BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of the
Complaints of:
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Katherine Lycourt-Donovan,:
Seneca Builders, LLC, R & :
P Investments, Inc, and :
Ryan Roth, :

:

Complainants, :

:

vs. : Case Nos. 12-2877-GA-CSS

13-124-GA-CSS 13-667-GA-CSS

Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.,

:

Respondent.

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Mr. Jeffrey R. Jones, Attorney Examiner, at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Room 11-D, Columbus, Ohio, called at 9 a.m. on Thursday, November 21, 2013.

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VOLUME III

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Thursday Morning Session, 1 2 November 21, 2013. 3 EXAMINER JONES: Let's go back on the 4 5 record. Do we have any preliminary issues to deal 6 with this morning before we proceed to our next 7 8 witness? 9 MR. GALLON: None, your Honor. 10 EXAMINER JONES: Seeing -- hearing none, 11 I believe by agreement of the parties that we were 12 going to proceed next with the testimony of Mr. Joe 13 Ferry whose been subpoenaed by counsel for Seneca 14 Builders and Roth -- and the Roths; is that correct? 15 MR. ALLWEIN: Yes, your Honor. 16 EXAMINER JONES: All right. Mr. Ferry, 17 take the stand, please. 18 (Witness sworn.) 19 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you. Please be 20 seated. 2.1 Mr. Allwein, are you cross-examining him? MR. ALLWEIN: Yes, your Honor. Thank 22 23 you. 24 25

	480		
1	JOE P. FERRY		
2	being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was		
3	examined and testified as follows:		
4	CROSS-EXAMINATION		
5	By Mr. Allwein:		
6	Q. Good morning, Mr. Ferry. My name is		
7	Chris Allwein, and I am counsel representing Seneca		
8	Builders and Ryan Roth and R & P Investments,		
9	Incorporated, in this case.		
10	Can you please state your name for the		
11	record.		
12	A. Sure. It's Joe P. Ferry, F-E-R-R-Y.		
13	Q. And can you state your business address,		
14	please.		
15	A. 200 Civic Center Drive, Columbus, Ohio.		
16	Q. Are you employed?		
17	A. Yes.		
18	Q. By whom?		
19	A. NiSource Corporate Services Corporation.		
20	Q. And what department do you work for?		
21	A. Environment, safety, and sustainability		
22	department.		
23	Q. And how long have you worked in that		
24	department?		

A. Approximately ten years -- well, no,

- 1 since 2000, I'm sorry.
- Q. And how long have you worked for Columbia

 Gas or NiSource -- or I'm sorry. Have you worked
- 4 also for Columbia Gas?
- A. I worked -- I started with Columbia Gas

 Transmission in the mid-1990s.
- Q. And how long have you worked in total then for Columbia Gas and NiSource?
- 9 A. Could you repeat the question. I'm
 10 sorry.
- Q. What is your total length of employment combined with Columbia Gas and NiSource?
 - A. That would be from '96 to 2013 so.
 - Q. Okay. About 17 years?
- 15 A. Sounds good.

- Q. Are you familiar with Graystone Woods in Toledo, Ohio?
- 18 A. Generally.
- 19 Q. Okay. In what way?
- A. Conversation in the hallway regarding the
- Q. Okay. And you're familiar with the situation involving stray gas detection by Columbia Gas that began on May 31, 2012?
- A. Generally.

Q. And did you have a role as a NiSource employee regarding the situation at Graystone Woods?

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- A. I would say I did not have a role.
- Q. Okay. Were you included in e-mail chains that -- whose subject matter was Graystone Woods and the stray gas situation?
- A. I was involved in several conversations and some e-mails.
- Q. And I wanted to ask you, do you recall making a recommendation in this case regarding the installation of radon remediation systems in all of the homes out there?
- A. I don't recall making a recommendation.

 I recall discussing it might be a technology that had some applicability.
- Q. Okay. And the -- being technology that may have some applicability, your recommendation was to install one of these types of systems for -- on each home, correct?
- A. I don't know if I made a recommendation.

 I suggested it might be a technology that could be considered.
 - Q. Okay. And --
 - A. Nobody asked me for a recommendation.
 - Q. Okay. Thank you. Thank you for the

clarification. And this suggestion for consideration, did it involve the installation of a radon mitigation system at all 13 homes?

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- A. I'm trying -- can you say the question again.
- Q. Yes, sir. Your suggestion for consideration of this technology, did it involve the installation of a radon-type remediation system in the -- in all of the 13 affected homes in Graystone Woods?
- A. I guess it's difficult for me to answer the question for a couple of reasons. One, I am not sure how many homes are involved. I can only say that it's a technology that might be applicable to control gases.
- Q. All right. And are you still of the opinion that it might be technology worthy of consideration to control gases?
- A. I think it's one of the technologies in the toolbox that one would consider, yes.
- 21 MR. ALLWEIN: Thank you. I have no 22 further questions, your Honor.
- EXAMINER JONES: Ms. Donovan, do you have any questions of this witness?
- MS. DONOVAN: Oh, no, I'm sorry. I do

not, your Honor.

2 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you.

Any redirect from Columbia?

MR. GALLON: Yes, your Honor, just a few questions.

EXAMINER JONES: Okay.

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DIRECT EXAMINATION

By Mr. Gallon:

- Q. Mr. Ferry, you said that you did not make a recommendation as to the installation of any radon mitigation system at Graystone, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Would you be capable of making a recommendation about the installation of a radon mitigation system at Graystone Woods at this point?
- A. No. I don't have enough background information about the site.
- Q. What do you mean when you say you don't have enough background information about the site?
- A. Typically I wouldn't be installing vapor mitigation without a complete engineering assessment.
- Q. Have you seen any kind of engineering assessment that would be applicable to Graystone Woods?

A. No.

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- Q. Have you ever yourself installed a radon mitigation system?
- A. Myself, no. I've had a manager install a passive system at a site in Pennsylvania.
- Q. Is that the only radon mitigation system you have any awareness of in your position at NiSource?
- A. Yes. Let me correct though that it wasn't a radon mitigation system. It's like a radon mitigation system. It was installed to control volatile organic compounds left over from a legacy hazardous waste site. It was installed for a different purpose. It was very similar to a radon home system.
 - Q. And you said you hired somebody to install that?
 - A. Yes. We would have hired an engineer to design and a contractor to install.

MR. GALLON: Thank you, Mr. Ferry.

EXAMINER JONES: Any recross?

MR. ALLWEIN: No, your Honor. Thank you.

EXAMINER JONES: Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Ferry.

25 Please correct me if I'm wrong but I

492 believe the next witness was going to be Stephen 1 2 Erlenbach; is that correct? 3 MR. GALLON: It can be either Steve Erlenbach or Chris Kozak. It's up to Complainant's 4 5 counsel. EXAMINER JONES: Let's go off the record 6 then for a minute. 7 8 (Discussion off the record.) 9 EXAMINER JONES: Let's go back on the 10 record. We have had a brief discussion off the 11 record. I believe it's been decided we will take 12 13 Mr. Erlenbach next then. 14 (Witness sworn.) 15 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you. Please be 16 seated. 17 I'm not sure. It looks like Mr. Gallon 18 is going to present. MR. GALLON: If we could have that marked 19 20 as Columbia Exhibit 14, please. 2.1 EXAMINER JONES: It shall be so marked. 22 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.) 23 24

493 1 STEPHEN ERLENBACH, P.E., C.F.E.L. 2 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was examined and testified as follows: 3 4 DIRECT EXAMINATION 5 By Mr. Gallon: Could you please state your name for the 6 0. 7 record. 8 Stephen Erlenbach. Α. 9 Ο. How is Erlenbach spelled? 10 Α. E-R-L-E-N-B-A-C-H. Mr. Erlenbach, are you employed? 11 Q. 12 Α. Yes. 13 Q. Who is your employer? 14 SEA. Α. 15 0. And what is your position with SEA? 16 I'm a mechanical engineer in the fire Α. 17 group within SEA. 18 Mr. Erlenbach, have you had testimony 0. 19 prefiled under your name in this proceeding? 2.0 Α. Yes. 2.1 I've handed you a document the court 22 reporter has marked as Columbia Exhibit 14. Is this 23 a true and accurate copy of your testimony prefiled 24 for you in this case?

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Α.

Yes, it is.

Do you have any corrections or revisions 1 Ο. 2 to make to your testimony at this time? 3 Α. No. If I were to ask you the questions 4 5 included in this testimony today, would your answer 6 be the same? 7 Α. Yes. 8 MR. GALLON: Your Honor, at this time I would move the admission of Columbia Exhibit 14 9 10 pending cross-examination. EXAMINER JONES: Thank you, Mr. Gallon. 11 12 Which one of the Complainant parties 13 wants to start first for cross-examination? 14 MR. WILLIAMS: I believe I'll start. 15 EXAMINER JONES: You may proceed. 16 17 CROSS-EXAMINATION 18 By Mr. Williams: 19 Good morning, Mr. Erlenbach. My name is 2.0 Todd Williams. I'm an attorney for Ryan Roth, R & P 2.1 Investments, and Seneca Builders, LLC, in this 22 matter. How are you doing this morning? 23 Very good, thank you. Α. 24 Excellent. Do you have a copy of your Ο.

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testimony before you?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Excellent. I was hoping you could turn to page 2. I would like to direct your attention to the 2005 investigation that you had about an explosion in a small Ohio home. You state that this was a substantial gas leak outside of the home. Was that from a pipeline source?
 - A. It was from a pipeline source, yes.
 - Q. Is gas under pressure in the pipeline?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Was the gas turned off at the time of the explosion?
- A. The gas actually at the time of the explosion -- I'm not 100 percent sure. The gas was shut off at the house, and I believe it may have been shut off at the tank shortly before the explosion.
- Q. Is it fair to assume then there was a good period of time between when the leak happened and before the gas was shut off that gas under pressure was under continuous feed into the soil?
- A. I -- I guess that's kind of a subjective term, "a good time." Could you ask that a different way.
- Q. Is it fair to assume that gas was leaking from the pipeline or from the source for an amount of

time prior to it being shut off allowing it to
accumulate?

MR. GALLON: Objection, vague.

EXAMINER JONES: Overruled.

- A. I guess I would say to answer that question that it wasn't -- that I believe it wasn't instantaneous.
- Q. You attached a number of pictures from the incident.
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Is this one of the pictures?
- A. That appears to be one of them, yes.
- Q. Can you describe what's in the picture?

 There's not a number on it.

MR. WILLIAMS: Mr. Gallon? Everyone?

16 EXAMINER JONES: This is in SEE.2 though,

17 correct? A series of pictures in that exhibit?

MR. GALLON: It's the fifth picture in that exhibit, your Honor.

EXAMINER JONES: Thank you.

MR. WILLIAMS: I jumbled them around. I wasn't sure of the original order so I didn't want to assign a number to it this morning.

- Q. Can you describe what's in that picture?
- A. What is in this picture there's a file

cabinet. There is also a bunch of jumbled up electrical cords that were all near the place where the foundation wall meets the floor where there were some cracks noticed along that edge. And post explosion there were scorch marks noticed along the crack line which ultimately damaged these cords.

- Q. Was this electric wire the source of the ignition?
 - A. No, it was not.

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- Q. Is an electric -- or is electricity a potential ignition source?
- A. It is a potential ignition source in the right scenario, yes.
 - Q. Page 2, lines 16 and 17, you say you've investigated over 15 incidents from a propane or natural gas piping system which has resulted in explosion.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Do you have any investigations of an explosion not from a leak in an underground piping system?
 - A. Yes.
 - O. What was the source in those leaks?
- A. Well, there's been several. One that I have done recently was a release of methanol within a

house.

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- Q. A release from what? Sorry to interrupt.
- A. A release of methanol.
- O. Where was the methanol released from?
- A. It was being introduced into a geothermal water loop system as part of the refrigerant -- or as part of the heat exchange fluid.
- Q. So it was coming from a contain -- container of some kind or contained system of some kind?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Could you go on with other examples.
- A. There's been instances where there's been a gasoline bore that was subsequently ignited later as a result of an explosion.
- Q. Have you investigated any incidents from a naturally occurring stray natural gas causing an explosion?
 - A. No, I have not.
- Q. You use a couple of different terms in your testimony. I just want to be clear. You use the term "fuel gas." Can you give a definition for "fuel gas"?
- A. Fuel gas would be -- generally is known as gas that would be used as a fuel so you're talking

- either -- normally you would be talking about natural gas and propane in that scenario.
- Q. You also use the term "fugitive gas."

 Can you define fugitive gas?
- A. Fugitive gas would be any gas that's escaped containment.
- Q. And you do reference to the term "stray gas." Do you have a definition for that?
- A. Stray gas as I guess I have been referring to it in this case would be gas from an unknown source that's in the soil outside the home and inside the home.
- Q. Page 3 you stated "stray or fugitive gases can migrate underground."
 - A. Which page? I'm sorry.
- Q. Page 3.
- A. Okay.

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- Q. Starting at line 7, I believe, sir.
- 19 A. Okav.
 - Q. Is it fair to assume that a fugitive gas escaping from a system under pressure might migrate further or faster than dissipated stray gas?
 - A. I don't have as much experience in stray gas to know how it can migrate and how fast and to what degree. So it would be hard for me to compare

that to gas coming from a pipeline source.

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- Q. So you would say that you have limited experience in analyzing stray gas and the occurrence of stray gas, in particular how it migrates?
- A. I certainly have a lot less exposure to stray gas as opposed to leaks from say a pipeline by the nature of my job.
- Q. What would you say your experience with stray gas is?
- A. I've had a couple of incidents in the past where we have been called out to analyze an unknown gas in a soil for chemical comparison against a known source such as a pipeline in order to see whether that gas is naturally occurring or from a pipeline.
- Q. In those situations did you analyze the migration of that stray gas?
- A. Only to some degree, only in the sense that I have been provided maps and have known where the gas company has picked up readings from that in those incidents.
- Q. Did you take any testing yourself to determine how the stray gas was migrating in the soil?
 - A. No. In those cases my role was to -- was

to document the -- basically to document the site and to take a physical sample of the gas itself.

- Q. Did you analyze in those situations stray gas migrating through a foundation wall of a building?
 - A. No.

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- Q. Do you have any experience --
- A. I should take that back. Only in the sense that it was prior to learning what the source of the gas in the soil was. There was concern about nearby structures and it was determined by the gas companies in those cases that there was no gas up against the foundation of those homes.
- Q. In those situations was it ever -- did you ever reach a point where you determined the source of the gas and were able to reclassify it as fugitive gas?
- A. In those particular cases the -- the gas that was found in the ground was determined to be -- matched the gas -- company gas in those cases leaking from an unknown point.
- Q. So your experience with stray gas is really limited to situations of fugitive gas from a pipeline system?
 - A. I would say previous to this case, yes.

- Q. You testified the lower explosive limits, I believe is the correct term, LEL, is 5 percent, the lower percent is 5 percent. The maximum is 15 percent in the air. Am I stating that correctly?
- A. Yes. If you want to go by actual -- I mean, it's -- natural gas is not necessarily a consistent substance. There's vapor. There's -- you can have a slight range in those numbers. Generally the accepted numbers we generally go by is 5 to 15 percent. In reality you see other publications that say 4-1/2 to 15 percent, but you are in the general ballpark by saying 5 and 15 percent.
- Q. Page 5 you discuss -- I'm sorry. Are you okay?

Top of page 5 you discuss the detection of 1 percent of LEL at 2107 Oakside Road. You weren't the individual taking this test, correct?

- A. No, I was not.
- Q. You weren't present for the test?
- A. No.

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- Q. You are relying on the testimony of Curtis Anstead concerning the test and the documents from Columbia Gas concerning the test?
- A. Yes, relying on the testimony and conversations with them and just the general

- documentation of what's been going on outside and inside the home.
- Q. Hoping to get a bit of clarification again, 1 percent of LEL, is that 1 percent of the 5 percent?
- A. That would be, yes. If you want to consider, yeah, 5 percent gas as the lower explosive limit, then you are talking about 1 percent of that.
- Q. Well, the 1 percent of LEL which you are referring to in your testimony, is that what you are referring to, 1 percent of the 5 percent --
 - A. Yes.

- Q. -- LEL? Okay. Were you present yesterday while Mr. Anstead was testifying?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. You heard Mr. Anstead testify that Columbia Gas did not determine the source of that gas detected at 2107?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You heard the testimony that the customer originating the complaint had said there was an odor of natural gas?
- MR. GALLON: Objection. Mischaracterizes
 the evidence. He testified, indicated there was an
 odor. I don't think it was --

1 MR. WILLIAMS: I'll stipulate to that.

2 | That's fine.

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- A. I heard the testimony, yes.
- Q. You heard Mr. Anstead agree that potentially a source was the kitty litter or a kitty litter box?
 - A. Well --
 - Q. Potential.
- A. Well, absent -- absent any other data what I do know is that there was a subsequent house line test done at that address which showed there was no leakage from the house piping and I know that there is gas up against the foundation.

As far as the potential of kitty litter,

I don't -- I don't even know if there is a cat in the
house. But if -- I don't even know what the
potential of that would be at this point.

- Q. Hypothetically would cat waste in a litter box generate methane?
 - A. Theoretically I would say so, yes.
- Q. Hypothetically would methane be found in a trap in the floor in a basement?
 - A. Potentially.
- Q. Are you aware of any testing or were you provided with any data showing that the gas sample

taken in the home matched the -- a stray gas sample taken outside of the home?

A. No, I have not.

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- Q. So your sole reliance on the detection of stray gas in the home is from the data provided by Columbia Gas.
- A. It would be the -- it would be the logical conclusion to make at this point absent any other data showing any other leak source coming from the house. We have gas up against the foundation. There's gas being measured in the basement.
- Q. So you are stating the logical conclusion is obviously gas outside and gas inside it must have migrated?
- A. Absent any other data, that's -- that is what I have to go by, yes.
- Q. Absent any data that the gas inside of the house and the gas outside of the house are the same gas, how do you draw that conclusion?
- A. There's no -- if I can be shown another source -- I guess I just don't have enough data to say what the source -- what the gas in the house measured that day was.
- Q. I would like to pose a couple of hypotheticals to you at this point. Are you familiar

with the radon mitigation system?

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- A. Only that I have one in my house. I don't design radon mitigation systems. I am not an expert in radon mitigation systems.
 - Q. Why do you have one in your house?
- A. Because when we had a home inspection, they detected higher levels of radon, and they recommended that one be put in.
- Q. So is the system in your house designed to prevent the accumulation of radon gas to a dangerous level in your house?
 - A. I would assume so.
 - Q. Do you feel that it's working?
- A. I would have no way to know whether it's working or not.
- Q. Exhibit SEE-7 to your testimony, S-E-E-7, I see that you attached the Hull & Associates report dated August 3. Did you review this report as a portion of preparing your testimony?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you agree -- do you see in the first paragraph the recommendation by Hull & Associates to turn the -- resume gas service to the properties?
 - A. I see that in the document, yes.

 MR. WILLIAMS: I've got no further

1 questions for this witness.

2 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you.

Ms. Donovan, do you have any questions?

MS. DONOVAN: I have no further

5 questions, thank you.

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EXAMINER JONES: Thank you.

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EXAMINATION

By Examiner Jones:

- Q. I think I just have one for you,
 Mr. Erlenbach. Following up on a question that
 counsel Mr. Williams just asked you and there's been
 some testimony in this proceeding about radon and
 natural gas and I am not a chemist and I don't know
 if you can answer this question but do radon gas and
 methane gas have the same chemical fingerprints? Are
 they made of the same compounds?
- A. I have no knowledge of radon gas.

19 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you. That was all

20 I had.

21 Any redirect, Mr. Gallon?

MR. GALLON: Just a few questions, your

23 Honor.

24 EXAMINER JONES: Do you need a few

25 minutes with your witness or not?

1 MR. GALLON: No. Thank you. 2 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. 3 REDIRECT EXAMINATION 4 5 By Mr. Gallon: Mr. Erlenbach, I just had a couple of 6 0. 7 follow-up questions regarding the discussion you had 8 with Mr. Williams. He was asking you about 2107 Oakside Road. Do you recall those questions? 9 10 Α. Yes. And we were talking about potential other 11 12 sources of methane emissions in the basement of Megan 13 Simmons' address. Do you recall those questions? 14 Α. Yes. 15 0. You were present yesterday, correct? 16 Α. Yes. 17 Q. Did opposing counsel put Megan Simmons on 18 the stand yesterday while you were here? 19 Α. No. 20 Did opposing counsel put anybody on the Q. 2.1 stand yesterday to testify as to whether Ms. Simmons 22 owns a cat? 23 Α. No. 24 Did opposing counsel put anybody on the 25 stand to testify that Ms. Simmons owns a cat and she

keeps her kitty litter box in her basement?

A. No.

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- Q. Did opposing counsel put anybody on the stand to talk about the trap in Ms. Simmons' basement?
 - A. No.
- Q. Did opposing counsel put anybody on the stand to offer actual evidence that there was sewer gas in the basement of Ms. Simmons' home?
 - A. No.
- Q. Absent any actual evidence of either kitty litter or sewer gas in Ms. Simmons' home and knowing that the house lines had been pressured tested in that home and had been shown not to be leaking, what is your professional opinion as to the most likely source of methane readings in the basement?
- A. The only identified -- the only previously identified source of gas would be gas up against the foundation of the home.
- Q. And I would also like to turn your attention to the Hull report that Mr. Williams was just asking you about. It's exhibit SEE-7. Do you have it in front of you?
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. And Mr. Williams asked you regarding the first paragraph of the page of SEE-7, correct?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And he pointed you to the second sentence which says "At this time we recommend contacting Columbia Gas and requesting that the gas service be resumed to residents in the subdivision," correct?
 - A. I see that, yes.
- Q. If I could turn your attention to the third paragraph of that page. Do you see that?
 - A. Paragraph starting with "This" or "As"?
 - Q. "As."
 - A. Okay.
- Q. Do you see any explanation in that paragraph as to why Hull was recommending that the gas service be resumed to residents in the subdivision?
- A. That they are recommending to monitor methane concentrations while the gas service is on. What was -- I'm sorry. What was -- repeat the question.
- Q. The first -- could you please read the first sentence of that paragraph for me.
- A. "As previously discussed with you, monitoring methane concentrations with the natural

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gas service on will allow us to determine if there
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     are any significant differences in methane
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     concentrations relative to the data collected while
     the natural gas service was turned off at the
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     residential properties."
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                  MR. GALLON: Thank you. I have no
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      further questions for Mr. Erlenbach. Thank you, your
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     Honor.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Any recross?
                  MR. WILLIAMS: No, your Honor.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Thank you. At this time
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     does Columbia re-move for the admission of Columbia
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     Exhibit 14, the prefiled testimony of Stephen
     Erlenbach?
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                  MR. GALLON: Yes, your Honor, we do.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Any objection to the
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     admission of the Columbia Exhibit 14?
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                  MS. DONOVAN: No, your Honor.
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                  MR. ALLWEIN: No, your Honor.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Thank you.
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                  It shall be admitted.
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                  (EXHIBIT ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                  EXAMINER JONES: I do not believe there
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     were any other exhibits with this witness, were
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     there?
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                  MR. GALLON: No, your Honor.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Thank you.
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                  Thank you, Mr. Erlenbach. You may step
      down.
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                  At this time I believe the only witness
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      we have remaining is Mr. Christopher Kozak called on
 7
      behalf of -- by subpoena on behalf of Roth and Seneca
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      Builders; is that correct?
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                  MR. ALLWEIN: Yes, your Honor.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Mr. Kozak, would you
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      take the stand, please.
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                  (Witness sworn.)
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Thank you. You may be
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      seated.
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                  Mr. Allwein, are you presenting this
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      witness or cross-examining this witness?
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                  MR. ALLWEIN: Yes, your Honor, thank you.
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                        CHRISTOPHER KOZAK
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      being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was
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      examined and testified as follows:
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                        CROSS-EXAMINATION
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      By Mr. Allwein:
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                  Good morning, Mr. Kozak. My name is
25
      Chris Allwein, and I am counsel for Seneca Builders,
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- 1 | Ryan Roth, and R & P Investments, Incorporated.
- 2 Can you please state your name for the
- 3 record.
- 4 A. Chris Kozak.
- 5 Q. And what is your business address?
- 6 A. 2901 East Manhattan Boulevard, Toledo,
- 7 Ohio.

- Q. Are you employed?
- 9 A. Yes.
- Q. By whom?
- A. Columbia Gas of Ohio.
- 12 Q. And what is your position with Columbia
- 13 | Gas of Ohio?
- A. I am the communications and community
- 15 relations manager.
- Q. And how long have you held this position?
- 17 A. Nine years.
- 18 Q. And how long have you worked for Columbia
- 19 Gas in total?
- A. Nine years.
- Q. Are you familiar with Graystone Woods in
- 22 Toledo, Ohio?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Are you aware of the situation involving
- 25 stray gas detection that began on May 31, 2012?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And what was your role as a Columbia Gas employee regarding the situation at Graystone Woods, if any?
- A. My role is to work with the operations staff and provide communications, quidance.
- Q. And were you the spokesperson for Columbia Gas regarding the situation at Graystone Woods?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Mr. Kozak, you as a representative of
 Columbia Gas met with the residents of Graystone
 Woods to discuss the situation on June 11, 2012. Do
 you recall that meeting?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And that was 11 days after Columbia Gas interrupted service to the 13 homes on Oakside Road; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And was this meeting -- I'm sorry. Was your attendance at this meeting at the request of a Mr. Kris Jensen?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Where did you meet?
- A. We met at a home on Oakside, I believe

Ms. Donovan's home.

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- Q. And do you remember what time it was that you met?
 - A. It was in the morning, 8 or 8:30 a.m.
 - Q. So an early morning meeting.
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. At that meeting do you recall that you were asked for results of Columbia's recent bar hole testing in the neighborhood?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And did you share those results at that time?
- 13 A. No.
 - Q. And at that meeting the residents also asked you to share a copy of Columbia Gas's standards applicable in the Graystone Woods situation; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And you refused to provide Columbia's standards at that time, correct?
- A. I was not able to provide the standards because I didn't have them available to me.
- Q. Okay. Did you provide them to the residents of Graystone Woods at a later date?
- 25 A. No.

- Q. On June 15, 2012, do you recall that you received an invitation from Steve Herwat, I think that's how you say his name, to appear before City Council?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And who is Steve Herwat?
- A. Steve Herwat is the deputy mayor for the city of Toledo.
 - Q. And was that invitation via a phone call?
- 10 A. I believe that's how Steve reached out to me, yes.
- MR. ALLWEIN: Your Honor, may I approach?

 EXAMINER JONES: Yes, you may.
 - (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
- Q. Mr. Kozak, I have just handed you what's been marked as Seneca Exhibit 14, correct?
- 17 A. Yes.
- Q. And we were discussing a phone
 conversation that you had with Steve Herwat from the
 mayor's office, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And this e-mail dated June 15 of 2012 from you to various folks at Columbia Gas is a summary of that meeting; is that a fair characterization?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And I wanted to point out a couple of things on this e-mail. If you look, can you read the second sentence in that e-mail.
- A. "He indicated the Mayor was looking for a resolution to restoring service to these customers, but that the City was not going to assume responsibility or liability."
- Q. And by "he" you mean Steve Herwat, correct?
- 11 A. Yes.
- Q. And do you see the next sentence

 Mr. Herwat is requesting copies of your test results?

 Do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And you did not provide those to the deputy mayor; is that correct?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. Do you know if he ever received those test results subsequent to that request?
 - A. I don't believe I've ever provided those test results to Steve Herwat.
- Q. Subsequent to the request on June 11, 24 2012, by the residents of Graystone Woods for the applicable Columbia Gas standards governing the

situation at Graystone Woods, did you supply those written policies and standards to -- I'm sorry. Were you asked to provide those written policies and standards by others?

- A. I don't believe I was asked by others to provide that standard.
- Q. Do you recall correspondence with Representative Michael Ashford's Office in October of 2012?
- 10 A. Yes, I do.

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MR. ALLWEIN: Your Honor, may I approach?

12 EXAMINER JONES: Yes, you may.

MR. ALLWEIN: Your Honor, may I have this exhibit marked as Seneca Exhibit 15, please.

EXAMINER JONES: Certainly.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

- Q. Mr. Kozak, I have just handed you what has been marked as Seneca Exhibit 15, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And this is an e-mail from you and it is dated October 11, 2012, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And this is to various folks that work for either Columbia Gas or NiSource, correct?
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. And this e-mail is addressing a proposed response to someone from Representative Michael Ashford's Office, correct?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. So if you turn to the second page of this three-page document, are you there?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. You see that -- can you read the first sentence.
- A. "Can you please send me a copy of the policy used to shut off the gas that you mention in your e-mail?"
 - Q. All right. And the second sentence, could you read that also.
 - A. "What kind of mitigation system do you want the builder to install?"
 - Q. And this e-mail is from Michelle Dempsey Zimmerman, correct?
- 19 A. Yes.
 - Q. And she is a legislative aide to Representative Michael Ashford; is that correct?
- 22 A. Yes.
- Q. And so she has just asked you for a copy
 of the policy used to shut off the gas to the
 Graystone Woods area; is that correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And your proposed response is on the first page of this three-page document. Can you turn to that page.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And if you look, your proposed answer states that "Columbia Gas/NiSource standards are proprietary information, and at this time we have declined to make those standards public"; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Did this proposed answer -- was it sent to Representative Michael Ashford's Office?
 - A. I believe it was, yes.
- Q. So you refused to provide the applicable standards to the State Representative in this area; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. There's one other thing I would like to point out. On the third page -- well, I'm sorry.

 Starting on the second page and continuing on to the third page, there is another e-mail from you to Michelle Dempsey and is it Marta Mudri?
 - A. As far as I'm aware, yes.
 - Q. Okay. And who are Michelle Dempsey and

Marta Mudri? Do you know?

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- A. Well, Michelle Dempsey is the legislative aide for Representative Ashford. I don't know who Marta Mudri is.
- Q. Okay. And what is this e-mail? Do you know?
 - A. The e-mail -- my e-mail to her?
 - Q. Yes, sir.
- A. She had -- I had been forwarded questions from Representative Ashford's Office regarding this situation internally, and they asked me to respond.
- Q. And part of your correspondence here, and this would be on page 3, about -- about five lines down you state that "To restore service, Columbia Gas has requested the following:" and it says "A remediation system installed that would lower and maintain the methane gas readings at zero around the foundation"; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And in your opinion was that the Columbia Gas policy in place at the time?
- A. The Columbia Gas policy in place at the time was all three needed to be adhered to. It was the remediation, it was the signed consent form, and it was a signed form from a certified expert as well.

So it wasn't just the remediation system.

- Q. Thank you for that clarification but in particular your statement today is that the Columbia the applicable Columbia Gas policy at the time is that the remediation installed would lower and maintain the methane gas readings at zero around the foundation. That's what was required, correct?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And one more thing, if you would, on Seneca Exhibit 15, your introduction to this proposed answer you state that "As for her first question, I'd like to respond as such" and in parentheses "It's the same response we sent to Ron Hensley on October 9, 2012," correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And Ron Hensley was the developer of Graystone Woods, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And so from your e-mail we can determine that you sent a response to Ron Hensley the day before this e-mail -- excuse me, two days before this e-mail where you also refused to provide the Columbia Gas or NiSource standards; is that correct?
- 24 A. Yes.
 - Q. Was that the first time that the

builder/developer had asked you for a copy of those standards?

- A. You know, so much e-mail traffic and so many conversation it wouldn't surprise me if that weren't the first time I was asked, but I don't have any specific recollection.
- Q. Okay. But subsequent to his request -or I guess I should say subsequent to your response
 to him on October 9, 2012, you did not provide a copy
 of the Columbia standards that would govern the
 situation in Graystone Woods in this case, correct?
 - A. Correct, I did not provide a copy.
- Q. Now, Ron Hensley was expressly stated to be a point of contact by Columbia Gas regarding the situation at Graystone Woods; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And on May 31 a letter was sent out to -- was either sent out or taped to the door, I guess?
- A. We did put it on either doors or mailboxes, yes.
 - Q. Okay. And did you compose that letter?
 - A. I did, yes.
- Q. All right. And so it indicated that if folks had questions or concerns, they were supposed to call Ron Hensley, and it had his phone number on

that letter -- or in that letter; is that correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And was Ron Hensley named by Columbia Gas to be the point of contact for Columbia -- or the point of contact for the situation at Graystone Woods just for the events that occurred on May 31, 2012, or was Ron Hensley named by Columbia Gas to be a point of contact subsequent to that?
- A. You know, I don't believe we named Ron Hensley. I believe Ron Hensley requested to be the point of contact.
- Q. Okay. And did Ron Hensley request to be the point of contact with regards specifically to the activities on May 31, 2012, or did Ron Hensley request to be a point of contact going forward from May 31?
 - A. I believe going forward from May 31.
- Q. So why did Columbia decide to agree to that request?
- A. At that time this was maybe 90 minutes to 120 minutes into that service being shut off. Once it was determined it was not Columbia Gas gas, we really didn't know what our responsibility or liability was in terms of restoring service or how to get that situation remediated, and Mr. Hensley said

have them call me. I'll take care of the situation.

- Q. Okay. And so it was your understanding that Ron Hensley was saying that he would be the point of contact from May 31 onward for an undetermined period of time?
- A. He would be the point of contact to have the situation resolved, yes.
- Q. Okay. Was there any other reason that Columbia Gas agreed to send inquiries to Ron Hensley or decided to send inquiries to Ron Hensley?
- 11 A. Not that I can think of right now.

 12 MR. ALLWEIN: Your Honor, may I approach?

 13 EXAMINER JONES: Yes, you may.
 - MR. ALLWEIN: Your Honor, may I please have this marked as Seneca Exhibit 16.

16 EXAMINER JONES: It shall be so marked.

17 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

- Q. Mr. Kozak, I have just handed you what's been marked as Seneca Exhibit 16, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And this is an e-mail from you to other folks at -- several folks that work for either Columbia Gas or NiSource, correct?
- 24 A. Yes.

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Q. And this e-mail is dated June 8, 2012; is

that correct?

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- A. Yes.
- Q. And you're replying to someone named, is it, Margi Smith?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And what was Margi Smith asking you that prompted this reply?
- A. It looks like Margi had asked me about a customer on Oakside had some questions.
- Q. Okay. And can you read the e-mail beginning with "I think" and ending with to the point of where it says "not our issue."
- A. "Hi Margi, I think we need to let the Call Center handle these calls/complaints and provide the developer's phone number. If the customers get a COH number with the 419 area code, they will call it non-stop until they get a resolution. Since the reason for the interruption of service is not a COH issue, I think we need to keep the local point of contact as the developer. Once he gets this issue resolved, we are more then willing to get service to these homes resolved" -- "restored. As long as there's gas along the foundations, that's not pipeline gas, this is not our issue."
 - Q. Now, at this point in time, this is

- June 8, 2012, and that's eight days after service was interrupted; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And at that point in time the residents of Graystone Woods are still Columbia Gas customers; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. But you didn't want these customers calling Columbia Gas; is that correct?
- A. We didn't want these customers calling

 Columbia Gas in Toledo just as we don't have local

 numbers for any of the public to call Columbia Gas in

 Toledo.
- Q. Okay. So if someone in Toledo has a question about their service, who do they call?
 - A. They call the 1-800 number on their bill.
 - Q. All right. And where does that 1-800 number go?
 - A. To the call center.
- Q. Okay. And what kind of calls does the call center handle?
- A. All sorts of calls about customer issues,
 questions about their accounts, questions about their
 bills, general questions, gas emergencies.
- Q. And in your opinion was the situation at

Graystone Woods highly unusual?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And at that point the only communication that the residents of Graystone Woods had received from Columbia Gas directly was that letter that you composed and either sent to residents or taped to their doors on May 31, 2012; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. So if a Columbia Gas customer wasn't satisfied talking to Ron Hensley, the builder/developer, there wasn't a way for them to get ahold of anyone at Columbia Gas to discuss the situation directly, correct?
- A. I believe they had the information on their bill to contact Columbia Gas directly.
- Q. But that wouldn't have been someone in Toledo. That would have been someone at the call center, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Which is not in Toledo.
- 21 A. Correct.
- Q. Are you aware that on August 23, 2012, the 4-inch service line that supplied gas to the homes on Oakside Road in Toledo, Ohio, was closed for service?

A. I don't know the specific date, but I know we did take that action.

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- Q. Okay. And in addition to closing that line Columbia Gas also terminated the accounts of every customer on Oakside Road; is that correct?
- A. I don't believe we terminated the accounts so much as we took them out of the system. And the difference there is by taking them out of the system, something was happening throughout this process, they were continuing to get bills and that would continue to be a concern for the customers, why am I still getting billed if I am not getting any gas, and we thought it was best to remove those from the system so they didn't continue to get bills while they were in this situation.
- Q. Okay. And so -- I want to try to understand the answer you just gave me. You didn't want them to keep getting billed every month; is that correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And so you took them out of Columbia Gas's accounting system, correct?
- A. We made sure they didn't get bills every month.
 - Q. Okay. So they are not getting bills

every month now.

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- A. Correct.
- Q. And so hasn't their service been effectively terminated?
- A. You know, I believe that could be an interpretation.
- Q. Okay. Was there any other reason other than you didn't want these folks who didn't have gas to keep receiving bills, was there any other reason that you removed these folks from the accounting system?
- A. You know, every month that bill would come out it would -- it would upset them, rightfully so I feel, that why are we getting this bill and go back in and make sure we credit that account and I wanted to eliminate that part of their concern and hardship.
- Q. Was it a hassle for the folks in the accounting department to deal with these folks on Oakside Road in their billing that they had to credit by hand every month?
- A. I have no idea. I am not in the accounting department.
- MR. ALLWEIN: Your Honor, may I approach?

 EXAMINER JONES: You may.

531 MR. ALLWEIN: Your Honor, may I please 1 2 have this exhibit marked as Seneca Exhibit 17. 3 EXAMINER JONES: You may. MR. ALLWEIN: Thank you, your Honor. 4 5 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.) 6 Mr. Kozak, I have just handed you what 0. 7 has been marked as Seneca Exhibit 17; is that 8 correct? 9 Α. Yes. 10 0. And this is an e-mail from you and it was 11 sent on August 20, 2012, to Steve Jablonski who appears to work for Columbia Gas of Ohio or NiSource; 12 13 is that correct? 14 Α. Yes. 15 0. And who is Steve Jablonski? 16 Steve Jablonski, he is my boss in 17 communications, director for Ohio, I believe. 18 0. Okay. And this e-mail is discussing the 19 removal of the customers on Oakside Road from 2.0 Columbia's accounting system, isn't it? 2.1 Α. Yes. 22 And can you read that first paragraph 23 that begins with "I fully expect" and ends with "what 24 that means."

"I fully expect this to generate another

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Α.

round of calls to the media, elected officials, et cetera...'they've forgotten about us!' Just need a better talking point then: it easier for COH to remove them all and not send them a bill instead or manually going in and adjusting their account every month, which can be a pain for our co-workers...As for closing off the system into that neighborhood, that's been communicated to the developers/residents attorney, but I don't think they fully grasp what that means."

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- Q. Now, so in addition to trying to alleviate the angry calls that you would receive after these folks would get a bill, this was also a pain for your co-workers to deal with these bills; is that correct?
- A. I think I perceived it as a pain for our co-workers, yes.
- Q. Okay. And I want to ask you about I guess the last sentence where it says "As for closing off the system into that neighborhood, that's been communicated to the developers/residents attorney, but I don't think they fully grasp what that means."

 What -- what did it mean?
- A. I believe closing off the pipeline into that system means that it was more difficult for them

to come back on.

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- Q. Okay. And at the point their accounts are removed from Columbia Gas's system they are also no longer customers; isn't that correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And so just to be clear the folks who were terminated as Columbia Gas customers in part simply in order to ease the burden on your fellow Columbia Gas employees; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Let's return to Seneca Exhibit 16 for a moment.
 - A. Which e-mail is that?
 - Q. That is the one with -- the one that's addressed to Margi Smith.
- 16 A. Okay.
 - Q. Now, the e-mail that you wrote to Margi Smith was on June 8, 2012, correct?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. And on the second page there's a second e-mail, an earlier e-mail, also written on June 8, 22 2012, to Margi Smith; is that correct?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. And it's from you, correct?
- 25 A. Yes.

- Q. And it's written to -- in addition to Margi Smith it's also written to various other folks at Columbia Gas or NiSource, correct?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And I want to direct your attention to the body of your e-mail. Can you tell me what this e-mail is?
 - A. The e-mail back to Margi Smith?
 - Q. Yes, sir.
- A. It looks like it is a copy response we sent to Toledo City Councilman Sarantou.
- Q. Okay. And if you could, could you read that response to the councilman beginning with "Service is off" through the words "presents a dangerous situation."
- A. "Service is off to the homes on Oakside because the large amounts of gas from an unknown source were found throughout the development. It is Columbia Gas policy that when gas readings against a home's foundation are anything but 0%, we cannot provide service; the introduction of natural gas—and in turn pilot lights or other potential sources of ignition—presents a dangerous situation."
- Q. Thank you. So within that portion that you just read, you're emphasizing that pilot lights

and presumably I'm assuming that you are referring to those fueled by Columbia-supplied gas could be a potential source of ignition; is that correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And this would be an ignition of what?
- A. Ignition of the gas that's found against the home's foundation.
- Q. Okay. Are the pilot lights for appliances that are fueled by Columbia Gas at Oakside Road, are they against the foundation of the homes on the outside of the homes?

MR. GALLON: Objection, foundation.

EXAMINER JONES: Sustained.

MR. ALLWEIN: He just -- I asked him the ignition of what, and he stated that the ignition of the gas against the foundation of the home.

I can rephrase.

EXAMINER JONES: Please rephrase it.

MR. ALLWEIN: Okav.

- Q. Mr. Kozak, is it your understanding that most customers, most residential customers, the appliances that are fueled by natural gas are located somewhere inside of the structure of the home?
- A. It's hard to say. I've only been in Ms. Donovan's kitchen.

