

FILE

Columbia Exhibit No.

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Columbia Gas)
of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of Tariffs to Recover)
Through an Automatic Adjustment Clause Costs)
Associated with the Establishment of an)
Infrastructure Replacement Program and for)
Approval of Certain Accounting Treatment)

Case No. 07-478-GA-UNC

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**PREPARED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF
THOMAS J. BROWN, JR.
ON BEHALF OF COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.**

Mark R. Kempic, Assistant General Counsel
Kenneth W. Christman, Associate General Counsel
Stephen B. Seiple, Lead Counsel
Daniel A. Creekmur, Attorney
200 Civic Center Drive
P.O. Box 117
Columbus, OH 43216-0117
Telephone: (614) 460-4648
Fax: (614) 460-6986
Email: sseiple@nisource.com

November 19, 2007

Attorneys for
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

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PREPARED REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF THOMAS J. BROWN, JR.

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. I am Thomas J. Brown, Jr. My business address is Post Office Box 117, 200 Civic Center
3 Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43216-0117.

4
5 **Q. Are you the same Thomas J. Brown, Jr. who previously presented direct testimony in**
6 **this proceeding?**

7 A. Yes.

8
9 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony in this proceeding?**

10 A. This rebuttal testimony is submitted in response to testimony submitted by Utility Service
11 Partners witnesses Funk and Riley.

12
13 **Q. Did you review the Direct Testimony of Phillip Riley, Jr. filed on behalf of Utility**
14 **Service Partners, Inc. on October 23, 2007, in Case No. 07-478-GA-UNC?**

15 A. Yes.

16
17 **Q. Do you agree with the statements in Mr. Riley's testimony that Columbia's plan to**
18 **assume responsibility for the ongoing maintenance, repair and replacement of**
19 **customer-owned service lines will not generate cost efficiencies or result in improved**
20 **or more efficient service for customers?**

21 A. No. Mr. Riley's testimony largely consists of self-serving assertions that customers derive
22 some higher levels of service or benefits from the warranty services his company sells. He

1 has presented no substantive arguments for continuing the current anomalous system of
2 bifurcated company/customer responsibility for repair or replacement of jurisdictional
3 natural gas distribution facilities. His arguments in opposition to Columbia's proposal to
4 assume the responsibility for repair and replacement of customer service lines seem even
5 more specious because they would appear to contradict his statement that Utility Service
6 Partners does not object to Columbia proposals regarding replacement of a significant
7 portion of customers' service lines – i.e., the Type A Risers that are prone to failure.
8

9 **Q. Did you review the Direct Testimony of Carter T. Funk filed on behalf of Utility**
10 **Service Partners, Inc. on October 23, 2007, in Case No. 07-478-GA-UNC?**

11 A. Yes.
12

13 **Q. Do you agree with the statements in Mr. Funk's testimony that Columbia's plan to**
14 **assume responsibility for the ongoing maintenance, repair and replacement of**
15 **customer-owned service lines will not improve or promote customer service line**
16 **safety?**

17 A. No. Mr. Funk suggests that Columbia's proposal is inherently unreasonable because "the
18 LDC will still have the responsibility to make leaking and damaged customer service lines
19 safe" and because "Columbia would be inspecting its own work prior to restoring service,
20 eliminating the independent oversight which exists today." Mr. Funk has presented no
21 evidence whatsoever that supports his inference that Columbia's employees will use
22 anything less than their best judgment and experience to inspect all work done on customer
23 service lines and to maintain a safe and efficient gas distribution system. The USP testimony

1 does not support the rejection of Columbia's proposal to assume responsibility for repair and
2 replacement of customer service lines.

3
4 **Q. Does this complete your Prepared Rebuttal Testimony?**

5 **A:** Yes, it does.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Prepared Rebuttal Testimony of Thomas J. Brown, Jr. was served upon all parties of record by electronic mail and regular U. S. mail this 19th day of November, 2007.



Stephen B. Seiple
Attorney for
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

SERVICE LIST

David C. Rinebolt
Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy
231 West Lima St., P.O. Box 1793
Findlay, OH 45839-1793
E-Mail: drinebolt@aol.com

Joseph P. Serio
Associate Consumers' Counsel
10 W. Broad St., Suite 1800
Columbus, OH 43215
E-Mail: serio@occ.state.oh.us

Vincent A. Parisi
5020 Bradenton Avenue
Dublin, Ohio 43017
E-Mail: vparisi@igsenergy.com

Anne L. Hammerstein
Stephen A. Reilley
Assistant Attorney General
Chief, Public Utilities Section
180 E. Broad St., 9th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-3793
E-Mail:
anne.hammerstein@puc.state.oh.us
stephen.reilly@puc.state.oh.us

Carl A. Aveni, II
Joseph M. Patchen
Carlile, Patchen & Murphy LLP
366 E. Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215
E-Mail: caa@cpmlaw.com

Joseph M. Clark
McNees Wallace & Nurick LLC
21 East State Street, 17th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215
E-Mail: jclark@mwncmh.com

M. Howard Petricoff
Stephen M. Howard
Vorys Sater Seymour and Pease LLP
52 East Gay Street, P.O. Box 1008
Columbus, OH 43216-1008
E-Mail: mhpetricoff@vssp.com

John W. Bentine
Chester, Willcox & Saxbe LLP
65 East State Street, Suite 1000
Columbus, OH 43215-4213
E-Mail: jbentine@cswlaw.com