

## BEFORE

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the ) CASE NOS.  
Application of the East Ohio ) 07-829-GA-AIR  
Gas Company, doing business ) 07-830-GA-ALT  
as Dominion East Ohio, ) 07-831-GA-AAM  
for Authority to Increase ) 08-169-GA-ALT  
Rates For Gas Distribution ) 06-1453-GA-UNC  
Service and Other Related )  
Matters.

**ORIGINAL**

- - -

BE IT REMEMBERED, that upon the hearing of  
the above-entitled matter, held at City of  
Geneva Council, City Hall Municipal Building,  
Council Chambers, 1st Floor, 44 North Forest  
Street, Geneva, Ohio, before Christine M.T.  
Pirik, Attorney Examiner, and commencing on  
Monday, the 4th day of August 2008, at 7:00  
o'clock p.m., at which time the following  
proceedings were had.

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1     **APPEARANCES:**

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3           On Behalf of the Public Utilities Commission  
4           Of Ohio:

5                   PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

6           BY:     Christine Pirik, Attorney Examiner

7                   180 East Broad Street

8                   Columbus, Ohio 43215

9                   800/686-7826

10

11           On Behalf of Ohio Consumers' Counsel:

12                   OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

13           BY:     Joseph P. Serio

14                   Assistant Consumers' Counsel

15                   10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800

16                   Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485

17                   614/466-8574

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1 APPEARANCES (CONTINUED):

2

3 On Behalf of The East Ohio Gas Company  
4 dba Dominion East Ohio:

5 JONES DAY

6 BY: Andrew J. Campbell, Attorney at Law  
7 325 John H. McConnell Boulevard  
8 Suite 600  
9 Columbus, Ohio 43215-2673  
10 614/469-3939

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1                   **MS. PIRIK:**                   The Public  
2   Utilities Commission of Ohio has assigned for  
3   public hearing at this time and place Case Nos.  
4   07-829-GA-AIR, 07-830-GA-ALT, 07-831-GA-AAM,  
5   08-169-GA-ALT and 06-1453-GA-UNC, which are  
6   captioned, "In the Matter of the Application of  
7   the East Ohio Gas Company, doing business as  
8   Dominion East Ohio, for Authority to Increase  
9   Rates for its Gas Distribution Service and Other  
10  Related Matters." My name is Christine Pirik.  
11  I am an attorney with the Public Utilities  
12  Commission and the Deputy Director in the legal  
13  department, and I have been assigned as the  
14  hearing officer on this case.

15                   I would also mention, the two  
16  personnel out in the hallway who are seated at  
17  the table are with the Commission. If you want  
18  to sign up to testify, please see them. They  
19  can put your name on a list. However, once I'm  
20  through with all the names on the list, I will  
21  ask anyone in the audience who wishes to testify  
22  to come forward, so everyone will have an  
23  opportunity to put comments on the record.

24                   At this time I would like to call for  
25  appearances on behalf of the parties that are

1 present. On behalf of the company?

2 **MR. CAMPBELL:** Thank you, Your  
3 Honor. Andrew John Campbell with the law firm  
4 Jones Day on behalf of Dominion East Ohio.

5 **MS. PIRIK:** On behalf of the  
6 Office of Consumers' Counsel?

7 **MR. SERIO:** Thank you, Your  
8 Honor. On behalf of the residential utility  
9 customers of East Ohio Gas Company, Janine  
10 Migden-Ostrander, Consumers' Counsel, my name is  
11 Joe Serio. OCC is the state agency that  
12 represents residential customers in cases before  
13 the PUCO. Thank you.

14 **MS. PIRIK:** I will also  
15 list the others -- there are other parties in  
16 the case that represent different constituencies  
17 and I'll just state those for the record so  
18 everyone will be aware who those parties are.  
19 The Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy,  
20 Neighborhood Environmental Coalition,  
21 Empowerment Center of Greater Cleveland,  
22 Cleveland Housing Network, Consumers For Fair  
23 Utility Rates, Interstate Gas Supply, Integrys  
24 Energy Services, Dominion Retail, Stand Energy  
25 Corporation, Utility Workers Union of America,

1 local G555, The Ohio Oil & Gas Association and  
2 the City of Cleveland.

3 Dominion filed this rate case  
4 proceeding initially on August 30, 2007. There  
5 have been local hearings held throughout the  
6 state. To date we have one in Youngstown, one  
7 in Lima, one in Akron, one in Canton, one in  
8 Cleveland, tomorrow we will have one in  
9 Marietta, and then we will have three additional  
10 hearings, evening hearings in Cleveland,  
11 Youngstown and Akron.

12 As I mentioned previously, you can  
13 sign up to testify. As you noticed, there is a  
14 court reporter with us this evening. She will  
15 be writing down everything that is said, so it  
16 will be transcribed and it will be taken back to  
17 the Commission and considered along with all of  
18 the other evidence that we're putting on the  
19 record. We did begin an evidentiary hearing on  
20 Friday, August 1st, and that hearing will  
21 continue throughout the month of August taking  
22 factual testimony from the company and witnesses  
23 from the various parties concerning the  
24 proposals that are on the table. The company  
25 has a proposal in their application. The staff

1 has submitted the staff -- the technical staff  
2 of the PUCO has submitted a proposal. There are  
3 other proposals by other parties that they have  
4 put on the record. The Commission in the end  
5 will take all of the transcripts and all of the  
6 information that is considered, will look at all  
7 the proposals, and then they will make their  
8 decision.

9 When I call your name, if you decide  
10 that you do not want to testify, that is fine,  
11 you can wait until the end if you'd rather wait  
12 or if you would just like to pass, that is fine  
13 also. I will ask you to take an oath when you  
14 first come up here and to state your name and  
15 address and spelling for the record so we can be  
16 sure that it's accurate on the record.

17 At this time I will begin calling  
18 witnesses. Francine Esposito.

19 I apologize up front if I pronounce  
20 them wrong. My last name is difficult, also.

21 Would you please raise your right  
22 hand?

23 (Thereupon, Francine Esposito was  
24 sworn.)

25 MS. PIRIK: Would you please

1 state your name and address for the record?

2 MS. ESPOSITO: Francine Esposito,  
3 515 Myrtle Avenue, Ashtabula, Ohio, 44004.

4 MS. PIRIK: And you spell  
5 Esposito E-s-p-o-s-i-t-o?

6 MS. ESPOSITO: Correct.

7 MS. PIRIK: You may proceed.

8 MS. ESPOSITO: This hearing is  
9 concerning the transportation charge of Dominion  
10 Gas and the miscellaneous charges that they want  
11 in their increase.

