## BEFORE

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the	)					
Application of The	)					
East Ohio Gas Company,	)					
d/b/a Dominion East	)Case	No.	07-122	4-G <i>I</i>	)-EX	M
Ohio for Approval of a	)					
General Exemption of	)	Op	IGINA		200	REC
Certain Natural Gas	)	<b>U</b> n			200 <b>8 HAY</b>	EIVEC
Commodity Sales Services	s)			5	2 <b>9</b>	)-D0C
or Ancillary Services.	)		C	•	₽ f:	RECEIVED-DOCKETING
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BE IT REMEMBERED, that upon the hearing of the above-entitled matter, held at the Frank J. Lausche State Office Building, 615 West Superior Avenue, 2nd Floor Auditorium, Cleveland, Ohio, and commencing on Thursday, the 3rd day of April, 2008, at 12:35 o'clock p.m., at which time the following proceedings were had.

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1	APPEARANCE:	S:	
2			
3	On Beha	alf of the Public Utilities	
4	Commis	sion of Ohio:	
5		PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO	
6	BY:	Christine M.T. Pirik, Deputy Director	
7		Legal Department	
8		180 East Broad Street	
9		Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793	
10		614/644-8955	
11			
12	On Beha	alf of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel:	
13		OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL	
14	BY:	Joseph P. Serio	
15		Assistant Consumers' Counsel	
16		10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800	
17		Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485	
18		614/466-8574	
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1	MS. PIRIK: The Public
2	Utilities Commission of Ohio has assigned for
3	public hearing at this time and place case
4	number 07-1224-GA-EXM, which is captioned "In
5	the Matter of the Application of the East Ohio
6	Gas Company d/b/a Dominion East Ohio, for
7	Approval of a General Exemption of Certain
8	Natural Gas Commodity Sale Services or Ancillary
9	Services."
10	My name is Chris Pirik. I'm an
11	Attorney Examiner with the Commission and a
12	Deputy Director in the legal department, and I
13	will be conducting this hearing.
14	In addition, there are Commission
15	personnel in the back of the room, John Campbell
16	and Amanda Stallings, and they're here to help
17	you with any general questions that you have
18	about your services with the company, or if you
19	would like to sign up to testify today, they are
20	back there and they have a sign-up sheet that
21	they will be providing to me so I will have
22	everyone's name.
23	If you have not signed up and you
24	wish to sign up or you wish to testify, I
25	will you will have that opportunity You

- don't necessarily have to be on the list. Or if
- 2 I come to your name and you've decided that you
- 3 no longer want to testify, feel free to decline
- 4 and you will not need to come forward.
- 5 At this time I'd like to take
- 6 appearances on behalf of the parties that are
- 7 present. On behalf of the company?
- 8 MR. CAMPBELL: Andrew John
- 9 Campbell with the law firm of Jones Day. 325
- 10 John H. McConnell Boulevard, Suite 600,
- 11 Columbus, Ohio 43215, for the company.
- 12 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. On
- 13 behalf of the Office of Consumers' Counsel?
- 14 MR. SERIO: Thank you. On
- 15 behalf of the residential utility customers of
- 16 East Ohio Gas, Janine L. Migden-Ostrander by
- 17 Joseph P. Serio, 10 West Broad Street, Columbus,
- 18 Ohio 43215.
- 19 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. There
- 20 are other parties who have intervened to
- 21 participate in this case, and I will just name
- 22 them for the record so that everyone present
- 23 will be aware of who those individuals are, and
- 24 those entities are The Ohio Partners for
- 25 Affordable Energy, Integrys Energy Services,

- 1 Industrial Energy Users of Ohio, Dominion
- 2 Retail, MXenergy, Northeast Ohio Public Energy
- 3 Council, National Energy Marketers and The Ohio
- 4 Gas Marketers Group. Each of these parties
- 5 represents a specific constituency in this case
- 6 that the Commission has before it.
- 7 Dominion filed this application on
- 8 December 28, 2007, and local hearings are only
- 9 one aspect of this case. We had a previous
- 10 local hearing in Youngstown on Tuesday,
- 11 April 1st. This evening, we have a local
- 12 hearing in Canton, Ohio, and next week, on
- 13 April 7th, we will have the evidentiary hearing
- 14 at the offices of the Commission.
- The purpose of this hearing is to
- 16 receive comments from the public regarding the
- 17 application in this case, which deals with the
- 18 merchant function, which I will have someone
- 19 from the company actually give a short
- 20 presentation on exactly what this application is
- 21 about shortly.
- There is also a rate case pending
- 23 before the Commission for Dominion. That case
- number is 07-829-GA-AIR. That is a separate
- 25 case. We will also have local hearings in the

