



1 1. Q. Would you please state your name and business address?

2 A. My name is Stephen E. Puican. My business address is 180 East Broad  
3 Street, Columbus, Ohio.

4  
5 2. Q. What is your present employment?

6 A. I am currently employed as Co-Chief of the Rates & Tariffs/Energy &  
7 Water Division in the Utilities Department of the Public Utilities Commis-  
8 sion of Ohio ("PUCO").

9  
10 3. Q. Would you outline your academic and professional qualifications?

11 A. I received a B.A. degree in Economics from Kent State University in 1980  
12 and an M.A. degree in Economics from Ohio State University in 1983. I  
13 was employed by the Ohio Department of Development, Division of  
14 Energy, from May 1983 until October 1985 at which that Division was  
15 incorporated into the PUCO. I have been employed in several positions at  
16 the PUCO since that time and have been Co-Chief of the Rates & Tariffs /  
17 Energy & Water Division since May 2005. Prior to that, I had been Chief  
18 of the Gas and Water Division since 1999. In both my current and previous  
19 positions I have been responsible for oversight of the Utilities Department's  
20 natural gas staff which includes responsibility for all GCR cases, as well as  
21 other areas relating to natural gas such as contracts, certain tariff provisions  
22 and rate case issues. I have also been involved in the development and

1 evolution of Ohio's customer choice programs as well as the transition  
2 from the Gas Cost Recovery commodity pricing mechanism to the Standard  
3 Service Offer (SSO) and Standard Choice Offer (SCO) mechanisms. I have  
4 previously testified in support of the SSO/SCO commodity pricing mecha-  
5 nisms.

6  
7 4. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

8 A. I am testifying in support of the Joint Motion filed on December 28, 2011  
9 to modify Dominion's exemption order to allow a single combined  
10 SSO/SCO auction.

11  
12 5. Q. What is the basis of your support for a combined auction?

13 A. As I testified previously in Case No. 08-1344-GA-EXM involving  
14 Columbia Gas transitioning from an SSO auction to an SCO auction, I con-  
15 tinue to believe the SCO auction brings additional value in terms of a lower  
16 retail price adder than would be in the case of a stand alone SSO auction.  
17 However, the results of the Dominion's 2010 and 2011 auctions did not  
18 result in any difference in the adder between the SSO and SCO compo-  
19 nents. I continue to believe the SCO auction brings additional bidders to  
20 the auction and, as a result, brings a better auction outcome. However,  
21 once bidders are at the auction, they appear to be using the same  
22 calculations to price the cost of procuring the natural gas commodity for

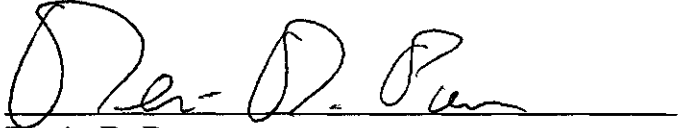
1 both the SSO and SCO components. As a result I see no added value in  
2 continuing separate auctions. Therefore, I recommend the Commission  
3 approve the joint motion permitting Dominion to conduct a single  
4 SSO/SCO auction beginning with the auction scheduled for February 28,  
5 2012. This will also bring consistency to the auction formats across the  
6 three natural gas companies that currently conduct auctions. Vectren has  
7 always conducted a combined auction and Columbia will conduct a com-  
8 bined auction for its first SCO/SSO auction in February 2012. There is no  
9 compelling reason for Dominion to not use the same model.

10  
11 6. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

12 A. Yes, it does.

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of Stephen E. Puican was served via electronic mail on the following parties of record on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of January, 2012.



**Devin D. Parram**  
Assistant Attorney General

### Parties of Record:

**M. Howard Petricoff**  
**Stephen M. Howard**  
**Jonathan W. Airey**  
Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP  
52 East Gay Street  
P.O. Box 1008  
Columbus, OH 43216-1008  
[mhpetricoff@vorys.com](mailto:mhpetricoff@vorys.com)  
[smhoward@vorys.com](mailto:smhoward@vorys.com)  
[wjairey@vorys.com](mailto:wjairey@vorys.com)

**Joseph Serio**  
Assistant Consumers' Counsel  
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel  
10 West Broad Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Columbus, OH 43215  
[serio@occ.state.oh.us](mailto:serio@occ.state.oh.us)

**Mark A. Whitt**  
**Melissa L. Thompson**  
Carpenter, Lipps & Leland  
280 Plaza, Suite 1300  
280 North High Street  
Columbus, OH 43215  
[whit@carpenterlipps.com](mailto:whit@carpenterlipps.com)  
[thompson@carpenterlipps.com](mailto:thompson@carpenterlipps.com)

**David C. Rinebolt**  
**Colleen L. Mooney**  
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy  
231 West Lima Street  
P.O. Box 1793  
Findlay, OH 45839-1793  
[drinebolt@ohiopartners.org](mailto:drinebolt@ohiopartners.org)  
[cmooney2@columbus.rr.com](mailto:cmooney2@columbus.rr.com)