12 For the homeowner, light use 60 MCF  
13 per year, currently is \$977.88. The proposed  
14 will boost it to \$1,086.95. Increase to the  
15 consumer is 8.9 percent. Change is \$89.07.  
16 This will be for the people that will try to  
17 conserve their gas by keeping it very low.

18 The moderate user, the typical  
19 homeowner is 100 MCF per year. Currently it's  
20 \$1,617.54. The proposal \$1,671.59. Increase to  
21 the consumer 3.3 change, in the amount of  
22 \$54.05.

23 The heavy users that will use 140 MCF  
24 plus per year will be \$2,237.20. The proposal  
25 is \$2,256.23. Increase to the consumer is



1 .9 percent. Change, \$19.03.

2 With the above distribution of  
3 delivering fees, you are rewarding the consumer  
4 who burns a lot of gas and you're penalizing the  
5 homeowners who are conserving gas. My question  
6 to Dominion Gas is: What have you been doing  
7 with all the money from the transportation fee?  
8 Why do you want the consumer to pay for your  
9 upgrades? What are your costs versus your  
10 profit? Why are you no longer supplying gas to  
11 the customer direct and are now going through a  
12 third-party distributor? This is another way  
13 Dominion Gas is making a profit, by collecting  
14 off of a third-party distributor, which I talked  
15 to today, my distributor, and they do pay back  
16 Dominion Gas for using their lines. So we're  
17 paying to use the lines one way and they're  
18 paying to use it other way, so there's two fees  
19 involved on transportation.

20 My third-party distributor is Direct  
21 Energy and my fixed rate is 949 MCF fixed  
22 through October of 2008. Looking at the rates  
23 that I watch every Saturday in the Plain Dealer,  
24 if I would look at the rate this past Saturday  
25 was \$15.29. It's jumped that high MCF for a new

1 rate fixed. That is 61 percent increase this  
2 year for the natural gas. This is highway  
3 robbery. Elderly on fixed income cannot afford  
4 this, middle class cannot afford this, and poor  
5 cannot afford this. Only the rich can afford  
6 this increase. Natural gas for homes comes from  
7 the United States and it's not imported from  
8 another country. Why are the rates so high?  
9 Ever since deregulation of the utilities, the  
10 runaway rates are killing the average person.  
11 Please stop the bleeding of the consumer and  
12 deny the rate increase. Please consider a  
13 rollback of the rates. Thank you.

14 **MS. PIRIK:** Roy Blalock. Can  
15 you please raise your right hand?

16 (Thereupon, Roy Blalock was sworn.)

17 **MS. PIRIK:** Please state your  
18 name and spelling and address.

19 **MR. BLALOCK:** Roy Blalock,  
20 B-l-a-l-o-c-k, 7590 Lake Road East, Madison,  
21 Ohio.

22 I think my question here is, I don't  
23 quite understand, like the lady before me, is  
24 why Dominion hasn't already invested money into  
25 the maintenance of their equipment and savings

1 when they're going to put these new meter  
2 readers in. It's not a sensible reason to  
3 increase the rates at what they're doing when  
4 you have commercial customers paying less than  
5 residential customers do. It's like when I go  
6 to the gas station, I don't pay for that gas  
7 station's pump, I pump in what I need for my  
8 fuel use. If the next person wants to drive an  
9 SUV, he pumps in what he wants to. We all seem  
10 to be in this country at this point in time that  
11 we should feel sorry for the suppliers. They've  
12 made money over the last 50 years, and they've  
13 paid to their investors an amount that should be  
14 reasonable. We're going from like 8 percent to  
15 12 percent return on their money. I think  
16 that's a little high because I don't get an 8 to  
17 12 percent increase in my wages. That's  
18 where -- that's the kind of stand I take on it.  
19 It's just totally ridiculous. I don't see how  
20 people are going to be able to afford this, the  
21 senior citizens. It just will not work. And  
22 what we're going to end up doing in the stacks  
23 base again is the taxpayers are going to have to  
24 pay for the people who can't afford the gas with  
25 HEAP. Either way we go, we lose. It's just the

1 supplier or the transporter at this point, it's  
2 not even a supplier anymore, hasn't done his  
3 duty to maintain his equipment is really not the  
4 customer's problem. It should be brought back  
5 to what this company is doing. That's all I  
6 have to say. Thank you.

7 **MS. PIRIK:** Paul Hietapelto.  
8 (Thereupon, Paul Hietapelto was  
9 sworn.)

10 **MS. PIRIK:** Could you state  
11 your name and spelling for the record and  
12 address?

13 **MR. HIETAPELTO:** Paul Hietapelto.  
14 Address is 776 Sherman Street, Geneva, Ohio.

15 **MS. PIRIK:** And how do you  
16 spell Hietapelto?

17 **MR. HIETAPELTO:**  
18 H-i-e-t-a-p-e-l-t-o.

19 **MS. PIRIK:** You may proceed.

20 **MR. HIETAPELTO:** What I've got to  
21 say, it's probably not that much, but \$5.70 up  
22 to \$11.80 is a 207 percent increase in your  
23 service fee, and on social security, we only get  
24 2.3 percent. That's only two and a third cents  
25 on the dollar is all we're getting. Yet they

1 wanted to go to \$2.07 more on each dollar of  
2 that service fee we're paying. And if they only  
3 raise that to 3 percent like the average wage  
4 earner gets, it should go to \$5.87 and not this  
5 \$17.50 what they are doing. The average person  
6 out here cannot afford this kind of increase. A  
7 207 percent increase is outrageous, and I don't  
8 see how they can justify that for what the  
9 increase rate is. Because people on fixed  
10 income cannot afford this kind of increase, they  
11 can't do it. Because the way the cost of  
12 utilities are, we just got increase of  
13 22 percent on our sewer rates, that's 22 cents  
14 more on the dollar, and we got a 6 percent  
15 increase on water rates, that's six cents, yet  
16 we're two and a third cents increase on the  
17 dollar. So this is just unreal the way they are  
18 ripping us off. They are ripping us off  
19 big-time. That's all I've got to say. Thank  
20 you.

21 **MS. PIRIK:** Dan Claypool.

22 (Thereupon, Mr. Claypool was sworn.)

23 **MS. PIRIK:** Can you state your  
24 name and address for the record?