- 1 rate case in the next couple of months at some
- 2 point.
- 3 So if you're interested in that case,
- 4 be sure to watch for the public notice of those
- 5 hearings, which probably, within the month, we
- 6 will be putting something out asking for that
- 7 publication to occur.
- 8 At this time I will ask the company
- 9 to present someone to give a short summary of
- 10 the application for those who are present.
- 11 MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Your
- 12 Honor. Jeffrey Murphy will be giving a
- 13 presentation on behalf of the company.
- 14 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.
- Mr. Murphy, could you again state
- 16 your name and spelling and your affiliation,
- your title and location?
- 18 MR. MURPHY: Sure. My name is
- 19 Jeffrey Murphy, J-e-f-f-r-e-y, M-u-r-p-h-y. I'm
- 20 the Director of Rates and Gas Supply for
- 21 Dominion East Ohio. My business address is 1201
- 22 East 55th Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44103.
- 23 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.
- MR. MURPHY: Well, back in
- 25 August of 2006, the Public Utilities Commission

- 1 approved a pilot program which changed the way
- 2 that Dominion East Ohio purchases its gas for
- 3 the roughly one-third of our customers who still
- 4 buy from us. Under our Energy Choice Program,
- 5 customers have the option to buy gas either from
- 6 us or one of the roughly dozen and a half
- 7 suppliers who offer commodity service to our
- 8 customers.
- In that pilot program, we introduced
- 10 a replacement for what used to be called the Gas
- 11 Trust Recovery Rate. It's now known as the
- 12 Standard Service Offer.
- 13 Under GCR, or Gas Cost Recovery Rate
- 14 Pricing, utilities are not allowed to make a
- 15 profit on the commodity portion of their bill.
- 16 Utilities like East Ohio make a profit in
- 17 something called the distribution rate, where we
- 18 recover our cost of doing business and an
- authorized profit permitted by the Public
- 20 Utility Commission.
- Just like under the GCR mechanism,
- 22 the Standard Service Offer, or SSO rate, is a
- 23 commodity pricing mechanism that does not allow
- us to make profit on the commodity portion of
- 25 the bill. Whatever we pay is what we charge the

- 1 customers.
- 2 The major reason we had requested
- 3 that change back in August of 2006 was because
- 4 we did have two-thirds of our customers buying
- 5 from other commodity providers, and we wanted to
- 6 make sure that the price that we would charge
- 7 would accurately reflect the market price for
- 8 natural gas.
- 9 So as a result, the Standard Service
- 10 Offer price that we charge is actually driven by
- 11 an index-based natural gas price plus a specific
- 12 amount of money that was determined in an
- auction, again, with the results approved by the
- 14 Public Utility Commission.
- The PUCO approved that program
- 16 through August of this year. So as a result, we
- 17 had to provide information and make an
- 18 application about what we would do beyond
- 19 August 2008. So in the application we filed in
- late last year, we again made a proposal that
- 21 would change the way in which we purchase our
- 22 natural gas.
- For customers that are not eligible
- 24 for the Energy Choice Program, such as those who
- 25 participate in a low-income customer payment

- 1 program, we will continue to buy gas in the same
- 2 way we began buying gas back in 2006.
- For customers who are eligible to
- 4 participate in the Energy Choice Program, we
- 5 will actually conduct a similar auction, if you
- 6 will, where competitors will vie for the right
- 7 to provide gas at the lowest price. But in this
- 8 particular case, rather than customers buying
- 9 from a large pool of gas, which is really
- 10 provided by one of several marketers, we will
- 11 actually designate a particular supplier for
- 12 each particular customer. All those customers
- 13 will pay the same rate under this, what we would
- 14 refer to as standard choice offer service;
- 15 however, customers would have a specific
- 16 supplier identified on their bill.
- 17 So their bill would look much the
- 18 same, only instead of East Ohio being identified
- 19 as the supplier for natural gas commodity, it
- 20 would be another designated supplier.
- The proposed change would have no
- 22 impact whatsoever on existing customers that
- 23 participate in Energy Choice or in a
- 24 governmental aggregation program. The customers
- 25 who wish to move into the choice environment can

