

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 Youngstown  
 City Hall, 26 South Phelps Street, Youngstown,  
 Ohio, before Christine M.T. Pirik, Attorney  
 Examiner, and commencing on Monday, the 28th day  
 of July 2008, at 2:07 o'clock p.m., at which  
 time the following proceedings were had.

PUCO

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1     **APPEARANCES:**

2

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

11 **ALSO PRESENT:** Ryan Lippe, Linda  
12 Walls-Rominski, Cindy Mack, Kelly Tucker,  
13 Charles Vandenberg, Dorothy Snovak, Ruth Nabb,  
14 Jan Shears, John Slanina, Robert Hagan, Tom  
15 Letson, Jerome McNally, Vesna Vukasinovich,  
16 Herman Starks, Georgie Arkwright, Eugene P.  
17 Yavorcik, Lynn Anderson, Dennis Spisak, Joe  
18 Louis Teague, Jerry A. Yablonkai, Elizabeth  
19 Featsent, John Zordich, Kay Lavelle, James  
20 Villani, Rodney Sudimak, George R. Holko, Sr.,  
21 John Tucker, Rich DeLuca, Arnold Barzak, Don  
22 Medd, Thomas Ensley, Thelma Burroughs, Pete  
23 Condon, Frances Maxine Doles, Kevin Majors and  
24 Vernard Richberg

25

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## I N D E X

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1                   **MS. PIRIK:**                   The Public  
2   Utilities Commission of Ohio has assigned for  
3   hearing at this time and place Case Numbers  
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 Gas Distribution Service and Other  
10   Related Matters.

11                   My name is Christine Pirik. I'm the  
12   Deputy Director in the legal department of the  
13   Public Utilities Commission and I am conducting  
14   this hearing. In addition, there are two  
15   Commission personnel here with us, Ms. Cindy  
16   Mack; and Ms. Kelly Tucker, I believe, is out in  
17   the hallway. They are signing witness up, as I  
18   stated off the record just moments ago.

19                   At this time I'm going to take  
20   appearances on behalf of the parties that are  
21   present today. On behalf of the Company?

22                   **MR. CAMPBELL:**                   Thank you, Your  
23   Honor. Andrew Campbell with the law firm of  
24   Jones Day for Dominion East Ohio.

25                   **MS. PIRIK:**                   I would ask that

1 you use the microphone so that everyone in the  
2 back of the room can hear.

3 Can everyone hear me? Am I speaking  
4 loud enough? Raise your hand if I'm not. I'm  
5 kind of short and I'm sitting as far as I can on  
6 the seat to try and talk in the microphone.

7 On behalf of the office of Consumers'  
8 Counsel?

9 **MR. SERIO:** Thank you, Your  
10 Honor. On behalf of the residential utility  
11 customers of East Ohio Gas Company, I would like  
12 to enter the appearance of Janine L.  
13 Migden-Ostrander, Consumers' Counsel, by Joseph  
14 P. Serio. Thank you.

15 **MS. PIRIK:** There are other  
16 interveners in this case. Those interveners  
17 include the Ohio Energy Group, Ohio Partners for  
18 Affordable Energy, Neighborhood Environmental  
19 Coalition, Empowerment Center of Greater  
20 Cleveland, Cleveland Housing Network, Consumers  
21 for Fair Utility Rates, Interstate Gas Supply,  
22 Integrys Energy Services, Dominion Retail,  
23 Incorporated, Stand Energy Corporation, Utility  
24 Workers Union of America Local G555, The Ohio  
25 Oil and Gas Association and the City of

1 Cleveland. Each of these parties represent  
2 various constituencies in these cases before the  
3 Commission.

4 Dominion has filed a rate case  
5 proceedings application. They filed it on  
6 August 30th, 2007. The local public hearings  
7 scheduled in this case are only one aspect in  
8 the process in this case. An evidentiary  
9 hearing is also scheduled to commence this  
10 Friday, August 1st, 2008, at the offices of the  
11 Commission in Columbus, Ohio.

12 The purpose of this public hearing is  
13 to receive comments from the public regarding  
14 Dominion's applications in these cases.

15 As you may have noticed, there's a  
16 court reporter sitting right here to my right.  
17 She will be taking down every word that is said  
18 in this hearing. It is very important that you  
19 speak clearly, that you spell your name and  
20 address so that those are appropriately put on  
21 the record.

22 As you arrived, you were offered the  
23 opportunity to sign up to testify. As I  
24 mentioned, if we get to the conclusion of our  
25 list of witnesses and you did not sign up, I

1 will ask for those in the audience who wish to  
2 testify at that time. So you have not missed  
3 your chance.

4 At this time I will begin calling  
5 witnesses on the list forward. I apologize in  
6 advance if I pronounce any names wrong. I have  
7 a very difficult last name, also, so I am used  
8 to that, and I hope you will just correct me  
9 when you come to the stand and state your name  
10 and address.

11 Before you begin your statement, I  
12 will ask you to state your name and address and  
13 spell them for the record, and I will -- also,  
14 in order for your testimony to be considered an  
15 official part of this record, I will ask you to  
16 raise your right hand and swear to the truth of  
17 the testimony you are about to give. So you  
18 will be asked to give an oath of truth -- of  
19 truth of the testimony.

20 Attorneys then for both the Company  
21 and the Office of Consumers' Counsel, who I will  
22 call OCC through this proceeding, will have the  
23 opportunity to ask you questions, but this is  
24 your opportunity to tell the Commission on  
25 record recorded by our court reporter your views



1 of the cases that are before the Commission that  
2 the Commission is considering.

3 The Commission is also holding six  
4 additional hearings throughout the state. There  
5 is one tomorrow in Lima, Ohio; there are  
6 hearings in Akron and Canton on Thursday; there  
7 are hearings next Monday in Cleveland and  
8 Geneva, Ohio, and then there are hearings in  
9 Marietta, Ohio the following day. So we do have  
10 quite a bit of testimony to be taken at those  
11 hearings as well as today.

12 If you decide when I call your name  
13 on the list that you no longer wish to testify,  
14 that is fine. You can just tell me at that time  
15 that you do not wish to testify. We do  
16 appreciate your participation in this hearing.  
17 We want everyone to have the opportunity to be  
18 heard and to testify.

19 There will come a point in the  
20 hearing, about an hour into the hearing, if it  
21 looks like the testimony is on its way but there  
22 are some individuals who would like to sign a  
23 petition that is agreeing with other witnesses  
24 and what they have said, I will put a petition  
25 in the back of the room about 3:15 that if you

1 are not able to stay, but you wish to agree with  
2 and collaborate with the testimony that was  
3 already given, I will give you an opportunity to  
4 sign that petition. That petition will be  
5 submitted as part of the record in this case.  
6 But like I said, I won't be doing that until  
7 about 3:15, until we are through portions of the  
8 testimony.

9 So we will begin at this time. The  
10 first witness -- and the testimony podium is at  
11 the front of the room up here, so I would ask  
12 for you to come forward and stand at that venue.

13 The first witness is Mr. Charles  
14 Vandenberg.

15 MR. VANDENBERG: That's  
16 "Vandenberg."

17 MS. PIRIK: "Vandenberg."  
18 Mr. Vandenberg, before we begin your testimony,  
19 could you please state your name and spelling  
20 for the record and your address?

21 MR. VANDENBERG: Charles Vandenberg,  
22 V-a-n-d-e-n-b-e-r-g. 4743 New Road, Austintown  
23 44505.

24 MS. PIRIK: Would you please  
25 raise your right hand?

1 (Thereupon, Mr. Vandenberg was  
2 sworn.)

3 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you. Now, I  
4 would ask you, it's very difficult because the  
5 microphones seem to move, so if you could hold  
6 the microphone and put your -- yes. That way I  
7 think everyone will be able to hear. If you can  
8 not hear in the back of the room, just waive  
9 your hand in the air like this and I will try to  
10 remind Mr. Vandenberg and other witnesses to  
11 speak into the microphone. You may proceed.  
12 (Indicating.)

13 **MR. VANDENBERG:** Thank you. I  
14 appreciate this opportunity to speak before the  
15 Commission. I am a 25-year resident of  
16 Austintown and I am a private citizen that is  
17 speaking here today. Of all of the services I  
18 have coming into my home, electric, gas, water,  
19 telephone, cable, the most effective over those  
20 25 years has been the gas and I commend the  
21 company for that service. At one time I did  
22 have trouble with a leak in my front yard. It  
23 was quickly and very effectively, safely  
24 handled.

25 My comments to you today will be in

1 regards to this increase they want from 5.70 up  
2 to 17.50, but I'm coming at it in a little  
3 different way. I'm using the term from my  
4 billing of July 2004. And most of my time I  
5 have bought directly from Dominion East Ohio. I  
6 have not gone through one of the providers,  
7 which I guess is the term they use. And I found  
8 out over the period of time, up to six months  
9 ago, that this has been the most economical way  
10 for me to supply my needs. I also do not use  
11 the budget plan. I want to know what it is  
12 costing me.

13 I would refer to my bill of July of  
14 2004 in which I was paying 4.89 per thousand  
15 cubic feet. I looked at an interim bill, two  
16 years later, in July I was paying 7.50, which I  
17 don't complain too much about.

18 I, for a very short time, was with  
19 their sister company, Dominion East Ohio Energy  
20 out of Richmond, Virginia, and there I was  
21 paying slightly more than if I had gone directly  
22 to the parent company.

23 What I would say to you here is that  
24 now my current bill for direct service is \$18.16  
25 per thousand cubic feet. Now, if you would look

1 at that from the standpoint of what we have seen  
2 from what the gasoline prices are, and I offer  
3 as evidence a copy of a report from Consumers  
4 Report for the 2004 year, they were saying gas  
5 at the pump was costing \$1.50. Most of us got  
6 quite upset when it went over \$4 to 4.10. Well,  
7 I can tell you that was only a 2.7 times  
8 increase. My gas bill was a 3.71 times  
9 increase.

10 The natural gas, which basically is  
11 coming from North America, from the United  
12 States and Canada, has cost more than that  
13 inflated per barrel price that is coming from  
14 the East. And this is why I am concerned.

15 Dominion East Ohio has sent me a  
16 notice this past week, many of you may have got  
17 the same thing, in which they have asked me and  
18 invited me to become a part of the Dominion East  
19 Ohio Energy Company that is stationed out of  
20 Richmond, Virginia. I was with them before.  
21 They are willing to give me a \$25 gift card if I  
22 do that. I will have already paid for that \$25  
23 gift card just on the last two months in which  
24 they jumped from 17 something a month ago to  
25 18.16 now. We are paying a lot more than what

1 we would have been paying for gas. Gas would  
2 have had to have been \$5.57 for your car.

3 We are under -- under the auspices of  
4 the PUC, which is there to protect us, as a  
5 utility they're a monopoly. We have no place  
6 else to go. When it's -- you know, when I get  
7 the gasoline for my car, I can not drive for  
8 three days or four days. And if I have to turn  
9 the lights out at night to keep the electric  
10 bill down or if I have to use less water, I can.

11 But I will tell you folks, when the  
12 temperature drops around election time and the  
13 heat has got to be there, you can't turn it away  
14 or else you're going to have real problems. And  
15 what we have been faced with is a runaway cost  
16 situation that we have been supposed to be  
17 protected by the PUC and it has not  
18 materialized.

19 Because of their ability to put in  
20 these so-called companies that are going to do  
21 the supplying of their gas, they have been able  
22 to now do business on a so-called competitive  
23 basis, but it really isn't. It is a  
24 brother-sister relationship that exists between  
25 Dominion East Ohio and the energy company. And

1 they have pretty well patterned a continuing  
2 increase for us to get back to that point, which  
3 basically this meeting is supposed to be about,  
4 from 5.70 to 17.50.

5 Those are not guarantees that this --  
6 they're going to do the things that they said,  
7 new pipelines and a new way of measuring for the  
8 homes. These are all down the road. They're  
9 not something that has been guaranteed. The  
10 only thing that's guaranteed is the continual  
11 increase in the cost of our gas.

12 And I live here as a retired person  
13 and I paid \$350 one month last year. If I can  
14 use the fact that the 18.16 is the amount that  
15 East Ohio is now paying to receive the gas, and  
16 if I try to transform that into what will be --  
17 the new contract that will be coming out in  
18 October and those people are allowed to make a  
19 profit, the \$350 I was paying will go well over  
20 \$400-and-some a month. And that will not be in  
21 a warm house. That will be in a house 65 to 67  
22 degrees. Something has got to be done that  
23 protects us as consumers. Thank you.

24 MS. PIRIK: Thank you,  
25 Mr. Vandenberg. I would ask that applause be

1 held and that you not applaud each witness. We  
2 have a long list of witnesses. I want everyone  
3 to have the opportunity to be heard, and in  
4 order to get through that in a timely fashion,  
5 if we can hold that until the very end of the  
6 hearing, I would greatly appreciate it.

7 Are you next, I believe? The next  
8 person on the list is Dorothy Snovak?

9 MS. SNOVAK: Is it working?

10 MS. PIRIK: That's working.

11 MS. SNOVAK: I couldn't hear  
12 back there.

13 MS. PIRIK: Well, you're  
14 speaking right into it, so hopefully they can.

15 MS. SNOVAK: I'm ashamed of the  
16 City of Youngstown being a resident.

17 MS. PIRIK: Wait a second,  
18 Ms. Snovak. Could you please state your name,  
19 and spelling and address for the record?

20 MS. SNOVAK: Dorothy Snovak,  
21 1936 Wakefield, Youngstown, Ohio 44504.

22 MS. PIRIK: And is that spelled  
23 S-n-o-v-a-k?

24 MS. SNOVAK: Yes.

25 MS. PIRIK: Could you please



1 raise your right hand?

2 (Thereupon, Ms. Snovak was sworn.)

3 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. Go  
4 ahead and please give us your statement.

5 MS. SNOVAK: I would like to say  
6 first I'm ashamed of the City of Youngstown. We  
7 have this building here. The taxpayers paid a  
8 lot of money for installation of microphones,  
9 the councilmen don't use it, they vote, they  
10 discuss a bill, whatever without even using it.  
11 And here we have an important meeting, and  
12 yourselves are included in this, you should have  
13 made sure that the speaker system was well  
14 enough. These people can't hear back there. So  
15 I say that, too. And at 80 I have a right to  
16 voice my opinion.

17 So I -- I would like to note that  
18 I've had a lot of controversy, my husband and I,  
19 with the gas company, but I would like to submit  
20 a letter that will explain that, but I have a  
21 few points I would like to make.

22 They want to raise it for office  
23 work, whatever. First, meter readers come once  
24 every other month. We've lost already that with  
25 the gas company. They come once every other

1 month, and when they do knock at the door they  
2 don't wait long enough for a resident to get to  
3 the door to answer the door, so you get a little  
4 tag left that they were here to read your meter.  
5 And if you forget to call in the meter reading,  
6 you get an estimate which jacks your prices up  
7 real high.

8           You don't have an office downtown any  
9 more. It's in Akron. So you cannot go down, as  
10 we might come up here, and talk across the desk  
11 to an employee and be able to discuss your bill.  
12 We took a ride to Akron after I found out where  
13 the address was to talk to the company. They  
14 have a fence around that office. If you do --  
15 if you're lucky to get in, which we snuck in  
16 when somebody was coming out, we went to the  
17 door, there's a doorbell, but nobody answered  
18 it. Nobody come out to talk with us to see what  
19 we wanted.

20           And we told one of the -- it was an  
21 employee, like an elevator operator, whatever,  
22 came out and we asked that we wanted to see  
23 somebody, they would not let us. So we made a  
24 trip for nothing to Akron. Now, this is -- they  
25 want to raise their prices to get the money for

1 this. So that's just two -- two -- two things.

2 All right. Actually what you think,  
3 everybody doesn't own a computer. So because of  
4 this, most of us probably in this room, we  
5 cannot talk intelligently over the phone to  
6 somebody who has a computer with all the things  
7 in front of them. And they can, with just a  
8 flick of their hand, get -- get the things up on  
9 the screen, but at home you're shuffling through  
10 a bunch of papers trying to keep up with them  
11 where they are. That's just another thing.

12 We had problems with a gas bill. We  
13 had gone in 2002 to Colorado to visit our son  
14 and we were there for four weeks. When we came  
15 back we get a bill in the mail from the gas  
16 company for \$1,250 plus. Now, that's for one  
17 month.

18 We sloughed it off, laughed about it,  
19 because we figured the gas company will correct  
20 it, but they did not. We were -- they demanded  
21 to be paid and nothing we could do. We worked  
22 with them. They came to look at our meter, and  
23 we had an old meter, by the way, and we thought  
24 maybe that would be it.

25 And over the years we've had to

1 replace the gas line. They did not dig dirt to  
2 put in a new gas line. Unbeknownst to a lot of  
3 you, they shoved a wire through the old wire  
4 that this was a new -- I don't know how the gas  
5 comes through this, but that's how they did it.  
6 We asked them when they did that to replace our  
7 meter for the outside. They said we would have  
8 to pay for it, even though they were doing it  
9 all the time.

10 And when we had trouble with this  
11 bill, \$1,250 -- 12,000 -- I mean \$1,250 and  
12 they -- they -- we asked them to put a new meter  
13 in. And we even took them to court. We could  
14 not afford an attorney, so we used legal aide  
15 and we lost the case. And all we did was -- in  
16 the lawyer's office was we talked over a  
17 microphone system to the gas company, so we're  
18 back to square one again just doing the same  
19 thing we did before.

20 So finally they -- it came to it --  
21 the -- they would -- said that they would  
22 replace it and we allowed them to replace the  
23 meter. My husband is a former pipefitter, so he  
24 knows about things like that. And they promised  
25 to call when they were going to test this meter

1 to see if it was the meter's fault, but they  
2 never did that.

3 That's another thing. That's their  
4 service they're giving you. All of us don't  
5 even know what the different services would be,  
6 but that's what they're doing. They're wasting  
7 our money and they want to raise it again.

8 So now the energy policy, I don't  
9 remember when it was -- began that they -- you  
10 have a choice. A long time ago you just paid  
11 the bill because the gas company's still  
12 delivering the gas to you, but if you miss your  
13 budget payment, you're off that choice list.  
14 You do not get it.

15 So it's just a lot of things that I  
16 don't think the gas company has a right -- and I  
17 know I read somewhere that they will be going  
18 probably out of the business of delivering gas.  
19 So who knows, maybe they'll be sold to some  
20 other higher bidder. But I do not think the gas  
21 company with all these other things --  
22 replacement, they don't even replace it for the  
23 ordinary person without charging a lot of money.

24 So it's -- it's -- as I said -- and  
25 we recently had another influx because of the

1 estimates on our bill not being there for the  
2 gas meter reader who came and -- and they --  
3 anyway, they -- I'm -- I'm sorry, I was not well  
4 prepared for this and I'm ashamed of myself, but  
5 I am very angry and I think all of you here are,  
6 too. Yeah. So I -- do you have any questions  
7 to ask?

8 **MS. PIRIK:** I'll look to the  
9 two parties that are here.

