

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Self Complaint)	
of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc.,)	
Regarding its Pooling Service Tariffs and)	Case No. 17-2284-GA-SLF
Application of Commission Rules Regarding)	
Customer Information.)	

**OHIO PARTNERS FOR AFFORDABLE ENERGY'S
COMMENTS**

Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy ("OPAE") herein submits to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") these comments in the above-referenced self complaint of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. ("Vectren"), in which Vectren asks the Commission to determine whether the eligible customer list to be made available to Commission-certified competitive retail natural gas service suppliers who are eligible to participate in Vectren's choice program pursuant to Commission Rule 4901:1-29-13(C) must be given to a supplier that is unwilling or unable to meet the qualifications for a supplier under Vectren's Tariff P.U.C.O. 3, Pooling Service Terms and Conditions, Sheet No. 52, p.2, under which Vectren must approve a supplier for participation in Vectren's choice program. In short, the Commission has certified the supplier under Commission rules, but the supplier has not been approved by Vectren to participate in Vectren's choice program.

Pursuant to Commission Rule 4901:1-29-09(C)(1), Vectren, as a natural gas distribution company, may not disclose customer information. Likewise, suppliers may not disclose customer information under Rule 4901:1-29-09(A)(1). Vectren

argues that its customer list is a form of customer information subject to the Commission's rules. In addition, Vectren's tariff requires suppliers to engage in the business of providing choice service to customers. The supplier must have at least 100 customers or 10,000 Mcf annual sales. The tariff also requires the supplier to provide Vectren with an electronic file in a format specified by Vectren, and all choice enrollments, drops, and related billing will take place by way of electronic data interchange ("EDI"). The supplier must sign a pooling agreement with Vectren, which contemplates that the supplier will use the EDI. The supplier must also complete the EDI testing process.

Specifically, the self complaint alleges that Vectren was approached by an unnamed "broker" which has been certified by the Commission as a supplier. The broker requested Vectren's customer list. The broker has not complied with Vectren's application process, specifically the broker refused to undergo EDI testing. To Vectren, this "suggests" that the broker does not intend to engage in supplier service but wants the customer list for another purpose. When Vectren would not provide the broker its customer list, the broker relied upon its certification by the Commission as entitlement to the customer list. The broker asserted that Vectren's failure to provide the list violated Commission rules.

Vectren maintains that its tariffs are requirements in addition to the Commission rules. Pursuant to Commission rules, Vectren's tariffs must address customer enrollment information exchange. Vectren asks the Commission to determine if Vectren must provide its customer list to a certified supplier who is unwilling or unable to obtain Vectren's approval to supply service.

As OPAE stated in its motion to intervene, OPAE's primary interest in this case is to protect the interests of low and moderate income customers and OPAE members whose provision of natural gas service and protection of customer data may be affected by this self complaint. OPAE agrees with the self complaint to the extent that there is no conflict between the Commission's rules and Vectren's tariffs, which the Commission also approved. The Commission's certification rules have their requirements, and the Commission-approved tariffs have additional requirements. In addition, a supplier would need to provide Vectren the EDI information so that the supplier would be paid for its service as a supplier.

There is no information in the self complaint as to the motivations of the unnamed "broker". Vectren alleges that the broker's refusal to comply with EDI "suggests" that the broker does not intend to supply natural gas to customers but wishes to obtain the customer list for other purposes, which would conflict with several Commission rules and tariffs, including the certification, application, and EDI processes. It is not possible to resolve the issue specifically without knowing the reasons for the broker's conduct. The broker would need to come forward with its own complaint under the Commission's rules and Vectren's tariffs.

Therefore, OPAE recommends that the Commission find that there is no conflict between the Commission's rules and Vectren's tariffs, which the Commission has also approved and which work together. If a supplier believes that Commission rules and utility tariffs have been violated by a natural gas distribution utility, the supplier should file a complaint with the Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

A copy of the foregoing Comments will be served electronically by the Commission's Docketing Division upon the persons identified below who are electronically subscribed to this case on this 23rd day of April 2018.

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Summary: Comments electronically filed by Colleen L Mooney on behalf of Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy