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November 28, 2008

RE: Dominion East Ohio: 07-0829-GA-AIR

FILE

Dear PUCO Commissioners,

As a Northeast Ohio customer of Dominion East Ohio I am concerned about the rates that have been recently approved and are now applicable. It's bad enough that the natural gas prices will increase substantially this winter, but the base rates have increased as well in what seems to be a disproportionate and unfair way. The impact this will have on low income customers and on senior citizens on fixed incomes will no doubt be adverse. Their money only goes so far.

Regarding the straight-fixed variable rate it seems to me to be a contradiction in terms. Fixed means one thing and variable means something else. How can it be a combination of both? The explanation (if you can call

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it that) is that the major utilities would raise the fixed rate charged to consumers regardless of the amount of natural gas that is used. How can you justify the fact that low usage customers will be paying the same fixed rate for their natural gas as heavy volume users? It is unfair that those who reside in smaller homes should subsidize the cost for residents of large luxury homes for the delivery portion of their bills.

I hope for an appeal by the Ohio Consumers Council that would result in the PUCO taking a closer look at the rate structures and making changes that would be fair and equitable to both the natural gas companies and AHL of its customers.

Thank you,
Beverly Batista
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