10 **MR. SERIO:** (Shaking head from  
11 side to side.)

12 **MR. CAMPBELL:** (Shaking head from  
13 side to side.)

14 **MS. PIRIK:** I think -- thank  
15 you very much for your testimony.

16 **MS. SNOVAK:** But I also wanted  
17 to mention that one of the Consumers' Counsel or  
18 PUC people had contacted me, but we know nothing  
19 further. Everything I've done is exactly what  
20 I've done on my own because we had no  
21 explanations of what -- that resolving of this  
22 matter for us.

23 As I said, we have had to pay not  
24 only that 1,250, that I think is unjust and a  
25 new one because of the estimate and they had

1 raised -- what was the word for that amount of  
2 gas?

3 MS. PIRIK: The cubic feet? Is  
4 that what --

5 MS. SNOVAK: The one that asks  
6 for -- at the end of your -- on the side of your  
7 bill, how much you're using. And they also use  
8 weather reports, weather -- how the weather was  
9 in the winter years ago, which doesn't count for  
10 anything now.

11 MS. PIRIK: I would  
12 recommend -- there is a representative, I don't  
13 know, from the Company who's here. You may want  
14 to talk with them. Or you may want to talk with  
15 one of our staff members who are here, also. I  
16 don't know how you want to handle that. It's  
17 kind of hard because there's so many people.  
18 You may not be able to do it in the room.

19 MS. SNOVAK: When I get this  
20 letter written, yes, I would like to speak to  
21 somebody, but personally I do not just want to  
22 be on the phone so I cannot have the proper  
23 papers in front of me, too. So maybe I spoke  
24 with somebody on the phone and I don't know,  
25 so --

1                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Thank you very  
2 much. Our next witness is Ruth Nabb. N-a-b-b,  
3 I believe?

4                   Could you please state your name and  
5 spelling and address for the record?

6                   **MS. NABB:**           Ruth Nabb, N-a-b-b.  
7 I'm a little nervous. 1443 Saint Albans Drive,  
8 Youngstown, Ohio.

9                   **MS. PIRIK:**           I need you to raise  
10 your right hand.

11                   (Thereupon, Ms. Nabb was sworn.)

12                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Thank you.

13                   **MS. NABB:**           First of all, I  
14 just want to say the first letter in the PUCO is  
15 "Public." And I think if you mean what you say,  
16 you should be working for us. We are the  
17 public.

18                   I'm a little confused by the  
19 paragraph on this that you all probably got that  
20 said the PUCO is recommending in raising a  
21 charge of 17.50 when the utility had only  
22 requested its customers be charged 5.70 a month.  
23 That I don't understand.

24                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Let me, first of  
25 all, clarify. Let me clarify that the sheet



1 that you received, if you took one of the fact  
2 sheets, that was a staff recommendation. I am  
3 here on behalf of the five Commissioners and  
4 that is their -- that is totally separate.

5 The Commissioners have not made a  
6 decision in this case yet. They will take the  
7 evidence beginning on Friday, and then all of  
8 your testimony here at the hearing as well as  
9 all of the other evidence from all of the other  
10 parties will be taken before the Commission  
11 makes a decision.

12 The staff of the Commission is just  
13 one party to the case and that is just what  
14 their recommendation was. That's not the final  
15 decision. But that was a very good point. I  
16 appreciate you bringing that up.

17 **MS. NABB:** And the only other  
18 thing I wanted to say is that this community has  
19 seen too many job losses, too many increases in  
20 real estate taxes, groceries, gasoline and  
21 utilities. A lot of people in this area are on  
22 fixed incomes and are forced to choose whether  
23 to heat their homes or buy their groceries and  
24 it's sad when it gets to that point.

25 Last winter we had 4 and \$500 gas

1 bills and we used our fireplace a lot. And we  
2 recently got a letter saying that, "Please pay  
3 your Dominion bill on time. If you don't pay  
4 your bill on time, you're going to be charged a  
5 fee, security deposit." So that really ticked  
6 me off.

7 Now, how are you going to pay your  
8 bill on time when you're paying 4 and \$500 a  
9 month gas bills? It's impossible. You have  
10 real estate taxes, you have house payments and  
11 car payments and, like I said, everything else  
12 that goes along with being a homeowner.

13 And as a business owner, what we've  
14 had to do in the past is when we've needed to  
15 make improvements, buy new equipment or  
16 whatever, we weren't able to pass that along to  
17 our customers. We had to use our profits to buy  
18 better equipment or improve our business, and I  
19 think the utility companies should also do the  
20 same. Use your profits to make your  
21 improvements. Don't pass it on to us.

22 MS. PIRIK: I'll ask  
23 everyone -- thank you very much. I would ask  
24 everyone, again, please do not applaud until the  
25 end of all the testimony.

1                   Our next witness is Jan Shears.  
2       Could you please state your name and spelling  
3       and address for the record?

4                   **MR. SHEARS:**           My name is Jan  
5       Shears, J-a-n, S-h-e-a-r-s. I live at 224 North  
6       Bayshore Drive, Columbiana, Ohio.

7                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Could you please  
8       raise your right hand?

9                   (Thereupon, Mr. Shears was sworn.)

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

11                  **MR. SHEARS:**           Certainly I'm also  
12       a homeowner, but I'm not going to refer to my  
13       home bill. I'm going to speak to the fact that  
14       myself and my son are the owners of three  
15       coin-operated laundromats and two car washes,  
16       and the utilities are getting way, way out of  
17       hand for our businesses, as I am sure most other  
18       small business owners, especially in this type  
19       of business are.

20                   I'm going to speak specifically for  
21       one business and one business only, because  
22       there's only one of our five businesses that  
23       receives gas from Dominion gas, and that is in  
24       East Palestine, Ohio.

25                   East Palestine, Ohio is one of the

1     laundromats we own. Another one is in Salem,  
2     Ohio. These two businesses do approximately the  
3     same amount of dollar business each month, but  
4     yet the gas bill for Dominion gas compared to  
5     Columbia Gas is twice that of Columbia Gas, and  
6     I do not understand their reasoning or their  
7     logic or anything else, how their gas can be so  
8     much higher than Columbia Gas.

9                 This -- I would -- I didn't even know  
10    about this meeting until 10:00 last night, so I  
11    didn't come with figures to provide you, but I  
12    would sure -- if anybody's interested, I would  
13    sure be happy to look them up and provide them  
14    to you at another meeting, but I can't do it  
15    today.

16                But I can tell you pretty much that  
17    two years ago -- well, these two stores that I  
18    mentioned, approximately 30 percent of our gross  
19    income was paid out in utilities consisting of  
20    water, electric and gas. Now it's well over 50  
21    percent, going on 60 percent.

22                The store -- to go to the store in  
23    Salem, Ohio, only, we've owned this store since  
24    1958. That's a long time. Longer than some of  
25    these people in here probably have been alive.

1 And last year and this year is the first time in  
2 our history that we've never made a profit.  
3 That is strictly due to pricing from utilities.

4 Let me also tell you the last time we  
5 raised our price was January of 2006. And when  
6 we raised our price, we lost approximately 30  
7 percent of our business. No, I don't think that  
8 many people went some place else to do their  
9 laundry. They shoved more clothes in the  
10 washer, more clothes in the dryer and they can't  
11 get their dam clothes clean, excuse the  
12 expression.

13 They don't have the money to pay to  
14 do it, so they put more in, and consequently  
15 they're still using our utilities and we're  
16 taking in less money. That's all I have to say.  
17 Thank you very much.

18 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you. Next  
19 John -- I would like John Slanina? I know I  
20 pronounced that wrong. I apologize.

21 Could you please state your name and  
22 spelling and address for the record?

23 **MR. SLANINA:** I'm John Slanina,  
24 that's S-l-a-n-i-n-a. I live at 2193 Cranbrook  
25 Drive in Youngstown, Ohio.

1 I welcome everyone who's here today.  
2 I'll keep this short. I just looked at my June  
3 gas bill. Now, granted, I don't use as much gas  
4 in the summer, but with the current flat rate of  
5 5.70, my total bill, the 5.70 represented 60  
6 percent of my gas bill for the month.

7 Under this new flat rate, assuming I  
8 did use the same amount of gas and the gas from  
9 the supplier didn't go up, the new flat rate  
10 would be over 75 percent of my bill. The reason  
11 I bring this up is I keep thinking about people  
12 who may have gone away on vacation or are away  
13 from for the summer or whatever. They're going  
14 to be paying this flat rate even though they're  
15 not in their house using any gas and I just  
16 think that's terribly unfair.

17 And as an added point, you can see  
18 most of the people in the audience today are  
19 retirees. And we need to have a fair  
20 representation for the people here on fixed  
21 incomes in the Mahoning Valley. Thank you.

22 **COURT REPORTER:** Ms. Pirik, I don't  
23 think you swore him in.

24 **MS. PIRIK:** Yes, I did.

25 **COURT REPORTER:** I'm sorry.

1                   **MR. HAGAN:**           Madam Chair, I  
2 would like to ask your indulgence.

3                   **MS. PIRIK:**           I need to have you  
4 state your name and address for the record.

5                   **MR. HAGAN:**           My name is Robert  
6 F. Hagan. I'm a state legislator from  
7 Youngstown, Ohio. 562 Madera Avenue.

8                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Would you please  
9 raise your right hand?

10                   (Thereupon, Mr. Hagan was sworn.)

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

12                   **MR. HAGAN:**           It will be the  
13 truth, and perhaps the utility company won't  
14 like it.

15                   Madam Chair, I would like you to  
16 indulge us for just a moment that I also have  
17 with me and allowed to testify with me  
18 representative Tom Letson.

19                   Together we represent 250,000 people,  
20 a quarter of a million people, in the Mahoning  
21 Valley, who object to this rate increase. If  
22 the Chair will allow, I would ask that you allow  
23 him to testify after me.

24                   **MS. PIRIK:**           That will be fine.  
25 I'll take your oath at that time.

1                   **MR. HAGAN:**           Thank you.   Madam  
2   Chair, it is strange as in all the years I've  
3   been involved in politics that we find that  
4   public servants are asked to attend meetings  
5   where we go thinking they will be talking to  
6   PUCO members, members that are paid a hefty  
7   amount of salary from our taxes, and they end up  
8   sending only staff members.

9                   It's deeply disturbing that if we  
10   expect all the staff -- all the members of the  
11   PUCO to read all of our testimony, then we would  
12   ask the question why aren't they here just  
13   listening to it? We know that they're not going  
14   to read it all. We're aware that what's being  
15   said here will be said and fall on deaf ears.

16                  It's deeply disturbing as well to see  
17   that it is held in a venue where there's very  
18   little ventilation and air conditioning, and  
19   that it's held in a place where we're crowded  
20   and it's held at a time that's very  
21   inconvenient.

22                  Madam Chair, I hope that the record  
23   would reflect my disappointment with the  
24   Chairman, Alan Schriber, for responding to my  
25   request to change the venue and the time to a



1 more appropriate time and appropriate place.  
2 Mr. Schriber did send a letter Friday and he  
3 said in the letter that he was responding that  
4 our hearing would be held in five different  
5 places and he completely ignored my request.  
6 I'm hoping that he doesn't ignore the request of  
7 so many people here of the Valley.

8 Now, when politicians raise taxes,  
9 they typically pay a big price. Madam Chair, in  
10 24 years as a public official I can't remember  
11 too many constituents who came up to me and  
12 said, "I appreciate you raising taxes," or "I  
13 understand why taxes had to be raised for those  
14 important services." The political landscape is  
15 littered with politicians from both sides, John  
16 Gilligan and George Bush, the elder, who raised  
17 taxes and paid the price on their political  
18 survival.

19 The taxing parallel with the utility  
20 companies is startling. The electric company  
21 and the gas companies continue to raise our  
22 rates without any increase in services. We've  
23 heard that just recently. Rate hikes are a  
24 so-called necessity to cover costs. It's a  
25 backdrop for these hearings without

1 understanding how powerful a force the utility  
2 companies are. They have the power to raise our  
3 rates and it is up to the PUCO to strike a  
4 balance and be a check against the skyrocketing  
5 rates.

6 I would like to take a moment to  
7 thank Janine Migden-Ostrander from the Ohio  
8 Consumers' Counsel for her testimony in  
9 opposition to this as well.

10 I remember in particular an  
11 encounter, Madam Chair, I had with the utility  
12 company lobbyists in Columbus who asked me if I  
13 was a candidate for Speaker of the House. And  
14 after I answered it, "Yes, I might be  
15 interested," he told me that he would see to it  
16 that the gas company would do everything in  
17 their power to make sure I was defeated.

18 I relay this incident only to point  
19 out that we are not up against civic-minded  
20 entities. We are up against professionals who  
21 know how to wield their power and who want to  
22 make profits.

23 I ask you now to consider the impact  
24 it will have on the people of the Mahoning  
25 Valley when you consider your vote on East Ohio

1 Gas to increase their rates. I ask you consider  
2 first what we have experienced, as a town broken  
3 at times, but on the mend. We have in our  
4 middle class neighborhoods record numbers of  
5 people losing their homes to the banks.

6 Consider also, Madam Chair, the  
7 impact it has on our neighborhoods into  
8 disrepair and fewer and fewer people can afford  
9 even to fix a broken window, let alone the  
10 sidings of their home as more and more people  
11 are stripping the aluminum off for a quick fix  
12 or a quick buck.

13 I pray when you make your decision  
14 and you tell the members of the PUCO, look at  
15 those that are on fixed incomes in our valley;  
16 the poor, which happens to be a sizeable number  
17 considering the fact that we continue to lead  
18 the state in the unemployment lines, and those  
19 that work are making ends meet only in some  
20 cases just above the minimum wage that has not  
21 kept pace with inflation and spending their  
22 hourly wage on just two gallons of gas.

23 Yes, let me remind you of the  
24 considerations we have. These are  
25 considerations in a society that really

1 shouldn't be asked for; they should be just  
2 given. When justice is meted out in arguments  
3 related to economics, wouldn't it just be great  
4 to allow those that are arguing for economic  
5 justice to win one?

6 How can the gas company really expect  
7 us to understand their needs when we have yet to  
8 have them hear ours?

9 I'm hopeful that you will hear our  
10 objections and move to disallow the increase and  
11 allow the people of this valley the economic  
12 justice they need. Thank you.

13 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.

14 **MR. LETSON:** Madam Chair, my  
15 name is Tom Letson, and I live at 4061 Tod  
16 Avenue Northwest, Warren, Ohio.

17 (Thereupon, Mr. Letson was sworn.)

18 **MR. LETSON:** I do swear to tell  
19 the truth.

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

21 **MR. LETSON:** Madam Chair,  
22 although I am very grateful that you are here  
23 listening to us today, I am incredibly  
24 disappointed that members of the Public  
25 Utilities Commission are not here. There are

1 five members of that Committee. We are not  
2 holding hearings today in five different places  
3 or seven different places. We are in one place.  
4 We are in the Mahoning Valley, we are in  
5 Youngstown, Ohio, and the Public Utilities  
6 Commissioners make in excess of \$100,000 a year  
7 and none of them are here. That's half a  
8 million dollars a year in salaries.

9 And for some unknown reason a good  
10 staff person is here, but it is a staff person.  
11 If this is such an important issue, then we  
12 ought to be speaking to the people at the top  
13 that actually make that decision.

14 Notwithstanding that, we are very  
15 appreciative that it is being held here in the  
16 Mahoning Valley, that it is here in Youngstown,  
17 but if it is important to the gas company that  
18 they have someone here speaking for them, I  
19 think it's important for the people in this room  
20 and in this valley that we have the  
21 Commissioners listening directly to us. Thank  
22 you.

23 MS. PIRIK: Jerome McNally,  
24 please? Could you please state your name and  
25 address and spelling for the record, please?

1                   **MR. McNALLY:**           My name is Jerome  
2     McNally, and I reside at 1820 Wampum Drive,  
3     Youngstown, Ohio.

4                   (Thereupon, Mr. McNally was sworn.)

5                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Thank you. You may  
6     proceed.

7                   **MR. McNALLY:**           Madam Chairman,  
8     without being redundant, I want to say that I  
9     personally thank Senator Hagan and  
10    Representative Letson for coming here, and I  
11    hope that I don't say some of the things that  
12    they've already said.

13                   But before I get into what I really  
14    want to say, I want the people here to know that  
15    I have a pet peeve. And every election day I've  
16    noticed for the last 20 years or longer the  
17    people that go to the poles are mostly the  
18    people that are in this room. People on  
19    walkers, in wheelchairs, people that are blind  
20    and people who are elderly.

21                   Now, I wonder where are the young  
22    people? Is it because they don't hold this  
23    meeting at 5:00 or 6:00 in the evening when  
24    people aren't working? I think that was the  
25    point that the elected officials tried to make.

1                   Now, I remember the last time there  
2       was a hearing for a rate increase in this  
3       particular chamber. It was for the Youngstown  
4       Thermal. And we held the meetings here at 5:30  
5       in the evening, and the only people that showed  
6       up -- and there were three meetings on  
7       consecutive Wednesdays, the only people that  
8       showed up were the people from Youngstown  
9       Thermal.

10                  Now, I don't know why that is, but it  
11       gives me a lot of satisfaction to see you people  
12       out here today. Evidently the economy is a heck  
13       of a lot worse now than it was in 1995. The  
14       point that I'm trying to make is you people, and  
15       all the other working people of the Mahoning  
16       Valley, the state of Ohio and all across the  
17       country, cannot afford any more increases in any  
18       of these things.

19                  And I would like to know who the PUCO  
20       works for. I'm reading this pass out here, and  
21       it says that, "Currently customers pay 4.38 per  
22       month in the west region and 5.70 per month in  
23       the east region as a flat rate customer charge.  
24       The PUCO staff has recommended raising this  
25       charge to \$17.50 for all Dominion customers."

1                   Now, the utility company only  
2 requested that the charge be at 5.70 per month  
3 for both service areas. Now, you tell me why  
4 the PUCO recommends three times the amount to  
5 charge the customer when the company wanted  
6 one-third of that amount. It's a shame really.

7                   And I'll finish up real quick, but if  
8 you know anything about mushrooms and where they  
9 grow, I don't know who's responsible for it.  
10 The one lady that was on the walker said that  
11 she calls in and these people have all the  
12 statistics at their finger -- fingertips, we  
13 don't have that.

14                  At least as far as computers, I'm  
15 illiterate and I don't know -- that's my own  
16 fault, but the thing that really bothers me, and  
17 I want to emphasize this, we are being treated  
18 by all of these companies just like mushrooms.  
19 We're kept in the dark and we're being fed a lot  
20 of BS. Thank you.

21                  **MS. PIRIK:**                I would like to  
22 call Vesna -- I really don't want to state your  
23 last name because I'm afraid. You can state it  
24 and spell it for the record for me when you get  
25 up here, and your address as well as.



1                   **MS. VUKASINOVICH:** My name is Vesna  
2     Vukasinovich. It's V-u-k-a-s-i-n-o-v-i-c-h.  
3     And I reside at 1609 Weston, Youngstown, Ohio  
4     44514.