25 **MR. CLAYPOOL:** My name is Dan

1 Claypool. I'm president of the Board of  
2 Ashtabula County Commission. C-l-a-y-p-o-o-l.  
3 I'm here to speak on behalf of the Board of  
4 Ashtabula County Commissioners. Commissioner  
5 Carla is here. Commissioner Moraski had another  
6 appointment, but we're here to oppose the rate  
7 increase requested by Dominion. It's asked for  
8 \$75 million per year, which would actually mean  
9 a 6.9 percent increase in the eastern region.  
10 We believe that is excessive. Currently our  
11 customers pay \$5.70 in the eastern region as a  
12 flat rate. The PUCO has recommended \$17.50  
13 cents while lowering the usage fee, and I  
14 believe Mrs. Esposito stated that point, that it  
15 actually discourages energy conservation.  
16 Dominion is also seeking to implement a 25-year  
17 pipeline infrastructure replacement plan at a  
18 cost of \$2.6 billion, that's with a "B". And  
19 that proves to be \$1.12 per month during the  
20 first year with the monthly fee potentially  
21 reaching 90 cents a month in each additional  
22 year, and that would raise that fee over the  
23 term of \$21.60, and, again, we just believe that  
24 is outrageously excessive.

25 Dominion is also proposing \$126

1 million increase to retrofit automatic meter  
2 reading equipment on their meters. This is  
3 going to be additional cost to consumers, and  
4 while they're going to put workers out of jobs  
5 and supposedly improve their efficiency, it's  
6 going to cost the consumers and it's not going  
7 to improve any type of efficiencies because it's  
8 actually going to cost the consumers more.

9           So we believe that the costs are  
10 excessive, we believe their profits in 2007  
11 according to their annual report exceeded the  
12 Dow Jones, exceeded the S & P 500, and we  
13 believe that those rates or those profits should  
14 be put back into the infrastructure to help the  
15 consumer rather than pass those on. And we  
16 believe that the PUCO should reject the proposed  
17 rate increases as being unreasonable and they  
18 should oppose them and not grant them. Thank  
19 you.

20           **MS. PIRIK:**           Thank you.

21           R. W. Cronquist.

22           (Thereupon, R.W. Cronquist was  
23 sworn.)

24           **MS. PIRIK:**           Please state your  
25 name and address and spelling.

1                   **MR. CRONQUIST:**     R.W. name is Buzz,  
2     last name Cronquist spelled C-r-o-n-q-u-i-s-t,  
3     1104 Locust Drive, Ashtabula, 44004.

4                   You know, this country was built with  
5     a bunch of entrepreneurs that decided they  
6     wanted to have a good business, and in order to  
7     survive, they had to make profits, and we all  
8     know that that's still the same situation today.  
9     However, my complaint is this goes to -- with  
10    the East Ohio Gas Company as far as we're  
11    concerned here, it goes to a little bit of  
12    credibility. They want to increase rates so  
13    that they can recoup their infrastructure  
14    improvements, past and present.

15                  In February, February 4th to be  
16    exact, Saybrook Township, at the request of  
17    several of our people who live in Saybrook  
18    Township, decided that we'd like to find out  
19    what East Ohio Gas had in store for us since  
20    they had sent out, shall we say, an A & R man, a  
21    guy by the name of Jeffrey Oviat who works for  
22    Hudson which is a contract land agent for East  
23    Ohio, and he was curious as to who owned what  
24    property within the country club allotment in  
25    Ashtabula County in Saybrook Township, and it



1 was in regards to a project they had which was  
2 going to be installing a new four-inch  
3 high-pressure gas line, and also abandoning the  
4 existing pipelines that had been put in the  
5 country club allotment in 1922.

6 So Jeffrey and I went around through  
7 the neighborhoods, since I seem to be one of the  
8 historians of the neighborhood, and we located  
9 everything that he was curious about as to where  
10 property lines were and where gas lines were and  
11 so forth. We had a meeting then scheduled at  
12 Saybrook Township offices on February 4, 2008  
13 where Wayne Nymann of East Ohio Gas Company and  
14 again Jeffrey Oviat from Hudson were present,  
15 and the concerned residents of that portion of  
16 Saybrook Township country club allotment were  
17 present and we talked about the various  
18 scenarios, about replacing and abandoning the  
19 old pipelines and putting in the new pipelines,  
20 and what would this cost be to the consumer.  
21 Here's the credibility issue.

22 Number one, Mr. Nymann who was the  
23 East Ohio Gas Company representative said,  
24 "There will be absolutely no costs whatsoever to  
25 the consumer." In other words, once you see the

1 yellow pipe be put in the soil and everything  
2 hooked up to the house, don't worry you're not  
3 going to have to pay for it. "We have Federal  
4 monies that have come to us and we're replacing  
5 our infrastructure as we can do this, however  
6 far the money goes." And then subsequently I  
7 pick up the newspaper and read, we want some  
8 money from you folks as far as rate increases to  
9 pay for all this work we've done for you. You  
10 can't have it both ways.

11 So all I've got to say is I have here  
12 a meeting tape where the question was posed to  
13 Mr. Nymann by me personally, and this is why I  
14 got my hair up in the back of my neck, saying  
15 specifically you can talk about all the details  
16 about where the pipe's coming into the house,  
17 where the meters are going to be relocated, and  
18 where you're going to abandon the old lines, but  
19 I said, "I want you to state for the record that  
20 this is going to cost no one money as far as  
21 rate increases are concerned."

22 He says, "Absolutely." It's right  
23 here on this tape. I'd love to give it to  
24 somebody and you can listen to it for yourself.  
25 You can't have it both ways. Either you tell

1 the truth the first time around or you don't  
2 come to me the second time because I'm not going  
3 to pay a hell of a lot of attention to you.  
4 That's my statement.

5 **MS. PIRIK:** Bruce Beckwith.  
6 (Thereupon, Bruce Beckwith was  
7 sworn.)

8 **MS. PIRIK:** Could you state  
9 your name and address, please?

10 **MR. BECKWITH:** Bruce Beckwith,  
11 B-e-c-k-w-i-t-h, 696 Shermon, Geneva, Ohio,  
12 44041.

13 First I come to you as a City  
14 Councilman. I'd like to welcome everybody to  
15 our city to have this hearing and to get this  
16 all out in the open to make sure the state knows  
17 where we stand on this matter. I also come to  
18 you as a private citizen that burns wood, and I  
19 am hooked to East Ohio Gas lines and pay a gas  
20 bill for my use and of that nature, and this  
21 entire rate increase is getting propped on my  
22 shoulders. The reality that they want to take  
23 \$240 to \$270 out of my pocket because I choose  
24 to heat my house with an alternate method is  
25 just like telling the SUV driver, "Let the guy

1 with the Cavalier pay for your gas," and that  
2 just doesn't make it here in America. These  
3 heavy-handed tactics were used to deregulate  
4 gas. I think we're familiar with the history of  
5 ENRON, and this is a form of tactics that we're  
6 taking.

