

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Review of Chapters)
 4901:5-17, 4901:5-19, 4901:5-21, 4901:5-23,)
 4901:5-25, 4901:5-29, 4901:5-33, 4901:5-35, and) Case No. 06-1201-AU-ORD
 4901:5-37 of the Ohio Administrative Code.)

**REPLY COMMENTS OF THE EAST OHIO
 GAS COMPANY D/B/A DOMINION EAST OHIO**

The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion East Ohio ("East Ohio"),
 respectfully submits the following reply comments to the initial comments filed by Office
 of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel ("OCC").

East Ohio has no problem with the majority of OCC's suggestions. In particular,
 East Ohio has no objection to providing OCC with copies of reports that East Ohio is
 required to submit to the Commission under the proposed rules. East Ohio has no
 objection to OCC's representation in the Fuel Source Advisory Council. And, East Ohio
 has no objection to OCC's request that proposed Rule 4901:5-25-01(I) be clarified to
 address the priority of use of natural gas between consumers and power generators during
 an emergency.

East Ohio does take issue with the following comments submitted by OCC, as
 discussed more fully below.

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This proposed rule states that upon declaration of an emergency, each gas supplier “Shall report to the Commission information that the Commission determines necessary to manage the energy emergency.” As stated above, East Ohio has no objection to providing OCC with copies of whatever information the Commission requests from East Ohio during an emergency.

East Ohio does object, however, to OCC’s request that the rule also include the following additional language: “The information provided by the energy suppliers in the above reports is necessary for OCC to assure the residential consumers’ entitlement to the energy supply during an emergency will be protected.” (OCC Initial Comments at 5.) Adding this language to the rule would imply that OCC has oversight authority over natural gas supplier operations, and it does not. No statute confers such authority to OCC. Nor does OCC have the operational expertise to manage gas supplies, during an emergency or otherwise. The Commission should not adopt OCC’s proposed change to the rule.

Emergency Simulation

East Ohio has no quarrel with the notion that during an energy emergency, “one must expect the unexpected.” (OCC Initial Comments at 9.) To prepare for the unexpected, OCC recommends that the Commission “undertake an emergency simulation in order to test the emergency preparedness of the Commission and energy suppliers affected by the rules.” (*Id.*) This sounds like a reasonable thing to do, but the magnitude of preparation and effort involved with even a simulated emergency should not be underestimated. It would be impractical and ineffective for the Commission to attempt to develop a protocol for an emergency simulation as part of the Energy Emergency Rules.

A meaningful protocol would require the input of industry participants and stakeholders. Thus, if the Commission is inclined to undertake such a simulation, East Ohio recommends that the Commission conduct a workshop or technical conference to establish the objectives for an emergency simulation and solicit the input of knowledgeable industry participants and stakeholders. East Ohio would have no objection to OCC being part of that process.

For the reasons discussed above, East Ohio respectfully requests the Commission to modify its proposed energy emergency rules in the manner reflected in East Ohio's Initial Comments and these Reply Comments.

Dated: January 12, 2007

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Initial Comments of The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion East Ohio was sent by ordinary U.S. mail to the following this 12th day of January, 2007.

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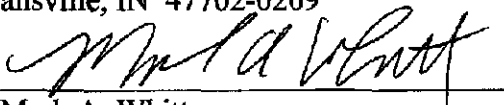
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