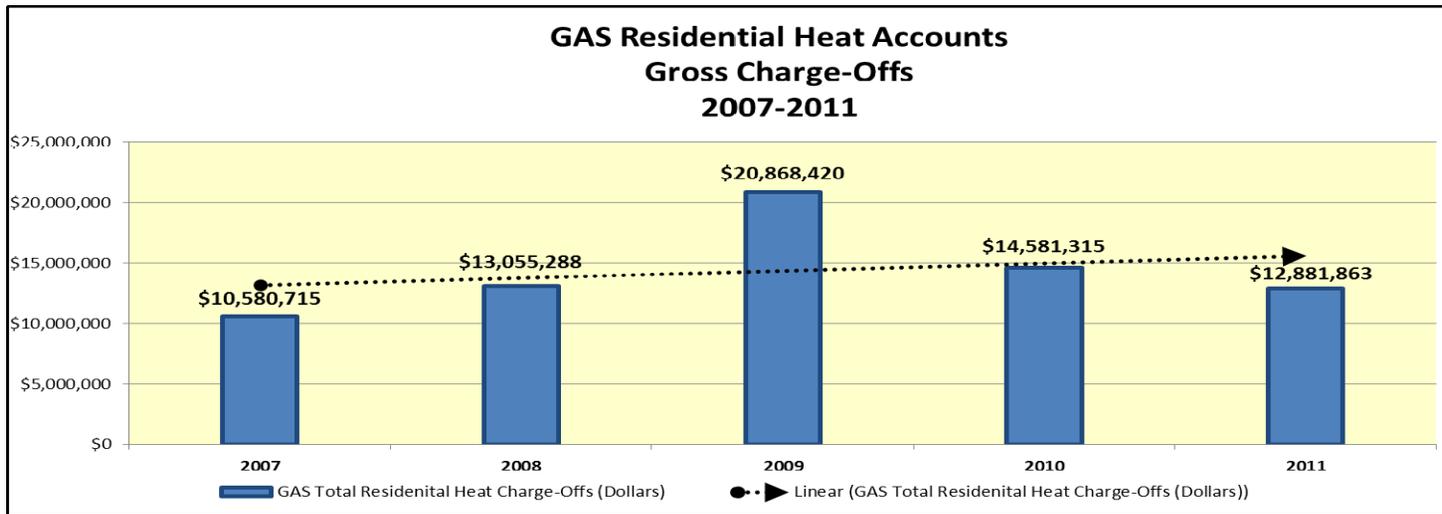
30 **Q. Does that conclude your testimony?**