7 So, Commission, I would appreciate if  
8 you would acknowledge that we do not favor this  
9 proposal and wish to have it voted down. Thank  
10 you.

11 **MS. PIRIK:** Beth Carney.

12 (Thereupon, Beth Carney was sworn.)

13 **MS. CARNEY:** Beth Carney,  
14 C-a-r-n-e-y, 223 Grant Street, Geneva, Ohio,  
15 44041.

16 I don't come here tonight with any  
17 answers, but I do have some questions. I work  
18 at Geneva Senior Center, and when I have someone  
19 who comes into my office crying and upset and  
20 tells me they just received their gas or  
21 electric bill and they don't know how they're  
22 going to pay for it, what do you suggest I tell  
23 them? This doesn't happen once, but it happens  
24 day after day after day. What do you suggest I  
25 say to the seniors at our center who live on

1 fixed incomes and have to decide how they're  
2 going to spend their fixed income on food or  
3 medicine or utilities? I guess another question  
4 is, when will this end? How do you think our  
5 seniors on fixed income will be able to afford  
6 increases time after time after time? When will  
7 the consumer say enough is enough? Most of our  
8 seniors don't qualify for assistance, so what  
9 would you suggest I tell them? That's my  
10 statement.

11 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.

12 Kenneth Cain.

13 (Thereupon, Kenneth Cain was sworn.)

14 **MS. PIRIK:** Please state your  
15 name and address.

16 **MR. CAIN:** Kenneth Cain, 122  
17 Mariska Avenue, Ashtabula, Ohio, C-a-i-n. We've  
18 been victimized by bait and switch, only it's a  
19 been a 50-year, 60-year bait and switch. I  
20 believe East Ohio Dominion offers me insurance  
21 for the gas pipe leading to my house. I buy  
22 insurance so in case it breaks, it can be  
23 repaired at no cost to me, but they're talking  
24 about raising the rates so that they can repair  
25 it. How does this work? I don't understand

1 this.

2 As a person living within the city  
3 limits, I don't have the option of heating with  
4 wood. I'm stuck. How does this work? It's a  
5 Public Utilities Commission. When are they  
6 going to start taking interest in the public?

7 On this handout that I received as I  
8 walked in, it says East Ohio asked for \$5.70 for  
9 both service areas, \$5.70 flat charge. And the  
10 Public Utilities Commission wanted to triple it  
11 to \$17.50. Who does the Public Utilities  
12 Commission work for? How can anybody who gets  
13 less than a 3 percent raise for a year manage to  
14 support this? It's not going to work. Do you  
15 want to see a recession in our country? We're  
16 coming for it.

17 I'm a teacher. I know what goes on.  
18 I can do math. Why didn't these companies,  
19 especially East Ohio Dominion, after the warning  
20 we got with the electric company, start  
21 repairing their pipes while they were making all  
22 these great profits? I don't understand that.  
23 I have to be physically responsible for my  
24 money. I can't just go and say, "You know,  
25 people, I need more money as a teacher. I'm

1 going to raise your taxes and there's not going  
2 to be a whole lot said about it." It has to be  
3 voted on. But we don't have an up or down vote  
4 on the Public Utilities Commissions. We  
5 actually don't even have a choice if we have  
6 water or well water in the city. We don't have  
7 a choice about electricity or when. We don't  
8 have a choice about gas, propane or wood because  
9 it's a public utility. This is what the city  
10 said way back when, 1922 is a date I heard, and  
11 even earlier to make it safe. And now safety is  
12 coming back to bite us in the butt? This is not  
13 right. How is it justified? How can the PUCO  
14 justify giving three times more than what East  
15 Dominion asks for, three times more. And worse  
16 yet, how can East Dominion justify accepting it?  
17 Have they no honesty?

18 In our school district, teachers are  
19 cut. Cut some workers. I know a place to  
20 start. Start with those who are in  
21 administration, the high-dollar earners who  
22 aren't maybe earning their money, but they've  
23 been there so many years. They get rid of  
24 teachers that way, auto plants get rid of their  
25 workers that way. Of course, auto plants also

1 can violate their contracts right and left  
2 according to our Supreme Court. We're coming to  
3 a point where what we pay is only what we've got  
4 and earn only what we can get. I would love to  
5 say, "I need the same kind of rate increase in  
6 my pay just to stay even, just to stay even."  
7 My newest vehicle, my newest vehicle was a '97.  
8 I wonder what East Ohio's newest or oldest truck  
9 even that they're still currently using is. How  
10 can I be physically responsible if I go out and  
11 buy a brand-new car and I don't have the money  
12 to pay for it? East Ohio should take its  
13 profits and maybe decrease a little bit of its  
14 pay to its executives, maybe a lot of its pay to  
15 executives and plow it in, and maybe the  
16 shareholders who are wealthier than I am anyway  
17 to own the stock will take a little bit less of  
18 an increase on their share. I'm outraged when I  
19 realize that the PUCO staff urged the tripling  
20 of the fees. That's unconscionable. Who are  
21 they working for? It sounds to me like they're  
22 working for East Ohio Gas, Dominion Gas. That's  
23 all I have to say right now.

24 MS. PIRIK: I should have  
25 pointed out earlier, the handout you were



1 referring to is not published by our staff.  
2 There is one out there, it's like an orange  
3 piece of paper that will give you accurate  
4 information. I can't attest to the accuracy of  
5 the documents that you're looking at.

6 **MR. CAIN:** I thought this is  
7 what you handed out.

8 **MS. PIRIK:** No, we didn't.  
9 That was one of the interveners. At the table,  
10 that's all of our information. I just want to  
11 be sure everyone has accurate information and  
12 it's at the table with the two ladies who are  
13 sitting out there.

14 Kim Bancroft.

15 (Thereupon, Kim Bancroft was sworn.)

16 **MS. BANCROFT:** Kim Bancroft, 289  
17 Prospect Street, Geneva, Ohio, 44041. I guess  
18 what I want to say is like your average wage  
19 around here is like anywhere between nine, ten  
20 dollars an hour, and I just feel that this  
21 increase is huge. I'm very opposed, and I just  
22 feel that Dominion needs to start cutting from  
23 within their own entity to put the money into  
24 our pipelines that need to be repaired. Thank  
25 you.

1                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Thank you.

2                   Greg Strnisa.

3                   (Thereupon Greg Strnisa was sworn.)

4                   **MS. PIRIK:**    Could you please state  
5 and spell your name and address?

6                   **MR. STRNISA:**       Greg Strnisa,  
7 S-t-r-n-i-s-a, 6949 Depot Road, Ashtabula, Ohio,  
8 44004.