- Q. Okay. So you haven't been in a lot of houses?
 - A. I have been in houses, not on Oakside.
- Q. Okay. And generally in houses are the appliances fueled by natural gas inside the building?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. All right. And so you're worried that Columbia Gas -- I'm sorry, that pilot lights fueled by Columbia-supplied gas could be a potential source of ignition to the gas outside the home; is that correct?
 - A. No, that's not.
- Q. Okay. Can you please state -- then state it correctly.
- A. I'm concerned that gas outside the home will get inside the home and find its way to that ignition source.
- Q. Okay. And the concern here is that that potential ignition source is fueled by Columbia-supplied gas, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. So you don't want an appliance powered by Columbia -- fueled by Columbia Gas's gas, if you will, to be the thing that ignites any stray gas that may accumulate in a basement, correct?

- A. We don't want anything to ignite that --
- Q. Okay.

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- A. -- stray gas that may get into the basement.
- Q. All right. And your testimony is that you don't want anything to ignite it, this stray gas that may accumulate inside of a home, is this in the interest of ensuring customer safety or in order to prevent Columbia Gas from liability?
 - A. Customer safety, absolutely.
- MR. ALLWEIN: Your Honor, may I approach?
- 12 EXAMINER JONES: Yes, you may.
- MR. ALLWEIN: Your Honor, may I please have this marked as Seneca Exhibit 18.
- EXAMINER JONES: It shall be so marked.

 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
- Q. Mr. Kozak, I have just handed you what's been marked as Seneca Exhibit 18; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And this is an e-mail from you dated
 June 7, 2012; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And so this e-mail is dated one day
 earlier than your e-mails to Margi Smith that we just
 discussed in Seneca Exhibit 16, correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And so this e-mail was sent by you seven days after service was interrupted to the homes at Graystone Woods, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. All right. And what is this e-mail? Can you tell me?
- A. It looks like a note from myself to Curtis Anstead recalling a conversation with Paul Hutz at TolTest.
- Q. All right. And the second paragraph in that e-mail it looks like you are discussing the developer. Do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And by the developer, you mean Ron Hensley; isn't that correct?
 - A. Correct.
 - Q. Can you read that second paragraph beginning with the words "The developer feels abandoned" through the words "he should consider."
 - A. "The developer feels abandoned; the customers are reaching out to City Council, et cetera...I asked the developer if he has looked at other energy sources for these homes: Propane or electric. He said he has not. I told him he should

consider."

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- Q. And so we just got done discussing that you don't want anything in these homes to ignite stray gas that Columbia Gas fears may accumulate inside of them; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. But here you're proposing that the developer should consider alternative energy sources for these homes, correct?
- A. I'm discussing in the context the developer feels the TolTest results are zero.
- 12 Q. I'm sorry. I didn't hear you. Could you repeat.
 - A. I am using it in the context the developer feels safe the TolTest result is zero readings.
 - Q. And you're advocating that he look at other energy sources for these homes, propane or electric, correct?
 - A. I told him he should consider it.
 - Q. Well, why are you asking him to consider other energy sources for these homes at this time?
- A. Through the course of the issue there
 hasn't been a whole lot of credence lent on the
 developer's side to the findings of Columbia Gas. We

can only control the natural gas delivered to that home or those homes in that development, and if at this point he doesn't feel those are accurate readings and he is more comfortable with the TolTest reading, that's at his discretion to do what he feels appropriate.

- Q. So one week into this you are recommending that he look for other sources of fuel, if you will, to supply the appliances for the residents of Graystone Woods.
- A. I am telling him he should look at other energy sources.
 - Q. And that includes propane.
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And doesn't propane have the same potential to ignite that gas inside the home that Columbia-supplied natural gas does?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. But if the homes in Graystone Woods were fueled by propane as opposed to Columbia Gas's gas, Columbia would have no potential liability; isn't that correct?
- A. No. I don't know if I know the answer to that 100 percent where our liability begins and ends in terms of what the community needs to know about

the readings around those homes.

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- Q. Well, if these folks are no longer Columbia Gas customers, then Columbia is not involved; isn't that correct?
 - A. Could you rephrase that question.
- Q. If all of these folks switched to propane and Columbia Gas is no longer supplying natural gas service to these homes, there's no potential for liability to Columbia Gas should anything happen; isn't that correct?
- MR. GALLON: Objection. Seeks a legal conclusion.
- EXAMINER JONES: I agree. Sustained.

 MR. ALLWEIN: I'll withdraw that

 question.
 - Q. I want to ask you before we move on as of June 7, 2012, was it your opinion that the stray gas situation would not be resolved?
 - A. How do you define "resolved"?
 - Q. Resolved meaning that resumption of natural gas service from Columbia Gas to be restored.
- A. I guess I have two answers. One, I am

 not an expert. I don't know how -- how this scenario

 is going to play out. It was new to me at Columbia

 Gas after nine years, but if you are asking if I

thought we would be here today, no, I did not.

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- Q. Did Columbia desire to abandon service to this neighborhood?
- A. I don't know if "desire" is the right word.
- Q. Did Columbia seek to abandon service to this neighborhood?
 - A. I believe it was discussed internally.
- Q. And were -- were there any activities towards the abandonment of service to this neighborhood by Columbia Gas?
 - A. How would you clarify "activities"?
- Q. Anything done to forward the abandonment of service to Columbia Gas.

MR. GALLON: I would object to this question to the extent he is using abandonment in the legal sense rather than a general sense.

EXAMINER JONES: Can you explain for us how you are using the term "abandonment" because there is a legal process for abandonment at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. Are you talking about in a legal sense as an application should be filed with the Commission, or are you in the general sense using the term "abandonment" to mean termination of service?

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MR. ALLWEIN: Well, I have a -- an
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      exhibit that may clear this up. And it will be
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     abandonment the way that Mr. Kozak himself refers to
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     it.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: I will allow the
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     question.
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                  Do you need the question read back?
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                  THE WITNESS: Yes, please.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Can you read the
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     question back, please, Karen.
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                  (Record read.)
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                  THE WITNESS: Thank you. And your Honor
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     described abandonment as just the general sense, not
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     the legal process through the PUCO?
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                  EXAMINER JONES: I will allow you to
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      answer that how you are defining or how you
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     understand abandonment.
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             Α.
                  Yeah, we did have some discussions like
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     that, yes.
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             Q.
                  Okay.
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                  MR. ALLWEIN: Your Honor, may I approach?
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                  EXAMINER JONES: You may.
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                  MR. ALLWEIN: Your Honor, may I please
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     have this exhibit marked as Seneca Exhibit 19.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: It shall be so marked.
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544 MR. ALLWEIN: Thank you, your Honor. 1 2 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.) 3 Mr. Kozak, I have -- or, I'm sorry, I Q. just handed you what's been marked as Seneca Exhibit 4 19; is that correct? 5 6 Α. Yes. 7 And this is an e-mail from you to various 8 folks that work for either Columbia Gas or NiSource, 9 correct? 10 Α. Yes. 11 0. And this e-mail is dated September 24, 12 2012; is that correct? 13 Α. Yes. 14 And I want to -- well, what is this 15 e-mail? Can you describe it for me? 16 This was a recap of recent activities at 17 the Graystone situation and contacts I had made that 18

- week with property owners.
- 0. Okay. And you sent this to quite a few people at NiSource; isn't that correct?
 - Α. Yes.
- And these folks include, if you look Ο. towards the bottom, it says sseiple@nisource.com, do you see that?
- 25 Α. Yes.

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- Q. It's above the word "Tom." Do you see that?
 - Q. And who is S. Seiple?
 - A. I believe it is Steve Seiple.
 - Q. And what does Steve Seiple do for Columbia Gas or NiSource?
 - A. Legal, he is a lawyer.
 - Q. Okay. Are there any other attorneys that you see in that list of recipients?
- 11 A. Yes.

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- 12 Q. Can you identify them, please.
- A. Brooke Leslie, Charles McCreery. I believe that's it.
- Q. All right. I think there's one more. If
 you look down there one line below the last name
 McCreery, there's also a Daniel Creekmur. Do you see
 that?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. And he is also an attorney for Columbia
 Gas or NiSource; isn't that correct?
- A. At this point he was in the regulatory department. I don't know if he was an attorney.
- Q. Okay. But we do have folks that you are aware of that are attorneys on this recipient list

that include Brooke Leslie, Steve Seiple, and Charles McCreery, correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Looking at the body of your e-mail and your summary of the latest updates on the Graystone situation, you kind of have a summary there at the top. Can you read the words after letter "B" beginning with "There are no" and ending with the words "has been initiated."
- A. "There are no suggestions for remediation. As such, we are strongly considering a complete abandonment of these homes and the development. Internally" -- sorry. Where do you want me to stop?
 - Q. At "has been negotiated."
- A. "Internally, work has started on the process and some outreach to the PUCO has been initiated."
- Q. So there you state that "we" and by we I assume you mean Columbia Gas; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And you say "we are strongly considering a complete abandonment of these homes and the development"; is that correct?
- 25 A. Yes.

Q. What do you mean by a "complete abandonment"?

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- A. I mean that if you look back at, A, with methane levels still existing around the foundation home and, B, no suggestion or action or movement towards remediation, that we would look at abandoning service to this neighbor.
- Q. And when you say abandoning service, are you referring to a general definition of abandonment, or are you referring to the legal process that takes place in front of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio?
 - A. In this case the legal process.
- Q. So it looks like you state that "work has started on the process"; is that correct?
- A. "Work has started." There had been conversations with the Commission, yes.
 - Q. Conversations with whom?
- A. There had been conversations with the Commission, yes.
- Q. If you turn to the second page of that e-mail, towards the bottom you have a -- not bullet points exactly but it's dash steps under the heading "Next Steps." Do you see that?
- A. Yes.

- Q. And what is the second step there that you list?
 - A. "We will continue the internal abandonment process."

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- Q. And what do you mean by the "internal abandonment process"?
- A. The process -- the process for us to discuss and determine whether that's the action we want to take next.
- Q. Uh-huh. And so at this point did
 Columbia Gas desire to abandon service to the
 neighborhood at Graystone Woods in the sense to which
 you are referring here in this e-mail?
- A. With no resolution or remediation to the methane gas found around these homes, yes, that was the desire.
- MR. ALLWEIN: I have no further questions, your Honor.
- 19 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you.
- Ms. Donovan, do you have
- 21 cross-examination for this witness?
- MS. DONOVAN: I do, just a few, if I may, your Honor.
- EXAMINER JONES: Okay. We'll go ahead.
- I was considering taking a break, but if you only

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1 have a few, we will go ahead.
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MS. DONOVAN: Do you want? I could use a

3 bathroom break.

4 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Let's take 5

5 minutes.

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(Recess taken.)

EXAMINER JONES: All right. Let's go

8 back on the record.

Ms. Donovan, are you prepared to

10 cross-examine at this time?

MS. DONOVAN: Actually after some

12 reconsideration, your Honor, I don't have any further

13 questions for him.

14 EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Thank you.

15 Redirect, Mr. Gallon?

MR. GALLON: Yes, your Honor.

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18 DIRECT EXAMINATION

19 By Mr. Gallon:

Q. Mr. Kozak, we've discussed a number of

21 topics this morning. I would like to take you back

22 through some of the documents that you have been

23 | handed and ask you some additional questions about

24 the topics that Mr. Allwein sought your opinion on.

25 If we could start from the most recent one which is

- Seneca Exhibit 19. Do you still have that?
- 2 A. Yes.

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- Q. Mr. Allwein asked you about an internal abandonment process, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And you explained that it's your understanding that abandonment is a legal process, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- 10 Q. It requires an application --
- 11 A. Yes.
- Q. -- correct? To your knowledge has

 Columbia filed an application to abandon Graystone

 Woods?
- A. Not to my knowledge.
- Q. To your knowledge -- strike to your knowledge.
- Does Columbia still consider the residents of Graystone Woods to be its customers?
- 20 A. Yes.
- Q. If we could turn to Exhibit 19, the one we were just discussing, this is an e-mail that you sent on September 24 of 2012, correct?
- 24 A. Yes.
- Q. What was the purpose of this e-mail?

- A. To give kind of a weekly update to this regular group what had transpired most recently.
- Q. And among the other topics in this e-mail, you are giving an update on your interactions with the residents in Graystone Woods, correct?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Could you read the second bullet point in your e-mail.
 - A. Well, it begins "In an effort"?
 - Q. Yes, please.
- A. "In an effort to share the COH story and engage the customers, I called every home on Friday afternoon and spoke with 11 of the 13 impacted homes. I did offer a face-to-face meeting (only one took me up); however, most took the chance to tell me I was wasting their time and express varying levels of frustration."
- Q. Thank you, Mr. Kozak. Who was the customer at Graystone Woods who took you up on your offer of a face-to-face meeting?
 - A. Mr. Jacizinski.
 - Q. And did you meet with Mr. Jacizinski?
- A. We did.
 - Q. Where did you meet?
- 25 A. At the Reynolds Corner Branch Library.

- Q. And how long did you meet with Mr. Jacizinski?
 - A. Probably 30 minutes.
 - Q. What was the topic of your conversation?
- A. The issue in Graystone.
 - Q. Did Ms. Donovan take you up on your offer of a face-to-face meeting?
 - A. No.

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- Q. Did either Bruce Roth or his son Ryan

 Roth take you up on the offer of a face-to-face

 meeting?
- 12 A. I never spoke to them. In our system at
 13 that time it was a former tenant still listed as the
 14 contact for that address.
- 0. Who was that former tenant?
- 16 A. Last name was -- I can't recall the last
 17 name off the top of my head. Winston, Winson, began
 18 with a W, I believe.
- 19 Q. Let's go with Woodson.
- 20 A. Okay.
- Q. Did you speak with Mr. Woodson at this time?
- 23 A. I did.
- Q. So this is again September of 2012, you had a conversation with the tenant at the Roths'

residence, correct?

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- A. Is Roth 2141 Oakside?
- Q. Let me say did you have a conversation with a tenant at 2141 Oakside Road?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Is that conversation described in this e-mail?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Could you please read the portion of this e-mail that described that conversation.
- A. "2141 Oakside: This customer moved out a month ago, but the account is still in his name; he was leasing the home from the developer and moved out when he saw no resolution in sight. He was concerned about the methane issue, asking the developer for weekly tests inside the house, and this was refused. The account is still in his name, as the developer won't let him out and is trying to force him to pay through the end of the lease. He said COH has done nothing wrong and blames the developer."
- Q. Thank you, Mr. Kozak. If you would go on to the next paragraph and read that for me as well.
- A. "As part of the outreach on Friday, I also spoke to the Mayor's Office, City Council, the Fire Department and Toledo Environmental Services.

All appreciated the call. However, the Clerk" -- I'm sorry, "the City Council Clerk did share with me that the Developer was the one who provided and installed electric water tanks for each home so they could shower. A week later, each resident received a bill for \$653."

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- Q. Thank you, Mr. Kozak. As part of your outreach in the Graystone Woods situation, did you regularly reach out to the governmental entities in the Toledo area?
- A. Over this time we did have communications. Some was I instigated. Others they were instigated.
- Q. What was the conversations -- let me rephrase the question. Whom did you reach out to in local government throughout this Graystone Woods situation?
- A. The outreach I had was directly with Steve Herwat of the mayor's office who asked for updates.
 - Q. What was his position?
- A. He is the deputy mayor for the city of Toledo.
 - Q. If we could turn to the previous e-mail which is marked as Seneca Exhibit 18, do you have it

- in front of you?
- 2 A. Yes.

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- Q. And this is a much earlier e-mail, correct?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. What's the date of this e-mail?
- 7 A. June 7, 2012.
 - Q. And do you recall that counsel for the Roths and for Seneca Builders directed your attention to the paragraph that starts "The developer feels abandoned"?
- 12 A. Yes.
- Q. And he asked you some questions about your communications regarding alternative energy sources for the homes, correct?
- 16 A. Yes.
- Q. Was it Columbia's ultimate desire that
 the residents of Graystone Woods find an alternative
 source of energy?
 - A. I would regard the entire course of this process our desire was to have them have their natural gas service restored.
 - Q. So between the option of having them remediate the methane and have their service restored or not remediate the methane and find alternative

sources of energy, which was Columbia's desired outcome?

- A. Proposition A.
- Q. There's a paragraph in here after the part we were just discussing in which you are referencing a comment by the developer regarding the presence of methane in other parts of Toledo. Do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Are you an expert in stray gas?
- 11 A. No.

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- Q. Do you have any geology training or education?
 - A. No.
- Q. Do you have any personal knowledge as to whether methane is present in other locations in Toledo?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Do you have any personal reason to believe that the statement you attribute to the developer here is actually correct?
 - A. No.
- Q. Could we next turn to Seneca Exhibit 17.

 The discussion here was regarding the closing of the accounts on Columbia's system, correct?

Let me back up a step, Mr. Kozak. This is an e-mail from August 20, 2012, from you to Steve Jablonski, correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And Mr. Allwein asked you some questions regarding the decision to close the customers' accounts, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Did you make the decision to close the customers' accounts on Columbia's system?
 - A. No.
- Q. Is that within your authority as a community relations person in the Toledo office?
 - A. No.
 - O. Who made that decision?
- A. I believe ultimately we went with -- we went with and worked with Carol Wilson.
- Q. Do you have any understanding as to what Columbia's interpretation of that action or the impact of that action would be?
- A. Our hope was not to continue to send these customers bills every month, and quite honestly it upset them every month, to try and eliminate that sense of frustration from their lives as they dealt with this.

- Q. How do you know it upset the customers at Graystone Woods to receive bills every month?
 - A. Because I would get phone calls.
- Q. Who did you get phone calls from, Mr. Kozak?
- A. I got phone calls from Kris Jensen and Tony -- Mr. Jacizinski and Connie Kulyat would call why am I still getting bills. I don't have gas.
- Q. Did you inform these people that you would be removing them from Columbia's system so they would stop receiving bills?
- A. When they called, I told them we would take care of it. Obviously they didn't -- they weren't in our system. They weren't receiving their service at that time, so we took them out, and then we contacted them later.
- Q. Did Columbia continue to consider the residents at Graystone Woods its customers after their accounts were removed from the computer system so as to stop them from receiving bills?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And when you say that Columbia still considered them customers, what do you mean?
- A. Well, they had -- still had meters on the side of their homes and our natural gas structure in

their yards.

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- Q. Did Columbia continue to seek a resolution of the stray gas situation at Graystone Woods after the customers' accounts were removed from the system? Let me rephrase the question.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Did Columbia continue to communicate with the residents of Graystone Woods and respond to their communications after their accounts were removed from the system?
- A. I believe we had these face-to-face meetings. We offered the face-to-face meetings after we sent the letter notifying them they would be removed from our system. So at that point, yes, we did still offer to communicate with them.
- Q. Mr. Kozak, if we could turn back a couple of exhibits now to Exhibit -- Seneca Exhibit 15.

 Actually before we move to 15 let me ask you a few questions more about the removal of the customers from Columbia's computer system. Do you have any personal knowledge of what it would require to readd the customers to Columbia's system and start back under the process of sending the monthly bills?
- A. From a logistical standpoint or from an accounting standpoint?

- Q. From a logistical standpoint.
- A. Basic knowledge, yes.
- Q. Would it have been difficult for Columbia to readd the accounts to the system and start sending out bills once the methane problem was remediated and service was reconnected?
- A. No. In fact, when we met with City
 Council, we told them we could have that restored the same day.
- Q. And I believe Mr. Allwein also asked you some questions about the pressure testing that Columbia conducted in August of 2012 in which it disconnected the main line to Oakside Road to perform tests on the lines. Do you recall that?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And I believe he asked you what the effect of that removal would be, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And if you'll turn to Seneca 17 which was the e-mails between you and Mr. Jablonski, he directed you to the end of the first paragraph. Do you recall those questions?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And there was a line there that said "I don't think they fully grasp what that means,"

correct?

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- A. Yes.
 - Q. And I believe Mr. Allwein asked you a question about what you meant by that statement, correct?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And I believe you said that it would be more difficult for them to turn the service back on after that -- after that test, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Have you ever served as a service 12 technician for Columbia Gas of Ohio?
- 13 A. No.
 - Q. Have you ever served in any position for Columbia Gas of Ohio other than your current community relations position?
 - A. No.
 - Q. Do you have an understanding of what would be required to reconnect the main line that serves Columbia Gas following a test like the one that was conducted in August of 2012?
 - A. Rudimentary.
- Q. Have you ever performed a pressure test on a main line?
- 25 A. No.

- Q. Have you ever been in the position of reconnecting the line after such a pressure test was conducted?
 - A. No.