5                   **MS. PIRIK:**               Please raise your  
6     right hand.

7                   (Thereupon, Ms. Vukasinovich was  
8     sworn.)

9                   **MS. PIRIK:**               Thank you.

10                  **MS. VUKASINOVICH:** I'm here for two  
11     reasons. I'm here as a resident who is totally  
12     opposed to any increase, and I'm also here on  
13     behalf of MYCAP, Mahoning-Youngstown Community  
14     Action Partnership.

15                  MYCAP has over 5,000 customers every  
16     winter who are struggling with their utility  
17     bills, who are unable to pay them as they stand  
18     and they cannot bear to -- bear any new  
19     increases.

20                  As far as the PUCO and Ohio  
21     Consumers' Counsel, I work with them repeatedly.  
22     I find them to be our friends where a lot of you  
23     don't. We talk to them all the time on behalf  
24     of customers. If you ever have an issue, call  
25     us and we'll help you get through the system.

1                   However, my concern is -- I don't  
2    think anybody's opposed to the gas pipelines,  
3    the new meters, the whatever. I'm concerned  
4    about the money that comes into this area from  
5    the Department of Energy through the Department  
6    of Development to the Ohio Energy Office.

7                   We get \$1.2 million every year to  
8    insulate homes. If we could insulate more  
9    homes, then these costs that they're passing on  
10   to us, which sooner or later are going to get  
11   put into our bills, would not be as harmful to  
12   the low income people, the senior citizens,  
13   those on fixed incomes.

14                  My concern is that all the money that  
15   Dominion gives in this area. We get money from  
16   Cleveland Housing Network, which is a nonprofit  
17   agency that funnels the housewarming dollars  
18   back to us. I would like you to know that  
19   Dominion invests \$110,000 a year in Mahoning  
20   County to help low income families insulate  
21   their homes. That is absolutely not adequate.

22                  If they're going to charge us  
23   additional dollars so that they can repair their  
24   pipelines, I would like to also see those  
25   dollars come in to help insulate the homes for

1 the low income families who have no other  
2 supplier to turn to. Thank you.

3 **MS. PIRIK:** Herman Starks,  
4 "Stocks"? I'm sorry. Good afternoon. Would  
5 you please state your name and address for the  
6 record?

7 **MR. STARKS:** My name is Herman  
8 Starks, 3590 Ohio Trail, Youngstown, Ohio.

9 **MS. PIRIK:** Please raise your  
10 right hand.

11 **MR. STARKS:** Pardon?

12 **MS. PIRIK:** Can you please  
13 raise your right hand?

14 (Thereupon, Mr. Starks was sworn.)

15 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.

16 **MR. STARKS:** The so-called  
17 hearing that we are he having today, the  
18 Governor is the one that elected the PUCO  
19 Commission. Where are they?

20 What I have before me, the staff here  
21 is recommending a raise. The PUCO staff, not  
22 the PUCO Commission. I want to read for the  
23 record -- since we have a court reporter, I want  
24 to read verbatim. "Currently customers pay 4.38  
25 per month, the west region; 5.70 per month east

1 region as a flat rate customer charge. The PUCO  
2 staff," not the Commission, "staff, has  
3 recommended raising the charge to 17.50 for all  
4 Dominion customers." The utility only had  
5 requested to set the customer rate to 5.70 per  
6 month.

7 July 1st of this year the PUCO has  
8 given the electric company a dollar and three  
9 cent raise the first day of this month. The  
10 PUCO, electric. Now the PUCO wants to raise our  
11 gas rate.

12 Yes, I was sending a letter to the  
13 Governor. He's the one to appoint the  
14 Commission and I'm recommending that each one  
15 here send letters to the staff as they  
16 recommended it.

17 And the policy that -- they encourage  
18 it. And there's two fundamental inadequacies.  
19 Such policy will not encourage conservation,  
20 which is essential if we, as a society, are to  
21 reduce our carbon footprint. Such policy will  
22 oblige the small and conserving user to finance  
23 the consumptive habits of the larger users. But  
24 they're saying this is what we want to do  
25 regardless of how much you consume.

1 I'm saying to each member of the  
2 staff here today, submit a recommendation to the  
3 Commission that we in the City of Youngstown are  
4 tired of being manipulated and we want the PUCO  
5 to turn down requests from this staff. Thank  
6 you.

7 MS. PIRIK: Georgie Arkwright?  
8 Could you please state your name and address and  
9 spelling for the record?

10 MS. ARKWRIGHT: My name is Georgie  
11 Arkwright. That's G-e-o-r-g-i-e, Arkwright,  
12 A-r-k-w-r-i-g-h-t. I reside at 703 Birch Hill  
13 Drive, Youngstown 44509.

14 MS. PIRIK: Please raise your  
15 right hand.

16 (Thereupon, Ms. Arkwright was sworn.)

17 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.

18 MS. ARKWRIGHT: Very little of what  
19 I can say will be in addition to what has  
20 already been said. Unfortunately I'm number  
21 seven or eight here.

22 But as it has already been said  
23 before, number one, I think it was a slap in the  
24 face, not only for the PUCO not to have sent an  
25 actual member here, but it was bad enough that

1 we all had to trek down here from all parts of  
2 this area and to pay parking fees. That alone  
3 was a slap in our face.

4 And I have a feeling that despite the  
5 fact that this is all being recorded and so  
6 forth, don't you get the feeling that they're  
7 probably not going to pay any attention to us  
8 anyway? I do.

9 But let me tell you one thing.  
10 There's a lot of school levies coming up. And  
11 that has absolutely nothing to do with what  
12 they're asking for, but it does have something  
13 to do with your pocketbook. When those school  
14 levies come up, if we're going to put out all  
15 this additional money to heat our homes, look  
16 out for our kids and look out for our schools,  
17 because we can't do it and we won't do it.

18 Austintown's coming up with a new  
19 levy. Youngstown is in dire need of a levy to  
20 go through. And you know what, we're going to  
21 treat them exactly the way they're treating us,  
22 by paying no dam attention to it.

23 And excuse the language, but I am fed  
24 up with government walking all over us. It's  
25 time for us to take this country back and tell

1     them what we want to have them do. Thank you.

2                     Not only that, not only that, but  
3     it's been said before when a business makes  
4     profit, they're the one that foots the bill.  
5     One of the other ladies also brought that up.  
6     If you have to refurbish your house, do you have  
7     a relative or somebody you can go to to pay that  
8     bill? No, you don't.

9                     Now, I understand. I'm not being  
10    irrational and I'm not understanding that the  
11    utility may need some type of a raise. Everyone  
12    else has a need and that has occurred. And I'm  
13    not discounting that fact. But, please, isn't  
14    this a little outrageous to go to these  
15    extremes? A little bit maybe?

16                    What happened today? Our cost of --  
17    our minimum wage went up. So what did you find  
18    this morning when you went maybe to McDonald's  
19    or some place? That instantly went up. Where  
20    does it all end? You can only get so much air  
21    in a balloon and it's going to burst.

22                    And one of these days we are going to  
23    take America back and we're going to show  
24    everybody come November look out, because the  
25    levies are going to go down, everything's going

1 down. If we have to pay all this extra money --  
2 there's only so much.

3 I'm a one person individual living on  
4 a very, very fixed income. I don't get any more  
5 money per month and I'm very frugal with what I  
6 have. It's about time that the public -- and  
7 here again, having this meeting at a time when  
8 working people can't be here. We could have  
9 probably filled the Chevy Center if the PUCO  
10 hadn't contrived to do it this way. And that  
11 just makes me more angry. Thank you.

12 **MS. PIRIK:** E.P. Yavorcik?  
13 Please state your full name and address and  
14 spelling.

15 **MR. YAVORCIK:** My name is Eugene  
16 P. Yavorcik, Y-a-v-o-r-c-i-k. Most of my  
17 friends call me Moose. I'm a retired  
18 district supervisor --

19 **MS. PIRIK:** Raise your right  
20 hand, please.

21 (Thereupon, Mr. Yavorcik was sworn.)

22 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.

23 **MR. YAVORCIK:** I'm a retired  
24 district supervisor for East Ohio Gas. I'm  
25 retired with 38 and a half years' service. I



1 basically concur with all the speakers that  
2 spoke before me, what their statements were and  
3 their comments. I agree 100 percent. I have a  
4 letter here, a rough draft basically, that I'm  
5 sending to the PUCO so you bear with me. I'll  
6 go over it quickly.

7 "To whom it may concern: This letter  
8 is in response to Dominion East Ohio's delivery  
9 rate increase such as their pipeline replacement  
10 program along with retrofitting automated meter  
11 reading devices.

12 "Number one, deliberate rate increase  
13 from 5.70 per month to 17.50 per customer per  
14 month. Basically how in God's green earth can  
15 they justify a 200 percent increase? Are they  
16 going to reduce the corresponding volumetric  
17 charge by that amount? I don't think so.  
18 Basically they are punishing people who are  
19 conserving fuel.

20 "Since people have switched to  
21 electronic appliances, stoves, furnaces, water  
22 heaters, et cetera, there are no more pilot  
23 lights to consume fuel. Less fuel to push  
24 through the pipes, and the underlying factor,  
25 less revenue to fatten the bottom line. Hence,

1 Dominion's attempt to make up for that lost  
2 revenue. So we can conserve all we want, but  
3 they would still get the monies with the \$17.50  
4 charge.

5 "Number two, pipeline replacement  
6 program for 25 years at 2.5 billion cost to  
7 their customers. Now they want me to pay the  
8 cost of replacing their pipelines. Do they want  
9 to pay for the cost of replacing my house lines?  
10 I don't think so.

11 "When Consolidated Natural Gas, the  
12 parent company of East Ohio and West Ohio and  
13 River Gas, replaced main lines, they never  
14 tacked on a charge to your gas bill without  
15 going to the PUCO and ask for a reasonable rate  
16 increase when filing for same.

17 "Number three, retrofit automated  
18 meter reading devices. Most of the meters in  
19 East Ohio land are already automated from past  
20 years installation of readamatics and hexagram  
21 systems. All new housing installations have  
22 outside meters, so the charge to vehicle reading  
23 will be minimal. All the hard installation work  
24 has basically been completed.

25 "When Dominion took over East Ohio

1 and sister companies, the main objective was to  
2 become a distribution company, period. Not a  
3 service company. Company service personnel no  
4 longer work on furnaces, stoves, water tanks,  
5 gas air conditioners or grills. They tell the  
6 customer to contact a service person who works  
7 on that type of appliance, and for the house  
8 line leaks and repairs to call a plumber.

9 As for the construction and  
10 maintenance crews, their work is very minimal.  
11 Mostly emergency repairs when somebody hits a  
12 gas line doing some other construction work.  
13 Ask them how many C&M crews they now have with  
14 possible resurface and meter reading personnel.

15 "As for the meter reading, they now  
16 read every other month instead of monthly,  
17 regardless as to your meter being outside or  
18 read from the outside. We pay \$5.70 cents a  
19 month for that privilege.

20 "As to the employees that have been  
21 eliminated or will be eliminated when Dominion  
22 becomes a full-fledged distribution company,  
23 thank you for your years of service and good  
24 luck in the future. P.S., it sure isn't the  
25 same company it was when I started working for

1     them. Thank you.

2                   **MS. PIRIK:**             Mr. John Reed?  
3     John Reed? Mr. Reed is not here?

4                   **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** I saw him  
5     leave earlier. He had to go to the restroom or  
6     something.

7                   **MS. PIRIK:**             I'll call him  
8     again.

9                   (Thereupon, a discussion was held off  
10     the record.)

11                  **MS. ANDERSON:**        I have to be back  
12     to work. Is there a possibility I could take  
13     Mr. Reed's place? I took a long lunch, and I --  
14                   (Thereupon, a discussion was held off  
15     the record.)

16                  **MS. PIRIK:**             Okay. I do not  
17     need any help from the audience. That was a  
18     fine request. You may come forward.

19                  **MS. ANDERSON:**        Lynn Anderson,  
20     L-y-n-n, Anderson with an "O." 525 Glacierview  
21     Drive 44509.

22                  (Thereupon, Ms. Anderson was sworn.)

23                  **MS. PIRIK:**             Thank you.

24                  **MS. ANDERSON:**        And I did some  
25     research, also. Franklin Delano Roosevelt

1 established the Public Utility Commission in the  
2 states to protect consumers. He held the  
3 utility companies -- the reason he established  
4 it, he held the utility companies to a 9 percent  
5 profit. Research this. They have far exceeded  
6 it.

7 Cast your memories back to 1998 or  
8 '99, somewhere around there. Okay? They sold  
9 us deregulation. Why? What did they tell the  
10 consumers? Do you remember?

11 MS. PIRIK: You can continue to  
12 testify.

13 MS. ANDERSON: They told us it  
14 would decrease our rates. It would increase  
15 competition. Does anyone remember this? Raise  
16 your hands? And it would decrease our rates.  
17 From that time on, it opened the opportunity for  
18 the companies to add on transportation charges,  
19 administrative charges, over and over more  
20 charges which were given the green light by the  
21 PUCO.

22 Now, research this. I'm, you know,  
23 not making this stuff up. Everybody can  
24 research it. How? Look at your bills from  
25 1998. If anybody stored them, look at them now.

1 I closed out half my house and the  
2 top of my house. I am now the working poor  
3 after I have lost my good job, thank you,  
4 Governor Taft, in 2003 and I make half my  
5 income. I make less than half my income.

6 I have a master's degree and am  
7 working in a copy center. Okay? So I am one of  
8 the working poor. And I cannot afford. I am  
9 beleaguered by these utility bills, electric and  
10 gas. And I say back to regulation. Back to  
11 regulation. Thank you.

12 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.

13 Dennis -- Dennis Spisak? I'm sorry.

14 Could you please state your name and  
15 address and spelling for the record?

16 MR. SPISAK: Yes. My name is  
17 Dennis Spisak, S-p-i-s-a-k. My address is 548  
18 Poland Avenue in Struthers, Ohio. My  
19 comments --

20 MS. PIRIK: I'm sorry. Could  
21 you please raise your right hand?

22 MR. SPISAK: Yes, ma'am.  
23 (Thereupon, Mr. Spisak was sworn.)

24 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.

25 MR. SPISAK: What I find here

1 today is that this is not just an Ohio problem.  
2 This is a national problem, because the national  
3 companies, the gas companies, have basically  
4 decided that we are the ones that have to make  
5 up for their cost increases or their lack of  
6 profit. It's not only here in Ohio. It's  
7 across the country.

8 I'm reading an article here from "The  
9 Times News" out of Pennsylvania by Glenn Ogen  
10 where the National Fuel Gas Distribution  
11 Corporation in Pennsylvania wants to raise  
12 rates. And their national spokeswoman, Nancy  
13 Taylor, states, "The trouble, she says, is that  
14 the utility pays for most of its fixed costs  
15 through fees that are based on the amount of gas  
16 used by customers. So the less they use, the  
17 less we have to pay for pipelines and  
18 maintenance and similar costs. So it's designed  
19 to keep us whole as customers use less."

20 So as we have been told for the last  
21 10 to 15 years to conserve energy, and we have  
22 done that since 1995, we now have to make up for  
23 the fact that we have conserved energy to pay  
24 for these public utility companies.

25 In 1995 the average homeowner in

1 America used 130,000 cubic feet of gas annually.  
2 By January 2004 it had fallen to 115,000 cubic  
3 feet. When gas prices started to climb, usage  
4 went down. By January of 2005 we were using  
5 just 105,000 cubic feet. By January of this  
6 year we were down to 99,649 cubic feet.

7 With decline being felt across the  
8 nation, the national gas companies and the  
9 natural gas companies found out that they are  
10 being forced now to raise and reassess how they  
11 charge us, the consumer.

12 They'd like to move away from  
13 charging everyone based on their usage and  
14 towards higher fixed base rates, which they are  
15 doing to us today, in which they are asking for  
16 them -- for them today and that's what we're  
17 here for. They're asking us to pay a higher  
18 rate because we have consumed less.

19 Now, Mayor Stocker from Struthers is  
20 here, and I've been a Board of Education member  
21 in the City of Struthers for three years, and  
22 three years ago we were \$2.9 million in the red.  
23 We cut \$300,000 out of our administrative costs,  
24 we cut seven administrators, we cut up their  
25 credit cards, we took away their cell phones, we



1 took away their travel expenses, so I ask East  
2 Ohio Dominion what have your bosses cut since  
3 you asked for this rate? How much of a pay cut  
4 have they taken? How many white collar people  
5 have you laid off here? Answer me that.

6 What have you done to control costs  
7 in our neck of the woods before you make us pay  
8 for using less utilities in the state of Ohio  
9 and in this county? And until you can show me  
10 that you can run your business in the black,  
11 like most of us have to run our households in  
12 the black, then maybe I could support a pay  
13 rate -- a pay hike in this type of venue.

14 But when gas was 4.09 two weeks ago,  
15 I couldn't ask anybody for money because my  
16 operating profits were less. But we're supposed  
17 to sit here and take this. The bottom line is  
18 the answer is no. We will not take this any  
19 more. Thank you.

20 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you. I  
21 believe it's Joe Louis Teague, T-e-a-g-u-e?  
22 Mr. Teague?

23 **MR. TEAGUE:** First of all, I say  
24 good evening.

25 **MS. PIRIK:** Mr. Teague, could

1 you please state your name and address and the  
2 spelling of your name for the record?

3 **MR. TEAGUE:** My name is Joe  
4 Louis Teague, T-e-a-g-u-e. I live at 443 West  
5 Evergreen, Youngstown, Ohio. That's where my  
6 house is at.

7 **MS. PIRIK:** Mr. Teague, could  
8 you raise your right hand, please?

9 (Thereupon, Mr. Teague was sworn.)

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

11 **MR. TEAGUE:** Being a person that  
12 may be unusual to interview, we are living in a  
13 world that's so one sided and unethical it's a  
14 shame to say. Here we are. They put us in a  
15 place where too many people's going to be here  
16 where they can't voice their opinion. I think  
17 this was a disgrace. We have to pay, and I'm  
18 lucky I didn't because I parked in a place for  
19 the disabled. We should be ashamed of  
20 ourselves.

21 Gas, water, electric, telephone bill,  
22 everything we have to pay, what do we have left  
23 out of the check we get every month? Nobody  
24 likes me. My mother did. She's gone.

25 We are living in a situation in this

1 country, if you look around and see, don't we  
2 have 50,000, \$60,000 in our bank accounts.

3 You, young man, you -- I could ask a  
4 question. How much money do you make a year?

5 **MS. PIRIK:** I'm sorry,  
6 Mr. Teague.

7 **MR. TEAGUE:** I have a right -- I  
8 have a right to ask. There's no rules and  
9 regulations saying you can't ask anybody  
10 anything.

11 **MS. PIRIK:** Well, the rules of  
12 this hearing is that we are here, we would like  
13 to hear what you have to say about the case  
14 before us.