9                   The only comment that I have is  
10 earlier this year I heard that East Ohio Gas  
11 found a big large deposit of natural gas in the  
12 State of Ohio and in western New York. Is this  
13 a surprise to people? There's supposed to be  
14 enough natural gas under the State of Ohio to  
15 take care of the U.S. The problem is that they  
16 can sell natural gas to another country overseas  
17 for more money, and bottom line, we have to  
18 compete and pay the higher price. I don't see  
19 raping our energy out of our country and selling  
20 it overseas when we need it here badly. We all  
21 know there's a bad financial crisis and energy  
22 crisis hitting us right now. We can't afford to  
23 put gas in our cars to go to work, and now our  
24 utility bills are going up. As it is right now,  
25 just talking to someone, the cost of wood for

1 those of us that have wood burners is going up.  
2 Wood burners are going to start going up. This  
3 is not a good time to be raising the prices.  
4 This country needs to get straightened out for  
5 people to get through the hard times. I mean,  
6 you know, profits are great. I understand that.  
7 I understand shareholders, they have to do it, a  
8 lot of people invest in it, but, man, you're  
9 really killing us. That's all I have to say.

10 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.

11 Amber Otto.

12 (Thereupon, Amber Otto was sworn.)

13 **MS. OTTO:** Amber Otto, 578

14 Roosevelt Drive, Geneva, Ohio, 44041.

15 My question is: Is our rate increase  
16 due to the fact there's a huge replacement  
17 program for our risers going on right now?

18 And, secondly, is this also our rate  
19 increase now because Dominion is responsible for  
20 the meter to the road, where before, the  
21 homeowner was responsible if anything happened  
22 to the line, so that's where I come from. I  
23 mean, I know everybody is upset about the rate  
24 increase. We all should be. But there's a lot  
25 more factors people don't understand and people

1 don't know about, you know. With this whole  
2 riser replacement program, it's costing them a  
3 lot of money. A lot of homeowners don't know  
4 about it, so, I mean, that's a really good  
5 question, you know. It seems like it's a lot  
6 more getting covered up than just the cost of  
7 gas now. Thank you.

8 **MS. PIRIK:** I also have Robert  
9 Otto on here. No?

10 Richard Hemme.

11 (Thereupon, Richard Hemme was sworn.)

12 **MR. HEMME:** Richard Hemme,  
13 H-e-m-m-e, 4531 North Ridge East, Geneva, Ohio,  
14 44041.

15 I'm going to read from my notes  
16 because I'm not a good public speaker, but I  
17 would like to thank the PUCO for honoring the  
18 request of the Consumer Counsel or whatever for  
19 having these evening meetings and for having one  
20 at Geneva. It saved me the drive to Cleveland.

21 Geneva, a town like many towns, came  
22 into being when the railroads come across  
23 America often splitting a town in half. And the  
24 same came about that there was a right side of  
25 the tracks and a wrong side of the tracks

1 depending on the class of the people living  
2 there. Well, Geneva was blessed with two sets  
3 of tracks. One just a couple hundred feet to  
4 the north of this building and the other a half  
5 mile or so to the south. My little hubble sits  
6 a couple miles east on Route 20, and like this  
7 building, is between the tracks. Tonight I'd  
8 like to name the tracks to the south the PUCO,  
9 the tracks to the north Dominion line because,  
10 people, I feel like I live on the wrong side of  
11 both sets of tracks.

12 First is the Dominion proposal to do  
13 the standard shakedown. To get the money they  
14 want to perform a task that worked fine last  
15 winter, based on the amount of gas usage one has  
16 a set fee. Something that leads to people  
17 conserving to keep the cost of their gas bill  
18 down, the very reason Dominion is raising the  
19 bill because people have conserved over 35  
20 percent of the gas since 1980.

21 On the other tracks is the PUCO with  
22 a new type of economic engine that basically if  
23 I understand it would allow the least amount of  
24 gas customer uses to pay the whole rate increase  
25 with a reduction in the price per amount of gas

1 used reduced. Now that you have to understand  
2 my little hubble down the street, I keep my heat  
3 at 60 degrees all winter. Because it's small,  
4 it only uses 60 units of gas. So according to  
5 this article from the Plain Dealer, I would pay  
6 an increase of \$84.16 a year or a 36.7 percent  
7 increase. Now, I don't want you to think when I  
8 first heard this news that I wasn't furious and  
9 enraged, and I didn't find the difference  
10 between the amounts charged now and in the  
11 future and subtract them from the yearly/monthly  
12 service charge. Oh, I screamed about the  
13 wealthy getting richer. Then I realized  
14 something, it's just a proposal you made to the  
15 gas company, so I am making you a proposal  
16 because I had a thought that was good for  
17 everyone. Let's use the PUCO proposal, but also  
18 have a state income tax credit written in to our  
19 returns that would list the amount of gas we use  
20 and reimburse us for it. This would allow the  
21 Dominion to get its money. For me, I could  
22 support the rich and the big business, and the  
23 PUCO would get its proposal through. State  
24 would have ample gas to entice new businesses to  
25 come here, which could use a lot of gas and out

1 with the transmission charge, and with tax on  
2 the added money from the profits of Dominion,  
3 the state could afford to pay us back. It would  
4 also make those who want to conserve keep  
5 conserving and those using lots of gas that want  
6 to have a reduction in the money to state income  
7 tax to conserve, a winner for everyone. If the  
8 proposal goes forward as it is now, however,  
9 I'll be forced to buy electric heaters and an  
10 electric water heater and have my service  
11 discontinued. Thank you.

12 **MS. PIRIK:** Anne Reese.

13 (Thereupon, Anne Reese was sworn.)

14 **MS. REESE:** My name is Anne  
15 Reese. I live at 536 First Street here in  
16 Geneva, Ohio. I'm also an attorney for the  
17 Legal Aide Society of Cleveland. I'm telling  
18 you that because there's people in the room who  
19 know I work there, but I would like to divide my  
20 statement into two parts. First I'd like to  
21 tell you my personal story about the gas line I  
22 had to replace last fall.

23 I think it was in September when my  
24 gas started leaking out of the sidewalk in front  
25 of my house, and in addressing Amber's question,

1 Dominion does not pay for service from the  
2 street to your house. It costs me \$1,000 to  
3 replace that line.

4           They let the gas leak out of my  
5 sidewalk for three days. They did not care that  
6 it was leaking in the street and did not turn it  
7 off. If they were so concerned about their  
8 profits, why didn't they shut the gas off  
9 instead of letting it leak into the air around  
10 my house where it was a danger? So I don't know  
11 where the rumor is that they will replace your  
12 gas lines, but that they will not do. You will  
13 have to do that yourself.

