



Chase Tower, 17th Floor
P.O. Box 1588
Charleston, WV 25326-1588
(304) 353-8000 (304) 353-8180 Fax
www.steptoe-johnson.com

Writer's Contact Information
(304) 353-8124
kurt.krieger@steptoe-johnson.com

November 4, 2025

Karen Buckley, *Executive Secretary*
Public Service Commission of West Virginia
201 Brooks Street
Charleston, West Virginia 25323

Re: **CASE NO. 25-0417-G-42T**
HOPE GAS, INC.

Rule 42T tariff filing to increase rates and charges.

Dear Ms. Buckley:

On behalf of Hope Gas, Inc., please find enclosed the Joint Stipulation and Agreement for Partial Settlement.

Thank you and please contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

HOPE GAS, INC.

/s/ Kurt L. Krieger
Its: Counsel

cc: Service List

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Kurt L. Krieger, counsel for Hope Gas, Inc., do hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following this 4th day of November 2025, addressed as follows:

Meyishi Blair, Staff Attorney
Public Service Commission of West Virginia
201 Brooks Street
P. O. Box 812
Charleston, WV 25323

John R. Auville, Esq.
Consumer Advocate Division
Director
300 Capitol Street, Ste. 810
Charleston, WV 25301

Barry A. Naum, Esq.
Spillman Thomas & Battle, PLLC
1100 Bent Creek Blvd., Suite 101
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Max C. Gottlieb, Esq.
Hissam Forman Donovan Ritchie PLLC
P.O. Box 3983
Charleston, WV 25339

James K. Kelsh, Esq.
Bowles Rice LLP
P.O. Box 1386
Charleston, WV 25325-1386

William C. Porth, Esq.
Robinson & McElwee, PLLC
P. O. Box 1791
Charleston, WV 25326

Stephen E. Hastings, Esq.
Hendrickson & Long, PLLC
214 Capital Street
Charleston, WV 25339

L. Elizabeth Coffey, Esq.
Doddridge County Commission
Doddridge County Prosecuting Attorney
P.O. Box 125
West Union, WV 26456

Samuel C. Rogers, II, Esq.
Ritchie County Commission
Ritchie County Prosecuting Attorney
109 East Main Street, Suite 202
Harrisville, WV 26362

/s/ Kurt L. Krieger
Kurt L. Krieger (WVSB No. 4927)

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON**

CASE NO. 25-0417-G-42T

HOPE GAS, INC.

Rule 42T tariff filing to increase rates and charges

JOINT STIPULATION AND AGREEMENT FOR PARTIAL SETTLEMENT

Pursuant to *W. Va. Code* § 24-1-9 and Rules 11 and 13.4 of the Commission's *Rules of Practice and Procedure*, W. Va. C.S.R. § 150-1 *et seq.*) ("**Rules**"), Hope Gas, Inc. ("**Hope**"), the Staff of the Public Service Commission ("**Staff**"), the Consumer Advocate Division of the Public Service Commission ("**CAD**"), the Diversified Gas & Oil Corporation ("**Diversified**"), the Producers Issues Committee of the Gas and Oil Association of WV, Inc. ("**PIC**"), Eastern Gas Transmission and Storage, Inc. ("**EGTS**"), and the West Virginia Energy Users Group ("**WVEUG**"),¹ (each a "**Stipulating Party**" and collectively, the "**Stipulating Parties**"), join in this Joint Stipulation and Agreement for Partial Settlement ("**Joint Stipulation**"). The Ritchie and Doddridge County Commissions, Antero Resources Corporation ("**Antero**") and Jay-Bee Oil & Gas, Inc. ("**JB**") do not join in this Joint Stipulation but have indicated that they do not oppose this Joint Stipulation.

¹ WVEUG's current membership for purposes of this proceeding consists of The Chemours Company.

In support hereof, the Stipulating Parties respectfully represent as follows:

A. BACKGROUND

1. On April 30, 2025, Hope filed an application to increase rates and charges pursuant to *W. Va. Code* § 24-2-4a and historical Rule 42 of the Commission's *Rules for the Construction and Filing of Tariffs* (*W. Va. C.S.R. § 150-2 et seq.*) ("**Rule**" or "**Rules**"), at Rule 20.1 ("**Application**").