15 **MR. TEAGUE:** Well, the fact that  
16 I have to pay my money in order to keep the  
17 service I have, if not you cut me off or cut  
18 them off -- and believe me in Youngstown, this  
19 is not a playground. I did six years in the  
20 National Guard before I arrived in Cleveland. I  
21 went to jail -- I had 60 days down in the Cook  
22 County and they said I have asbestos in my lungs  
23 and I have lost my hands. I am tired of being  
24 used.

25 We are a person of the United States

1 of America. We can give \$10 million to another  
2 country over there and they don't care nothing  
3 about us. I'm not here for the thing. I'm 66  
4 years old. There's nothing else. But I'll tell  
5 you one thing, if we continuously let things  
6 happen to us, what is our grandkids and great  
7 grandkids going to do? Because we got people  
8 who do not care about nobody but themselves. If  
9 we didn't, we wouldn't be lined up here to say a  
10 few words. And now you can go back down there  
11 and you can talk with the Governor, talk with  
12 all your big, high echelon.

13 If it were left up to me, we should  
14 stop paying anything until we get somebody down  
15 there in Columbus, someone in the United States  
16 that's running this country here to start being  
17 concerned about the people that live in this  
18 country that had everything we had, and we lost  
19 just about everything we got. And I thank you  
20 very much.

21 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you. Before  
22 I call the next witness, I just want to say that  
23 I have given our staff member the petition, one  
24 of -- a couple sheets of the petition. I notice  
25 that people are needing to leave. You can sign

1 the petition. It will be filed with the record  
2 in this case.

3 The statement at the top of the  
4 petition basically states the name of the case  
5 and it says that, "I was present at the local  
6 hearing held in Youngstown, Ohio, on" this date.  
7 "I am opposed to the company's proposal for the  
8 reasons expressed by those who already  
9 testified."

10 So if you need to leave, but you  
11 would still like to have your name on the  
12 petition, feel free to sign that. Our staff  
13 members have those out in the hallway.

14 I will continue to take testimony as  
15 long as there is someone who wants to testify.  
16 I will -- we will continue for a while longer  
17 and then we will take a very short break. I'm  
18 not going to take long breaks. Probably just  
19 enough to change paper and allow the court  
20 reporter to stretch her legs for a second.

21 The next witness is J. A. Yablonkai.  
22 I'm not sure if I pronounced that right.

23 **MR. YABLONKAI:** Perfect.

24 **MS. PIRIK:** Okay.

25 **MR. YABLONKAI:** When I order pizza,

1 I just say, "For Jerry."

2 **MS. PIRIK:** Could you please  
3 state your name?

4 **MR. YABLONKAI:** Sure. It's  
5 J. A. Y-a-b-l-o-n-k-a-i, 5631 Cider Mill  
6 Crossing, Youngstown, Ohio.

7 **MS. PIRIK:** Please raise your  
8 right hand.

9 (Thereupon, Mr. Yablonkai was sworn.)

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

11 **MR. YABLONKAI:** I would like to  
12 thank the PUCO for an opportunity to speak on  
13 this issue. At the same time, I'm disappointed  
14 that I have to take a day off work to speak out  
15 because I feel I and all natural gas utility  
16 consumers aren't being represented by the PUCO.

17 The PUCO was created to assure  
18 Ohioans adequate, safe and reliable public  
19 utility services at a fair price. What Dominion  
20 is asking for isn't fair to consumers.

21 Back in December of 2007 I became  
22 aware of this rate request increase. Dominion  
23 stated they needed to increase to modernize  
24 their meter reading capabilities. This is a  
25 cost of doing business. The money Dominion

1 spent on an upgrade to their meter reading was  
2 well spent. They should realize cost savings  
3 every year after this is done.

4 Are they going to approach the PUCO  
5 and say, "We would like a rate decrease" after  
6 that? I don't think so. Dominion, I encourage  
7 them to even go a step further by upgrading a  
8 system that can send meter readings  
9 electronically. As I understand it, meter  
10 readers will still need to drive up and down the  
11 street to get meter readings with the upgrade.  
12 Why don't we take advantage of the technology  
13 and have that done electronically. No gas, no  
14 employees, no trucks.

15 Members of the PUCO, I wish you were  
16 here. Please represent the consumer and do not  
17 allow a supported increase that punishes  
18 consumers for using less natural gas. Consumers  
19 are cutting back and forced to be more efficient  
20 out of necessity. This increase undermines that  
21 effort. Be careful what you wish for. Dominion  
22 pushed for Energy Choice. As a result,  
23 consumers experienced outrageous price  
24 increases.

25 I can't afford a \$400 monthly gas

1 bill and I need the summer months just to  
2 recover. This increase, Energy Choice, and  
3 having to pay tax on any utility is bad for  
4 consumers. Please consider the consumers in  
5 your decision making. Thank you.

6 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you. I  
7 believe it's Liz -- Eliz, E-l-i-z, I believe  
8 it's F-e-a-t-s-e-n-t? There you are. Could you  
9 please state your name and spelling and address  
10 for the record?

11 **MS. FEATSENT:** My name is  
12 Elizabeth Feasant. Elizabeth Feasant,  
13 F-e-a-s-a-n-t, 3613 Kiowa Drive, Youngstown,  
14 Ohio, and I swear to tell the truth.

15 (Thereupon, Ms. Featsent was sworn.)

16 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.

17 **MS. FEATSENT:** Okay. We are  
18 talking about a raise with the PUCO. Why do I  
19 get the sneaky feeling that Dominion is putting  
20 on a 17 percent raise, and then later on they're  
21 going to come back and say, "Well, we can now  
22 make it 10 percent." Everybody's supposed to be  
23 real happy about that?

24 **MS. PIRIK:** You have to almost  
25 speak like this up to the microphone. Put your



1 mouth almost on the microphone when you talk.

2 (Indicating.)

3 **MS. FEATSENT:** Is this what  
4 Dominion's ulterior motive is, is they're going  
5 to raise it real high and then all of a sudden  
6 they're going to lower it to 10 percent or a  
7 little bit less and then expect us all to be  
8 happy?

9 I'm not speaking just for myself, but  
10 for my neighborhood, for the middle class, the  
11 hard working two family people that can hardly  
12 make this raise in the gas rates. And when is  
13 it going to end? Who speaks for the American  
14 public? Who speaks for us? These  
15 Commissioners, who are they? The PUCO, who are  
16 they? Why -- why did this just come up  
17 suddenly? That's all I have to say. I think  
18 we're being manipulated. Thank you.

19 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you. John  
20 Zordich?

21 **MR. ZORDICH:** John Zordich,  
22 Z-o-r-d-i-c-h, 236 East Judson Avenue,  
23 Youngstown, Ohio.

24 (Thereupon, Mr. Zordich was sworn.)

25 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.

1                   **MR. ZORDICH:**           We are here  
2     primarily to talk about the -- what I call the  
3     subliminal increase. Most of us nowadays have  
4     to take a nitrogen pill before we open our gas  
5     bill to see if we can take it. Very few of us  
6     pay attention to the 5.70 that appears on the  
7     bill. We all want to know how much gas we use  
8     and how much they're taking out of our pocket.

9                   But it struck me as I'm listening to  
10    all these people, East Ohio Gas has 1 million  
11    customers. At \$5.70 a month, they're making  
12    \$5,700,000 a month to send us our bills. And  
13    now they want \$17 million to do the same job.  
14    And meanwhile, the price of gas goes up, up, up.

15                  There's a couple old codgers, Pete  
16    Starks, former councilman, Arleen Gatewood,  
17    United Steelworker rep and a past and present  
18    councilman, Walt Squires. We testified before  
19    the Commission on rate increases in the '80s.  
20    Do you remember guys? When East Ohio Gas wanted  
21    to jump from a 9 percent to a 13 percent rate of  
22    return? Do you remember those days? That was  
23    the good old days. Because nowadays they want  
24    310 percent.

25                  For those who think I don't know,

1 I've kept track of every bill since I moved in  
2 my residence on East Judson Avenue, since June  
3 of 1977. I can tell you what the usage was in  
4 January of 2006. I used 9.8 feet and was  
5 charged \$159.44. In April of 1988 I used 9.7  
6 feet and was charged \$48.63. In '92, 9.8 feet,  
7 \$47.62; '93, \$48.27, steady. Until we hit 9.8  
8 in January of 2006 where it went up to \$159.44.

9 The same can be said of a constant  
10 usage. We've heard about conservation. It  
11 doesn't matter. For 15 feet in '98 it was  
12 \$91.58; 15 feet in January of 2003 was \$114.56.  
13 And last March, 15 feet, \$184.11. And I can do  
14 19.2 foot, but it's kind of -- what's important  
15 is the price per thousand cubic feet. And I did  
16 this in ten year increments.

17 In 1980 we were paying \$3.50 per  
18 thousand cubic feet. In 1990 it went up to  
19 \$5.19 per thousand. In 2000 we were paying  
20 \$2.99 per thousand.

21 MS. PIRIK: I'm sorry,  
22 Mr. Zordich. I have the same documents you  
23 handed me and I numbered the pages. I think you  
24 said "\$2.99," but did you mean \$6.99?

25 MR. ZORDICH: 6.99. Yes, ma'am.

1                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Because I'm going  
2     to mark these as Exhibit 1 for this hearing and  
3     I numbered the pages, but I'm following. I just  
4     wanted to make sure your statement was what you  
5     wanted it to be.

6                   **MR. ZORDICH:**       And in 2007 we are  
7     now paying \$12.97 per thousand cubic feet. We  
8     were here in what, February or March --

9                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Yeah.

10                  **MR. ZORDICH:**       -- talking about  
11    East Ohio Gas wants to get out of the business  
12    of delivering gas to customers. Here we are  
13    again. They want to get out of the business of  
14    delivering gas and they want to charge us \$17  
15    million for doing it per month. Thank you.

16                  **MS. PIRIK:**           Thank you. I'm  
17    going to mark the documents and I numbered the  
18    pages that Mr. Zordich has provided me.

19                   Is there any objection to having this  
20    exhibit put in the record for this hearing?

21                  **MR. SERIO:**           No objection, Your  
22    Honor.

23                  **MR. CAMPBELL:**       No objection.

24                  **MS. PIRIK:**           Then Exhibit 1  
25    presented by Mr. Zordich shall be admitted onto

1 the record.

2 (Thereupon, Youngstown Exhibit 1 of  
3 the Dominion East Ohio Case Nos.  
4 07-829-GA-AIR, et al., hearing was  
5 marked for purposes of  
6 identification.)

7 **MS. PIRIK:** Our next witness is  
8 Fred Capogreco. Is Mr. Capogreco here? Let me  
9 try John Reed. Did John Reed step back into the  
10 room?

11 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** No, I don't  
12 see him.

13 **MS. PIRIK:** No? Then we'll  
14 move on to Kay Lavelle.

15 **MS. LAVELLE:** My name is Kay  
16 Lavelle. I am the senior service coordinator  
17 for the Mahoning County Sheriff's Department  
18 Senior Service program. And I'm here --

19 **MS. PIRIK:** Would you raise  
20 your right hand?

21 (Thereupon, Ms. Lavelle was sworn.)

22 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.

23 **MS. LAVELLE:** I'm here  
24 representing the senior citizens of Mahoning  
25 County that couldn't be here today. The ones

1 that are at home with no form of transportation  
2 to attend and no way of being able to pay for it  
3 to get here. I'm here representing those same  
4 senior citizens that cannot get the gas company  
5 to come out and light their pilot light unless  
6 it's a dire emergency and there is a gas leak.  
7 I'm here to represent those seniors that are on  
8 fixed incomes with no chance of increase in  
9 those incomes and being presented now with a  
10 large increase in their gas bills.

11 This is your customer base, Dominion.  
12 These are the individuals that are on fixed  
13 incomes that are hoping against hope that they  
14 can stay in their own homes for as long as  
15 possible with medication costs going up, with  
16 the cost of food in the grocery stores going up  
17 due to the gasoline cost and the delivery costs.  
18 They cannot afford this kind of increase.

19 I would suggest that if it is  
20 inevitable that there is an increase, that those  
21 that fall below the poverty level, those senior  
22 citizens that are on fixed incomes be excluded,  
23 and that any other increase be based on  
24 household income and ability to pay. That's all  
25 I have to say.

1                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Thank you. James  
2 Villani? Would you state your name, spelling  
3 and address?

4                   **MR. VILLANI:**       James, V as in  
5 "Victor," i-l-l-a-n-i, 4866 Brookwood Road,  
6 Boardman.

7                   (Thereupon, Mr. Villani was sworn.)

8                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Thank you.

9                   **MR. VILLANI:**       I will say for the  
10 record that I am not nervous. Dominion East  
11 Ohio's flat rate proposal, 17.50 per month  
12 regardless of consumption, has two fundamental  
13 inadequacies as energy distribution policy.

14                   Such policy -- one, such policy will  
15 not encourage conservation, which is essential  
16 if we, as a society, are to reduce our carbon  
17 footprint. Two, such policy will oblige the  
18 small and conserving user to finance the  
19 consumptive habit of the larger users, some of  
20 whom may actually see their bills decrease.

21                   To instrument a policy that  
22 discourages conservation and unfairly burdens  
23 the working and poorer consumer with an  
24 obligation to finance some portion of the larger  
25 and commercial users' consumption is a policy

1 that could invite social unrest. Thank you.

2 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.

3 **MR. VILLANI:** I have copies of my  
4 statement if anybody would like one.

5 **MS. PIRIK:** I am going to mark  
6 his statement, since he handed it to me, as  
7 Exhibit 2.

8 Is there any objection to admitting  
9 it into the record?

10 **MR. SERIO:** No objection.

11 **MR. CAMPBELL:** No objection.

12 **MS. PIRIK:** The document will  
13 be admitted into the record.

14 (Thereupon, Youngstown Exhibit 2 of  
15 the Dominion East Ohio Case Nos.  
16 07-829-GA-AIR, et al., hearing was  
17 marked for purposes of  
18 identification.)

19 **MS. PIRIK:** Jim Winston? Is  
20 Mr. Winston here? Rodney Sudimak?

21 **MR. SUDIMAK:** Sudimak. My name  
22 is Rodney Sudimak, S-u-d-i-m-a-k. I live in  
23 North Jackson, 11668 Blott Road. I'm here  
24 today --

25 **MS. PIRIK:** Could you raise



1 your right hand?

2 **MR. SUDIMAK:** Raise my right  
3 hand, ma'am?

4 (Thereupon, Mr. Sudimak was sworn.)

5 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.

6 **MR. SUDIMAK:** I'm here today to  
7 ask Governor Strickland to fire the  
8 Commissioners for the PUCO and put -- put normal  
9 human beings in like people in this room that  
10 pay the bills, that know what a gas bill means,  
11 know what it costs to fill up their gas tank,  
12 know what it costs to live on a fixed income or  
13 any other kind of income.

14 I'm tired of everybody riding in  
15 company cars. There's legal assistance in this  
16 room right now and they're paid for by us,  
17 whether it be through our tax dollars or whether  
18 it be through our gas bills. Legal consultants,  
19 if you want to cut back like the school system  
20 did, cut the legal stuff out. Now, I normally  
21 say something different, but this is a public  
22 forum. Cut the legal stuff out. We don't need  
23 them.

24 We also don't need no rate increase.  
25 That \$5 -- in my case it was 5.76 a month, they

1 didn't do anything for 5.76 a month. It says on  
2 the bill they charge you for reading your meter  
3 and billing you. Well, half the time they  
4 didn't come out to read the meter. Inclement  
5 weather, I don't understand it. I had to go to  
6 work. Why can't they read the meter?

7           And then they'll give you a card and  
8 they'll say, "Here, you can fill it out." Look,  
9 if I'm going to do their job, I'm going to get  
10 paid as much as I did at Generous Motors when I  
11 worked there. And by God, they don't want to do  
12 that. The only thing that they want to do is  
13 sit and up the rates and I'm sick of it. They  
14 don't want to do anything for anybody.

15           I had a rental in Youngstown and  
16 that's my only thing that I've had with gas in  
17 Youngstown or gas at all. I'm lucky. I don't  
18 have to put up with them no more. I got rid of  
19 them and I got an alternative type of heating.  
20 But they want you to come down to your rental  
21 property and wait there for four hours with a  
22 window of opportunity. They will call you  
23 during that four hours and say, "From 8 to 12,"  
24 15 minutes they're going to allow you.

25           Now, I don't know how fast you're

1 allowed to drive, but I'm a fast driver and I  
2 got fast cars and I can't even make it from  
3 North Jackson to Shenley Avenue in my super cars  
4 in 15 minutes. But I'm supposed to be at their  
5 beckoned call for four hours waiting for them  
6 for 15 minutes. These people are a waste.

7 I'm for legislative -- legislative  
8 action to go back to the old monopoly system.  
9 If you don't want to sell gas, if you don't want  
10 to transmit gas, if you don't want electric  
11 transmission, if you don't want the phone lines  
12 like we used to have, then get out of the  
13 business. Go back to Virginia to Dominion.

14 I want somebody -- and I would like  
15 the Commissioners to understand something. They  
16 are not human beings like the people here are in  
17 this room. They are people that make a hundred  
18 grand a year. Probably if you put all 500,000  
19 of it up, all the people in this room don't make  
20 500 grand. And I'm tired of paying for  
21 Commissions to talk about these people's rates  
22 when they don't deserve it. Because that's  
23 going to be locked in at the \$17 and they still  
24 don't do nothing. They don't read your meter.

25 And they're going to start this new

1 stuff -- you remember in the old days everybody  
2 had to stay at home. "Hey, Ron, can you stay at  
3 home and let the meter man in?" Well, then they  
4 got the outside products so nobody had to stay  
5 inside. They don't do it any more. "We got to  
6 get in your house to check the meter to see if  
7 it's okay," and all that stuff.

8 Then they're going to start this  
9 stuff, drive by. They're going to drive by and  
10 shoot it with an infrared ray gun and they're  
11 going to have to read that off the meters.  
12 Well, I'll tell you Jones, Smith and Miller,  
13 I'll bet you money, I'll bet you money Jones  
14 will have Smith's bill, Miller will have --  
15 because these people -- I'm telling you.

16 My wife's a nurse, my brother's a  
17 nurse anesthetist, my nephew's a doctor. In a  
18 case with East Ohio Gas, I swear to God, these  
19 people would be put on a brain scan and it would  
20 be straight line and they would be all organ  
21 donors, except for one thing. There's not an  
22 organ in their body that they can use. They  
23 can't see, they can't think, they can't hear and  
24 nobody's listening, nobody.

25 I'm normally not this vocal and not

1 this -- I'm riled up. I want somebody to fire  
2 the Commissioners. I want somebody to put some  
3 teeth back in the laws. And I don't think we  
4 should have to pay for, you know, consumer  
5 protection against these people.

6 You put somebody like me on that  
7 Commission, they would be -- they would be  
8 begging me before they could get a raise.  
9 Because right now I'm out of work at Generous  
10 Motors. The people that took my place get half  
11 the money that I did and no medical insurance.  
12 And these people just want to keep gouging and  
13 gouging and hiring legal representation that I  
14 have to pay for or these people have to pay for,  
15 no good. Absolutely stupid, idiotic. And  
16 there's no other way to do -- there's no other  
17 way to say it.

