

FILE

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of)
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of) Case No. 11-5351-GA-UNC
to Implement a Capital Expenditure Program.)

In the Matter of the Application of)
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval) Case No. 11-5352-GA-AAM
to Change Accounting Methods.)

OHIO PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE ENERGY'S
MOTION TO INTERVENE AND MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy ("OPAE") hereby respectfully moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") for leave to intervene in the above-captioned matters pursuant to R.C. §4903.221 and Section 4901-1-11 of the Commission's Code of Rules and Regulations, with full powers and rights granted by the Commission specifically, by statute or by the provisions of the Commission's Code of Rules and Regulations to intervening parties. The reasons for granting this motion to intervene are contained in the memorandum attached hereto and incorporated herein.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen L. Mooney

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO INTERVENE

Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy ("OPAE") should be permitted to intervene in these matters pursuant to Section 4903.22.1, Revised Code, and the Commission's Rules and Regulations contained in Rule 4901-1-11 of the Ohio Administrative Code. The above-referenced applications made by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. ("Columbia") request approval to implement a \$76 million capital expenditure program that may impact the rates paid by residential and small commercial customers and a change in accounting methods.

In determining whether to permit intervention, the following criteria are to be considered: the nature of the person's interest; the extent to which that interest is represented by existing parties; the person's potential contribution to a just and expeditious resolution of the proceeding; and, whether granting the intervention will unduly delay or unjustly prejudice any existing party. OPAE meets all four criteria for intervention in these matters.

OPAE is an Ohio corporation with a stated purpose of advocating for affordable energy policies for low and moderate income Ohioans; as such, OPAE has a real and substantial interest in these matters. Additionally, OPAE includes as members non-profit organizations located in the service area that will be affected by

the application.¹ Moreover, many of OPAE's members are community action agencies. Under the federal legislation authorizing the creation and funding of these agencies, originally known as the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, community action agencies are charged with advocating for low-income residents of their communities.²

OPAE also provides essential services in the form of bill payment assistance programs and weatherization and energy efficiency services to low income customers of Columbia. OPAE members are also ratepayers of Columbia.

OPAE's primary interest in this case is to protect the interests of low and moderate income customers and OPAE members whose provision of service will be affected by these applications. Columbia's proposal to implement a \$76 million

¹ A list of OPAE members can be found on the website: www.ohiopartners.org.

² See 42 U.S.C. 672:

The purposes of this subtitle are--

(1) to provide assistance to States and local communities, working through a network of community action agencies and other neighborhood-based organizations, for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities, and the empowerment of low-income families and individuals in rural and urban areas to become fully self-sufficient (particularly families who are attempting to transition off a State program carried out under part A of title IV of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)); and

(2) to accomplish the goals described in paragraph (1) through--

(A) the strengthening of community capabilities for planning and coordinating the use of a broad range of Federal, State, local, and other assistance (including private resources) related to the elimination of poverty, so that this assistance can be used in a manner responsive to local needs and conditions;

(B) the organization of a range of services related to the needs of low-income families and individuals, so that these services may have a measurable and potentially major impact on the causes of poverty in the community and may help the families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency;

(C) the greater use of innovative and effective community-based approaches to attacking the causes and effects of poverty and of community breakdown;

(D) the maximum participation of residents of the low-income communities and members of the groups served by programs assisted through the block grants made under this subtitle to empower such residents and members to respond to the unique problems and needs within their communities; and

(E) the broadening of the resource base of programs directed to the elimination of poverty so as to secure a more active role in the provision of services for--

(i) private, religious, charitable, and neighborhood-based organizations; and

(ii) individual citizens, and business, labor, and professional groups, who are able to influence the quantity and quality of opportunities and services for the poor.

capital expenditure program may impact the rates paid by low-income residential and small commercial customers whom OPAGE represents.

For the above reasons, OPAGE has a direct, real and substantial interest in these matters. The disposition of these matters may impair or impede the ability of OPAGE to protect its interests. No other party to the matters will adequately represent the interests of OPAGE. OPAGE is a rare organization that serves as an advocate, service provider and nonprofit customer group. No other party represents this group of interests. OPAGE's participation in these matters will not cause undue delay, will not unjustly prejudice any existing party, and will contribute to the just and expeditious resolution of the issues raised by these applications.

Therefore, OPAGE is entitled to intervene in these matters with the full powers and rights granted by statute and by the provisions of the Commission's Codes of Rules and Regulations to intervening parties.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Motion to Intervene, Memorandum in Support was served by regular U.S. Mail upon the persons identified below in these cases on this 17th day of October 2011.

Colleen L. Mooney

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