- do so without any termination charges or what
- 2 have you. They are free to come and go between
- 3 the standard choice offer and Energy Choice as
- 4 they would like.
- 5 Before East Ohio can do anything,
- 6 however, the public utilities Commission will
- 7 need to approve some form of transition, some
- 8 means by which we would purchase our natural
- 9 gas.
- 10 So the auction process, the means by
- 11 which we actually procure the gas, will be
- 12 something that the Public Utilities Commission
- 13 will have to review and approve as well.
- 14 And just as today, if customers have
- 15 any customer service issues or emergency
- 16 response issues, they can call us at the same
- 17 number they did previously. We will still be
- 18 providing natural gas distribution service, but
- 19 we will be providing the commodity portion, the
- 20 natural gas part of the service in a similar,
- 21 different way.
- We are reviewing other options to the
- 23 mechanism that we proposed last wear, with
- 24 parties such as the Consumer Counsel, the staff
- of the Public Utility Commission. And so it's

- 1 certainly possible that the Public Utilities
- 2 Commission will ultimately approve something
- 3 different than what we filed.
- 4 One of the aspects of the filing
- 5 that's under consideration is the potential for
- 6 East Ohio to ultimately exit the business of
- 7 providing natural gas; however, this filing, as
- 8 it's structured right now, would still give
- 9 customers the option to purchase their natural
- 10 gas from the company under this revised pricing
- 11 and supply and provision approach.
- 12 So that's a brief description of the
- 13 substance of our application that we filed late
- 14 last year. Thank you.
- 15 MS. PIRIK: Thank you,
- 16 Mr. Murphy.
- 17 At this time I'm going to begin
- 18 calling witnesses. When I ask the witnesses to
- 19 come forward, if you could come forward to the
- 20 podium, I'll have you state your name and
- 21 address and any spellings for the record. You
- 22 will also be asked to make an oath to tell the
- 23 truth, the whole truth. The traditional oath.
- 24 And then after the conclusion of your
- 25 testimony, the attorneys present, Mr. Campbell

- 1 and Mr. Serio, will be allowed to ask you
- 2 questions if they have any questions at that
- 3 time, or I could ask you questions. And then at
- 4 the conclusion of your testimony, I'll call the
- 5 next witness.
- 6 So -- and right up front, I'm going
- 7 to apologize for the mispronunciation of
- 8 anyone's name. I also have a difficult last
- 9 name, so I do appreciate that.
- 10 The first witness I have is Marvin
- 11 Schinagle?
- 12 MR. SCHINAGLE: That's right.
- MS. PIRIK: Would you like to
- 14 come forward?
- 15 MR. SCHINAGLE: No. I talked to
- 16 the attorney here and he explained most of the
- 17 problems, which I will get no place trying to
- 18 explain my views.
- 19 MS. PIRIK: Okay. Well, and
- 20 also, if you have -- I do understand there are
- 21 representatives of the company here who are here
- 22 if consumers also have issues and you'd like to
- 23 actually talk with one of the company
- 24 representatives.
- We have representatives from our

- 1 Service Monitoring Enforcement Department whom
- 2 you could also talk with about any service
- 3 issues that you might have, and they can try to
- 4 direct you, give you some information about
- 5 different things that they have out there on the
- 6 table. So you're declining to testify today?
- 7 MR. SCHINAGLE: Yes.
- 8 MS. PIRIK: Okay. Well, thank
- 9 you for coming.
- 10 Pat Sharkey? I don't believe the
- 11 microphone is on, but --
- 12 MS. SHARKEY: Okay. I can talk
- 13 loud. And I would like to apologize ahead of
- 14 time, because when I get excited, I talk fast.
- 15 MS. PIRIK: Could you state
- 16 your name and address for the record?
- 17 MS. SHARKEY: Patricia Sharkey.
- 18 3406 West 148th Street, Cleveland, Ohio.
- 19 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. Could
- you please raise your right hand?
- 21 PATRICIA SHARKEY
- of lawful age, a witness herein, having been
- 23 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,
- 24 testified and said as follows:
- 25 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. Go