2. The Company filed a Motion for Protective Order on May 8, 2025 ("**Motion for Protective Order**") seeking permanent confidential treatment of certain information it had filed with the Commission and provided to other Parties under interim protective agreements.

3. A detailed procedural history for this proceeding can be found in the above-referenced docket maintained by the Commission for this case on its internet website.

B. SETTLEMENT TERMS

4. Based on the Stipulating Parties' review and examination of the Application, testimony, exhibits, discovery responses, settlement discussions, and compromises, the Stipulating Parties agree and recommend that the Commission adopt this Joint Stipulation as a comprehensive resolution and settlement of only the subject matters and issues in this proceeding that are specifically addressed and resolved herein ("**Settled Matters**").

5. Except for the Settled Matters, all other subject matters and issues that have been raised and are in dispute in this proceeding based on the

Application, testimony, and exhibits remain pending for hearing, briefing, and a Commission decision in accordance with the existing procedural order established by the Commission for this proceeding (“**Non-Settled Matters**”).

6. The Stipulating Parties respectfully request that the Commission approve this Joint Stipulation without modification.

7. The terms and conditions of this Joint Stipulation, each of which is an essential and integral element of a fair and reasonable resolution of the Settled Matters in the public interest, are set forth herein.

8. Revenue Increase. Hope will implement a base rate increase of \$41,241,095 from this base rate case, which is expected to result in an overall increase in base rate revenues of approximately 21% (“**Base Rate Increase**”) based on going level revenues, to be effective on February 25, 2026.² Hope will reset PREP rates to be effective February 25, 2026, which rates will generate \$X.XX in PREP revenues.³ The revenue requirement presentation supporting the Base Rate Increase is attached as Exhibit 1 (“**Revenue Requirement**”),⁴ and is

² The resulting rates and charges also apply to service on and after February 25, 2025, for former customers of the “**Acquired Gas Utilities**” being: Peoples Gas WV LLC (Case No. 23-0264-G-PC); Southern Public Service Company (Case No. 23-0434-G-PC); Standard Gas Company and Bazzle Gas Company and Ross & Wharton Gas Company (Case No. 23-0843-G-PC); and Consumers Gas Utility Company (Case No. 24-0443-G-PC).

³ To be determined based on a final Commission order in this proceeding on cost allocation and rate design.

⁴ Diversified, PIC, EGTS, JB, and Antero do not specifically agree to the Revenue Requirement, but make no objection to it.

based on a return on equity ("**ROE**") of 9.75%. For the avoidance of doubt, and except as set forth herein, the allocation of the revenue requirement to Hope's rate schedules and customer classes, and development of the resulting rates and charges for all Hope services on and after February 25, 2026, remain Non-Settled Matters.

9. PREP⁵ Rates.

- a. For purposes of the calculation of revised PREP rates effective February 25, 2026, and subsequent PREP rates until new base rates are established in a subsequent Rule 42T base rate case proceeding, the Stipulating Parties stipulate that the Revenue Requirement is premised on a ROE of 9.75%, a gross up for uncollectible customer accounts of 0.7%, forfeited discounts of 0.08%, using Hope's approved depreciation rates, and Staff's depreciation expense.
- b. The PREP Rate increments effective February 25, 2026, for all Hope customers under all Hope rate schedules, including those former customers of the Acquired Gas Utilities and customers under Rate Schedule PGAS shall be determined based on this Joint Stipulation and a final Commission order on the Non-Settled Matters ("**Revised PREP Rates**").

⁵ Hope's Pipeline Replacement and Expansion Program ("**PREP**"), pursuant to *W. Va. Code* § 24-2-1k, *et seq.*

10. Legacy Surcharge Revenues.⁶ Hope's Legacy Surcharge shall terminate effective as of February 24, 2026, the day before the effective date of new base rates established in this proceeding. This Joint Stipulation adopts Staff's alternative approach⁷ to the amortization of the Legacy Surcharge over recovery related to Legacy Surcharge receipts through December 31, 2024. The accounting and ratemaking treatment of Legacy Surcharge receipts from January 1, 2025, to February 25, 2026, shall be addressed in Hope's annual PREP filings or Hope's next base rate case.