18 And I thank you, ladies and  
19 gentlemen. I've had my say. I got to get out  
20 of here and take my nitrogen pill.

21 MS. PIRIK: George Holko?

22 MR. HOLKO: Right here.

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

25 MR. HOLKO: My name is

1 George R. Holko, Sr. My address is 2150  
2 Whispering Meadows Northeast, Warren, Ohio  
3 44483-3660.

4 MS. PIRIK: Please raise your  
5 right hand.

6 (Thereupon, Mr. Holko was sworn.)

7 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.

8 MR. HOLKO: I used to be an  
9 employee of East Ohio Gas.

10 MS. PIRIK: You need to talk  
11 really close to the microphone.

12 MR. HOLKO: I used to be an  
13 employee of East Ohio Gas. I was there for 18  
14 years. When I started as a meter reader,  
15 talking about meter readers, we read the meters  
16 every month. I was paid a grand rate of \$2.50  
17 an hour. Translate that. But the gas rate was  
18 50 cents a thousand cubic feet, period. That  
19 was everything included. All these surcharges  
20 and crap charges, and crap charges is what they  
21 are, and line charges, 50 cents a thousand cubic  
22 feet.

23 In fact, East Ohio Gas, about two  
24 years later, instituted putting a dollar minimum  
25 charge on the line because a lot of people would

1 shut off their furnaces in the summertime so  
2 they wouldn't pay any gas bill, so they didn't  
3 even have a gas bill in the summertime.

4           So East Ohio executed a dollar a  
5 month charge to encourage people to add a water  
6 heater or add a dryer or other things. And I  
7 sold some of the first gas grills in Ohio  
8 through East Ohio when we had the starter  
9 programs. So I was active in East Ohio for 18  
10 years. And I joined East Ohio 2 years after I  
11 got out of 4 years in military service. But  
12 this -- we're talking about 50 cents a thousand  
13 cubic feet.

14           Now, right now you're talking 17.50.  
15 You're talking 35 times as much money that they  
16 want from 1958. That's a hell of a lot of  
17 money. And we read the meters every month and  
18 that included all service charges. Come out to  
19 light the pilot, light the dryer, make  
20 adjustments, that was all included at that time.  
21 What happened? Now, they read the meter every  
22 other month.

23           You talk to somebody on the phone,  
24 you don't even talk to a local person. There's  
25 no local places to go pay your bill. You know,

1 I'm on the budget. I'm also on the automatic  
2 deduction out of my paycheck -- or out of my  
3 checking account, so they're not missed because  
4 if you don't -- if you don't get your bill, they  
5 can -- they'll say, "Hey, we mailed it to you.  
6 You got to pay the penalty."

7 But I'm talking about -- you know,  
8 even if it was \$15 a thousand cubic feet, that's  
9 still what, 30 times as much? If I was a meter  
10 reader now and that same rate, my paycheck  
11 starting at 17.50 an hour would be \$75 -- or,  
12 no, wait a minute, more than that. At 30 -- at  
13 \$15 a thousand cubic feet, I should start --  
14 instead of \$2.50 an hour, I should start at \$75  
15 an hour. And that would be -- would take you up  
16 to the same rate.

17 I think the PUCO is not doing their  
18 job. They owe us the -- they owe us greatly for  
19 what we need and we should be getting it.  
20 There's a lot of retirees here. There's people  
21 here -- like the one man said, you know, they  
22 hold -- they're holding this in the afternoon.  
23 You can't come out at night and hold this when  
24 working people can come here? No. You got to  
25 be here in the daytime, so there's just a bunch



1 of us older people here. That's not right.

2 I would have brought a lawyer with  
3 me, but somebody parked over his manhole cover  
4 and he couldn't get out. So there's -- that's  
5 what I wanted to say. And thank you for  
6 listening to me and that's the truth. Thank you  
7 very much.

8 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.  
9 Mr. John Tucker?

10 MR. TUCKER: Thank you, Madam  
11 Chairman. My name is John Tucker. I live at  
12 4259 Carlisle Avenue, Youngstown 44511.

13 (Thereupon, Mr. Tucker was sworn.)

14 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.

15 MR. TUCKER: I am a retired  
16 civil engineer. I was chief engineer at the  
17 Mahoning Valley Sanitary District back in the  
18 '70s and '80s. I worked for 30 years in water  
19 and sewer utilities. Not too unlike gas, you  
20 have to raise rates when the cost goes up. But  
21 you should do it using your intelligence, not  
22 just arbitrarily going from \$5 to \$17-and-a-half  
23 for the service charge. That's just the service  
24 charge.

25 And I think it's appalling that this

1 rate was increased that much. I don't think the  
2 people that did it studied that very long to see  
3 why it would have to go up that far. I believe  
4 the PUCO should have staff that would have gone  
5 over it. I set rates for many communities in  
6 Michigan, in Illinois, in Indiana and Ohio and I  
7 never, ever, ever, ever, ever would raise rates  
8 that much, especially on a service charge. It  
9 is terrible. We don't need that.

10 It's -- like a gentleman said here  
11 earlier, they'll probably lower it sometime in  
12 the future so it will make them look good. And  
13 they -- that just doesn't work. We cannot  
14 accept that kind of a rate increase. And the  
15 PUCO should know better. Unfortunately many of  
16 the PUCO members, Commissioners, come from  
17 utilities. We've read that in the past. And,  
18 of course, they're going to go along with  
19 utilities' requests. That is not good for the  
20 public. It should not be done that way. The  
21 PUCO should be independent all together and not  
22 hire personnel from the former utilities.

23 But in summary, that 17.50 has got to  
24 go. It's too much. The people -- that's a flat  
25 charge. It doesn't depend on how much gas you

1 use. They're always going to charge it and they  
2 shouldn't do that. I appreciate all of the  
3 comments that I heard from people in the past  
4 and I thank the Commissioner for granting me  
5 this time.

6 **MS. PIRIK:** Rich DeLuca?

7 **MR. DeLUCA:** I'm Rich DeLuca, 42  
8 Wilhelm Street, Struthers, Ohio. And DeLuca is  
9 spelled D-e, capital L, u-c-a.

10 (Thereupon, Mr. DeLuca was sworn.)

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

12 **MR. DeLUCA:** And I just wanted  
13 to comment on a couple things. The meter  
14 reading that was done monthly provided accurate  
15 readings and allowed the customers accurate  
16 readings, and it also allowed the people walking  
17 around to detect leaks and possible problems in  
18 the neighborhood.

19 I understand that these -- that this  
20 was a part of the tariff agreement that the --  
21 that is reviewed by the PUCO, and this tariff  
22 agreement was modified to allow them to come  
23 around, you know, once a year. I don't even  
24 know my meter reader.

25 They also closed the payment centers

1 so that they don't have to face people face to  
2 face, you know, for their billing. Customer  
3 service representatives, they used to come out  
4 and light your pilot light when it was 5.70.  
5 They don't even have that service now.

6 They're going to triple our cost.  
7 The rate increase, you know, appears to be a  
8 done deal. Because if you go on the website,  
9 East Ohio Gas has already got applications to  
10 hire 68 people to light -- to put those pipes in  
11 for them.

12 You know, I also am -- I run a  
13 utility. I'm a superintendent at the wastewater  
14 plant in the City of Struthers. You know, I  
15 have to go out and replace pipes and everything  
16 else. We have repair and replacement costs.  
17 They haven't replaced any pipes. They're asking  
18 for \$17 million. If they haven't done it, then  
19 every manager in East Ohio Gas should be fired.  
20 That isn't the way to run a utility.

21 They should have had money set aside,  
22 especially after given these breaks on having to  
23 read these meters. And where was that money  
24 going? That could have went into replacing  
25 pipes. When they cut down the payment centers,

1 that could have been done to replace pipes. Now  
2 they're coming back because of their  
3 mismanagement and they want us to pay?

4 I just think it's a shame that these  
5 monthly charges are going to be forever to help  
6 pay for the replacement of the company's  
7 infrastructure that has been let go, so the  
8 stockholders, the CEOs can make more and more  
9 money and pay the lobbyists to go down and  
10 increase our costs. We do not need this raise.

11 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.  
12 Paulette Godfrey? Is Paulette Godfrey here?

13 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** She may have  
14 had to leave. She's from Trumbull County from  
15 the Commissioner's office.

16 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you. Arnold  
17 Barzak?

18 **MR. BARZAK:** That's me.

19 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.

20 **MR. BARZAK:** I'll make it as  
21 brief as possible.

22 **MS. PIRIK:** Well, before you  
23 start, could you please state your name and  
24 address and spelling?

25 **MR. BARZAK:** My name is Arnold

1 Barzak. I reside in Warren, Ohio at 1184 Taylor  
2 Street Northwest, ZIP code 44485. I've resided  
3 there for over 50 years.

4 MS. PIRIK: And do we spell  
5 your last name B-a-r-z-a-k?

6 MR. BARZAK: That's correct.

7 MS. PIRIK: And could you raise  
8 your right hand?

9 (Thereupon, Mr. Barzak was sworn.)

10 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.

11 MR. BARZAK: Well, first of all,  
12 I'm somewhat overwhelmed today that we had such  
13 a nice turn out. When I came here the last time  
14 when Dominion East Ohio wanted to change their  
15 rate structure, I brought five people with me  
16 plus the good State Senator now, Robert Hagan  
17 was here. And then I was fighting the PUCO and  
18 Ohio Consumers' Counsel, but I see this time  
19 Ohio Consumers' Counsel is somewhat thinking  
20 along the lines of we people here are today.

21 First of all, we talk about gouging.  
22 The political climate was right here in the  
23 state and down in the White House for all the  
24 things that have been happening in the last few  
25 years. And they will continue to happen unless

1 these people see beyond their nose. I often  
2 wonder if they can see beyond their nose.

3 But this increase -- first of all, I  
4 also have a bill here -- two bills. The  
5 transportation charges. Now, do you see trucks  
6 carrying this gas? Transportation charges, \$80  
7 for each bill. And by the way, you folks here  
8 think East Ohio or Dominion East Ohio makes  
9 money? No. They only make money on that 5.70.

10 Now, you tell me anybody in their  
11 right mind that's in business and don't make  
12 money on the product that they sell, something's  
13 drastically wrong. And, of course, all of you  
14 know and I know that this isn't the case. I  
15 don't care what they tell me. I'm not the most  
16 educated guy in the world, I'm far from being  
17 the best speaker, but I went to one of the best  
18 educational facilities in the world, the school  
19 of hard knocks. Once you learn, you didn't  
20 forget. And I most certainly haven't forgotten  
21 that they wanted to raise this rate from 5.70 to  
22 17.50, which is 11.80 per month. Outrageous.  
23 Outrageous.

24 We know the gas, they ask for more  
25 than what they're going to get. We know that.

1 But being a union representative for 43 years,  
2 if you asked for a 1 percent increase or 3  
3 percent increase, you're going to put us out of  
4 business. And that might be over a three-year  
5 period. This here will last the rest of your  
6 life.

7 And like they said, deregulation.  
8 Deregulation only caused more problems. It gave  
9 these companies the ability to get together and  
10 cohesse or whatever and say, look, we can handle  
11 these people now. And that they have done.

12 And like the one gentleman that had  
13 the laundromats that indicated that Columbia Gas  
14 was quite a bit cheaper than Dominion East Ohio,  
15 well, why is it Columbia Gas isn't in our area?  
16 Dominion East Ohio has it pretty well sewed up.  
17 And this really aggravates the living daylights  
18 out of me, because fortunately I got a pretty  
19 decent pension. There are a lot of them that  
20 are barely making it from one pay to the next.

21 And the other thing I would like to  
22 say, as I said before, the PUCO is a very  
23 important part of our lives. These people who  
24 hold these Commission positions should do what's  
25 right. Not what corporate Ohio or corporate



1 America wants. What's good for everybody. And  
2 certainly raising the price of this fee from  
3 5.70 to 17.50 is exorbitant, along with the fact  
4 that -- like they talked about the gas happens  
5 to be \$9.99 a cubic foot on these bills, but at  
6 one time it was around \$14. Oh, they're going  
7 to give you a break. I guess they started  
8 feeling a little bit guilty or maybe there was  
9 threats that they was concerned about and they  
10 dropped the rate down a little bit. Oh, they  
11 didn't use as much gas, this and that.

12 Folks, we all have to realize one  
13 thing. That if we don't stand up and be heard  
14 and counted, this is just the beginning. It's  
15 just the beginning. I've seen it in the  
16 petroleum industry. It just irritates the heck  
17 out of me to think, well, we had a hurricane,  
18 well, they had a fire at one refinery, well,  
19 this, well, that. How many more excuses? And  
20 they'll find more.

21 But when you put the pressure on them  
22 a little bit to drop it down 10 cents or  
23 something, they make you think we're doing  
24 something. No, they're doing it because you put  
25 some pressure on. But if they can raise it 50

1 cents, they ought to be able to drop it 50  
2 cents.

3 So primarily what I'm saying here is  
4 the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has a  
5 very responsible job. And, again, that job's  
6 not just for the -- I mean our utility  
7 companies. It's here for all of us. And all's  
8 we are asking is a fair shake that -- and I  
9 can't get over that the PUCL -- PUCO is the one  
10 that instigated this rate increase, the 17.50.

11 I mean it's bad enough that the gas  
12 company does it, but when the people who are  
13 supposed to be our watchdogs does it, whoa, I  
14 would like to have a few dogs like that.

15 But very sorry -- and I do thank "The  
16 Tribune." They had "A Natural Gas Increase Up  
17 For Debate" right on the front page, but I  
18 thought when I came here today there would be  
19 another six people. When I came in that door  
20 and couldn't get in, boy, it just warmed me up a  
21 little bit inside. But you know what? There  
22 should be ten times as many people. But, again,  
23 they bring us into some facility that there's  
24 not enough places to sit, whatever.

25 I'll conclude my statement, but I

1 would like a message to get back to the Public  
2 Utilities Commission members and state that  
3 there's a lot of irate people here in the  
4 Mahoning Valley and wherever else they serve the  
5 gas -- us consumers of the gas. Because it's  
6 tragic that we have to go out -- I'm from  
7 Warren. I'm not complaining. Hell, if I was  
8 from Toledo I would have been here, but it's  
9 just sad to think that our legislative people  
10 and our responsible people on committees and  
11 that don't act accordingly.

12 So thank you for your time and thank  
13 all you good people for showing up. Because I  
14 thought oh, boy, there's only going to be a  
15 handful, but I was pleased. But there still  
16 should be ten times as many people. I don't  
17 really need this. I just carry it as a weapon.  
18 (Indicating.)

19 MS. PIRIK: The next witness,  
20 the last name is Medd, M-e-d-d?

21 MR. MEDD: My name is Don  
22 Medd. I'm the director of the Area Agency on  
23 Aging in Youngstown.

24 MS. PIRIK: Could you state  
25 your address, also?

1                   **MR. MEDD:**                   102 Tournament  
2 Trail, Cortland, Ohio.

3                   (Thereupon, Mr. Medd was sworn.)

4                   **MS. PIRIK:**                   Thank you.

5                   **MR. MEDD:**                   Let me tell you a  
6 little bit about the valley. I'm not sure if  
7 you're from here or not. We are a proud people.  
8 We've worked very hard in our lives. The  
9 Mahoning Valley -- I'm going to talk mostly  
10 about Mahoning and Trumbull County.

11                   A lot of our folks have worked here  
12 in the 60 plus population in our valley where  
13 now Trumbull County is just about the median  
14 age. And that's the middle, if you remember  
15 your physics, which I barely remember. So about  
16 that far. For Mahoning County --

17                   **MS. PIRIK:**                   They're having a  
18 hard time hearing you. You almost, like, need  
19 to talk like this into the microphone.  
20 (Indicating.)

21                   **MR. MEDD:**                   How's this? Is  
22 that closer? Is that better?

23                   **MS. PIRIK:**                   I think it is.

24                   **MR. MEDD:**                   For Mahoning  
25 County, the age is actually greater than for the

1 median age. The remarks I'm going to give you,  
2 although I'm going to focus on the 20,000 -- or  
3 the 2000 census is actually reflective for  
4 the -- would be reflective for Ohio as a whole.

5 I'm here really to speak, not only  
6 for the folks here, but also for a lot of folks  
7 that couldn't be here that are really struggling  
8 to stay here at home in the community and that  
9 played vital roles in building and developing  
10 this community, but now have reached the latter  
11 part of their lives and are struggling to remain  
12 part of the community.

13 I'm here to talk about real human  
14 beings. Folks who, as they've grown older now,  
15 who have lived their whole lives here, now have  
16 growing health problems, have health conditions  
17 like heart conditions, arthritis and other kinds  
18 of things that now are beginning to intrude on  
19 their lives. Who also, as they've grown older,  
20 have begun to see their incomes and their assets  
21 deplete.

22 As when they were 65 -- 66 to 74,  
23 they lived perhaps 29 -- about 30 percent of  
24 them lived on income -- incomes of about \$15,900  
25 in the 2000 census, but when they reached 75

1 plus, about 44 percent of these folks are living  
2 on that kind of a meager income.

3           They're folks that are fighting to  
4 remain in the community. They're fighting to  
5 make ends meet. We often hear stories about  
6 people who are having to make decisions about  
7 cutting their medication in half to meet their  
8 health conditions. They're getting their  
9 prescriptions, but in order to meet conditions  
10 they're cutting medications in half. They're  
11 turning their heat down. They're making hard,  
12 hard decisions, and yet at this point they're  
13 having to find an extra, if this decision is  
14 made, 144 -- \$141 a year to pay a gas bill.

15           Now, perhaps for me and perhaps for  
16 you and perhaps for the PUCO staff that would  
17 probably be an easy thing to come through, but  
18 for 44 percent of the folks 75 plus, that's  
19 probably not going to be an easy thing to do.  
20 There's folks out there that are making very  
21 difficult decisions. They have very difficult  
22 budget things that they have to deal with.

23           Their medicines are going up, the  
24 gas -- both kinds of gas, as you know, are going  
25 up; the gas they're using to heat their homes

1 and the gas they need to get around, you know.  
2 And they're having to make some really, really  
3 hard decisions.

4 I'm a little puzzled that -- when I  
5 read the material that the gas companies  
6 themselves weren't asking for an increase for  
7 this part of the state and suddenly we're  
8 looking at a substantial increase that maybe is  
9 not necessary.

10 I heard a comment earlier and I -- I  
11 was also reading this, we're in an era where we  
12 want to try and conserve. It seems  
13 counterproductive. If you're trying to  
14 conserve, you should be having a policy or try  
15 to set a policy that encourages conservation.  
16 This policy seems to be counterproductive to  
17 that. Thank you.

18 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you. Thomas  
19 Ensley?

20 **MR. ENSLEY:** Thomas Ensley, 37  
21 East Park, Hubbard, Ohio 44425.

22 **MS. PIRIK:** And is Ensley,  
23 E-n-s-l-e-y?