- 1 ahead with your statement.
- 2 MS. SHARKEY: I would like to say
- 3 that this is all of my -- this is all my opinion
- 4 on this. Number one, utility companies have
- 5 always been a good investment because they don't
- 6 lose any money. We want to, like, discount
- 7 Enron.
- 8 A high-ranking state official told me
- 9 at one point, if you have a problem, you go to
- 10 the PUCO. Sometimes, unfortunately, or a lot of
- 11 times, unfortunately, they stand behind the
- 12 utility rather than the consumer. Most of my
- information is from the Plain Dealer, so, you
- 14 know, that's pretty much all I know.
- When gas fell below 10.49 MCFs, the
- 16 paper immediately came out and said but don't
- 17 worry, you won't get any discount on that, just
- 18 the gas company does. Now, when part
- 19 of -- okay. If this goes through and part of
- 20 Dominion's business is let go to all these other
- 21 companies -- let's say they're going to lose
- 22 like 40 percent of the services they now provide
- 23 in the offices and everything else. Does that
- 24 mean that you're going to take the CEOs'
- 25 salaries and reduce them 40 percent? Does it

- 1 mean you're also going to reduce the number of
- 2 people in your offices because you don't need as
- 3 many anymore? The people that you'll most need
- 4 are all the ones that are in the field right now
- 5 that get their hands dirty.
- 6 Okay. And this standard choice that
- 7 this gentleman mentioned, is it going to be like
- 8 companies that get taken over by other companies
- 9 where, gee, we're not going to change the name,
- 10 but then a year later, we will change the name?
- Is that what's going to happen with
- 12 the rates? It will stay at the same rate for a
- 13 specific amount of time and then they're allowed
- 14 to raise it and it will be all up and down
- 15 depending what company you have?
- I did do business with ACN, so I do
- 17 understand a little bit about how companies can
- 18 change the price of their rates.
- 19 And that's really all I have to say.
- 20 But I'm just, I'm flipped out by the point that
- 21 you want to do this, and then we have all these
- 22 employees for Dominion, and then we have another
- 23 company that also has to hire employees. So now
- 24 we've got employees all over the place, all
- 25 doing -- you know, because nobody is going to be

- 1 let go. That's my opinion. Okay. Thank you.
- 2 MS. PIRIK: Thank you very
- 3 much.
- I believe it's Linda Nellis. Would
- 5 you like to testify?
- 6 MS. NELLIS: Well, it's --
- 7 MS. PIRIK: That's fine. Come
- 8 forward.
- 9 MS. NELLIS: I'm new at this.
- 10 MS. PIRIK: That's all right.
- 11 I can help you. Could you just state your name
- 12 and address for the record?
- 13 MS. NELLIS: Linda Nellis. 2145
- 14 Northland.
- 15 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. And
- 16 could you raise your right hand, please?
- 17 LINDA NELLIS
- 18 of lawful age, a witness herein, having been
- 19 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,
- 20 testified and said as follows:
- 21 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. Now go
- 22 ahead.
- 23 MS. NELLIS: I don't -- this
- 24 is -- I'm new at this, as to how this goes. I'm
- 25 aware that our supplier is now with NOPEC.

- 1 That's hooked in with Dominion. I'm trying to
- 2 find out my rights in dealing with Dominion and
- 3 NOPEC. I don't know if this is part of this
- 4 hearing or not.
- I was not living in the house at the
- 6 time of NOPEC sending in the mail you having an
- 7 option to opt out and stay with Dominion. This
- 8 has happened back in September, October. Wasn't
- 9 aware of it. I'm older, there's a lot of people
- 10 on our street that didn't know about it. Went
- 11 and was paying on it. Come to find out, had
- 12 somebody looking at my bill and they asked me,
- 13 "Who is this carrier you have, NOPEC?" I said,
- 14 "I thought it was Dominion." Sorry for being
- 15 stupid.
- 16 They said, "You realize all the
- 17 charges you have?" Well, I was ahead with
- 18 Dominion, as a credit ahead on my bills.
- 19 Keeping my gas, not being in the house, at 50
- degrees, my bill now is \$6,000 since the switch
- 21 to NOPEC. I called NOPEC, which is out of
- 22 Macedonia. I called Dominion. They came out.
- 23 Why is my gas so high? I've lived in this house
- 24 30 years. And I called them back, got back to
- 25 Dominion, took 30 days. Dominion came out,

