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07-829-GA-ATR

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AUG 15 2008

INVESTIGATION DIVISION
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Carolyn Youngman
4672 West 220th Street
Fairview Park, OH 44126
August 5, 2008

Comments to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

These are additional comments I wish to make regarding my recent phone call to the Commission.

My husband and I are both retired and we can barely afford the natural gas bills now. Any additional add-ons will make it nearly impossible to continue to pay our bill. Our budget bill for our small bungalow is now at \$213 per month.

We set our thermostat to 58 degrees F in the winter and hope winter ends before we can no longer keep up with the gas bills. I think the utility company can afford to pay for their own infrastructure since their profits for last year were up 84% and they can also afford to pay their CEO 15 million dollars a year or is that just his bonus? These people are so rich they no longer are in touch with their customers who are not. The utility companies never have enough profit and are continually squeezing the life out of us. They never should have been deregulated – larger and larger profits leads to greed as can be seen in our own county politicians. The people running the utility companies don't care what sacrifices we must make just to keep warm. I am afraid this is only the beginning of creative ways the utility companies are trying to take the shirts off our back and food out of our mouths. They need to be stopped before most of us will not be able to afford to pay our bills.

I do not know which method they chose in trying to justify their argument for this latest increase in fees for the next 25 years, but you can manipulate any data (statistics) to prove whatever point you want to make. I am thoroughly disgusted with their lack of concern as to what they are doing to their customers in an effort to make more and more money (bigger profits than 84%). The utility companies must be controlled and should be regulated so that their increasing desire to make more and more money for themselves and their shareholders does not snuff out the customer that helps them make their profit. All these companies (electric and gas in particular) want is a free ride and make large profits. It should be their responsibility to pay for the cost of doing business (pay for their own maintenance of the infrastructure – pipes, valves, meters, etc.) that helps to enable them to enjoy a profit (monopoly set up years ago when these companies were run for the good of all the people).

Natural gas use is a necessity and not a luxury that we can take or leave as we please even though the price changes and continually rises. We need a break. Right now we are just sitting ducks waiting to be plucked at the convenience of the utility companies.

Sincerely,
Mrs. C. Youngman

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BUSINESS

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2008 | SECTION C°

THE PLAIN DEALER

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Details in markets, C4

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Natural gas rates jumping 15%

JOHN FUNK
Plain Dealer Reporter

If you buy your natural gas directly from Dominion East Ohio, you can expect to pay about 15 percent more next month.

The means you will pay \$16 for every 1,000 cubic feet you burn. Average bills for May should be about \$81 for residential customers — up from \$66 a year ago. Average May consumption is about 5,000 cubic feet, or 5 Mcf.

Dominion's gas prices change monthly and are figured by add-

Dominion prices tied to Mercantile speculation

ing \$1.44 to the wholesale price set on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

And that's the problem.

Like the running of the oil bulls, wholesale natural gas prices — traded in energy equivalents of 1 million BTUs, or roughly 1 Mcf — are increasing across the world.

The traders are betting that hurricanes this summer, hot weather requiring more electric-

ity and foreign competition will keep natural gas supplies lower than in the previous two years.

The NYMEX contract for May delivery closed Monday at \$11.28 per million BTUs. That's a leap from \$9.58 in April and \$8.93 in March.

Here's how the numbers add up to more than \$16 per Mcf. ■ Add \$1.44 to the \$11.28 May wholesale price to figure the new \$12.72 retail price.

■ Add a state tax, about 62 cents per Mcf (figured at 4.99 percent).

■ Add Dominion's local delivery rate, \$3 per Mcf, for a total \$16.34.

A year ago, the NYMEX May price was just \$7.51, and Dominion's retail price, figured the same way as now, was \$8.95 per Mcf. The utility's delivery rate also has increased over the year, from \$2.59 per Mcf to \$3. In-

creases to fund a program help-

cleveland.com/heating

For an in-depth guide to heating costs and contract price charts.

ing very poor families and to make up for people who walk away without paying account for the difference. Deadbeat customers alone account for 29 cents of that \$3 rate.

To reach this Plain Dealer reporter: funk@pland.com, 216-999-4138

NOT ACTUAL COST
= speculation

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO FOR APPROVAL OF A PIPELINE INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT COST RECOVERY CHARGE FOR THE EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY D/B/A DOMINION EAST OHIO

for 25 years

The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion East Ohio ("DEO") hereby gives notice that on February 22, 2008, it filed with The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") an Application for Approval of Tariffs to Recover Certain Costs Associated with a Pipeline Infrastructure Replacement Program through an Automatic Adjustment Clause and for Certain Accounting Treatment. This Application has been assigned Case No. 08-169-GA-ALT by the Commission, and the case has been consolidated for review with DEO's rate case proceedings in Case Nos. 07-829-GA-AIR, 07-830-GA-ALT, 07-831-GA-AAM, and 06-1453-GA-UNC. The substance of the application follows:

The Application, which proposes a mechanism called the Pipeline Infrastructure Replacement ("PIR") Cost Recovery Charge, is applicable to all customers of DEO receiving service under DEO's sales and transportation rate schedules within all or portions of the counties of Allen, Ashland, Ashtabula, Auglaize, Belmont, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Fulton, Geauga, Guernsey, Holmes, Lake, Mahoning, Medina, Mercer, Monroe, Paulding, Portage, Putnam, Shelby, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, Tuscarawas, Van Wert, Washington, and Wayne, Ohio. In addition to any otherwise applicable monthly service charge, the proposed mechanism provides that all customers receiving service under the following rate schedules shall be assessed a monthly charge, regardless of gas consumed, to recover the revenue requirement net of Gross Receipts Tax associated with DEO's pipeline infrastructure replacement program:

- General Sales Service ("GSS")
- Energy Choice Transportation Service ("ECTS")
- Large Volume General Sales Service ("LVGSS")
- Large Volumes Energy Choice Transportation Service ("LVECTS")
- General Transportation Service ("GTS")
- Transportation Service for Schools ("TSS")

Customers receiving service under the Daily Transportation Service ("DTS") rate schedule shall be assessed a volumetric charge in addition to their volumetric delivery charge for that purpose. The maximum monthly PIR Cost Recovery Charge for any DTS customer shall be \$1,000.00 per account.

The PIR Cost Recovery Charge will provide for the recovery of costs incurred in (1) the replacement of certain bare-steel and cast- or wrought-iron pipelines over a period of twenty-five years; (2) the assumption of responsibility for curb-to-meter service lines; and (3) ongoing infrastructure replacements and relocations and system improvements.

The PIR Cost Recovery Charge shall be updated annually to reflect the variation in DEO's revenue requirements associated with pipeline infrastructure replacement expenditures as offset by corresponding operations and maintenance expense reductions during the most recent twelve months ended June 30. DEO shall file a notice no later than May 31 of each year based on nine months of actual data and three months of estimated data for the fiscal year. The filing shall be updated by no later than August 31 of the same year to reflect the use of actual fiscal year data. Such adjustments to the PIR Cost Recovery Charge shall become effective with bills rendered on and after November 1 of each year.

Any person, firm, corporation or association may file a motion to intervene. Any interested party seeking detailed information with respect to the Application may inspect a copy of the Application at the offices of the Commission at 180 East Broad Street, 13th floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793; by visiting the Commission's web site at <http://www.puco.ohio.gov>, selecting DIS, inputting 08-169 in the case-lookup box, and selecting the date the Application was filed; or by telephoning the Commission at 1-800-686-7826. In addition, a copy of the Application and supporting documents may be viewed at the business office of DEO at 1201 East 55th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44103, during normal business hours.



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