11. Federal Tax Issues; Stand-Alone Net Operating Loss Carryforward ("**NOLC**") and Reduction to Income Tax expense in Cost of Service by NOLC. Hope has proposed adjustments to rate base and tax expense pertaining to and to account for a NOLC and to create a Deferred Tax Asset ("**DTA**"), including adjustments to accumulated deferred federal income taxes ("**ADFIT**"). Staff objects to this adjustment and proposes different levels of federal income tax expense in cost of service and federal deferred income taxes related to the stand-alone NOLC (and the difference between book and tax depreciation in this context). Hope and Staff disagree and object to each other's adjustments related to the correct methodology for complying with the Internal Revenue Code's so-

⁶ See the Commission's November 14, 2024, order in Case No. 24-0443-G-PC, which order deferred ruling on the ratemaking treatment of Legacy Surcharge Revenues to this Rate Case.

⁷ See Prepared Direct Testimony of Staff witness Nathan S. Crouch, Bates 14-15.

called “Normalization Rules” with respect to these federal tax issues; all as more comprehensively described and addressed in the prepared direct and rebuttal testimony of Hope witness Olena Bilskiy, the prepared rebuttal testimony of Hope witness Steve Howard, and the prepared direct testimony of Staff witness Nathan S. Crouch. In addition, the attached Exhibit 2 shows Staff’s calculation of income taxes under this Joint Stipulation and compares the provision for federal income taxes when including and excluding accelerated depreciation expense, and the attached Exhibit 3 shows Hope’s methodology for complying with Normalization Rules under this Joint Stipulation’s Revenue Requirement. Consequently, as a Settled Matter, Staff’s methodology will be utilized to derive the Revenue Requirement for this case. The Stipulating Parties further agree that Hope may proceed as follows with respect to these issues:

- a. Hope may proceed to file with the Internal Revenue Service (“**IRS**”) for a private letter ruling (“**PLR**”) and must officially inform the Commission in advance, provide the Commission with the request before it is filed with the IRS, and seek Commission input into the request for the IRS ruling. If the Commission does not believe that the request is factual, adequate, and complete the Commission shall provide input which it believes is factual, adequate, and complete from the Commission’s perspective to be provided with the request. Hope shall not be required to attest that the requests and facts provided by the Commission are true and correct under penalties of perjury. In the request, and subject to the foregoing, Hope and the

Commission may then inform the IRS that (1) the Commission has reviewed the request and believes that the request with input from the Commission is adequate and complete; and (2) that Hope will permit the Commission to participate in any Associate office conference with the IRS concerning the request.

- b. To protect Hope and its customers, Hope is authorized to establish and maintain a regulatory asset for the revenue difference, net of additional state B&O and uncollectibles, between Staff's methodology and Hope's methodology. The regulatory asset shall be booked commencing on February 25, 2026, which is the date that rates in this case are authorized to go into effect. Hope shall make additions to the regulatory asset for this revenue difference until Hope receives an IRS determination to its PLR. If the IRS rules that (1) the Staff methodology is not in compliance with the Normalization Rules, and (2) the Hope methodology is in compliance with the Normalization Rules, upon receipt of the PLR, the Stipulating Parties will (x) use only the components of the methodology required to comply with the Normalization Rules and discontinue use of components of the methodology not required to comply with the Normalization Rules in future base rate applications, and (y) Hope shall defer and recover in its next Rule 42T base rate case filing the regulatory asset as adjusted by the PLR. To the extent the IRS rules that the Staff methodology is in compliance with the

Normalization Rules, upon receipt of the PLR, the regulatory asset will be written-off and not recovered from customers.

12. Rate Schedule PGAS Rate Design. In lieu of Hope's proposed fixed monthly meter fee, Rate Schedule PGAS rates shall be volumetric and assessed and billed based on receipts into Hope pipelines.

13. WNA and Low-Income Discount Pilot Program. Hope's proposed "Weather Normalization Adjustment" ("**WNA**") (Pro Forma Sheet Nos. 70-71) and "Low-Income Discount Pilot Program" (Pro Forma Sheet No. 22) as-filed in Hope's Application are approved and shall be inserted into Hope's tariff effective February 25, 2026. For the WNA Pilot Program, Hope shall file annual reports with the Commission and parties of record that include, but are not limited to, total WNA surcharges and credits by month and customer class, any customer complaints related to the WNA pilot program, and an evaluation of how the WNA performed based on its stated objectives. For the Low-Income Discount Pilot Program, the Company shall file quarterly reports with the Commission and parties of record that include, but are not limited to, the number of customers enrolled in the program, data on average customer payment behavior before and after enrollment, arrearage balances forgiven, arrearage balances paid down, the average bill discount provided, and the impact on affordability.

