

FILE

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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PUCO

In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for an Increase in Gas Rates.)	Case No. 07-589-GA-AIR
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)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Approval of an Alternative Rate Plan for its Gas Distribution Service.)	Case No. 07-590-GA-ALT
)	
)	
In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. for Approval to Change Accounting Methods.)	Case No. 07-591-GA-AAM
)	

OBJECTIONS TO THE STAFF REPORT AND SUMMARY OF ISSUES
BY
PEOPLE WORKING COOPERATIVELY, INC.

Pursuant to Section 4909.19, Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code ("O.A.C.") Rule 4901-1-28, People Working Cooperatively, Inc. ("PWC") respectfully submits its Objection to the Staff Report of Investigation issued in the above-named proceedings on December 20, 2007. PWC filed its motion to intervene in these proceeding on January 16, 2008. PWC's objection and its primary issue regarding the Staff Report is:

1. While Staff in its report has indicated correctly that there are and are expected to be "upward pressure on energy prices," Staff Report, at 53, and that therefore the weatherization program of DE-Ohio at the increased level of \$3 million annually is desirable, PWC is concerned about and urges the Commission to balance carefully the Staff's

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recommendation that DE-Ohio be required to fund the \$1 million increase in its funding for gas weatherization from shareholder dollars against the potential loss of the funding should DE-Ohio object and decline to provide the additional funding.

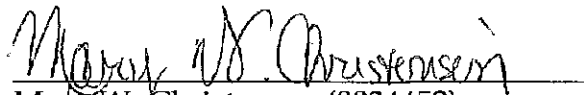
With the extra \$1 million level of funding for the gas weatherization program that DE-Ohio provided voluntarily in 2006, which dollars were spent in 2007, PWC was able to provide 458 additional gas weatherization services (that is, homes) for the eligible residential elderly and low income consumers in DE-Ohio's service territory. These services give elderly and low income PWC customers in DE-Ohio's gas service territory a significant opportunity to reduce their energy consumption that is more effective than their efforts at conservation to reduce their energy bills when they're living in a poorly-insulated, drafty home. With PIPP roles exploding, even before the projected energy rate increases, these services may be the immediate, optimal, and best existing way to keep people off PIPP, to lower their PIPP arrearages, and/or get them off PIPP.

2. Finally, while PWC does not object to the Staff's description of the gas weatherization service provided by DE-Ohio as being performed by PWC, the statement is incomplete and potentially misleading. DE-Ohio has required that any service provider that wishes to obtain DE-Ohio funding for providing weatherization services respond to an RFP in a competitive bidding process with others who wish to obtain the funding. PWC has participated in many such bidding processes for both electric and DE-Ohio gas weatherization dollars. PWC has been the successful

bidder for the current contract, based not only on its response to the RFP,
but also on DE-Ohio's level of satisfaction with PWC's work.

Should the Staff change its position on any of the matters addressed in the report of its investigation or should there be any issues newly raised by Staff or any other party to the case, as the case proceeds from the objections to the closing of the record, PWC reserves the right to file testimony, cross-examine witnesses and address such issues as if they were issues raised in this report and to which PWC had objected.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of
PEOPLE WORKING COOPERATIVELY, INC.



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing Objection to the Staff Report and Major Issue of People Working Cooperatively, Inc. has been served on the following parties of record in this proceeding by first-class, postage prepaid U.S. mail on this 18th day of January, 2008.


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