- 1 looked at my meter, the gas, found nothing
- 2 wrong.
- I don't know where to go. I wanted
- 4 to go back to NOPEC and get all my money back
- 5 that they've charged from October till now. I
- 6 don't know where to go, who to talk to to
- 7 straighten out this problem.
- 8 MS. PIRIK: I know, again,
- 9 there are some company representatives here that
- 10 maybe can --
- 11 MS. NELLIS: That's what I'm
- 12 trying to find out.
- 13 MS. PIRIK: -- can get you some
- 14 information. Mr. Campbell or Ms. Stallings in
- 15 the back with the Public Utilities Commission.
- 16 I believe there's a gentleman from the Office of
- 17 Consumers' Counsel here. Mr. Serio, do you
- 18 have -- is one of your representatives here, I
- 19 believe?
- 20 MR. SERIO: Yes.
- 21 MS. PIRIK: And I don't know
- 22 the gentleman's name, but he's the gentleman
- 23 right there in the black coat. So there's three
- 24 options for you, and perhaps someone -- I'd
- 25 maybe direct you to talk to some of the company

- 1 representatives and maybe they can give you more
- 2 information.
- 3 MS. NELLIS: And why can't PUCO
- 4 have put in effect -- if they want to have this
- 5 option, why didn't they stick it in the bill
- 6 instead of sending separate notices? Because
- 7 you get so many gas suppliers that say do you
- 8 want to change. Everybody tosses them out. So
- 9 I didn't know. Why didn't they put it in with
- 10 that bill since it was a community thing that
- 11 put it into effect? Why can't PUCO say, hey, we
- must put this in the bill because they're
- 13 changing every so many months for you to opt
- 14 out.
- And there's a lot of people who don't
- 16 know. I've talked to a lot of people that
- 17 didn't realize this.
- 18 MS. PIRIK: I appreciate you
- 19 putting that information on the record. And
- 20 with your current situation, I think there may
- 21 be some individuals here you might want to talk
- 22 with.
- Does anyone have any questions for
- 24 this witness?
- MR. SERIO: No. We'll be happy

- 1 to sit down with her and talk to her afterwards.
- 2 MS. PIRIK: Thank you very much
- 3 for testifying.
- 4 Brian Stephens? Good afternoon.
- 5 MR. STEPHENS: Good afternoon.
- 6 MS. PIRIK: Please state your
- 7 name, spelling and address for the record.
- 8 MR. STEPHENS: My name is Brian
- 9 Stephens, B-r-i-a-n S-t-e-p-h-e-n-s. Address is
- 10 8808 Beckman, Cleveland, Ohio 44104.
- 11 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. Please
- 12 raise your right hand.
- 13 BRIAN STEPHENS
- 14 of lawful age, a witness herein, having been
- 15 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,
- 16 testified and said as follows:
- 17 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.
- 18 MR. STEPHENS: I just have a
- 19 question, not really a -- I read the article in
- 20 the Plain Dealer this past week, a couple weeks
- 21 ago, and it says the 300,000 customers who have
- 22 stayed with Dominion pay less than their
- 23 neighbors on a fixed price contract for the most
- 24 of the last two years.
- 25 And my question is, how does it help

- 1 the consumer to switch to whatever these new
- 2 suppliers are when the 300,000 that stay with
- 3 Dominion pay less on their bill in the last two
- 4 years? That's just it, basically, in a
- 5 nutshell. How does it benefit the consumers to
- 6 switch or to be made to switch when we pay less
- 7 by staying? That's it.
- 8 MS. PIRIK: I think we have
- 9 representatives here whom you can speak with. I
- 10 think that's a good idea. Thank you very much
- 11 for testifying.
- 12 Thomas Schultz? Good afternoon.
- 13 MR. SCHULTZ: Good afternoon.
- 14 MS. PIRIK: Please state your
- 15 name and spelling and address for the record.
- 16 MR. SCHULTZ: Thomas Schultz,
- 17 S-c-h-u-l-t-z. 91 Timberlane, Aurora 44202.
- 18 MS. PIRIK: Thank you. Please
- 19 raise your right hand.
- 20 THOMAS SCHULTZ
- of lawful age, a witness herein, having been
- 22 first duly sworn, as hereinafter certified,
- 23 testified and said as follows:
- 24 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.
- 25 MR. SCHULTZ: I just want to go

