**BEFORE**

**THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

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| In the Matter of the Application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., for Approval of a General Exemption of Certain Natural Gas Commodity Sales Services or Ancillary Services. | ::::: | Case Nos. 08-1344-GA-EXM 12-2637-GA-EXM |
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**MOTION FOR A PROTECTIVE ORDER**

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF OF

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

 The Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Staff) hereby requests that the names of the participating bidders in the recent auction for natural gas supplies be kept confidential for fifteen days pursuant to O.A.C. 4901-1-24. The accompanying memo­randum in support sets forth the grounds for this motion.

 Respectfully submitted,

 **Michael DeWine**

 Ohio Attorney General

 **William L. Wright**

 Section Chief

 /s/ Thomas G. Lindgren

 **Thomas G. Lindgren**

 Assistant Attorneys General

 Public Utilities Section

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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

 On January 19, 2016, an auction was held to procure natural gas supplies for Standard Choice Offer (SCO) customers of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia). On the same date, the Staff filed a report con­cerning the results of the auction. In this report, Staff does not disclose the names of the participating and wining bidders.

 Staff requests that the names of the participating and winning bidders be kept confi­dential for a period of fifteen days. This is necessary in order to protect the bidders’ positions in negotiations with pipelines for the incremental capacity necessary to meet their obligations to deliver gas if chosen as a supplier. This information warrants pro­tection as a trade secret because immediate release of this information would cause seri­ous economic harm to the auction participants. Therefore, the Commission should grant a protective order keeping this information under seal for a period of fifteen days.

 Respectfully submitted,

 **Michael DeWine**

 Ohio Attorney General

 **William L. Wright**

 Section Chief

 /s/ Thomas G. Lindgren

 **Thomas G. Lindgren**

 Assistant Attorneys General

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# PROOF OF SERVICE

 I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing **Motion for Protective Order** submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio,was served by regular U.S. mail, postage pre­paid, or by electronic service, upon the following Parties of Record, this 20th day of January, 2016.

/s/ Thomas G. Lindgren

**Thomas G. Lindgren**

Assistant Attorney General

**Parties of Record:**

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