14           With respect to my employment at the  
15 Legal Aide Society of Cleveland, I would like to  
16 let you know that I represent people in  
17 foreclosures. And this year alone I've seen two  
18 people who had to make a choice between paying  
19 their utility bills last year and paying their  
20 mortgages. We're in a serious mortgage crisis  
21 now and housing crisis. To force people to have  
22 to pay an increase in their utility bills is  
23 going to force more people to make that choice.  
24 I think that's an absolute tragedy, and  
25 Dominion's greed in requesting this kind of a



1 rate increase is absolutely obscene and the  
2 PUCO's tripling of it is absolutely outrageous.  
3 I would request that you please deny this.  
4 Thank you.

5 MS. PIRIK: Dave Schwan,  
6 S-c-h-w-a-n?

7 Is there anyone else here this  
8 evening? That's all the names I have on the  
9 list, but if there's anyone else, please come  
10 forward.

11 (Thereupon, Ralph Samodell was  
12 sworn.)

13 MR. SAMODELL: Ralph Samodell.  
14 I'm a Willoughby Hills resident, Lake County.

15 MS. PIRIK: Could you spell  
16 your last name, please?

17 MR. SAMODELL: S-a-m-o-d-e-l-l.

18 MS. PIRIK: Go ahead.

19 MR. SAMODELL: Listening to the  
20 comments here, reading the Plain Dealer, I'd  
21 like to know what the PUCO had in mind to raise  
22 fixed rates independent of usage to where the  
23 commodity price ends up being higher. To me,  
24 this is like Giant Eagle charging you five  
25 dollars at the door because they provide a

1 service of providing food, so you pay before you  
2 even use any food or get any food just to go to  
3 use their stores. It's the same as if you went  
4 to the gas station to fill up your cars and the  
5 first thing the pump takes off your credit card  
6 is ten dollars just for use of the pump. I  
7 mean, this is ridiculous. Any commodity is the  
8 price of that commodity. All the customers, all  
9 the providers costs go into the price per unit.  
10 You don't go slapping everybody with a fixed  
11 service charge. That is not fair, and I don't  
12 even know if that really should be legal. I  
13 mean, they have the purse strings. They're  
14 controlling the gas charges. Charge what you  
15 need to cover your profit margins, but charge it  
16 on a per unit. If people are saving gas by  
17 driving a motorcycle versus an SUV or heating  
18 homes with electricity and just providing hot  
19 water heat for gas, why should they have to pay  
20 the same amount of fixed rate as everybody else?  
21 It's not fair. It's not American to be charged  
22 for something you're not using. That's all I  
23 have to say.

24 MS. OTTO: I'd like to clarify  
25 a statement. It was as of June 1st or July 1st

1 it was passed that Dominion is now responsible  
2 from the house to the road. I work for a  
3 company that manufactures parts for them for  
4 replacements to fix broken lines. My husband is  
5 also DOT certified, so we're notified as soon as  
6 these changes are made. So that's how we knew  
7 it was happening. I apologize that you've had  
8 to fix yours and it was unfortunate, but that's  
9 how we knew about it.

10 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you. If  
11 anyone wants to testify, I need you to come to  
12 the podium because the court reporter, she's  
13 trying to put everything down in writing. But  
14 we did hear you. You were very good. Thank you  
15 for continuing.

16 **MS. ESPOSITO:** I was just going to  
17 make a statement on the \$3.75 that I'm paying  
18 monthly last week was on the East Ohio Gas bill  
19 for my line from the meter to the front of the  
20 street, so I'm still paying for that repair  
21 service and insurance policy through Dominion  
22 Gas. So if that's true, then, man, I'd like to  
23 know if that's true or not so I can get that fee  
24 removed from my bill.

25 **MS. PIRIK:** I want to be sure

1 that I'm getting the names on the record. The  
2 first lady that talked was Amber Otto.

3 **MS. ESPOSITO:** Francine Esposito.

4 **MS. PIRIK:** Is there anyone  
5 else who would like to come up to the podium who  
6 has not had an opportunity to testify? I just  
7 want to be sure.

8 **MR. CAIN:** I'm using your  
9 sheet now. Kenneth Cain again. I haven't had a  
10 chance to move yet. The staff, the PUCO staff  
11 recommended a new residential distribution rate  
12 structure under which customers would be charged  
13 nearly all the distribution costs that do not  
14 change with natural gas usage in a flat monthly  
15 fee and the usage rate would be lower. If I'm  
16 not using it, why do I have to pay the flat fee?  
17 If I had a choice, I wouldn't use it. If I had  
18 a true choice about gasoline, I wouldn't use it.  
19 I make the choices to be conservative to help  
20 the planet and I'm going to get nailed for this?  
21 A smart, good company, an honest company builds  
22 in the costs of what it takes to repair. The  
23 gentleman who used the example of Giant Eagle,  
24 you're exactly right, they built in the cost of  
25 repairing the building of upkeep when they do

1 this, and I don't see the prices rising  
2 dramatically like this. And when I look at the  
3 flat fee jumping as high as it jumps, that is a  
4 scary thought. What's the next thing that's  
5 going to jump like that? And is it going to be  
6 backed by the PUCO again? Yes, I've got two  
7 entities I'm really upset with now, companies,  
8 East Dominion, East Ohio Dominion, whatever  
9 their name is now. I remember when it was just  
10 East Ohio and I paid for gas in Kent, they have  
11 not been responsible, and now they're saying,  
12 "Please help us out. We screwed up and now it's  
13 going to cost our profit and our shareholders to  
14 do what we should have been doing all along."  
15 And the PUCO says, "But you're such a good  
16 person, we're going to take it from the people  
17 who can afford it the least. And the ones who  
18 use the most gas are going to pay the least  
19 amount." Thank you.

20 **MS. PIRIK:** Is there anyone  
21 else who would like to testify?

22 (Thereupon, Peggy Carlo was sworn.)

23 **MS. CARLO:** Peggy Carlo,  
24 C-a-r-l-o, and one of the County Commissioners,  
25 but I'm going to substantiate a statement

1 Mr. Cronquist made regarding the night we had  
2 the meeting when I was a trustee for all of the  
3 repairs or -- I think it was repair. They were  
4 replacing all the pipe in the Saybrook area. We  
5 provided the meeting room for all the residents  
6 in Saybrook. Mr. Cronquist asked Mr. Nymann,  
7 which is N-y-m-a-n-n is his last name, and he  
8 said, "What are we going to have to pay for  
9 this?"