- on record as indicating that my wife and I are
- 2 opposed to this situation where, I guess,
- 3 Dominion wants to require all of us who are, I
- 4 guess, 1 of 300,000 people still with Dominion
- 5 for suppliers, that we would be forced to be
- 6 serviced through an independent gas company for
- 7 service -- supply company, I should say.
- 8 And the reason I'm opposed to this is
- 9 what the previous gentleman just raised, the
- 10 issue of price and comparison to what the
- 11 independent suppliers are charging. Every
- 12 month, the Plain Dealer has a little chart that
- 13 indicates what Dominion East Ohio is charging as
- 14 opposed to what the independent suppliers are
- 15 charging. And every month, I'm looking down the
- 16 list and seeing that Dominion is cheaper, by
- 17 far. Ten, fifteen, twenty percent less than
- what most, if not all these suppliers are
- 19 charging.
- 20 And I think the only one that is
- comparable is the co-op, which I think is
- 22 restricted to certain communities and certain
- 23 groups.
- So my wife and I were -- when
- 25 Dominion first started this program several

- 1 years ago, we did try to comparison shop. Like
- 2 any good consumer, we're trying to keep our
- 3 individual gas bill as low as possible and get
- 4 the best deal. And we started out with one
- 5 independent supplier for a year or two, and then
- 6 we saw that we could get a better deal with
- 7 another independent supplier, because we were
- 8 concerned about the fixed rate. We wanted a
- 9 fixed rate rather than a monthly rate, so that's
- 10 why we bought into this idea of leaving Dominion
- 11 as a supplier and going with an independent.
- 12 However, what I found over the last
- 13 year -- and I was looking at the rates every
- 14 month, comparing what our independent supplier
- 15 was, which I believe was Interstate Gas Supply,
- 16 paying, I think it was \$9.99 per
- 17 cubic -- thousand cubic feet, that Dominion East
- 18 Ohio's rate was significantly lower.
- 19 So we switched recently. I think it
- 20 was last October when we finally had a chance to
- 21 opt out of our one-year or two-year contract at
- 22 the time to Dominion. And we have been able to
- 23 save a significant amount of money.
- So that's one reason I'm opposed to
- 25 this idea of requiring us 300,000 to go into

- the -- go with some sort of an independent gas
- 2 supplier.
- The other couple issues I just want
- 4 to point out, there is a problem, at least in
- 5 the past, with these contracts, because you
- 6 actually end up having to pay a fee. With
- 7 Interstate Gas Supply, they want to charge us
- 8 \$150 to opt out of a contract before the year
- 9 end -- before the end of the contract period,
- 10 which I didn't think was a wise thing to do.
- 11 And it kind of kept me locked into their
- 12 contract.
- 13 You know, is this going to continue
- 14 with the new process or if we all are forced
- 15 into an independent gas supplier, are we going
- 16 to be locked in for certain periods of time and
- 17 charged fees if we want to cancel before the
- 18 period is over with? Because I object to that
- 19 also.
- The other thing, if you analyze your
- 21 gas bill, the other thing that you can save
- 22 money with Dominion as opposed to an independent
- 23 supplier is the sales tax in Cuyahoga County is,
- 24 what, seven and three-quarters percent. The
- excise tax, if you stay with Dominion, is 4.9

- 1 percent. So you can save almost 3 percent right
- 2 off your gas bill because of the difference
- 3 between what you're paying under the excise tax
- 4 as opposed on sales tax.
- 5 And again, if anyone is interested in
- 6 saving some money, you ought to think about
- 7 that. And that's another reason I'm opposed to
- 8 being forced into a situation where I have to
- 9 pay more in terms of sales tax than the state
- 10 excise tax.
- So there are three reasons, you know,
- 12 the overall bill is -- and rate is lower. The
- 13 fixed contract, and then the excise tax is less
- 14 than sales tax. So for those reasons, I am very
- 15 much opposed to this proposal. Thank you.
- 16 MS. PIRIK: Thank you.
- 17 Is there anyone else with us today
- 18 who would like to testify that didn't have an
- 19 opportunity to sign up?
- Okay. There being no more witnesses,
- 21 this concludes the public hearing, and the
- 22 testimony will be submitted for the record for
- 23 the Commission's consideration. Thank you very
- 24 much for coming.

