

FILE

DUKE ENERGY GAS RATE BOOST 2-29-2008
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PUCO

I was surprised that the Duke Energy is requesting a increase to their base gas rate. I am in favor of replacing the old gas line with new ones. Replacing gas lines should reduce the company cost since less gas line problems would occur. However, I think replacing old gas lines should not be done on the back of the gas customers. We just had a rate increase last year. Companies can always show that increasing gas rates are required to justify a profit. **Companies are good story tellers with numbers.** Would like to see a story on lowering the natural gas rates. I do not remember any words about lower gas rates. Only words about increasing gas rates. This increase will hurt those on fixed incomes and those who are trying to make ends meet. I am retired and am a volunteer helping seniors with their income taxes. Can you imagined what this increase would do to them. Why accelerate the gas line replacement? Do it slow and at the same time Duke Energy will be able to absorbe the cost. The company should bear the responsibility of replacing the lines since they are the supplier. Also, raising the base gas rate would result in windfall profits for Duke Energy Company.

Bottom line, before this significant increase in gas rates are approved a study of the impact on the gas customers should be made. That is a fair way to present a rate increases. This study will show that more customers will have difficulty paying their gas bills. In addition, the Duke Energy should be more customer friendly. Why does Duke present a gas rate request showing a significant increase in our gas rate without looking at the impact on the gas customers? PUCO should protect the gas customers. Duke Energy should be a friendly gas company which will have profit/cost balance relative to the customers and not just to the company. Ohio needs a friendly natural gas supply company, that is one that has the interest of the customer and not just their profits.

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