14. Dollar Energy Fund. Hope agrees to contribute no less than \$200,000 annually for a five-year period to the West Virginia Dollar Energy Fund.

15. Third-Party Use of Hope Pipelines. In place of Hope's as-filed, new tariff provision on Pro Forma Sheet 13, the new tariff provision in Exhibit 4 shall be inserted into Hope's tariff effective February 25, 2026.

16. Other Proposed Tariff Changes. Hope's proposed tariff changes identified on Exhibit 5 are withdrawn without prejudice to Hope and Hope's future proposed tariff change filings.

17. Future Base Rate Filing. Hope shall not file a general Rule 42T base rate case application pursuant to *W. Va. Code* § 24-2-4a prior to February 25, 2028; provided, this shall not preclude Hope from making filings with the Commission to be effective prior to February 25, 2028, to implement any lawful and applicable industry-wide requirements pertaining to (a) statutory changes to corporate income tax rates or (b) changes in policy regarding income tax allowance as of the dates specified in the industry-wide requirements.

18. Gas-Fired Electric Power Generation Facility. In the event Hope obtains as a customer a gas-fired electric power generation facility directly connected to a Hope-owned pipeline and which customer facility requests that Hope provide gas supply to such facility, Hope will negotiate in good faith with any natural gas producer to purchase such required gas supply from such producer's wells connected to applicable Hope's field/gathering lines, upon terms and conditions reasonably acceptable to Hope and the producer.

19. Bridger Photonics; Hope PREP⁸ Proceedings. Within 90 days following completion of the Bridger Photonics flyover assessment of Hope's field/gathering lines in 2026, Hope will submit a report to the Commission with Hope's recommended process for identifying and prioritizing replacement or upgrade of field/gathering lines pursuant to Hope's PREP Field/Gathering Program and leak mitigation matters; provided, Hope will consult with all parties about the report prior to its filing. This report shall be in addition to reports Hope must file in compliance with the Commission's October 27, 2025, order in Case No. 25-0485-G-390P.

20. Motion for Protective Order. The Stipulating Parties recommend that the Commission defer a ruling on the Motion for Protective Order.

C. GENERAL PROVISIONS

21. The Stipulating Parties support this Joint Stipulation and represent that each of its provisions resolves the Settled Matters. Based on the record, the Stipulating Parties recommend that the Commission accept this Joint Stipulation in resolution of the Settled Matters.

22. The Stipulating Parties represent that the Stipulating Parties' pre-filed evidence, testimony, exhibits, as well as the testimony to be offered in sponsorship of this Joint Stipulation, are adequate to support for the Joint Stipulation. The Stipulating Parties ask that the pre-filed testimony and exhibits pertaining to the

⁸ Hope's annual Pipeline Replacement and Annual Pipeline Replacement and Expansion Program ("**PREP**") applications, pursuant to *W. Va. Code* § 24-2-1k *et seq.*

Settled Matters be admitted into the evidentiary record without the necessity of each witness's sponsorship or attendance at hearing; provided, no witness submitting testimony in this proceeding is excused from attending the hearing in this proceeding absent Commission authorization.

23. This Joint Stipulation results from a review of all evidence and filings in this case, the Stipulating Parties' analyses of the Application, testimony, exhibits, discovery responses, the existing statutory and regulatory framework, and good faith negotiation. This Joint Stipulation is proposed to expedite and simplify the resolution of this case with respect to the Settled Matters.

24. The Stipulating Parties recommend that the Commission adopt this Joint Stipulation as being in the public interest, without adopting or recommending the adoption of any of the compromise positions set forth herein as ratemaking principles applicable to future regulatory proceedings, except as expressly provided herein.

25. Each component of the Joint Stipulation (including this paragraph) is integral to and inseparable from the others, and no Stipulating Party advocates the Commission's resolution of any Settled Matter proposed in this Joint Stipulation other than in the context of its support for the Joint Stipulation as a whole.