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- Q. So you have no firsthand knowledge of what it would take to reconnect the main line to Oakside Road and the Graystone Woods residences once the methane problem was remediated, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. If we could now turn to Seneca Exhibit 15, Mr. Kozak, which is your e-mails with Michelle Dempsey Zimmerman. Do you see those e-mails?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And I believe you said Ms. Zimmerman is a legislative aide to a state representative?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you often respond to communications from state representatives as a part of your duties at Columbia gas?
- A. Generally my government relations ends at the county level. Someone else picks that up on the state level, but when it's a situation like this specific to northwest Ohio, they referred it back to me.
 - Q. I believe one of the questions you were

asked about this e-mail was whether Columbia would send the state representative a copy of the policy it uses to shut off the gas; is that correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And you indicated you did not send a copy of that policy.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. Did you explain to Ms. Zimmerman what the policy required?
- A. When you say the policy required, is that for reestablishing service or the reaffirmation of service?
- Q. Did you explain to Ms. Zimmerman what the policy required regarding the reestablishment of service following the detection of methane at or near the foundation of a customer's structure?
- A. I believe that's in my first e-mail response to her, the three bullet points at the end.
- Q. Could you turn to that first e-mail to Ms. Zimmerman.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. I would like you to start actually at the bottom of the second page which is COH00210. Do you see the sentence that begins the "Columbia Gas policy"?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Could you read forward from this point to the three bullet points that you were just referencing.
 - A. Including the three bullets points?
 - Q. Yes, sir.
- A. "The Columbia Gas policy has always been zero for readings against the foundation of a home. Columbia's standards adhere to the National Fuel Gas Code, Federal Pipeline Safety Codes, the Ohio Administrative Code and its PUCO tariff. Not all safety precautions and safety related policy is specifically reflected in a code or tariff, however those codes all require COH to safely provide gas service and it is incumbent on COH to establish policies to address safety situations even when those situations may not be specifically addressed by a governing code or tariff. To retore service, Columbia Gas has requested the following:

"A remediation system installed that would lower and maintain the methane gas readings at zero around the foundation.

"A signed consent from a certified expert OR a government entity stating that it is safe for Columbia Gas to restore natural gas service.

"A signed consent form from the home owner stating that the remediation system will be maintained."

- Q. And could you please continue to read the following two sentences.
- A. "I do appreciate talking with you, and as I said: I completely understand the frustration and concern of these residents. However, Columbia Gas wants to make sure that these homes are safe for natural gas service."
- Q. Thank you, Mr. Kozak. If we could turn to Seneca Exhibit 16 for a moment.
 - A. What's the date on 16?
- Q. The date on 16 is June 8, 2012. It's an e-mail from you to Margi Smith, cced several people.
 - A. Okay.
 - Q. Do you have it in front of you?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. And do you recall a series of questions from Mr. Allwein regarding the statements in the first two sentences regarding a COH number with a 419 area code?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And you explained that there is a call center instead that Columbia was referring the

customers to contact instead of the local office?

A. Yes.

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- Q. The date of this e-mail is June 8, 2012, correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. What communications were you having with the residents of Graystone Woods at that time?
- A. I know we had had a couple of phone conversations with a handful of residents. I know we had heard communication through elected leaders at this point to discuss the situation.
- Q. Did you meet with any of the residents of Graystone Woods in the days surrounding June 8, 2012?
- A. You know, without looking at a timeline, I am not 100 percent sure.
- Q. Do you recall that you discussed a meeting at Ms. Donovan's house?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. Do you remember what date that meeting at Ms. Donovan's house was, approximately?
 - A. Right around this time, the 11th.
- Q. So within three days of this e-mail you actually were meeting at one of the residents' homes with a number of the residents at Graystone Woods, correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. Do you recall whether any additional letters were sent to the residents at Graystone Woods regarding the stray gas situation in the week following this June 8, 2012, e-mail?
- A. I believe we sent them a letter with the stray gas readings specific to their accounts to their homes.
- Q. You mentioned you sent them a letter regarding the stray gas readings specific to their homes. So the letters you sent them did not discuss the readings that Columbia Gas was obtaining at other homes in Graystone Woods that were not own --
- A. No, correct. It was only to their individual home.
- Q. Why did you only provide each individual homeowner with the readings that were pertinent to their homes?
- A. We looked at it the same way as if someone called up and asked for their neighbor's gas bill. We would not provide that to them.
- Q. So I believe that you received requests from other individuals outside of Graystone Woods for copies of the specific readings at the homes in Graystone Woods, correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And did you provide copies of those readings to people outside of Graystone Woods?
 - A. At that time, no.
 - Q. Why not?
- A. The exact same reason as stated earlier, what I viewed and we viewed as personal information much like their bill that we would not share if someone requested.
- Q. If one of the neighbors in Graystone
 Woods had come to you and asked for the results of
 stray gas testing that were taken at their neighbor's
 house across the street, would you have provided that
 information?
 - A. No.
- Q. Is your reason the same as the reasons you have just provided me?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. If we can now turn to Seneca Exhibit 14 which is an e-mail you sent to a number of people on June 15 of 2012. And if you look in the middle of the first paragraph, you'll see the words "he did ask for copies of our test results." Do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Is this an example of one of the requests

you received from people outside of Graystone Woods for copies of the specific readings taken there?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And when you said "I said I was going to provide those to the property owners and it was at their discretion if they showed to any third-parties," is this because of the privacy concerns we were just discussing?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. There's a comment in the -- I believe it's the second sentence. It's the sentence that begins "He indicated the Mayor." Do you see that sentence?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. "He indicated the Mayor was looking for a resolution to restoring service to these customers, but that the City was not going to assume responsibility or liability." Do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Have I read that correctly?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Do you recall at any time asking the city of Toledo to assume liability for the stray gas issue at Graystone Woods?
- 25 A. No.

- If we could turn back to Seneca 17 for 0. just a moment which, again, was the e-mails between you and Mr. Jablonski from August 20 of 2012. Do you have the e-mail in front of you?
 - Α. Yes.

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- There's a reference there to a 0. conversation with FirstEnergy. Do you see that reference?
 - Α. Yes.
- 0. And you and I were just talking about Columbia's policy with regard to sharing test results with third parties, correct?
 - Α. Yes.
- Did you ever discuss the testing that was being performed at Graystone Woods with anyone from FirstEnergy?
 - Α. We discussed the testing, yes.
- With whom at FirstEnergy did you talk 0. about the testing?
- I discussed it with Randy Frames who at Α. that time was regional president for FirstEnergy and Meg Adams who was their external affairs manager, I believe.
- Did you share the specific test results 25 with FirstEnergy?

A. No.

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- Q. Did they express to you whether or not they had received any information about the test results from Seneca Builders?
- A. They did -- had not received any test results, no.
- Q. Did they express to you whether they had spoken with Seneca Builders more generally about the testing that was performed at Graystone Woods?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And what did they say to you?
- A. They -- they said there had been tests performed and that the development -- the developer would like to see the development become an all electric facility, and before they could ultimately make that decision they wanted to see the test results.
- Q. Do you recall when approximately that conversation took place?
- A. The fall of 2012, most likely on this day.
 - Q. This day is August 20, 2012?
- 23 A. Yes.
- Q. Have you had any more recent
 conversations with anybody from FirstEnergy regarding

the stray gas situation at Graystone Woods?

A. Yes.

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- Q. When was the last time you spoke with anyone about -- at FirstEnergy about the stray gas situation at Graystone Woods?
 - A. Last 60 to 90 days.
- Q. And what was the substance of those conversations?
- A. Wanted to -- it was with Meg Adams.

 Again, she wanted to know what was going on out
 there, if -- if we had any copies of test results we
 could provide. At that point they still had not
 received any.
 - Q. Did you provide her with copies then?
 - A. No.
- Q. Have you ever had any communications with FirstEnergy regarding whether they intended to convert the neighborhood to all electric?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. When was the most recent conversation with a person at FirstEnergy regarding that topic?
 - A. Again, within the last 60 to 90 days.
- Q. And did they at that time state that they intended to convert the neighborhood at Graystone
 Woods to all electric?

A. They were still waiting to see test results before they could make that ultimate decision.

MR. GALLON: Mr. Kozak, I have no further questions for you. Thank you.

THE WITNESS: Thank you.

EXAMINER JONES: Any recross,

Mr. Allwein?

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MR. ALLWEIN: Yes, I do, your Honor.

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RECROSS-EXAMINATION

12 By Mr. Allwein:

- Q. Mr. Kozak, regarding the face-to-face offer that your counsel just discussed with you from Seneca Exhibit 19 in which you read some of the individual residence or address, I guess, summaries, what date was it that you made this face-to-face offer?
 - A. The date of the phone calls?
- Q. Pardon me?
- 21 A. The date the phone calls were placed?
- 22 Q. Yes, sir.
- A. I would have to go back and look on a calendar for sure, but I'm reasonable it was in this week.

- Q. Within the week?
- A. The 24th.

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- Q. Okay. And that is a solid two and a half months plus after the gas was shut off at Graystone Woods; isn't that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And let's go to 2141, the summary of that address, which I believe is on page 2. You state that -- down into the paragraph that "the account is still in his name" and by that do you mean the gas account?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. And "still in his name," do you mean in the tenant's name?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. And you say "as the developer won't let him out and is trying to force him to pay through the end of the lease," do you see that?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. And by "developer" who are you referring to?
- A. At this time the e-mail was sent I was under the impression or thought Mr. Hensley was the owner of this property, and I have since learned otherwise.

- Q. Okay. You also discussed a conversation with a a city clerk, I believe it is --
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. -- towards the end of the e-mail. And can you identify the clerk?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Who is that clerk?
 - A. Lisa Renee Ward.
 - Q. Okay. And do you know where she received the source of her information?
- 11 A. She shared that with me. She had been in contact with one of the residents on Oakside.
 - Q. With one of the residents on Oakside.
- 14 A. Yes.
- Q. Did she identify the resident?
- 16 A. She did not.
- Q. Okay. And did this clerk see the bills herself?
- 19 A. I don't know if I can answer that.
- Q. Okay. Did she indicate to you she saw the bills from the developer?
- A. She told me -- she told me that each person received a bill.
- Q. And she got that information from someone telling her that each person received a bill,

correct?

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- A. She got it from a resident.
- Q. Okay. But you don't know which one.
- A. Correct.
- Q. And then you stated that you were "contacting folks regularly." What's the frequency of regularly?
- A. My contact, my outreach two weeks to 30 days or as necessary.
- Q. Okay. Let's go to Seneca 17 for just a second. You indicated upon questioning by Columbia's counsel that it was not your decision to remove these folks from your accounting system, but it was the decision of someone named I believe Carol Wilson; is that correct?
- A. Yes.
 - Q. And while Carol Wilson made the decision to remove these folks from the accounts, this e-mail appears to be your attempt to decide how to characterize this activity; is that correct?
 - A. Characterize and communicate, yes.
 - Q. Because you were the spokesperson for the situation out at Graystone Woods. You stated that earlier in your testimony, correct?
 - A. Yes.

Q. So you're figuring out in this e-mail how to figure out a nice way to say that we're closing your account because it can be a pain for your co-workers; is that correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And you also stated upon questioning from Columbia's counsel that Columbia still considered these folks to be customers; isn't that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. If I were to call your call center today and give them the addresses of the homes on Graystone Woods, would they indicate an active account at those addresses, or would they indicate that those accounts were closed?

MR. GALLON: Objection, speculation and foundation.

MR. ALLWEIN: Your Honor, he is saying Columbia considers these folks to be customers, and I'm trying to define in what sense Columbia would consider them to be customers.