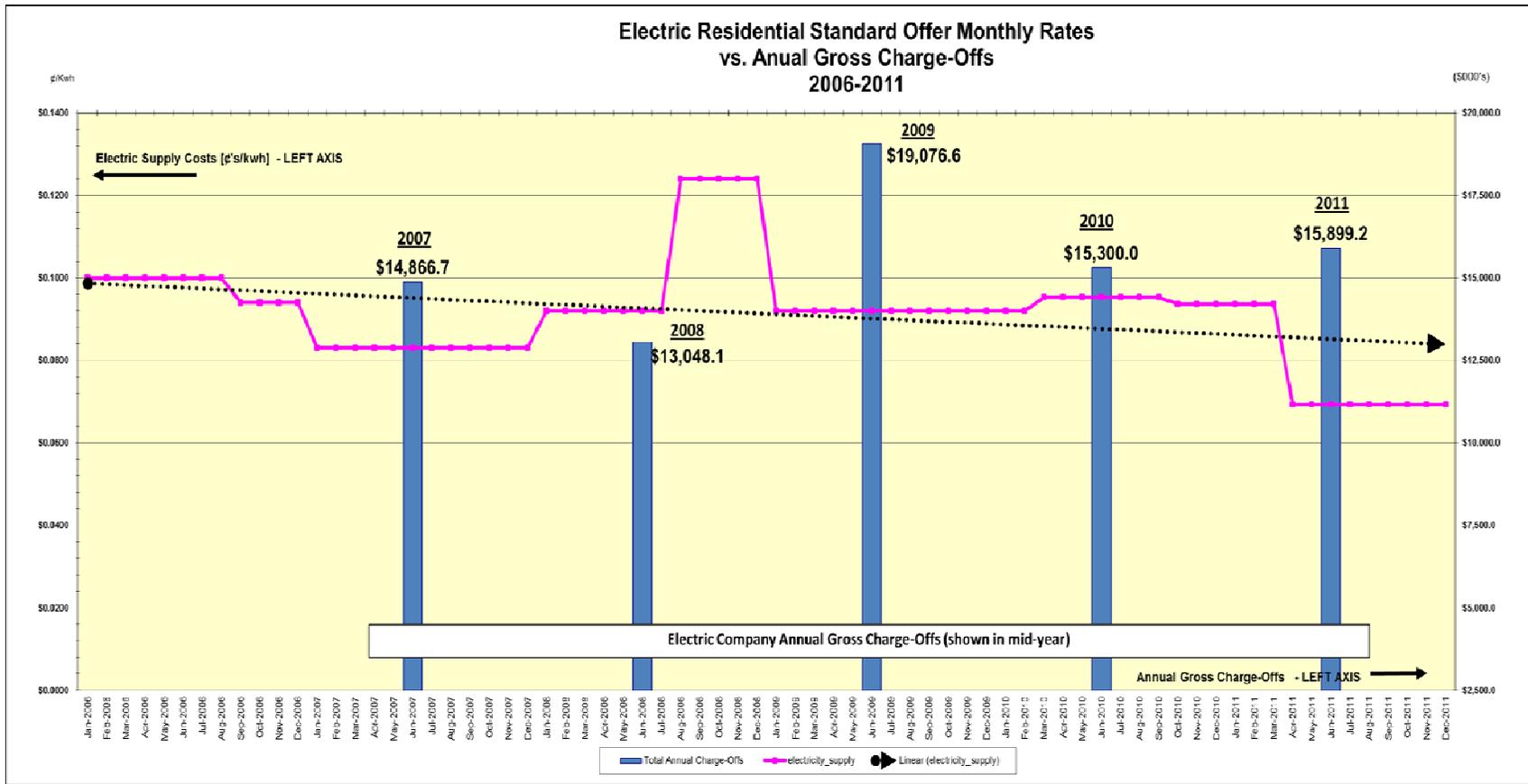
1 A. Yes it does.