24 **MR. ENSLEY:** Correct.

25 (Thereupon, Mr. Ensley was sworn.)

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

2                   **MR. ENSLEY:**       I've been a  
3   resident of Youngstown here, I was born and  
4   raised here in Youngstown. Then I moved to --  
5   then my family moved to Hubbard in '41, and then  
6   from '41 moved out to Boardman and then from  
7   Boardman to Hubbard. A few years ago -- well,  
8   actually I lived south of Hubbard ten years ago,  
9   and then I moved into the City of Hubbard. And  
10   for the water meter we have the electronic --  
11   the meter reader will come around and read that  
12   electronically, but for the gas we still have --  
13   the meter man still comes.

14                   And today we are having a new  
15   waterline put in at the present house, at the  
16   present place where my daughter, my  
17   granddaughter and I are residing at. And very  
18   shortly they'll be doing the gas line.

19                   And I agree with everybody else here  
20   that has testified before, that this is an  
21   outrageous increase. I -- I think it should  
22   maybe be increased maybe 1 to 3 percent more. I  
23   think that would be a more reasonable rate than  
24   the 17 percent raise.

25                   That's all I have to say. And God



1    bless you and God bless the State of  
2    Representatives. I talked to the  
3    Representative. He isn't my Representative,  
4    Sandy Harwood is, and -- she's my  
5    Representative.

6                   And I also think the state and the  
7    federal government should put regulation back on  
8    the utilities because back in the last century  
9    Teddy Roosevelt said that the railroads were the  
10   ones that kept this country running, but now  
11   even the railroads are having a hard time  
12   keeping up with their rates with the diesel fuel  
13   and everything else being high. Thank you very  
14   much.

15                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Thank you. The  
16   last witness that I have on the list is Thelma  
17   Burroughs.

18                   **MS. BURROUGHS:**   Burroughs. My name  
19   is Thelma Burroughs. It's B-u-r-r-o-u-g-h-s,  
20   and I vow to tell as much truth as you can  
21   handle at this hearing.

22                   (Thereupon, Ms. Burroughs was sworn.)

23                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Thank you.

24                   **MS. BURROUGHS:**   My address is 349  
25   North Truesdale, Youngstown, Ohio 44506-1104.

1     What I came to talk about today about the PUCO  
2     is I have -- my mother is older -- is elderly  
3     and she was paying on -- they have a pay for  
4     your -- your line, and so she had paid for about  
5     15 years and then they sent her a letter she  
6     didn't have to pay any more.

7                 So two years later they sent her a  
8     letter back saying she had to start paying all  
9     over. They couldn't find her record where she  
10    paid anything. And I tried to contact them and  
11    I never did get a chance to talk to anyone. I  
12    never got a chance to talk to anyone.

13                I heard -- just like the lady said,  
14    once you get wrapped up in the system, you can't  
15    get untangled. No one will want to hear your  
16    problem. No one wants to hear from you. All  
17    they want to do is see and hear the money.

18                And also that I've noticed that they  
19    changed -- I think it was in -- like the man  
20    said, I think it was in the '80s, my summer  
21    rate, the only thing I have in the summer is a  
22    hot water tank. My rate used to be \$14. Now  
23    it's 38 and some cents.

24                And what I can't understand is this:  
25    The poor of the area is changing because the

1 more lost jobs, the more that everything became  
2 such a downturn, the worst and the more --  
3 higher the bills and things became in this area.  
4 That I couldn't understand. I can't understand  
5 a country that will help everyone else but the  
6 people within itself. And to me that's a loss.  
7 That's a great loss because you make your  
8 citizens become like they did in the French  
9 days. They'll go in the stealing. They'll get  
10 sick and tired of being harassed and not ever  
11 showing up and having anything. And I thank you  
12 for listening to me.

13 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you. Is  
14 there anyone else who did not have an  
15 opportunity -- sir, come forward.

16 **MR. CONDON:** My name is Pete  
17 Condon. I live at 832 Shannon Road in Girard,  
18 Ohio.

19 (Thereupon, Mr. Condon was sworn.)

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

21 **MR. CONDON:** C-o-n-d-o-n. For  
22 the past 38 years I have been an employee of the  
23 East Ohio Gas Company now, and when it was still  
24 Consolidated Natural Gas. I really didn't  
25 intend to speak today, but I have heard a few

1 things up here that have led me to believe that  
2 a number of people don't really understand what  
3 is being asked for with this rate case.

4 I've heard a number of comments to  
5 the effect that this is -- this entire amount is  
6 to read meters and prepare bills. That's not it  
7 at all. Even as far as the administrative costs  
8 are concerned, there's much more to it than  
9 that.

10 The Public Utilities Commission and  
11 the Department of Transportation, they get  
12 involved because you're transporting a substance  
13 from one place to another. So, you know, people  
14 think of it as just being on the road. There's  
15 more to transportation than that.

16 Both of these organizations make  
17 regulations and have the force of law as far as  
18 any utility company's concerned. There are  
19 costs involved with documentation, compliance  
20 issues, things that we have to do to stay within  
21 the law that have to be done sometimes on a  
22 monthly or semiannual or annual basis. Part of  
23 this is going to pay for that.

24 Now, twice on the testimony that I've  
25 heard here I've heard mention made of the real

1 reason that Dominion has asked for this rate  
2 increase, and that is, the bare pipe replacement  
3 initiative for infrastructure improvements.  
4 And, in fact, the only thing I haven't heard  
5 mentioned at all is if this rate case is  
6 approved, then the gas company, not only  
7 Dominion, and if I'm not mistaken the other  
8 companies in Ohio, will assume ownership of the  
9 natural gas service lines.

10 The bad thing about this, as far as  
11 we're concerned -- and I might mention I'm a  
12 district representative for Local G555 of the  
13 Utility Workers of America Union, my co-workers  
14 have found themselves with a foot on either side  
15 of the fence. On the one hand, if the rate case  
16 is approved and -- there's expansion of our work  
17 force. On the other hand, we have to pay a gas  
18 bill, too.

19 And contrary to what a lot of people  
20 believe, we don't get any discounts. As a  
21 matter of fact, they'll shut me off a lot sooner  
22 than they'll cut off you, because they know I'm  
23 working. They figure there's no excuse for me.

24 So -- I'm not used to this kind of  
25 thing. Anyway, I guess one issue I want to

1 bring up is that the department I work in, which  
2 is construction and maintenance, we are the guys  
3 that go out and dig the holes in the ground and  
4 in the streets to fix whatever happens to be  
5 wrong with the gas pipe and infrastructure.  
6 We're in contact with the pipe that the company  
7 wants to see replaced.

8 In a large part of our service area,  
9 including a number of the older areas in  
10 Youngstown, this is something that desperately  
11 needs to be done. You know, I'm not sure myself  
12 who should have to pay for it or how the  
13 payments should be made. I can tell you from  
14 personal experience that this does need to  
15 happen. Thank you.

16 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. Yes,  
17 come forward.

18 MS. DOLES: My name is Frances  
19 Maxine Doles. I live at 356 West Harvey Street,  
20 Struthers, Ohio 44471, and I swear to tell the  
21 truth.

22 (Thereupon, Ms. Doles was sworn.)

23 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. And is  
24 it -- how do you spell your last name? I know  
25 she wants to know.

1                   **MS. DOLES:**                   Maxine Doles,  
2     D-o-l-e-s.   Now, I have quite a few articles  
3     here in front of me, all from "The Vindicator,"  
4     so we'll blame them if the quotes are wrong.

5                   I'm not running for any office.   I  
6     haven't held an office in the past.   I'm a  
7     senior citizen on a fixed income.   I'm not an  
8     attorney getting \$350 an hour to be here today.  
9     I agree with everything everybody said so far  
10    concerning the fact that we are in an  
11    inappropriate setting for not allowing the  
12    majority of the people in this area to present  
13    their feelings on these issues.

14                  Do not be deceived.   We are at a  
15    tipping point.   Now, today's hearing was not on  
16    just one rate increase, but it's on four rate  
17    increases, and these haven't been addressed.  
18    Not only do they want an increase for delivery  
19    rate, they want -- which will add to your bill,  
20    they want an extra fee of 90 cents per year  
21    starting this next year for meter reading.

22                  The utility company's also proposing  
23    a \$126.3 million plan to retrofit meters.  
24    They're also planning to have their pipelines  
25    increased.   Also we have talked about -- today

1 about this flat rate that no matter what your  
2 usage is you will be charged a flat rate.

3 We are at a tipping point. In this  
4 part of Ohio, the average wage is \$10 an hour.  
5 Now, what makes that so high in this area is the  
6 fact that we have the university, a lot of  
7 government workers. We have many seniors. In  
8 Struthers our senior population is 62 percent.  
9 That means people on fixed incomes.

10 I am concerned about this increase  
11 for a flat rate, but more than that I am  
12 concerned about the fact that natural gas prices  
13 have gone up 57 percent since January. If we  
14 take the figure from last year in July, again  
15 from "The Vindicator" and we add it up, the  
16 increase since last July is 78 percent.

17 "The Vindicator" says that the  
18 utility company made \$60 billion last year. Not  
19 million, billion. I know that they have  
20 investors. I know that there's a pension fund  
21 out there supported by the utility companies. I  
22 know there's people that have stock in the  
23 company. But they better start buying caskets  
24 with this money that they're making because we  
25 have a situation in this area where people have



1 conserved all they can. Most of the thermostats  
2 are down to 65 degrees or lower.

3 This winter with the natural gas  
4 prices, we're going to be looking at almost  
5 double of what you paid last year, in addition  
6 to these increases that they want, not only in  
7 the flat rate, but in your meter reading and  
8 your delivery charges.

9 I don't know if anyone noticed the  
10 obituaries this past year, but we have the  
11 deaths in February and March from a lot of  
12 senior citizens that died due to pneumonia.  
13 This year we're going to be looking at more.  
14 The people in this area cannot afford what  
15 they're going to be charging for natural gas,  
16 let alone for any type of increase.

17 I'm -- I'm disheartened that the  
18 mayor is not here. The mayors of all the  
19 communities should be here because of the fact  
20 that senior citizens having to pay for the  
21 natural gas costs and other fee increases will  
22 not be able to make their home payments. If you  
23 think you've seen a lot of foreclosures in this  
24 area so far, wait six months. Wait until we get  
25 into this cold winter and you see what the costs

1 are for natural gas and these increases.

2 Ladies and gentlemen, do not be  
3 deceived. We are at a tipping point and this is  
4 going to be the tip, the natural gas cost.  
5 Thank you.

6 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you. Is  
7 there anyone else who did not get a chance to  
8 sign up? Please come forward.

9 **MR. MAJORS:** How are you doing?  
10 My name is Kevin Majors. I currently reside at  
11 25 Indiana Avenue, Youngstown, Ohio 44505. Last  
12 name is spelled M-a-j-o-r-s.

13 (Thereupon, Mr. Majors was sworn.)

14 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you.

15 **MR. MAJORS:** First off I would  
16 like to say that I'm opposed to any increase in  
17 the gas charges, whether it be for the price of  
18 the gas, the price of the transportation on the  
19 gas or anything else.

20 I do agree with several of the things  
21 that a lot of the other people said here today.  
22 The gentleman that works for the gas company, I  
23 wish he would have stayed so we could have had a  
24 little conversation afterwards. I'm not sure.  
25 I'm understanding that, yes, he would like to

1 secure his job. I can understand that all of  
2 the pipes are bad in certain areas which makes  
3 sense.

4 But a couple of points. Mr. Zordich,  
5 as far as with him saying the gas and the  
6 increases, all those things are correct. The  
7 majority of people just arbitrarily just try and  
8 pay their bill, try. I say "try" because  
9 there's several people that are on the budget.

10 The budget was mentioned here today,  
11 and some people know what that is, some people  
12 don't. They have a budget because some people  
13 already can't pay to heat their homes.

14 Three and four, the one elderly lady,  
15 she said she thinks they're saying 17.50  
16 hopefully, hey, everybody will be satisfied with  
17 \$9. Hopefully let's steal that and ask for the  
18 moon and hopefully you'll still grab the star.  
19 If you ask for 17.50 and get 9, you still got  
20 some profit. Hopefully this doesn't fall on  
21 deaf ears and they still give some sort of  
22 increase.

23 Let's see what I got here. Yes, I do  
24 agree that, you know, the forum at 2 p.m. -- the  
25 majority of my friends are at work right now. I

1    happen to have a job to where I work nights so I  
2    was able to be here, but the majority of my  
3    friends -- and I do believe probably looking  
4    from everyone who has spoken in this room today  
5    I am the youngest person who has said anything  
6    in this room, so I do believe more young people  
7    would have been here.

8                   Mr. Teague mentioned, you know, the  
9    grandkids and great grandkids and what are they  
10   going to have? The fixed income thing has also  
11   been mentioned. The majority of people's income  
12   is fixed. I understand retired and, you know,  
13   not having a job. I didn't get any raise this  
14   year that I know of, but I do have employment  
15   and make more than some people on, you know,  
16   retirement incomes.

17                   The other young man mentioned  
18   Generous Motors. You know, some of the retirees  
19   at Generous Motors and Packard and other places  
20   are fortunate to have those jobs going to work  
21   every day. So these people, you know, if you're  
22   struggling and they're here, you know, with  
23   those -- like the gentleman said, I fortunately  
24   have a good job. I'm not going to present any  
25   anger at this young man that's representing

1 Dominion or you because hopefully this doesn't  
2 fall on deaf ears and you're not actually the  
3 Commission, as everyone has stated. But  
4 presenting anger doesn't get anything solved, in  
5 my opinion. That's just the way that kind of  
6 works.

7 I do understand the way business  
8 works. Everyone gets into business to make a  
9 profit. So with making a profit, and I don't  
10 know if those facts of 60 million or billion is  
11 actually their profit, but who owns the lines  
12 that we're trying to replace? Is it Dominion?  
13 Is it the state? Why should the people have to  
14 pay for the replacement of those lines with the  
15 administrative fees?

16 And the gentleman that works for  
17 Dominion, it has been explained through customer  
18 representatives, and he broke down what charges  
19 are a portion of that 5.70, I have personally  
20 been told on the phone that this is for reading  
21 your bill and sending the bill out. So that's  
22 not, you know, a misnomer. That is what has  
23 been told to me on the phone by a Dominion  
24 representative.

25 Because I'm going, "Okay, I didn't

1 use any gas, the gas is -- the meter's turned  
2 off, the pilot lights are out. How come this  
3 5.70 is still" -- "Well, that's for sending you  
4 this bill." "For zero usage?" "Yeah." "Well,  
5 come turn the meter off."

6 And like the other gentleman said,  
7 there is a four-hour window as far as when they  
8 come someone needs to be there. If you do new  
9 construction on a home and there is no  
10 appliances, they still need to come into your  
11 house and see that you have no appliances.

12 Now, I understand the rules and the  
13 dangers of gas in the neighborhood and blowing  
14 up, but if it's new construction and you can see  
15 and understand that there's nothing there,  
16 there's no appliances, why can't you turn the  
17 meter on so we can put in appliances to turn  
18 them on to test the gas? But nevertheless two  
19 trips, four hours out of my day. I do work.  
20 Two days, that's eight hours. That's a whole  
21 day's pay. A lot of those things make sense.

22 Lastly here, I just would like to say  
23 thanks, you know, for my time. Thanks.

24 **MS. PIRIK:** Thank you very  
25 much. Is there anyone else?

1                   **MS. DOLES:**           I forgot to add  
2 something.

3                   **MS. PIRIK:**           You may come  
4 forward and finish, yes. That's Ms. Doles.

5                   **MS. DOLES:**           Yes. My name is  
6 Francis Maxine Doles. I don't want to be an  
7 alarmist, but when I said there was a tipping  
8 point, not only because of the bills and the  
9 increases, but I want to mention that it -- when  
10 you get your bill, there is a little part of it  
11 that says if you would like to donate to help  
12 people pay their bill, please enclose an extra  
13 dollar, \$5, \$10, 20, whatever the case may be.

14                   I don't know anyone that does that  
15 because they can barely pay their bills. They  
16 can barely pay the budget plan. We have a  
17 situation in this area where there are seven  
18 entities that can help people pay their bills  
19 that have low income. HEAP is out of money.

20                   The federal government was supposed  
21 to meet and have a session that would nearly  
22 double federal aid to help the poor pay heating  
23 and air conditioning bills and they decided not  
24 to discuss that, but instead to discuss offshore  
25 drilling. So take that up with your Congressman

1 or your Representative that is in Washington.

2 But the point is I called seven  
3 agencies in this area and was told that five out  
4 of the seven do not have any money available,  
5 whether it be from state or federal aid, to help  
6 anybody in the Mahoning County this winter with  
7 heating costs unless something is done through  
8 Congress in Washington, D.C. or through Governor  
9 Strickland in getting more funding. That's why  
10 we are at a tipping point, ladies and gentlemen.  
11 Thank you.

12 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. Is  
13 there anyone else? Yes. State your name and  
14 address for the record.

15 MR. RICHBERG: Vernard Richberg.  
16 It's 1417 5th Avenue.

17 MS. PIRIK: Is that in  
18 Youngstown?

19 MR. RICHBERG: Yes, it is.

20 MS. PIRIK: I just wanted to be  
21 sure.

22 (Thereupon, Mr. Richberg was sworn.)

23 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. And  
24 you'll need to talk really close to the  
25 microphone so those in the back can hear you.



1                   **MR. RICHBERG:**       Okay. How's that?  
2     I'm sure you've heard this a thousand times  
3     today. I think that this application to  
4     increase the rates would adversely effect people  
5     of this city. I think it's just a travesty that  
6     they would call an increase of -- I don't even  
7     know what the percentage increase is, but it's  
8     huge. I'm incredibly taken back by the fact  
9     that we would make such a jump. I've heard it  
10    just as I've been sitting here.

11                   I don't think many of the residents  
12    of the City of Youngstown can afford to absorb  
13    this rate increase. And I cannot see how, for  
14    sake of repairing the infrastructure, whatever  
15    carries the pilot lights and all these other  
16    things that I'm reading about, that they can  
17    justify this rate increase.

18                   And I just want to go on record like  
19    so many people here today in front of the  
20    Commission, whoever this is going to get back  
21    to -- you know, I wonder if this will really  
22    impact the decision makers or whoever's  
23    responsible for this increase. But I just  
24    cannot see how such an increase can be justified  
25    and put this on the backs of people just all at

1 once. And my thinking is in a time when we have  
2 record profits from utility companies and oil  
3 companies, I can't help to think that Dominion  
4 is in the business of gouging the people who use  
5 their gas.

6 And, again, I just wanted to go on  
7 record. I don't know what good, you know, my  
8 commentary here is going to rest on the ears of  
9 the people who are in this room, but this is  
10 ridiculous. It's way, way, way too high. I  
11 think as a -- I think Dominion is entitled to a  
12 profit, but not a profit on the backs of people  
13 who are already stressed.