26. This Joint Stipulation is subject to the Commission's acceptance and approval. It will be ineffective until and unless approved by the Commission in all of its material terms and without modification. If the Commission does not grant

that approval, then the Stipulating Parties reserve their rights to fully advocate their positions, unlimited by the terms of this Joint Stipulation.

WHEREFORE, the Stipulating Parties respectfully request that the Commission make appropriate findings of fact and conclusions of law adopting and approving this Joint Stipulation in its entirety, including its attached exhibits.

[Signature page follows]

Dated and effective on November 4, 2025.

HOPE GAS, INC. By Counsel /s/ Kurt L. Krieger Kurt L. Krieger (WVSB 4927) Todd M. Swanson (WVSB 10509) STEPTOE & JOHNSON PLLC Chase Tower, 17th Floor P.O. Box 1588 Charleston, WV 25326-1588	STAFF OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA By Counsel /s/ Meyishi Blair Meyishi Blair (WVSB 360) Public Service Commission of West Virginia 201 Brooks Street P. O. Box 812 Charleston, WV 25323
CONSUMER ADVOCATE DIVISION OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA By Counsel /s/ Robert F. Williams Robert F. Williams (WVSB 4067) John R. Auville (WVSB 8057) Consumer Advocate Division 300 Capitol Street, Suite 810 Charleston, WV 25301	PRODUCERS ISSUES COMMITTEE OF THE GAS AND OIL ASSOCIATION OF WV, INC. /s/ James V. Kelsh George A. Patterson, III (WVSB 2831) James V. Kelsh (WVSB 6617) Bowles Rice LLP Counsel, Gas and Oil Association of WV P.O. Box 1386 Charleston, WV 25325
DIVERSIFIED GAS & OIL CORPORATION /s/ Max C. Gottlieb Max C. Gottlieb (WVSB 13201) Maureen F. Gleason (WVSB 14452) Hissam Forman Donovan Ritchie P.O. Box 3983 Charleston, WV 25339	EASTERN GAS TRANSMISSION AND STORAGE, INC. /s/ Stephen E. Hastings Stephen E. Hastings (WVSB 9065) Jessica B. Brisendine (WVSB 9634) Hendrickson & Long, PLLC 214 Capital Street Charleston, WV 25339

JAY-BEE OIL AND GAS, INC. <u>/s/ Jonathan C. Stanley</u> William C. Porth (WVSB 2943) Jonathan C. Stanley (WVSB 14379) Robinson & McElwee PLLC P. O. Box 1791 Charleston, WV 25326	WEST VIRGINIA ENERGY USERS GROUP <u>/s/ Steven W. Lee</u> Barry A. Naum (WVSB 12791) Steven W. Lee (WVSB 14379) Spilman Thomas & Battle, PLLC 1100 Bent Creek Boulevard, Suite 101 Mechanicsburg, PA 17050
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Exhibit 1

Revenue Requirement

Exhibit 1
Revenue Requirement

Description	Amount
Revenue	\$192,698,085
O&M Expense	\$137,089,651
Depreciation Expense	\$24,482,756
Regulatory Debits and Credits	(\$2,589,647)
Other Taxes	\$17,653,996
Federal and State Taxes	\$7,517,240
Total Deductions	\$184,153,996
Operating Income	\$8,544,089
Going-Level Rate Base	\$609,944,103
Rate of Return	7.86%
Required Net Operating Income	\$47,930,103
Increase Before Additional State B&O Tax and Uncollectibles	\$39,386,014
Increased State B&O Tax	\$1,567,211
Increased Uncollectibles	\$287,870
Total Base Rate Increase	\$41,241,095
PREP Recalculation	TBD
Total Increase	\$41,241,095

1/

1/ To be determined based on a final Commission order in this proceeding on cost allocation and rate design.