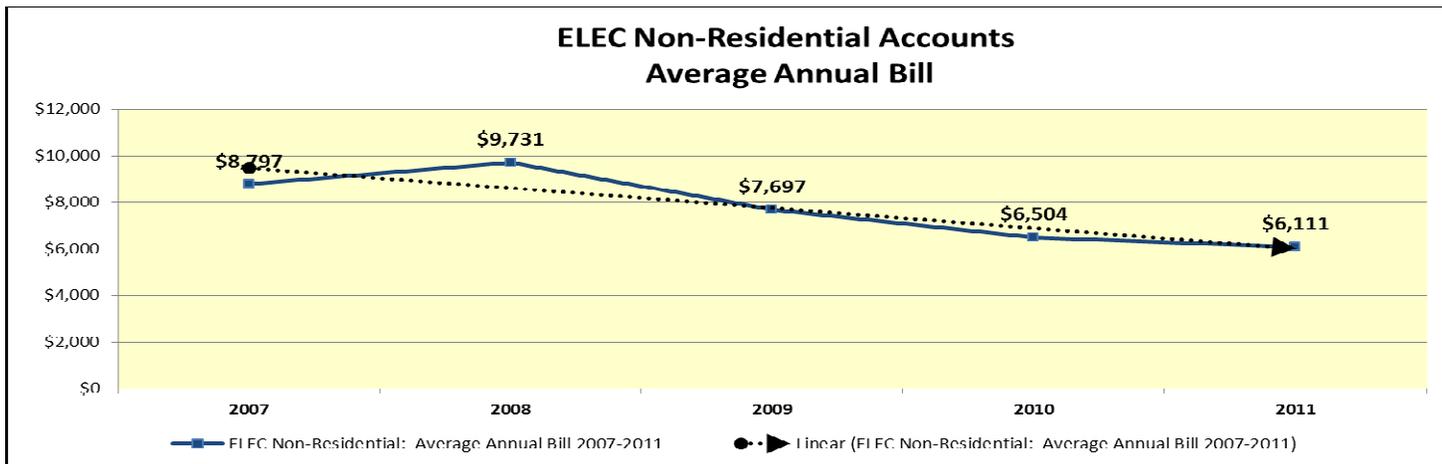
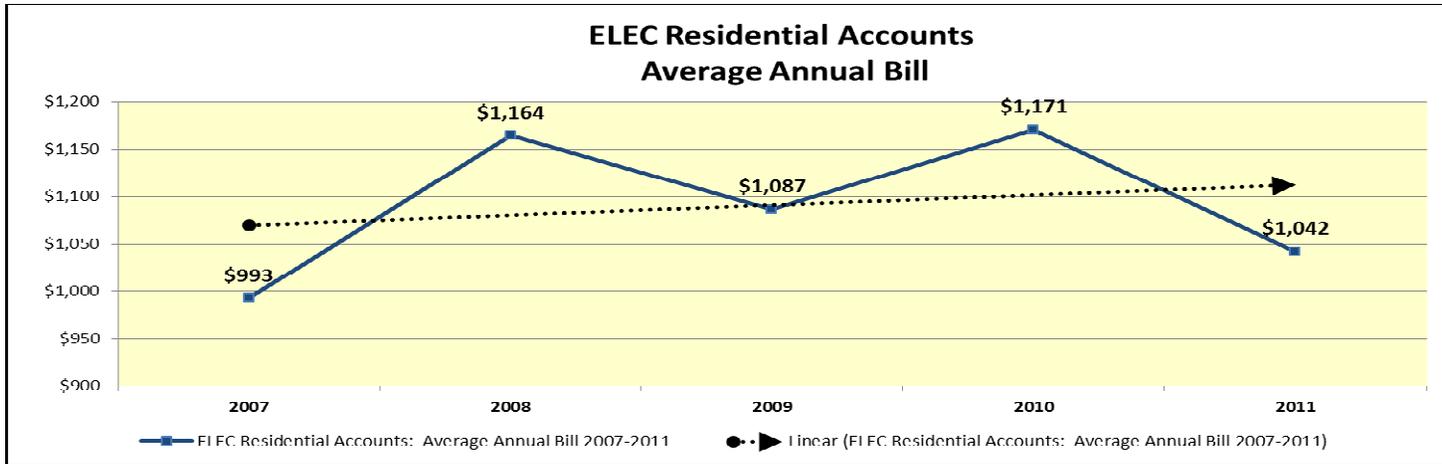