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 2
     STATE OF OHIO,
 3
                         SS:
     SUMMIT COUNTY,
 4
         I, Anika W. Patrick, a Registered Merit
 5
     Reporter, Certified Realtime Reporter and Notary
     Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly
 6
     commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify
     that these proceedings were taken by me and
 7
     reduced to Stenotypy, afterwards prepared and
     produced by means of Computer-Aided
 8
     Transcription and that the foregoing is a true
     and correct transcription of the proceedings so
 9
     taken as aforesaid.
          I do further certify that these proceedings
10
     were taken at the time and place in the
     foregoing caption specified.
11
          I do further certify that I am not a
     relative, employee of or attorney for any party
12
     or counsel, or otherwise financially interested
     in this action.
13
         I do further certify that I am not, nor is
     the court reporting firm with which I am
     affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil
14
     Rule 28(D).
15
          IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my
     hand and affixed my seal of office at Akron,
16
     Ohio on this 7th day of April, 2008.
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
           My commission expires March 13, 2010.
25
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A	4:16	12:4	24:4	18:24
able (1)	amount (3)	assigned (1)	better (1)	calling (1)
24:22	9:12 16:13	4:2	24:6	12:18
above-entitled	24:23	Assistant (1)	beyond (1)	Campbell (7)
1:16	analyze (1)	2:15	9:18	3:5 4:15 5:8,9
accurately (1)	25:20	attorney (4)	bill (14)	7:11 12:25
9:7	Ancillary (2)	3:5 4:11 13:16	8:15,25 10:16,17	19:14
ACN (1)	1:12 4:8	28:11	18:12,20 20:5	cancel (1)
16:16	Andrew (2)	attorneys (1)	20:10,12 22:3	25:17
action (1)	3:5 5:8	12:25	24:3 25:21	Canton (1)
28:12	Anika (2)	auction (3)	26:2,12	6:12
u .	28:4,23	9:13 10:5 11:10	bills (1)	caption (1)
addition (1) 4:14	anymore (1)	Auditorium (1)	18:18	28:10
	16:3	1:18	bit (1)	captioned (1)
address (7)	anyone's (1)	August (4)	16:17	4:4
7:21 12:21	13:8	7:25 9:3,16,19	black (1)	carrier (1)
14:16 17:12	apologize (2)	Aurora (1)	19:23	18:13
21:7,9 22:15	13:7 14:13	22:17	bought (1)	case (12)
affiliated (1)	appearances (3)	authorized (1)	24:10	1:7 4:3 5:21 6:5
28:14	2:1 3:1 5:6	8:19	Boulevard (2)	6:9,17,22,23
affiliation (1)	application (9)	Avenue (1)	3:6 5:10	6:25 7:1,3 10:8
7:16	1:5 4:5 6:7,17	1:18	Brian (3)	CEOs (1)
affixed (1)	6:20 7:10 9:18	aware (3)	21:4,8,13	15:24
28:15	9:19 12:13	5:23 17:25 18:9	brief (1)	certain (5)
Affordable (1)	appreciate (2)	3.23 17.23 10.3	12:12	1:10 4:7 23:22
5:25	13:9 20:18	В	Broad (3)	23:22 25:16
aforesaid (1)	approach (1)	back (11)	2:8,16 5:17	certainly (1)
28:9	12:11	4:15,20 7:24 9:3	<b>Building (1)</b>	12:1
afternoon (4)	Approval (2)	10:2 18:8,24	1:17	certified (5)
21:4,5 22:12,13	1:8 4:7	18:24 19:4,4	business (5)	14:23 17:19
age (4)		19:15	7:21 8:18 12:6	21:15 22:22
14:22 17:18	approve (3)	basically (1)		
21:14 22:21	11:7,13 12:2	22:4	15:20 16:16	28:5
aggregation (1)	<b>approved (3)</b> 8:1 9:13,15	Beckman (1)	buy (3)	certify (4)
10:24	<i>'</i>	21:10	8:4,5 10:1	28:6,9,11,13
ago (2)	April (4)	began (1)	<b>buying (3)</b>	chance (1) 24:20
21:21 24:1	1:20 6:11,13 28:16	10:2	9:4 10:2,8	
ahead (5)		behalf (8)	B-r-i-a-n (1)	change (7)
14:13 15:1	article (1) 21:19	2:3,12 3:3 5:6,7	21:9	9:3,21 10:21
17:22 18:17,18		5:13,15 7:13	C	16:9,10,18
Akron (1)	asked (2) 12:22 18:12	believe (5)	C (2)	20:8
28:15		14:10 17:4	28:1,1	changed (1)
allow (1)	asking (1)	19:16,19 24:15	call (2)	8:1
8:23	7:6	benefit (1)	11:16 13:4	changing (1)
allowed (3)	aspect (1)	22:5	called (5)	20:13
8:14 13:1 16:13	6:9	best (1)	8:10,17 18:21,22	charge (4)
Amanda (1)	aspects (1)	Dest (1)	0.10,17 10.21,22	8:25 9:6,10 25:7