Exhibit 2

Withdrawn Proposed Tariff Changes (three items)

Pro Forma Tariff Sheet No. 74, Section 1(c)
Pro Forma Tariff Sheet No. 80, Section 7.1(f)
Pro Forma Tariff Sheet No. 82, section 8.3(c)

Exhibit 3

Staff Calculation

	With Accelerated Depreciation \$	Without Accelerated Depreciation \$
<u>FIT CALCULATION:</u>		
Return	47,930,103	47,930,103
Less: Interest	(18,196,828)	(18,196,828)
Less Statutory Additions (Deductions) Excluding Book Vs Tax Depreciation	(11,841,388)	(11,841,388)
Less Statutory (Deductions) for Book vs Tax Depreciation	(28,331,669)	
Add: Deferred FIT	6,956,932	1,007,281
Add: Deferred SIT	560,308	560,308
Taxable Income for FIT Before NOLC	(2,922,542)	19,459,476
NOLC Generated (Utilized)	2,922,542	
Taxable Income for FIT After NOLC	-	19,459,476
Tax @ 21.000%	-	4,086,490
Federal Income Tax Expense ((Tax) /1-.21))	-	5,172,772
Deferred FIT Excluding Book Vs Tax Depreciation	1,007,281	1,007,281
Deferred FIT on Book Vs Tax Depreciation	5,949,650	
Deferred FIT on Federal NOLC Adjustment (Not Used)		
Add: Deferred FIT	6,956,932	1,007,281
Total Provision for FIT*	6,956,932	6,180,054

SIT CALCULATION:

FIT	6,956,932
Return	47,930,103
Less: Interest	(18,196,828)
Less Statutory Additions (Deductions)	(11,841,388)
Less Statutory (Deductions) for Book vs Tax Depreciation	(28,331,669)
Add: Deferred SIT	560,308
Taxable Income for SIT Before NOLC	(2,922,542)
NOLC Generated (Utilized)	2,922,542
Taxable Income for SIT After NOLC	-
Tax @ 6.500%	-
State Income Tax Expense ((Tax) /1-.065))	-
Deferred SIT on OPEB	511,096
Deferred SIT on Plant CIAC	49,212
Deferred FIT on Federal NOLC Adjustment (Not Used)	-
Add: Deferred SIT	560,308
Total Provision for SIT	560,308

* The higher amount of \$776,878 with accelerated depreciation results from not including the negative deferred FIT on the NOL.
 (\$2,922,542 X 21% X 126.582%)

	With Accelerated Depreciation	Without Accelerated Depreciation
Operating Revenue	233,939,984	233,126,499
O & M Expense	(137,378,344)	(137,372,650)
Depreciation	(24,482,756)	(24,482,756)
Regulatory Debits and Credits	2,589,647	2,589,647
Taxes Other Than FIT	(19,221,188)	(19,190,276)
Income Before Deductions	55,447,343	54,670,464
Interest Expense	(18,196,828)	(18,196,828)
Temporary Deductions	(40,173,057)	(11,841,388)
Taxable Income	(2,922,543)	24,632,248
NOLC Generated (Utilized)	2,922,543	(24,632,248)
Adjusted State taxable Income	-	-
State Income Tax Rate	6.50%	6.50%
State Income Tax	-	-
Deferred State Income Tax	560,308	560,308
Total State Income Tax	560,308	560,308
Federal Taxable Income	(2,922,543)	24,632,248
To remove Negative Income	2,922,543	
Adjusted taxable Income	-	24,632,248
Federal Income Tax Rate	21.00%	21.00%
Federal Income Tax	-	5,172,772
Deferred Federal Income Tax	6,956,932	1,007,281
Total Federal Income Tax	6,956,932	6,180,053