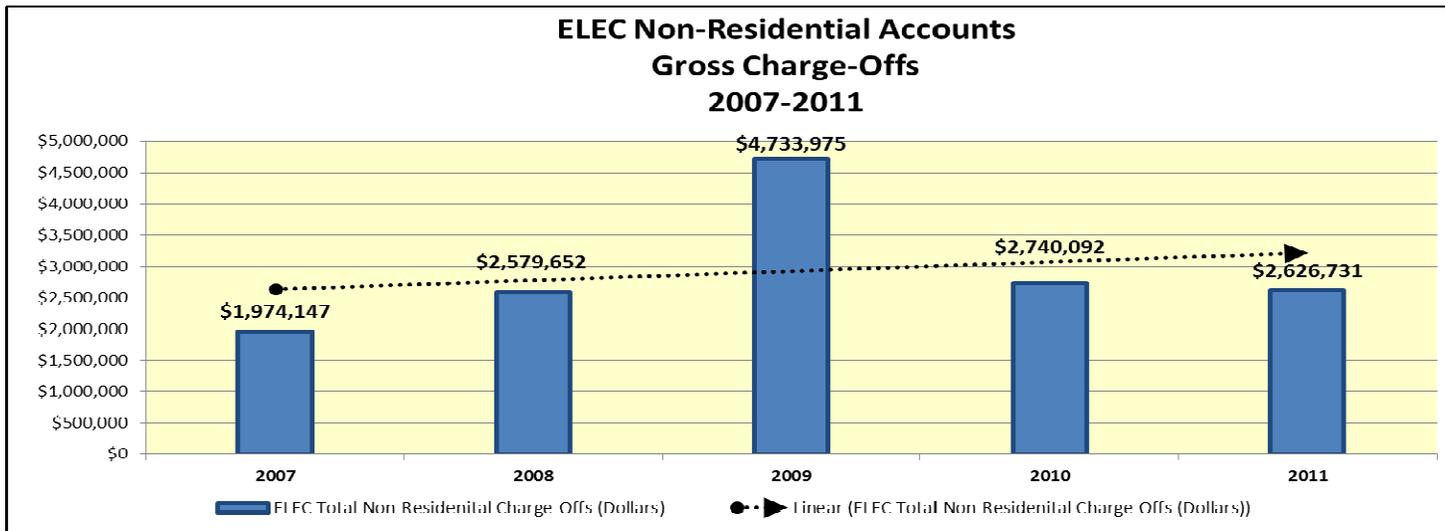
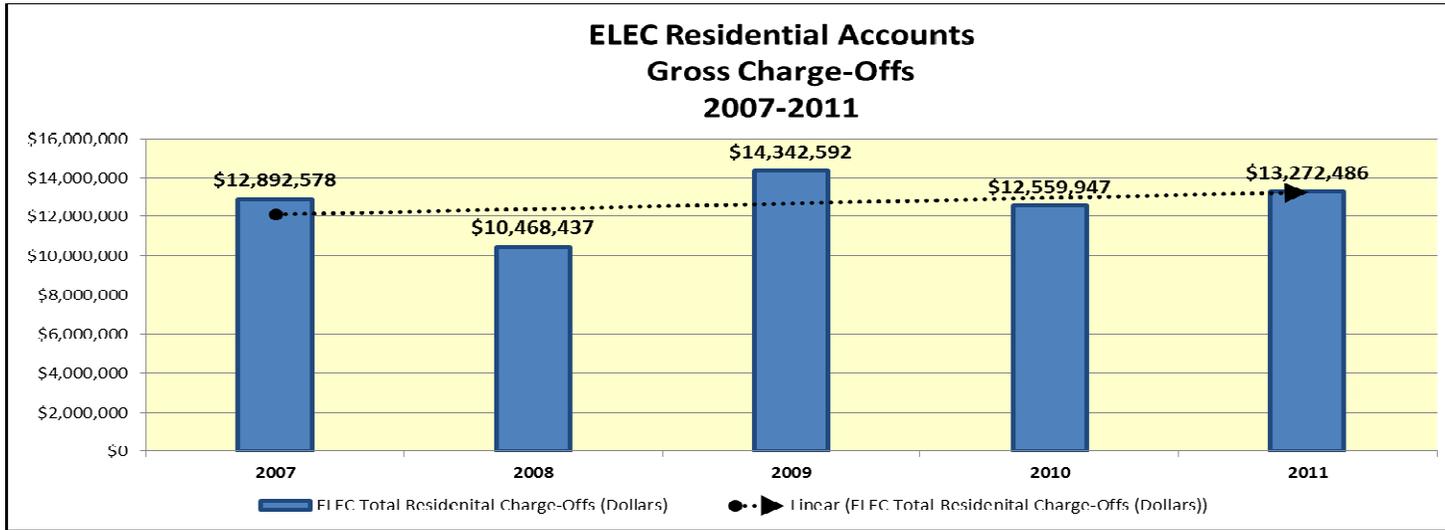