10 And the representatives there said,  
11 "Absolutely nothing. We're doing this as a  
12 safety precaution for our residents of Saybrook  
13 Township." So I feel really disheartened that  
14 this comes about and all of these upgrades and  
15 repairs that they're making goes back to the  
16 taxpayers. We have no one to go back to. We  
17 have to live within our means, and I felt very  
18 strongly that I needed to substantiate those  
19 statements in that meeting. Thank you.

20 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.

21 (Thereupon, Dawn Cragon was sworn.)

22 MS. CRAGON: I'm Dawn Cragon,  
23 C-r-a-g-o-n, 2127 Austinburg Road, Ashtabula,  
24 44004.

25 I, along with Anne Reese, am a member

1 of the Save Our Homes Task Force. What we do is  
2 we try to find help for people who are on the  
3 way to losing their homes, we try to find  
4 resources for them, ways to pay their bills or  
5 finance themselves. I don't know how we're  
6 supposed to do this when we only have so many  
7 resources to allocate to these people and their  
8 bills continue to increase. Everything that  
9 happens in life is increasing in expense,  
10 they're not getting more income. What are we  
11 supposed to tell these people when they're on  
12 the verge of losing their homes? On behalf of  
13 the Save Our Homes Task Force and on behalf of  
14 Saybrook Township, we ask you to please reject  
15 this proposed increase. Thank you.

16 **MS. PIRIK:** I think there was  
17 someone over here.

18 **MR. SAMODELL:** I have a question.  
19 Is there someone from the PUCO that can give  
20 their side of story of why they're proposing  
21 this?

22 **MS. PIRIK:** That's what I was  
23 trying to explain earlier. I'll explain it  
24 again because I know it's very confusing. Let  
25 me clarify. We have several parties, and I

1 listed them in the case who are in the case, one  
2 of which is the company, one of which is the  
3 Office of Consumers' Counsel, one of which is  
4 the staff of the Commission. That's the  
5 technical staff of the Commission. Then the  
6 Commissioners have attorneys such as myself who  
7 will gather all of this information and put all  
8 of this information together and summarize  
9 everything and put it in a document to the  
10 Commission and then the Commissioners, the five  
11 Commissioners will read the document, read the  
12 testimony, they will read the briefs that the  
13 parties will submit, they will look at the  
14 evidence and they will look at the proposals  
15 submitted by all of the parties and make the  
16 decision. So the Commissioners have not made  
17 their decision yet. I know it is -- the  
18 question is, what do the different parties  
19 recommend? OCC has a fact sheet out there that  
20 they're putting forth. The company can answer  
21 their questions on their behalf. It's difficult  
22 to have all of the parties here to give that  
23 explanation. We are in the process of gathering  
24 factual evidence from each of the parties. We  
25 started that process last Friday and will



1 continue it again this week. Until we get all  
2 of the facts on the record, we don't have a  
3 complete record to be able to summarize. And  
4 then we come out and we want to hear what you  
5 all have to say. You all have done an excellent  
6 job giving us your position. It is much needed  
7 information that the Commissioners need to hear  
8 and need to understand, and I really appreciate  
9 everyone coming out. So I don't know if that  
10 answers your question. I can talk with you more  
11 about that after the hearing. I can talk to you  
12 more after the hearing about it and maybe I can  
13 explain it a little bit better at that point.  
14 Is there anybody else who wants to give --

15 **MR. SAMODELL:** There must have  
16 been a reason why they recommended --

17 **MS. PIRIK:** There is and we're  
18 gathering the factual information. The staff  
19 hasn't actually testified. We have these local  
20 hearings where we go out and get input from  
21 everybody and then we get -- the company will  
22 testify and OCC will testify, the staff will  
23 testify and they'll explain their positions, but  
24 I haven't heard their explanation. I couldn't  
25 explain it because I'm not a member of the

1 technical staff, I'm one of the attorneys that  
2 work with the Commission. So until they explain  
3 their position, I don't really have that, that I  
4 can explain.

5 **MR. SAMODELL:** You have a hearing  
6 but no one to give factual information of what's  
7 going on.

8 **MS. PIRIK:** Is there anybody  
9 else that would -- no, I'm sorry, Mr. Cain.  
10 Thank you, but I think we are completed with  
11 your testimony. Is there anyone else that has  
12 not --

13 **MR. CAIN:** I just wanted to  
14 know if we'll ever get a chance to rebut the  
15 facts, but obviously, I guess, this Government  
16 only goes so far --

17 **MS. PIRIK:** Please don't type  
18 this down. Off the record.

19 (Thereupon, a discussion was held off  
20 the record.)

21 **MS. PIRIK:** Can you please  
22 raise your right hand?

23 **MR. BLALOCK:** I've already been  
24 under oath, but I have a question.

25 **MS. PIRIK:** Can you remind her

1 of your name?

2 **MR. BLALOCK:** Roy Blalock.

3 I believe somebody stated here there  
4 is Federal grant money given to Dominion. Is  
5 there anything on this or any factual  
6 information?

7 **MS. PIRIK:** That was the first  
8 I've heard of it. I'm sorry, but this really  
9 isn't a session to ask questions. We want to  
10 hear what you all have to say, and I think  
11 you've done an excellent job giving us your  
12 information and your testimony. You may want to  
13 ask the company that question or OCC afterwards.  
14 I had never heard that.

15 **MR. BLALOCK:** That's not relevant  
16 to what we're doing right at this point in time?

17 **MS. PIRIK:** I don't know if  
18 it's relevant, but now it's a piece of the  
19 record, so it is something that we will have to  
20 look at and see what that means. That was the  
21 first time I had heard that, so we'll have to  
22 look at that.

23 **MR. BLALOCK:** Thank you.

24 **MS. PIRIK:** But thank you for  
25 asking and pointing that out.

1                   Is there anyone else that has  
2                   anything they would like to add to the record?

3                   **MR. ZIRM:**                   My name is George  
4                   Zirm, Z-i-r-m, and I live in Madison, 5767  
5                   Windjammer Court, Madison, Ohio, 44057.

6                   (Thereupon, George Zirm was sworn.)

7                   **MR. ZIRM:**                   When we moved out  
8                   to Madison, we built an energy efficient house,  
9                   and we have eight inches of concrete in the  
10                  basement walls and four in the upstairs walls,  
11                  and we paid 3 to 5 percent more for the  
12                  construction because we were looking to save  
13                  energy. With this it looks like we're trying --  
14                  no matter how much energy I save, I'm still  
15                  going to be hit with a bill, and I would like to  
16                  make a recommendation that I think everybody in  
17                  this room would come back here if the PUCO and  
18                  the gas company would come here and answer our  
19                  questions. I don't think anybody would be -- I  
20                  think everybody would come back. It can't be a  
21                  one-way street, it's got to be back and forth.  
22                  Because if you're on a fixed income, you don't  
23                  have the ability to take charge of this. That's  
24                  all I've got to say.