Exhibit 4

Hope Calculation

Hope's Calculation of Income Taxes for Settlement

	Test Year Gong Level	Deficiency Adj	Proforma
Operating Revenues	192,698,085	47,352,992	240,051,077
Less: Operation and Maintenance	137,089,651	331,471	137,421,122
Depreciation & Amortization	24,482,756		24,482,756
Regulatory Debits and Credits	(2,589,647)		(2,589,647)
Taxes Other than Income	17,653,996	1,799,414	19,453,410
Net Operating Income Before Tax	16,061,329	45,222,107	61,283,436
Less: Interest	19,011,877		19,011,877
Add: Other Income	-		-
Less: Other Income Deductions	-		-
Net Income Before Tax	(2,950,548)	45,222,107	42,271,559
Statutory Adjustments			
Business Meals	278,646		278,646
Nondeductible Entertainment	14,019		14,019
Accrued Vacation	269,763		269,763
Accrued Annual Incentives	(214,025)		(214,025)
Accrued Other Incentives	386,072		386,072
Accrued LTIP	(142,734)		(142,734)
Accrued LTIP NC	103,490		103,490
Accrued Severance	12,115		12,115
Accrued Self Insured Medical	814,071		814,071
OPEB Curr	(1,635,497)		(1,635,497) Normalized
OPEB NC	(6,227,517)		(6,227,517) Normalized
Reg Liab - OPEB	(1,333,323)		(1,333,323)
Reg Asset - Vehicle Lease	(47,268)		(47,268)
Reg Asset - RE Lease	(279,150)		(279,150)
Reg Asset - IT Lease	(368)		(368)
ROU Asset - Operating Leases	352,301		352,301
Capital Lease Obligations Cur	95,510		95,510
Capital Lease Obligations NC	(152,019)		(152,019)
Bad Debts	(819,623)		(819,623)
Plant AFUDC Equity	53,897		53,897
Plant AFUDC Debt	(2,060,875)		(2,060,875)
Plant - CIAC	(757,115)		(757,115) Normalized
Plant - COR	(552,340)		(552,340)
FAS143 - ARO A/D	(688,423)		(688,423)
Book vs Tax Depr Fed	(28,331,669)		(28,331,669) Normalized
FAS143 - ARO Plant	48,639		48,639
Reg Liab - ARO Cur	18,233		18,233

Reg Liab - ARO NC	622,133		622,133
Total Statutory Adjustments	(40,173,057)	-	(40,173,057)
Taxable Income before NOL & State Taxes	(43,123,605)	45,222,107	2,098,502
State Income Tax	-	(888,497)	(888,497)
Taxable Income Before NOL	(43,123,605)	44,333,611	1,210,006
NOL Adjustment	43,123,605	(6,171,807)	36,951,798
Federal Taxable Income After NOL	-	38,161,804	38,161,804
Parent Company Loss Allocation	-		-
Federal Taxable Income after PCLA	-	38,161,804	38,161,804
Federal Statutory Tax Rate	21%	21%	21%
Current Federal Income Tax	-	8,013,979	8,013,979
Federal Deferred Income Taxes			
OPEB Cur	321,130		321,130
OPEB NC	1,222,773		1,222,773
EDIT Amort - Unprotected	126,861		126,861
Plant CIAC	148,660		148,660
Plant Book vs Tax Depreciation	6,005,973		6,005,973
EDIT Amort - Protected Depreciation	(976,435)		(976,435)
EDIT Amort - CIAC	107,971		107,971
Federal NOLC Adj - Accelerated Depreciation	(5,949,650)		(5,949,650)
Total Federal Deferred Taxes	1,007,282	-	1,007,282
Total Provision for Federal Taxes	1,007,282	8,013,979	9,021,261
<u>State Taxes</u>			
PTBI	(2,950,548)	45,222,107	42,271,559
Statutory Adjustments	(40,173,057)	-	(40,173,057)
State Taxable Income before NOL	(43,123,605)	45,222,107	2,098,502
State NOL Generated (Utilized)	43,123,605	(31,552,928)	11,570,677
State Taxable Income after NOL	-	13,669,179	13,669,179
WV Statutory Tax Rate	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%
WV Current Income Tax	-	888,497	888,497
State Deferred Taxes			
OPEB Cur	106,307		106,307
OPEB NC	404,788		404,788
Plant CIAC	49,212		49,212
Total State Deferred Taxes	560,307	-	560,307
Total Provision for State Income Taxes	560,307	888,497	1,448,804
Total Federal and State Income Taxes	1,567,589	8,902,475	10,470,065

FIT Protected NOL Calc

Total Normalized Adjustments	(36,951,798.00)
Total Flow-through Adjustments	(3,221,259.00)
Total Statutory Adjustments	(40,173,057.00)

Total Test Year NOLs	(43,123,605.11)
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FIT NOL available to offset Deficiency Adj	(6,171,807.11)
Normalized FIT NOL - Protected	(36,951,798.00)
Total NOL	(43,123,605.11)

SIT Protected NOL Calc

Total State Normalized Adjustments	(8,620,129.00)
Total Flow-through Adjustments	(31,552,928.00)
Total State Statutory Adjustments	(40,173,057.00)

SIT NOL available to offset Deficiency Adj	(31,552,928.00)
SIT Normalized NOL - Protected	(11,570,677.11)
Total Test Year NOL	(43,123,605.11)

Exhibit 5

THIRD-PARTY USE OF HOPE LINES TO FACILITATE THIRD-PARTY FREE-GAS OBLIGATORS (NON-PUBLIC UTILITY SERVICE)

A. Applicability. This section applies to situations involving the use of Hope-owned pipelines of whatever type or classification that are used to facilitate the receipt and redelivery of natural gas to a free-gas user on behalf of a producer or other third party ("Free-Gas Obligor") who has the obligation to deliver free-gas to that free-gas user, pursuant to the terms of a contract or other document between the Free-Gas Obligor and the free-gas user, or their predecessors in interest ("Free-Gas Obligation").