A. I haven't looked at any of the Oakside accounts recently, but I believe they would be listed as inactive.

Q. Just a second. My apologies. And I believe counsel for Columbia asked you some questions about your refusal to share test results out of concern for the privacy of the customers on Oakside Road; is that correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And you went over the fact that you did not share them with the mayor's office or the city of Toledo; isn't that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Is this is the city of Toledo one of the entities that you were looking for to sign a consent form in order to have the gas service restored?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. So isn't it reasonable that they would ask to see what the test results were before they would sign such a consent form?

MR. GALLON: Objection, foundation.

EXAMINER JONES: Overruled.

- A. Could you repeat the question?
- Q. Isn't it reasonable for the city being
 one of the potential authorities having jurisdiction
 to sign the consent form required by Columbia to ask
 to see the test results that you were getting out

there at Oakside Road?

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- A. It's hard for me to speak for the city.
 But in this case I think they would like to see the test results that show there is no readings.
- Q. Okay. Regardless I am not asking you to speak for the city. I am asking in your opinion is it reasonable for them to want to view the test results of the area for which you're asking them to sign a consent form.
- A. It's reasonable and they would have the opportunity to ask the individual residents to share those with them.
- Q. And in this e-mail, Seneca 14, which is your summary of your discussions on the telephone with Steve Herwat, it looks like they shared their test results with you; isn't that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. But you wouldn't share Columbia's test results with them.
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And just to be clear the city of Toledo is a potential authority having jurisdiction; isn't that correct?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. I want to ask you about the removal of

the customers from Columbia's accounting system. And I believe your counsel asked —— for Columbia asked you whether that could be characterized as difficult. And, forgive me, I am paraphrasing here. But you indicated that you —— well, you asked counsel from a logistical or accounting standpoint what he meant, and I don't recall the answer, but you said that these accounts could be restored the same day; isn't that correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. And that's just the accounts, right, in Columbia's system for each customer? Is that what you are referring to when you say you could restore these customers to the accounting system in the same day? Is that what you were referring to?
- A. No. We could restore service to their homes the same day.
- Q. Okay. But you also just stated to your counsel that you have no idea what kind of field work would be involved to get that line reconnected; isn't that correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And when I asked you earlier about what fully grasp, what it means -- meant, you stated that it would be more difficult for these folks to be

restored as customers; isn't that correct?

A. Yes.

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- Q. I want to turn one more time to Seneca
 Exhibit 15 which is your e-mail conversation with
 Michelle Dempsey Zimmerman who is a legislative aide
 to Representative Michael Ashford. And counsel for
 Columbia had you read quite a bit of that e-mail that
 began on the second page of the document and into the
 third; isn't that correct?
- A. Yes.
- Q. And my question to you is did

 Ms. Zimmerman ask you to explain the policy to her in
 an e-mail, or was she asking for a copy of the policy
 that you used to shut off the gas?
- A. She was asking me for an overview of what was going on.
 - Q. Does she use the term overview?
 - A. In the e-mail that was forwarded to me.
- Q. And the e-mail that was forwarded to you,
 I believe it says "Can you please send me a copy of
 the policy used to shut off the gas?" Am I reading
 that correctly?
- A. Yes.
- Q. So she's asking for a copy of the policy --

A. Yes.

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Q. -- correct? And toward the end of that extended e-mail on the third page -- I'm sorry, on the second page of the document so let me -- strike that. I'll ask it again.

Towards the bottom of the second page of this document where it says that the Columbia Gas policy has always been for zero readings against the foundation of a home, that's your understanding of the policy, correct?

- A. No. That's what my experts shared with me.
 - Q. Who are your experts?
 - A. Rob Smith and Curtis Anstead.
 - Q. Okay. And you also state that "Columbia's standards adhere to the National Fuel Gas Code." Are you familiar with the National Fuel Gas Code?
 - A. I am not.
 - Q. And you also state that "Columbia's standards adhere to the Federal Pipeline Safety Codes." Are you familiar with the Federal Pipeline Safety Codes?
 - A. I am not.
- 25 Q. And it also states that "Columbia's

- standards adhere to the Ohio Administrative Code."

 Can you identify which sections of the Ohio

 Administrative Code that you are referring to?
- A. I cannot but since our service -- our expert Rob Smith gave this to me, that's what I was using as the basis for my response.
- Q. Okay. So you are just repeating what Rob Smith told you here in this portion of your e-mail.
 - A. Rob Smith reviewed the entire e-mail.
 - O. Did he write the e-mail?
- A. No.

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- Q. So -- so you wrote that "Columbia's standards adhere to the National Fuel Gas Code, Federal Pipeline Safety Codes, the Ohio Administrative Code, and its PUCO tariff," correct?
- A. I would have to go back and see what Rob added from my original draft.
- Q. It is possible Rob did write part of this e-mail?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Okay. Thank you. But just to be clear you yourself have no familiarity with those codes and/or standards that you're discussing in that portion of the e-mail?
- 25 A. Correct.

- Q. You discuss -- or I'm sorry. You testified that upon questioning from Columbia's counsel that you have had discussions with FirstEnergy regarding Graystone Woods in the last 60 to 90 days; isn't that correct?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. And you say that you had these discussions with Meg Adams; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And what is Ms. Adams' title at FirstEnergy?
- 12 A. I believe she is the external affairs
 13 manager.
 - Q. Okay. Is it your understanding as of today Toledo Edison is still providing electric service to the residents at Graystone Woods?
 - A. As far as I'm aware.
 - Q. And is it your understanding that
 Columbia Gas is currently as of today not providing
 gas service to Graystone Woods?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And is it your understanding that
 Columbia Gas has not provided natural gas service to
 Graystone Woods since May 31 of 2012?
- 25 A. Correct.

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                  MR. ALLWEIN: I have no further
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     questions, your Honor.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Thank you. Do we have
      anything further for this witness other than the
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     admission of documents?
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                  MR. GALLON: No, your Honor.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Okay. I believe we have
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      Seneca Exhibits 13 through 19 presented with this
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     witness; is that correct, Mr. Allwein?
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                  MR. ALLWEIN: No.
                  EXAMINER JONES: I'm sorry, you're right,
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      14 through 19; is that correct?
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                  MR. ALLWEIN: Yes, sir.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Okay.
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                  MR. ALLWEIN: At this time I would move
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      for admission of Seneca Exhibits 14 through 19 --
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Thank you.
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                  MR. ALLWEIN: -- into the record, your
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     Honor.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Mr. Gallon, any
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     objection to the admission of Seneca Exhibits 14
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     through 19?
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                  MR. GALLON: No, your Honor.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Thank you.
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     documents shall be admitted.
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                  (EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Anything further for
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     this witness?
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                  If not, thank you, Mr. Kozak. You may
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      step down.
                  THE WITNESS: Thank you, your Honor.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Any further witnesses to
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     be called at this time?
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                  MS. BLEND: No, your Honor. Columbia has
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     no further witnesses. We also wanted to note for the
     record that we have no additional cross for
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     Mr. Hensley regarding the documents received from
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     Hull & Associates per Columbia's subpoena to it.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Okay. Thank you.
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                  Anything further from Complainants?
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                  MR. ALLWEIN: Not from us, your Honor,
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     thank you.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Thank you. I'm assuming
     that the parties would like to file briefs in this
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     case; is that correct?
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                  MR. ALLWEIN: Yes, your Honor.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Is that a safe
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     assumption?
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                  MR. GALLON: Yes, your Honor.
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                  EXAMINER JONES: Okay. I am anticipating
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initial and reply briefs then. And based upon the filing of the transcript probably by no later than — well, around December 6 sometime, I am going to throw out some dates, and we can discuss whether those are feasible or not. I'm going to suggest initial briefs on — get my calendar opened up here — Monday, January 6, 2014, with reply briefs due Friday, January 31, 2014.

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That's just a suggestion at this point. What do the parties think of those dates?

MR. WILLIAMS: What was the second date?

EXAMINER JONES: Friday, January 31,

2014. It will be a little over a month for initial briefs and almost a month for reply briefs, three weeks plus.

MR. GALLON: My only thinking I might be doing some traveling around the holidays the week around New Year's Eve and perhaps a few extra days added to January 6 would be appreciated, but it's not — maybe the 10th instead of the 6th, slight modification. It may also be difficult to reach people the weeks around the holidays to get them to review briefs.

EXAMINER JONES: How about if we move it

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1 to Friday, January 10, 2014, and reply briefs Monday,
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- 2 | February 3, 2014?
- 3 MR. GALLON: That would work for us, your
- 4 Honor. Thank you.
- 5 EXAMINER JONES: I understand around the
- 6 | holidays it's kind of difficult. We all like to take
- 7 some time off to be with our families so.
- 8 MR. ALLWEIN: I'm sorry, your Honor. So
- 9 the initial brief would be due?
- 10 EXAMINER JONES: Friday, January 20,
- 11 2014.
- MR. ALLWEIN: Okay.
- 13 EXAMINER JONES: With the reply brief
- Monday, February 3, 2014.
- MR. GALLON: I'm sorry, your Honor. Did
- 16 you say January 20?
- 17 EXAMINER JONES: January -- January 10,
- 18 | 2014, which is the date I believe you suggested,
- 19 Mr. Gallon.
- MR. GALLON: It is but I thought I heard
- 21 something different.
- 22 EXAMINER JONES: I may have misspoken.
- 23 And then reply briefs Monday, February 3, 2014.
- MR. ALLWEIN: So 1-20 and 2-3, right?
- 25 EXAMINER JONES: That is correct, of

589 2014. 1 2 MR. ALLWEIN: Yes, sir. 3 EXAMINER JONES: Agreeable to everyone? MR. ALLWEIN: Yes, your Honor. 4 5 MR. GALLON: Yes. 6 EXAMINER JONES: Thank you. 7 Those will be the dates for the initial and reply briefs. 8 9 Is there anything further for us to do at 10 this point in time with this hearing? If not, I appreciate everybody's patience 11 12 and indulgence, and we will stand adjourned. Thank 13 you. 14 (Thereupon, the hearing was concluded at 15 11:43 a.m.) 16 17 18 19 20 2.1 22 23 24 25

CERTIFICATE I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Thursday, November 21, 2013, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes. Karen Sue Gibson, Registered Merit Reporter. (KSG-5784)

Armstrong & Okey, Inc., Columbus, Ohio (614) 224-9481

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Case No(s). 12-2877-GA-CSS, 13-0124-GA-CSS, 13-0667-GA-CSS

Summary: Transcript in the matter of Katherine Lycourt-Donovan, Seneca Builders, LLC, R & P Investments, Inc., and Ryan Roth vs Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. hearing held on 11/21/13 - Volume III electronically filed by Mrs. Jennifer Duffer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Gibson, Karen Sue Mrs.