25                  **MS. PIRIK:**                   Anybody else that

1 wants to testify who has not had the  
2 opportunity?

3 I want to thank everyone for coming  
4 tonight. There are individuals from the  
5 company, OCC, our staff is out there. If you  
6 have other issues that aren't related to the  
7 cases, they can also take that information and  
8 try to help you with other utilities, telephone,  
9 whatever else questions you have. Thank you for  
10 coming. This local hearing is adjourned.

11 (Thereupon, the proceedings were  
12 concluded at 8:00 o'clock p.m.)

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## C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF OHIO, )  
 ) SS:  
SUMMIT COUNTY, )

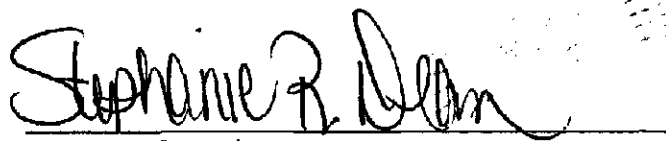
I, Stephanie R. Dean, Court Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that these proceedings were taken by me and reduced to Stenotypy, afterwards prepared and produced by means of Computer-Aided Transcription and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the proceedings so taken as aforesaid.

I do further certify that these proceedings were taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified.

I do further certify that I am not a relative, employee of or attorney for any party or counsel, or otherwise financially interested in this action.

I do further certify that I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil Rule 28(D).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Akron, Ohio on this 13th day of August, 2008.

  
Stephanie R. Dean

My commission expires August 30, 2010.

- - -

A				
<b>abandon (1)</b> 18:18	<b>afford (12)</b> 10:3,4,5,5 11:20 11:24 13:6,10 21:5 26:22 31:3 37:17	30:24 <b>Andrew (2)</b> 3:6 5:3 <b>Anne (4)</b> 31:12,13,14 38:25	4:2,13 <b>assistance (1)</b> 21:8 <b>Assistant (1)</b> 2:14 <b>Association (1)</b> 6:1	44:20,21 <b>backed (1)</b> 37:6 <b>bad (1)</b> 26:21 <b>badly (1)</b> 26:20
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	6:4 15:10	44 (1)	614/469-3939 (...)	
0	2008 (4)	1:17	3:10	
06-1453-GA-U...	1:20 9:22 17:12	44004 (4)	6949 (1)	
	46:16	8:3 16:3 26:8	26:7	

August 4, 2008

Francine Esposito  
515 Myrtle Ave.  
Ashtabula, Ohio 44004  
Phone 440-964-8722  
Email: [ohangel@alltel.net](mailto:ohangel@alltel.net)

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Concerning: The monthly fixed charge increase Case No. 07-829-GA-AIR

For Home owner Light user 60 mcf per year **Current \$997.88, proposed \$1086.95 increase to consumer 8.9%, change \$89.07**

For Home owner typical user 100 mcf per year **Current \$1,617.54, proposed \$1,671.59 increase to consumer 3.3%, change \$54.05**

For Home owner Heavy user 140 mcf per year **Current \$2,237.20, proposed \$2,256.23, increase to consumer .9%, change \$19.03**

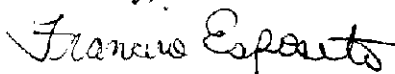
With the above distribution of delivering fees you are rewarding the consumer who burns a lot of gas. Why are you penalizing the homeowners who are conserving the gas?

My question to Dominion gas is what have you been doing with all the money from the transportation fee? Why do you want the consumer to pay for your upgrades? What are your costs versus your profit? Why are you no longer supplying gas to the customer direct and are now going through a third party gas distributor? This is another way Dominion Gas is making a profit, by collecting off of the third party service providers plus the transportation fee.

My third party distributor is Direct Energy my fixed rate is \$9.49 per mcf is fixed through October 2008. Looking at the rates I may secure right now I will be at \$15.29 mcf for a new rate fixed. That is a **61%** increase for this next year. This is highway robbery. Elderly on fixed income cannot afford this, middle class cannot afford this, and the poor cannot afford this. Only the rich can afford this increase.

Natural gas for the homes comes from the United States and is not imported from another country, why are the rates so high? Every since the deregulation of the utilities, the run away rates are killing the average person. Please stop the bleeding of the consumer and deny the rate increase. Please consider a roll back of rates.

Sincerely,



Francine Esposito



EOG Paint  
07-829-GA-AIR

ANYONE WANTING TO TESTIFY IN THE ABOVE CASE, PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW:

- | NAME                           | ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE                       |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. ✓ FRANKIE ESPOSITO          | 515 MYRTLE ASHTABULA 44004                 |
| 2. <del>FRANKIE ESPOSITO</del> | 1386 LAUREL ST CLEVELAND                   |
| 3. ✓ Roy Blalock               | 7590 LAKE RD E MADISON OH                  |
| 4. ✓ Paul Hietapisto           | 776 SHERMAN ST GENEVA OH                   |
| 5. ✓ DAN CLAYPOOL              | 25 WEST SEFFERTON ST SEFF. OH.             |
| 6. ✓ R.W. Cronquist            | 1104 LOCUST DR. ASHTABULA OHIO.            |
| 7. ✓ Bruce Beckwith            | 696 Sherman<br>Geneva OH 44041             |
| 8. ✓ BETH CARNEY               | 223 GRANT ST,<br>GENEVA, OH. 44041         |
| 9. ✓ Kenneth R. Cain           | 122 Mariska Ave<br>Ashabula OH 44004       |
| 10. ✓ Kim Perciasepe           | 289 Prospect St<br>Geneva OH 44041         |
| 11. ✓ GREG STRUBA              | 6949 DEPT RD<br>ASHTABULA OHIO 44004       |
| 12. ✓ Amber Otto               | 5388 Roosevelt Dr<br>Geneva OH 44041       |
| 13. ✓ Robert Otto              | Geneva OH 44041                            |
| 13. ✓ Richard Hemme            | 4531 North Ridge EAST<br>Geneva Ohio 44041 |
| 14.                            |  |

**NUCO**

①

DEO  
07-829 GA-AIR

ANYONE WANTING TO TESTIFY IN THE ABOVE CASE, PLEASE **PRINT** YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW:

	NAME	ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE
1.	✓ ANNE ROSS	536 FIRST ST Geneva OH 44041
2.	✓ DAVE SCHWAN	6280 KENYON CT Hawthorn, OH 44060
3.		
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