14 And I heard the one lady make the  
15 comment about foreclosures, where you're going  
16 to add to the people on the list of the  
17 foreclosure roles with this increase. There are  
18 numbers of people -- I don't have to preach this  
19 to anybody here. You know the number of people  
20 who are in arrears as it is as we speak.  
21 Dominion and this whole entire exercise will  
22 just add to those numbers of people and I think  
23 it's wrong.

24 And I think it's terribly wrong in  
25 the sense of we've looked at the time when I

1 think of foreclosures and when I think of all  
2 the financial difficulties of people in this  
3 area, Akron, Cleveland wherever, you know, the  
4 losses of jobs, this is just unreal and  
5 unbelievable to me that they would put forward a  
6 rate increase like this at this time with this  
7 huge percentage hike.

8 I can't put it in simpler terms. I  
9 hope that this doesn't fall on deaf ears and I  
10 hope that the people here who represent Dominion  
11 and other people who are associated with this  
12 will hear me and hear me well. This is badly  
13 timed and it's entirely an unjustifiable  
14 increase in my opinion.

15 And I only wish I had time to look at  
16 the -- the investor report that's put out by the  
17 company. And I'm in financial services, so  
18 believe me, with all the things I had to do  
19 today I wanted to come armed with that  
20 information. I can't imagine that Dominion is  
21 not making a profit and making a good and decent  
22 profit.

23 With this infrastructure rebuilding,  
24 this maintenance and all this other malarky that  
25 we hear, I just think it's crazy. And the

1 people of this city and other cities and the  
2 people who use Dominion gas should not be the  
3 scapegoats for Dominion's, you know, rate  
4 increase. You know, get that -- you know, float  
5 a bill, get a general obligation bill, do  
6 something else. Raise something through the  
7 municipal. Do something other than putting this  
8 on the backs of the people. Youngstown and  
9 Akron and all these other cities, the people  
10 here particularly are stressed enough.

11 It's just bad, it's just ill timed  
12 and I don't think it's justified. I think the  
13 people who brought this application before,  
14 whoever it was, I mean you have the time to sit  
15 down and make the justification sound real  
16 pretty, but I think it's -- you know, I'll be  
17 nice about it. I think it's baloney, with a  
18 "B."

19 And I'm sure you heard this today. I  
20 don't want to come here and beat anybody up.  
21 And representing Dominion it takes a lot of  
22 courage to come here today, but I mean how can  
23 we -- how can the Commission or anybody not see  
24 this?

25 That is an incredible huge rate

1 increase and I think it's unprecedented. I've  
2 never heard of a rate increase like this. You  
3 know, to go from 5 to 10 is a hundred percent  
4 increase. From 5 to 15 that's a 200 percent  
5 increase. From 5 to 17, that's a 250 percent  
6 increase. What kind of country are we living  
7 in?

8                   You know, right behind oil companies,  
9 here comes the gas companies. We're crying  
10 about gas. That's just crazy. So somebody  
11 needs to stand up and say enough to corporate  
12 profits.

13                   I mean I'm a business guy. I  
14 understand businesses have to make money, but  
15 this is ridiculous. This makes no sense and I'm  
16 angered by it. This is craziness. Thank you  
17 for your time.

18                   **MS. PIRIK:**           Thank you. Is  
19 there anyone else? Seeing no further witnesses,  
20 I would ask the staff to bring me up the  
21 petition.

22                   Is the petition -- I think we can  
23 leave it there in case anyone who's leaving the  
24 room wants to sign it, but I'm going to mark  
25 this document as Youngstown Exhibit 3, and we

1 will submit that into the record for this  
2 hearing.

3 Are there any objections to the  
4 petition?

5 **MR. SERIO:** No objection, Your  
6 Honor.

7 **MR. CAMPBELL:** No objection.

8 (Thereupon, Youngstown Exhibit 3  
9 of the Dominion East Ohio Case Nos.  
10 07-829-GA-AIR, et al., hearing was  
11 marked for purposes of  
12 identification.)

13 **MS. PIRIK:** Youngstown Exhibit  
14 3, being the petition signed by those  
15 individuals agreeing with the testimony at  
16 today's hearing, will be admitted into the  
17 record.

18 There being no further witnesses, I  
19 will adjourn this hearing, and the record for  
20 this Youngstown hearing will be submitted to the  
21 Commissioners for consideration of these  
22 proceedings. Thank everyone for coming out  
23 tonight.

24 (Thereupon, the proceedings were  
25 concluded at 4:40 o'clock p.m.)

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

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

I, Christina A. Arbogast, a Registered Professional 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 6th day of August, 2008.

  
Christina A. Arbogast, RPR

My commission expires December 7, 2010.

- - -

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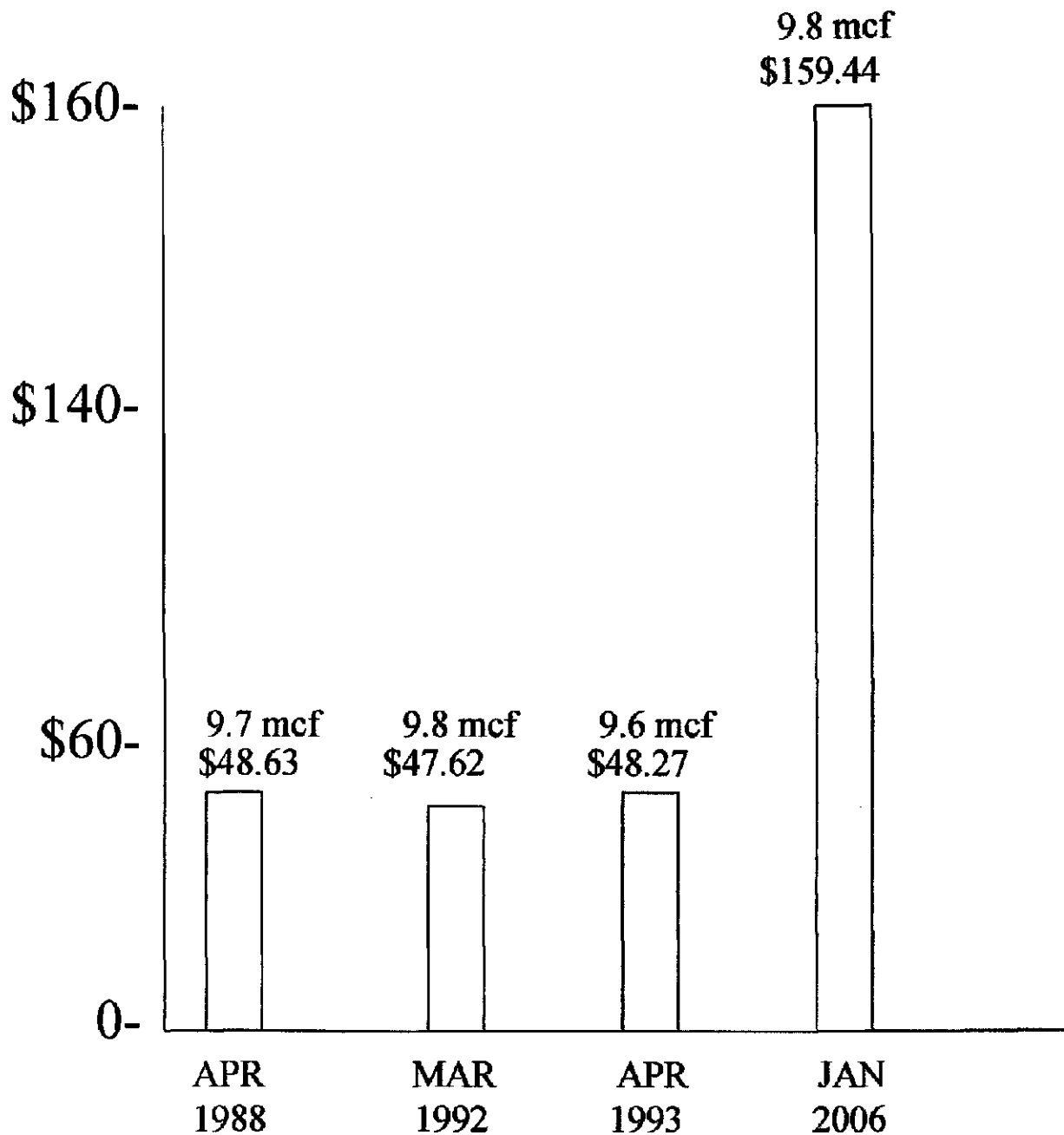
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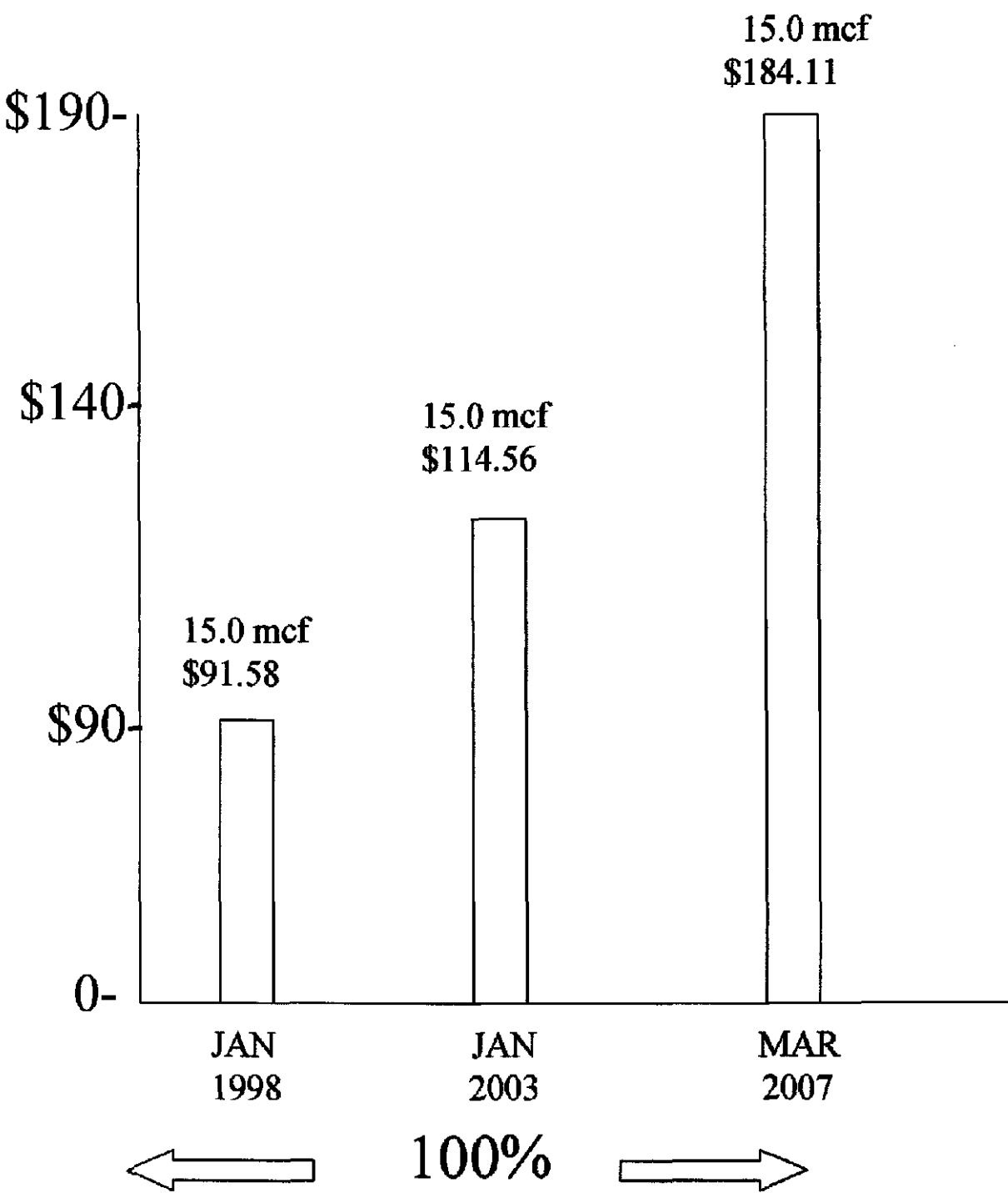
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Gas Cost Usage Breakdown  
236 East Judson Avenue  
Youngstown OH 44507-1936

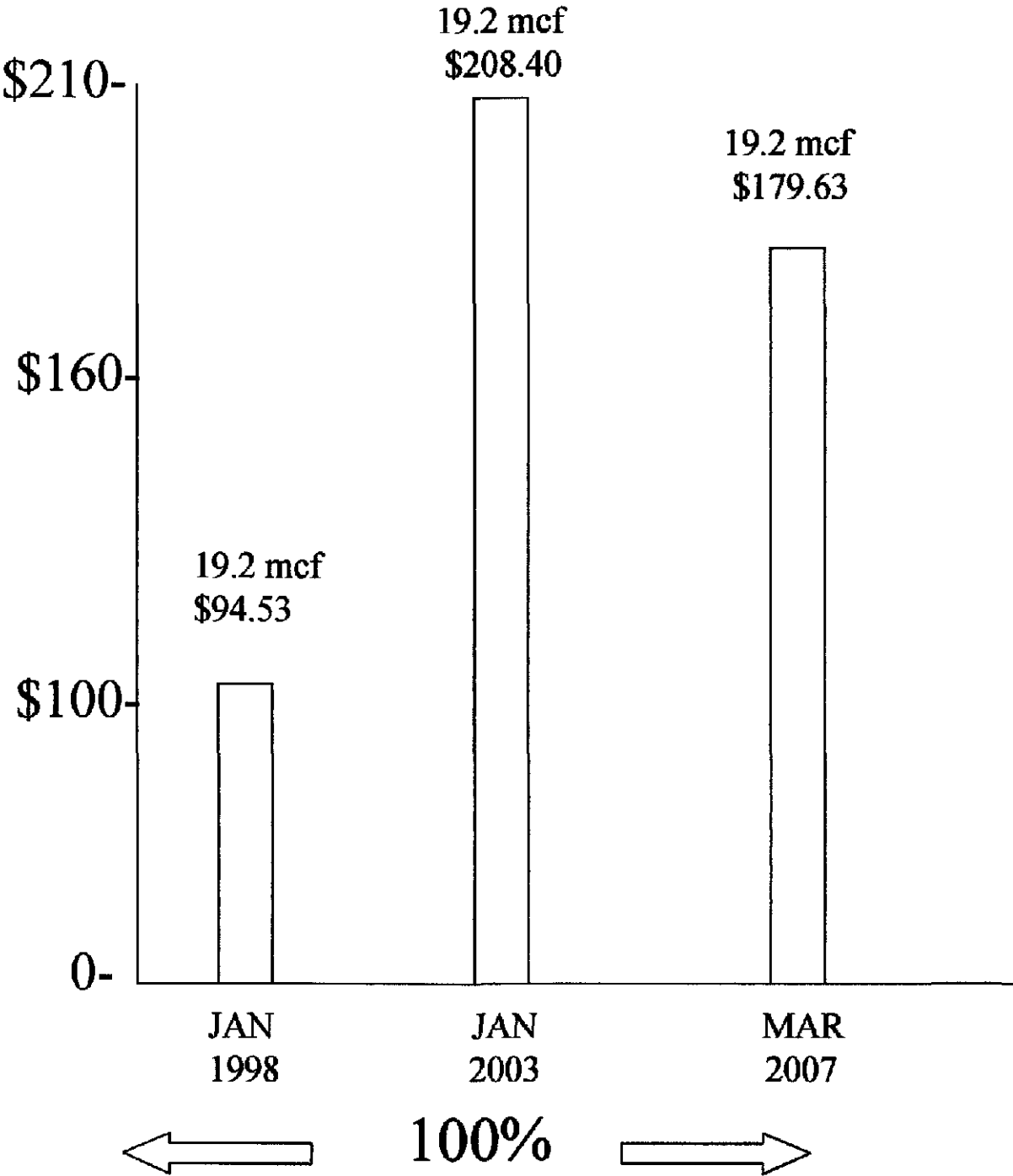


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Gas Cost Usage Breakdown  
236 East Judson Avenue  
Youngstown OH 44507-1936



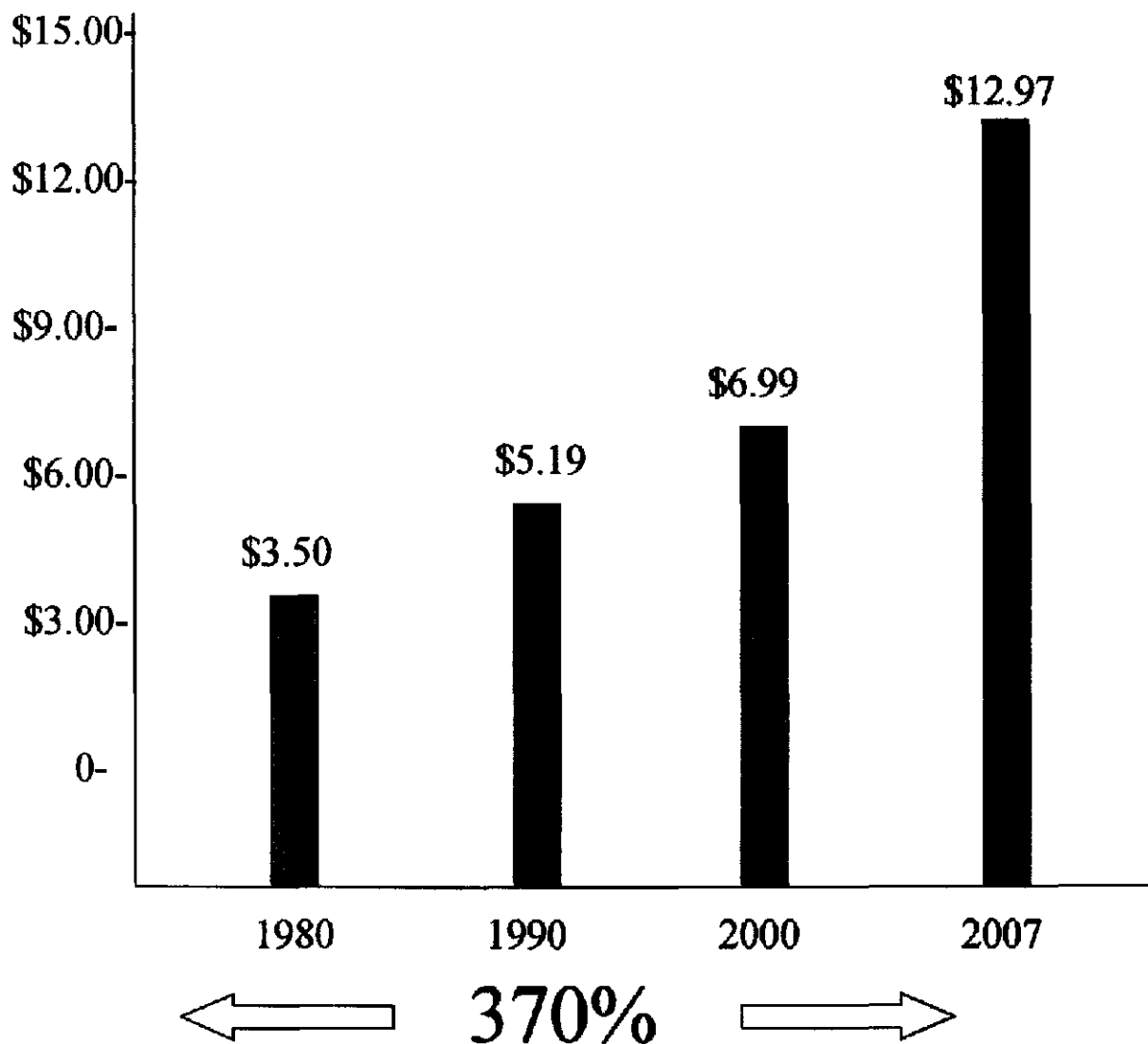
Gas Cost Usage Breakdown  
236 East Judson Avenue  
Youngstown OH 44507-1936