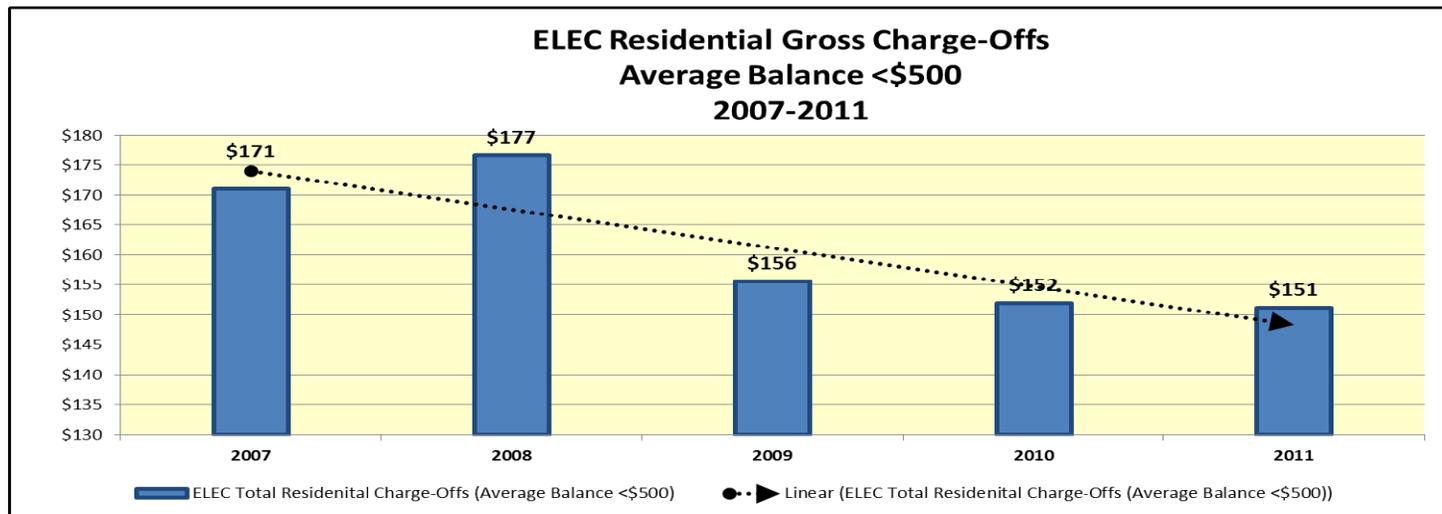
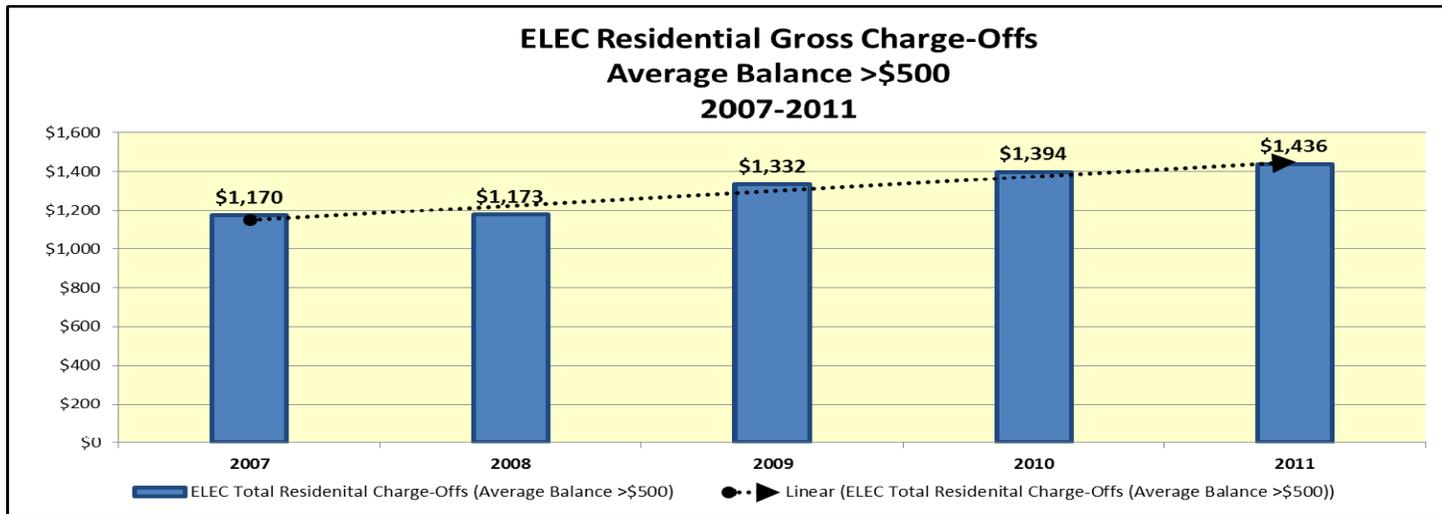












