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**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

**In the Matter of the Application of Columbia)
Gas of Ohio, Inc., for Approval of a General) Case No. 08-1344-GA-EXM
Exemption Of Certain Natural Gas Commodity)
Sales Services or Ancillary Services.)**

**MOTION TO INTERVENE OF
THE OHIO GAS MARKETERS GROUP**

Now comes the Ohio Gas Marketers Group ("OGMG") pursuant to Section 4903.221, Revised Code and Rule 4901-1-11 of the Ohio Administrative Code ("OAC"), and moves for intervention in the above styled docket as a full party of record. The OGMG is an ad hoc coalition of seven PUCO certified gas marketers: Commerce Energy of Ohio, Inc.; Direct Energy Services, LLC; Hess Corporation; Integrys Energy Services, Inc. Interstate Gas Supply, Inc.; SouthStar Energy Services LLC; and Vectren Retail LLC d/b/a Vectren Source. The OGMG and its members have a real and substantial interest in this matter for the reasons set forth in the accompanying memorandum in support.

WHEREFORE, for the reasons stated below, the OGMG and its members individually each seek to intervene and become a full party of record.

Respectfully Submitted,

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

The Ohio Gas Marketers Group ("OGMG") is an association of competitive retail natural gas suppliers who are active in Ohio. The OGMG and or its members have actively participated in the Columbia Stakeholder process for more than a decade and have intervened in all the major Columbia rate proceedings during that period. This includes Case No. 05-221-GA-GCR, which ended in a Stipulation that required Columbia prior to February 1, 2009 to file an application that featured a supply auction to procure gas for the standard service offer and changes to the Choice program. On January 30, 2009, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. ("Columbia") filed such an Application pursuant to Section 4929.04, Revised Code. The application seeks approval of a general exemption of certain natural gas commodity sales services or ancillary services contained in Chapters 4905, 4909, and 4935, Revised Code. In addition, Columbia has requested approval of a proposed rider pursuant to Section 4929.11, Revised Code.

The standards for intervention in proceedings before this Commission are set forth in Section 4903.221, Revised Code, and Rule 4901-1-11 of the Ohio Administrative Code. Section 4903.221, Revised Code, provides that the Commission, in ruling upon applications to intervene in its proceedings shall consider the following criteria:

- (1) The nature and legal extent of the prospective intervenor's interest;
- (2) The legal position advanced by the prospective intervenor and its probable relation to the merits of the case;
- (3) Whether the intervention by the prospective intervenor will unduly prolong or delay the proceedings; and
- (4) Whether the prospective intervenor will significantly contribute to the full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues.

Rule 4901-1-11 of the Ohio Administrative Code provides that upon timely motion, any person may be permitted to intervene in a proceeding upon a showing that the person has a real and substantial interest in the proceeding and that in making such an evaluation, the Commission may consider:

- (1) The nature of the person's interest;
- (2) The extent to which the person's interest is represented by existing parties;
- (3) The person's potential contribution to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues involved in the proceeding; and
- (4) Whether granting the requested intervention would unduly delay the proceeding or unjustly prejudice any existing party.

Each of the members of OGMG is a licensed competitive retail natural gas supplier who is active in Ohio. Commerce Energy, Inc.; Direct Energy Services, LLC; Hess Corporation; Integrys Energy Services, Inc., Interstate Gas Supply, Inc.; and Vectren Retail LLC each has retail customers in the Columbia Gas of Ohio service area. Each of the members of the OGMG and their respective retail customers will be affected by the outcome of this proceeding, as the application addresses such fundamental aspects

of the Choice program as eligibility for Choice and General Transportation, bank and balancing of gas supplies, and capacity assignment to Competitive Retail Natural Gas Supply providers in the Choice program. The OGMG and its members will be directly affected by these changes and thus have a real and substantial interests in this case. Such interests are not adequately protected by other intervenors. Further, the OGMG by working collaboratively together to jointly present mutually held positions will help streamline the hearing process by avoiding redundant testimony and assist the Commission assess the impact of the Choice program changes on the market.


Finally, as noted above the Application calls for the first procurement auction to be held by any of Columbia Gas Distribution Companies. The OGMG was an active participant in the recent Commission proceedings that authorized the auctions conducted this past year by the Dominion East Ohio Company and Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio. Further, many of the OGMG members were active participants in those auctions and are likely to participate in the Columbia auction. Thus, the OGMG will provide useful expertise to the review of the proposed auction terms.

In sum, the participation of the OGMG members as individual intervenors consolidating to the extent possible their collective positions will contribute to a just and expeditious resolution of the issues presented by the Application in the matter at bar. Further it will enhance rather than delay the proceeding and will not unjustly prejudice any existing party.

WHEREFORE, the OGMG and its members individually each seek leave to intervene and become a full party of record.

Respectfully submitted,

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and Vectren Retail LLC dba Vectren Source

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a copy of the foregoing Motion to Intervene was served via email where applicable and/or via first class U.S. mail, postage prepaid, this 13th day of March, 2009, upon the following persons.



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