Gas Cost Usage Breakdown  
236 East Judson Avenue  
Youngstown OH 44507-1936

HISTORICAL COST PER MCF



5

[illegible]

6

GAS BILLS OF ZORDICH RESIDENCE, 236 E JUDSON AVE YO OH 44507												
	2005	2005	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998			
JAN	9.37	14.3	12.0	16.0	12.3	19.2	28.4	27.6	15.0			
	159.44	188.15	125.19	114.56	94.69	179.63	160.34	159.39	91.58			
FEB	9.5	13.0	17.9	17.0	11.7	20.9	23.4	11.7	16.2			
	151.33	151.59	181.90	139.42	74.42	228.49	132.74	63.74	95.93			
MAR	8.2	4.7	6.9	13.0	10.4	7.9	12.6	24.4	12.7			
	119.10	58.38	73.62	107.95	66.77	89.92	74.11	126.76	76.44			
APR	3.4	3.8	5.0	4.9	6.2	19.2	11.1	9.3	9.1			
	47.88	51.68	54.92	49.61	42.11	1208.40	65.96	51.84	56.39			
MAY	0.9	2.5	3.7	1.5	4.3	9.3	6.2	6.3	7.7			
	18.02	35.04	39.19	18.05	28.21	28.18	42.06	37.75	51.96			
JUN	0.9	0.9	0.9	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.1	3.9	1.7			
	16.32	\$15.63	13.84	16.39	11.96	17.31	12.15	25.54	14.08			
JUL	0.7	1.0	1.4	1.1	1.8	1.1	3	5.3	2.7			
	14.52	17.70	18.55	14.75	16.13	17.48	27.36	32.74	19.01			
AUG	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.2	1.1	1.1	1.2	3.8	0.4			
	15.15	18.09	14.07	18.37	13.22	14.56	15.10	30.73	8.32			
SEP	0.6	0.4	1.3	0.7	0.7	0.6	2	2.5	1.8			
	13.26	11.15	19.27	13.09	10.49	10.53	21.37	18.45	17.49			
OCT	1.5	0.8	2.0	2.7	2.1	3.7	5.6	2.3	3			
	17.95	18.20	28.61	34.22	20.08	35.52	50.36	23.13	25.35			
NOV	5.2	2.8	2.1	2.1	4.8	2.8	3	8.8	7.9			
	84.28	51.10	28.62	26.61	37.27	25.96	32.87	53.62	47.97			
DEC	6.9	12.3	7.4	8.6	12.3	9.0	20.4	11.9	10.3			
	91.87	195.37	90.62	91.33	80.14	70.81	190.49	70.5	60.82			
TOTALS	37.7	57.5	61.4	69.1	68.7	95.9	118	117.8	88.5			
	669.70	790.06	686.40	644.35	504.51	914.77	824.91	688.18	565.34			
\$ OF	16.11	13.74	11.18	9.32	7.34	9.64	6.99	5.84	6.39			

2005

8 ESTIMATE  
4 REMOTE

JAN/FEB

2006

6 ESTIMATE  
5 REMOTE  
1 ACTUAL

2007

6 ESTIMATE  
6 REMOTE

(7)

GAS BILLS OF ZORDICH RESIDENCE, 236 E JUDSON AVE YO OH 44507												
	1997	1996	1995	1994	1993	1992	1991	1990	1989	1988	1987	1986
JAN	19.5	20	19.7	18.2	18	17.9	17	25.4	19.9	21.7	19.2	23.9
	115.31	96.26	102.43	100.07	70.81	83.79	82.28	126.11	98.98	101.95	94.53	121.08
FEB	16.9	26	20.4	30.1	16.8	19.5	16.3	13.7	17.8	18.1	18.9	16.8
	108.03	123.04	100.74	161.28	82.16	90.51	78.71	69.14	90.01	87.03	91.11	87.46
MAR	14.8	17.5	12.5	16.1	20.5	9.8	15.6	13.4	16.1	16.3	16.6	16
	92.8	84.86	63.94	88.26	98.21	47.62	75.51	67.72	81.82	87.95	76.61	84.46
APR	7.7	11.8	10.8	10.4	9.6	12.9	4	10.3	11.8	9.7	10.6	8.5
	51.01	58.95	56.02	58.53	48.27	61.32	22.36	53.04	60.74	48.63	53.42	46.87
MAY	2.2	6.1	4.8	5.5	4	5	7.7	5.3	7.4	7.1	6.3	6.3
	18.59	34.94	27.75	32.20	23.07	24.96	39.44	29.14	39.32	36.61	32.75	31.28
JUN	1.3	4.3	2	3.2	3.6	2.8	1.6	2.6	2	3.1	3.4	3
	13.32	26.33	14.89	20.53	21.18	15.86	11.52	16.48	13.75	18.34	19.85	19.57
JUL	2.7	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.7	2.7	3.1	2.7	2.8	2.7	2.6	2.9
	21.52	18.65	19.02	19.01	16.98	15.44	18.31	16.95	17.54	16.57	16.73	19.06
AUG	0.6	5.5	0.2	0.3	0.7	3.3	0	0.5	0.2	3.0	2.7	2.5
	8.57	44.96	6.62	6.76	7.87	22.18	4.28	6.61	6.26	18.33	16.63	16.63
SEP	1.8	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.6	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.1	2.5	3.7	2.8
	16.06	15.77	12.57	10.71	12.48	10.46	10.09	10.79	9.71	15.99	21.21	18.00
OCT	2.3	3.1	2.1	2	2.7	3.5	3.5	3.8	4.1	4.3	5.7	3.5
	18.92	23.07	15.32	14.17	18.12	18.71	19.92	18.22	24.48	24.41	30.36	21.43
NOV	10.2	9	10.8	5.1	6.7	8.9	8.8	6.5	6.7	10.2	8.1	6.7
	64.1	55.80	54.06	30.74	39.54	43.75	43.37	34.11	36.41	62.82	40.74	30.77
DEC	18.4	14.2	17	14.4	13.8	16.3	11.4	12.2	17.9	missing	13.2	14.7
	111.04	84.75	81.83	76.40	75.86	72.14	64.92	60.25	90.13		63.69	72.59
TOTALS	98.3	122	104.7	109.5	97.5	103.1	90.3	97.8	107.8	100.7	109.9	105.4
	639.26	666.22	555.19	617.65	514.53	506.73	460.73	508.49	569.13	508.67	557.41	569.11
\$ CF	6.5	5.46	5.3	5.64	5.27	4.6	5.1	5.19	5.27	5.05	5.07	5.39

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GAS BILLS OF ZORDICH RESIDENCE, 236 E JUDSON AVE YO OH 44607												
	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977			
JAN	11.7	21.1	16.1	94.28	28.3	19.1	29.3	37.5				
	63.75	116.64	87.07	94.28	97.6	63.39	68.87	75.67				
FEB	19.7	26.9	20	25	21.5	33	24.1	36				
	103.69	137.84	106.67	93.33	77.35	108.63	57.11	74.99				
MAR	4	17	17	21	21.3	14.5	24.7	32.4				
	24.46	88.69	91.36	79.00	76.58	49.18	80.00	68.59				
APR	28	14	14	20	11.5	15.1	12.7	21.2				
	145.57	73.79	75.95	75.42	43.00	48.74	33.58	45.99				
MAY	5	8	7.7	2	8.6	6	8	1.7				
	29.78	45.18	44.40	12.12	31.13	22.81	22.24	8.27				
JUN	4.6	5	4.5	3.5	4	3	3.5	MISSING	0.2			
	27.74	29.85	27.62	18.37	16.35	12.45	11.14		0.49			
JUL	2.2	2.8	3.5	3.7	2.7	3.5	3.4	4.6	SEE			
	15.60	18.60	22.36	19.21	12.18	14.19	11.48	11.99	BELOW			
AUG	3.4	2.5	3.2	1.9	2.8	3.7	MISSING	MISSING	16.2			
	21.96	16.46	20.14	12.02	12.62	15.75			36.08			
SEP	3.2	2.8	3	6	0.9	2.1	14.1	6.1	8.2			
	20.92	17.92	19.7	30.87	6.75	10.56	42.68	17.19	18.12			
OCT	4.4	4.5	5.6	4.4	10.3	4.6	9.3	3.1	1.4			
	27.16	26.21	27.47	23.74	35.08	18.98	27.78	8.78	4.91			
NOV	6.4	6.6	4.7	10.9	11.6	11.3	7.3	11.2	13.9			
	35.56	37.83	29.26	60.24	42.02	41.07	26.36	25.82	30.17			
DEC	13.6	21	16.6	15.7	17	17.9	15.3	20.4	MISSING			
	70.74	111.02	92.51	85.01	61.59	63.02	51.34	47.95				
TOTALS	106.2	132.2	115.9	138.8	140.5	133.8	151.7	174.2	39.9			
	586.83	720.03	654.53	603.61	512.25	456.75	412.68	385.44	90.77			
\$ CF	5.62	5.44	5.64	4.34	3.64	3.5	2.71	2.21	2.27			

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has assigned for public hearing at this time and place Case Nos. 07-829-GA-AIR, 07-830-GA-ALT, 07-831-GA-AAM, 08-169-GA-ALT, and 06-1453-GA-UNC, which are captioned, In the Matter of the Application of The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion East Ohio for Authority to Increase Rates for its Gas Distribution Service and other Related Matters.

I was present at the local public hearing held in Youngstown, Ohio, on Monday, July 28, 2008. I am opposed to the company's proposal for the reasons expressed by those who already testified.

Name (Please print)	Address
<del>Diana Spangenberg</del> <del>Marianne Spangenberg</del>	4035 Dover Rd Yo, OH 44511
<del>Susie Beierstorfer</del> <del>Emmie Beierstorfer</del>	359 Bradley Lane Yo, OH 44504
<del>Carmela Pasa</del> <del>Carmela Pasa</del>	1835 Colorado Ave Yo OH 44504
<del>Theresa Kechler</del> <del>Theresa Kechler</del>	1411 Fifth Ave, Yo. OH 44504
<del>John Kechler</del> <del>John Kechler</del>	1411 Fifth Ave, Yo OH 44504
BABARA L. BALOG	7630 East Parkside Yo OH 44512
JAIN SAVAGE	4060 BAYMAR DR. Yo, OH 44511
RUTHA M. MITCHELL	1463 Ford Ave Yo, OH 44504
Annie Harris	6475 Rachelen Ave. Hubbard, OH 44425
Jacqueline Purley	3130 Oak St. Ert. C.p. Ohio 44505
<del>Margaret Thompson</del>	3227 Shirley Rd. Young OH 44502
Joseph Berroteran	1856 Selma Ave Youngstown 44504
Samuel Taylor	108 GREELEY LN YOUNGSTOWN OH. 44505
Martine M. Simon	3833 Mercedes Pl Confield OH 44406
Adelaine FIELDS	473 REDONSO RD Yo. OH 44504
Crystal Carpenter	307 E. Jackson Ave Yo OH 44507
Joe Louis League	443 W. Evergreen Yonah. 44511
Timothy A. Field	2908 Lincoln St Struthers OH 44471
DANA MURAR	1707 PRINCEVIEW AV. YO. OH. 44502
Ethel Cook	127 N Hazelwood Yo 44509
Tony Stocken	510 Brandon Ave. Stuthers OH 44471
Sylvia Edwards	601 E. Westview Reservoir Poland 44514

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Name (Please print)	Address
Rochelle Hancock	755 E. President Dr. Boardman, Ohio 44012
JANICE M. FERRY	1351 COUNTRY CLUB DR. Y.O. 44504
Ruth NARR	1443 ST. ALBANS DR Y.O. 2844511
Carolyn P. Alli	871 Sunshine St - Y.O. - OH 44505
Leland D. White	1782 NOVA Lane Poland, OH 44514
Thomas Harris	6475 Brackleton Hubbard 44425
June Ewing	456 Bradley Lane, Y.O. OH 44504
James A. Rogers	304 BRACE ST NILES, OH 44446
Joseph Taylor	556 ST. Louis Ave. Y.O. OH
William Crum	1988 East High Ave. Y.O. 44505
Margo Crum-Keith	1120 Charlotte Ave. Y.O. 44506
Reggie James	3795 Bayview Dr. Y.O. 44511
Virginia Morgan	26 Orchard Dr, Y.O. OH 44514
Shelley Sinton	2910 Burbank Ave (Y.O. OH 44509
ALVIN E. WYNN	3610 Villa Roma Dr Canfield, OH 44406
EARLINE CUIETIS	1798 Woodland Tr - AUSTINTOWN, OH 44515
Patricia Collins	463 Sunshiner Ave. Y.O. 44505
Bertha Smith	738 Breckwood Ave - Y.O. OH 44511
Beverly Bryant	4361 Devonshire Y.O. 44512
Theresa Brown	3219 N. Truesdale Y.O. 44506
William Williams	726 Delacorte Y.O. 44510
Sylvia Edwards	6016 E. Western Reserve Rd Poland 44514

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Name (Please print)	Address
JOHN R. SWIERZ	1641 Bancroft Ave Yo Oh 44514
MARJORIE JONES	400 W. WARREN AVE Yo Oh 44511
JOHN DOBOS	630 PENTHALE CAMPBELL 44405
JOHN IHNAT	6105 CIRCLE DR. POLAND OH 44514
ANDY IHNAT	615 PENTHALE AVE Campbell 44405
Jimmie L. Gilliam	1724 Kimmel, Youngstown OH 44505
HELENNIE L. DAVIS	4098 East lawn HVE. Youngstown OH 44505
Richard DeLuca	42 W. The last GRUCERS OH 44477
DYANE RODNEY	3643 MAPLE SPRING - CANFIELD, OH 44406
WILLIAM RODNEY	3643 MAPLE SPRING DR. CANFIELD OHIO 44406
Sylvia Edwards	601 E. Western Reserve Rd - Poland OH 44514
Corvelous Payne	3022 MITCHELL, YO. OH 44505
Jermaine Speckle	3405 KIMMEL R. YO OH 44511
WILLIAM L. BARNES	3405 KIMMEL R. YO OH 44511
Madonna Puk and	130 Adams Ct. Cortland 44410
Sandra Slawina	2143 Cranbrook Dr. Yo. OH 44511
John Redue	2122 Rosedale Ave Yo OH 44511
John P. Burley	907 Pearson #4 Bldg 44512
John P. Burley	907 Pearson #4 Bldg 44512
Willie Thomas	
844 Parkview	
Yo Ohio 44511	

Ken Foley

DOROTHY SNOVAR (HIRE)

3225 Quentin dr. Youngstown Oh. 44511

1936 WAKEFIELD WINGSTOWN OH 44514



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[illegible]

Youngstown

**NUCO**

① Dominion East Ohio Gas

07-829-6A-AIR

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

NAME

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

X CHARLES LANDFINGER 4743 NEW RD. AUSTINTOWN OH 44575

X DOROTHY SNOVAK - 1936 WAREFIELD YO. OH. 44511

X ALAN NABO

X JAN SHEARS

X JOHN SLANINA 2193 CREAMBROOK 44511

X BOB HIGAN - STATE REP D. 60 YO. OH 44514

X ~~Letson~~ Rep

8 X Jerome M. Wall 1820 Wagon Dr. Yo. OH 44511

9 X URSULA UKASIMOVICH 1609 WESTON YO. OH 44514

10 X HERMAN P. STARK 3540 Ohio Trail " 44505

11 X GEORGE ARKWRIGHT 703 BIRCH HILL DR 44509

12 X E. P. YAVORCIC 2909 Shirley Rd. Yo. Ohio

13 X ~~Call again~~ JOHN R. REED 433 MANNING WARREN, OHIO

14 X DENNIS S. SPIBAK 548 PULANO AVE STRUTHERS, OHIO 44571

15 X JOE JOHN TEAGUE 443 W. EUGENE YOUNGSTOWN OHIO 44511

Youngstown

**NUCO**

Case No.

Dominion East Ohio ②

Location

07-829-6A-AIR

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

NAME

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

⑬ ~~X~~ LYNN ANDERSON ~~523~~

⑭ ~~X~~ JA YABLONSKI

5631 Gam Mln 44515

⑮ ~~X~~ Eliz Feetsont

3613 K.owa 44511

⑯ ~~X~~ John ZORDICH

236 E Judson Ave 44507

⑰ ~~X~~ FRED J. CAPOGRECO

⑱ ~~X~~ Kay Lavelle  
Senior Services Coordinator

Mahoning County Sheriff's Off.

⑲ ~~X~~ James Villani

4866 Brookwood Rd 44512

⑳ ~~X~~ Jim Winslow

YMHA

㉑ ~~X~~ Rodney Sudinak

10.

㉒ ~~X~~ GEORGE HOLKO

215

12.

13.

14.



Dominion EAST OH (3)  
07-869-6A-AIR

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

NAME

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

(23) X John Tucker 4259 CARLISLE AVE  
Yo OH 44511-1030

(24) X Rich De Luca 42 Wilhelm St  
STRUTTERS Q110

not here  
TRUMBULL COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
Paulette Godfrey 160 HIGH ST, N.W.  
Paulette Godfrey WARREN, OH 44481

(25) X Arnold Banzak

(26) X Doc Medd CEO 102 Townsend Trail  
Area Agency on Aging 11 Corbush OH 44410

(27) X THOMAS ENSLEY 37 E PARK HUBBARD, OH 44425

(28) X Thelma / SURROUGHS 349 N TRUESDALE  
Yo. OH 44506

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

Youngstown Ex. 2

Jim Villani  
Citizen

330-747-6932 off  
330-788-6107 res

### DOMINION EAST OHIO FLAT RATE PROPOSAL

Dominion East Ohio's Flat Rate proposal, \$17.50 per month regardless of consumption, has two fundamental inadequacies as energy distribution policy.

1.) Such policy will not encourage conservation, which is essential if we, as a society, are to reduce our carbon footprint.

2.) Such policy will oblige the small and conserving user to finance the consumptive habit of the larger users, some of whom may actually see their bills decrease.

To instrument a policy that discourages conservation and unfairly burdens the working and poorer consumer with an obligation to finance some portion of the larger and commercial users' consumption is a policy that could invite social unrest.