B. Fee for Use of Hope Pipelines. Hope shall invoice each Free-Gas Obligor on a monthly basis the Eastern Gas South Basis Index (formerly known as Dominion South Point Index) per dekatherm for each dekatherm of gas delivered by Hope to such Free-Gas Obligor's free-gas users subject to the description in above Section A ("Fee"). For the avoidance of doubt, the foregoing Fee, while based on a gas price index, is not consideration paid to Hope for the purchase of gas from Hope or to compensate Hope for gas delivered to a free-gas user. The obligation to provide gas supply to Hope for re-delivery to a free-gas user remains with the Free-Gas Obligor as set forth in below Section D

C. Measurement of Gas Deliveries to Free-Gas users. Hope's invoice to each Free-Gas Obligor shall be based on the actual measurement of gas to each Free-Gas Obligor's free-gas users based on measurement equipment for each free-gas user. If the actual measurement is not known by the date of invoicing to the Free-Gas Obligor, invoicing may be prepared based on Hope's estimate of quantities delivered to a free-gas user(s). If the Free-Gas Obligor does not provide measurement information for monthly deliveries to its free-gas user(s), Hope will base the estimate on the free-gas user(s) highest usage for the month. In the absence of measurement equipment, Hope may estimate the quantities of gas delivered to a free-gas user(s). Hope shall not be required to rely upon unreliable measurement equipment or processes for the measurement of gas deliveries to a free-gas user(s).

D. Source of Gas and Limitations. Hope shall not be obligated or required to provide a source of gas to serve a free-gas user(s) and Free-Gas Obligor's obligations to a free-gas user(s) shall not be expanded as a result of this tariff provision. Hope's redelivery of Free-Gas Obligor's gas to its free-gas user(s) is subject to the "Additional Rules for Customers on High Pressure Main or Field Lines" section as set forth on Tariff Sheet Nos. 11 and 12. Each Free-Gas Obligor

shall indemnify and hold Hope harmless with respect to such Free-Gas Obligor's obligations to its free-gas user(s).

E. Servicing Free-Gas Users. As of 30 days after February 25, 2026, Hope shall have no responsibility or obligation to provide any services or compliance-related obligations to a free-gas user(s) other than use of the Hope-owned pipelines as contemplated by the entirety of this tariff provision; except to the extent Hope and the Free-Gas Obligor mutually agree to other arrangements for the provision of such services.

F. Non-Jurisdiction and Reservations. The Commission has routinely held that it does not have jurisdiction over Free-Gas Obligations and gas delivered to a Free-Gas Obligor's free-gas users is not the provision of Commission-regulated public utility service by Hope or the Free-Gas Obligor. The scenario described in this section does not create a public service obligation on Hope or a Free-Gas Obligor to provide gas service to a free-gas users. This section only specifies the appropriate charges for the use of Hope's pipelines described herein to compensate Hope and its other gas utility customers by the Free-Gas Obligor(s) for the use of Hope's pipeline as described herein. The use of pipelines to facilitate Free-Gas Obligations alone shall not require Hope to continue to own and operate any pipeline or prohibit Hope from abandoning, disposing of, selling, conveying, or transferring such pipelines. At any time, a Free-Gas Obligor may make other arrangements for the delivery of gas to its free-gas user(s) that do not involve the use of Hope-owned pipelines, in which case the Free-Gas Obligor shall also notify Hope as to the new arrangement such that the subject free-gas user(s) can be disconnected from the Hope owned-pipeline; provided, any change in a Free-Gas Obligor's provision of gas to a free-gas user(s) shall not involve Hope and shall be a matter solely between that Free-Gas Obligor and its free-gas user(s).