**Narragansett Electric Company**  
 Recommended Net Charge-Offs as a Percentage of Revenues  
 For the Twelve Months Ended December 31  
 (As shown in EMK-1)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Net Charge-Offs</u>	<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>CO Rate</u>
2009	\$13,701,691	\$906,112,250	1.51%
2010	\$10,698,705	\$879,874,473	1.22%
2011	<u>\$10,618,527</u>	<u>\$802,881,950</u>	<u>1.32%</u>
Three Year Average	\$35,018,923	\$2,588,868,673	1.35%

**Narragansett Electric Company**  
 Recommended Net Charge-Offs as a Percentage of Revenues  
 For the Twelve Months Ended December 31  
 (Recommendation)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Net Charge-Offs (EMK-1)</u>	<u>CO Reduction (Performance)<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>Net Charge-Offs (Recommendation)</u>	<u>Total Revenues (EMK-1)</u>	<u>CO Rate (Recommendation)</u>
2009	\$13,701,691	(\$3,752,214)	\$9,949,477	\$906,112,250	1.10%
2010	\$10,698,705	(\$3,123,128)	\$7,575,577	\$879,874,473	0.86%
2011	<u>\$10,618,527</u>	<u>(\$4,354,131)</u>	<u>\$6,264,396</u>	<u>\$802,881,950</u>	<u>0.78%</u>
Three Year Average	\$35,018,923	(\$11,229,473)	\$23,789,450	\$2,588,868,673	0.92%

Notes:

1. Charge-off reduction based on performance improvement opportunity

**Narragansett Electric Company--Gas Division**  
 Recommended Net Charge-Offs as a Percentage of Revenues  
 For the Twelve Months Ended December 31  
 (As shown in EMK-1)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Net Charge-Offs</u>	<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>CO Rate</u>
2009	\$19,431,198	\$447,952,657	4.34%
2010	\$15,515,379	\$401,863,767	3.86%
2011	<u>\$11,623,740</u>	<u>\$378,977,027</u>	<u>3.07%</u>
Three Year Average	\$46,570,317	\$1,228,793,451	3.79%

**Narragansett Electric Company--Gas Division**  
 Recommended Net Charge-Offs as a Percentage of Revenues  
 For the Twelve Months Ended December 31  
 (Recommendation)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Net Charge-Offs (EMK-1)</u>	<u>Non Usage COs (NA to rate case)<sup>1</sup></u>	<u>CO Reduction (Performance)<sup>2</sup></u>	<u>Net Charge-Offs (Recommendation)</u>	<u>Total Revenues (EMK-1)</u>	<u>CO Rate (Recommendation)</u>
2009	\$19,431,198	(\$568,170)	(\$3,109,023)	\$15,754,005	\$447,952,657	3.52%
2010	\$15,515,379	(\$389,357)	(\$3,360,072)	\$11,765,950	\$401,863,767	2.93%
2011	<u>\$11,623,740</u>	<u>(\$476,490)</u>	<u>(\$4,168,612)</u>	<u>\$6,978,638</u>	<u>\$378,977,027</u>	<u>1.84%</u>
Three Year Average	\$46,570,317	(\$1,434,017)	(\$10,637,707)	\$34,498,593	\$1,228,793,451	2.81%

Notes:

1. Non-usage related charge-offs which were included in Company's charge-off totals
2. Charge-off reduction based on performance improvement opportunity