	-		•	•
charged (2)	28:6	6:5	11:15	10:11
19:5 25:17	Commission's	consumer (4)	customers (16)	designated (1)
charges (2)	26:23	11:24 15:12	5:15 8:3,5,8 9:1	10:20
11:1 18:17	commodity (9)	22:1 24:2	9:4,23 10:3,8	determined (1)
charging (4)	1:11 4:8 8:7,15	consumers (7)	10:12,15,22,24	9:12
23:11,13,15,19	8:23,24 9:5	2:12,13,15 5:13	11:14 12:9	difference (1)
chart (1)	10:19 11:19	13:22 19:17	21:21	26:2
23:12	communities (1)	22:5	Cuyahoga (1)	different (3)
cheaper (1)	23:22	continue (2)	25:23	11:21 12:3 14:5
23:16	community (1)	10:1 25:13		difficult (1)
choice (9)	20:10	CONTINUED	D	13:8
8:4 9:24 10:4,14	companies (5)	3:1	day (4)	direct (2)
10:23,25 11:3	15:4,21 16:8,8	contract (7)	1:19 3:4 5:9	14:4 19:25
11:3 16:6	16:17	21:23 24:21	28:16	Director (3)
Chris (1)	company (19)	25:8,9,12	days (1)	2:6 4:12 7:20
4:10	1:6 3:3 4:6,18	26:13 28:14	18:25 ´	dirty (1)
Christine (1)	5:7,11 6:19 7:8	contracts (1)	deal (2)	16:5
2:6	7:13 12:10	25:5	24:4,6	discount (2)
Civil (1)	13:21,23 15:18	correct (1)	Dealer (3)	15:6,17
28:14	16:15,23 19:9	28:8	15:13 21:20	distribution (2)
Cleveland (4)	19:25 23:6,7	cost (2)	23:12	8:17 11:18
1:18 7:22 14:18	comparable (1)	8:13,18	dealing (1)	doing (2)
21:10	23:21	Council (1)	18:2	8:18 16:25
coat (1)	comparing (1)	6:3	deals (1)	Dominion (28)
19:23	24:14	counsel (7)	6:17	1:7 4:6 6:1,7,23
Columbus (5)		2:12,13,15 5:13	December (1)	7:21 8:2 16:22
2:9,17 3:8 5:11	<b>comparison (2)</b> 23:10 24:1	11:24 19:17	6:8	18:1,2,7,14,18
5:17		28:12	decided (1)	18:22,25,25
	competitors (1) 10:6		5:2	21:22 22:3
come (8)	Computer-Aid	County (2) 25:23 28:3	decline (1)	
5:2,4 11:2 12:19	<b>-</b>		5:3	23:3,4,13,16
12:19 13:14 17:7 18:11	28:7	couple (3)	declining (1)	23:25 24:10,17
LI .	concerned (1)	7:1 21:20 25:3	14:6	24:22 25:22,25
coming (2)	24:8	court (1)	defined (1)	Dominion's (1)
14:9 26:24	concluded (1)	28:13	28:14	15:20
commencing (1)	27:2	co-op (1)	degrees (1)	dozen (1)
1:19	concludes (1)	23:21	18:20	8:6
comments (1)	26:21	credit (1)	department (3)	driven (1)
6:16	conclusion (2)	18:18	2:7 4:12 14:1	9:10
commission (18)	12:24 13:4	CRR (1)	depending (1)	duly (5)
1:2 2:4,5 4:2,11	conduct (1)	28:23	16:15	14:23 17:19
4:14 6:6,14,23	10:5	cubic (2)	Deputy (2)	21:15 22:22
7:25 8:20 9:14	conducting (1)	24:17,17	2:6 4:12	28:5
11:6,12,25	4:13	current (1)	· ·	d/b/a (2)
12:2 19:15	consideration	20:20	description (1) 12:12	1:7 4:6
28:24			<b>= 17 17</b>	
	12:5 26:23	customer (3)		
commissioned	12:5 26:23 constituency (1)	9:25 10:12	designate (1)	E

	•		•	
E (2)	excited (1)	fine (1)	8:2,5,10,13 9:8	23:23
28:1,1	14:14	17:7	9:11,22 10:1,2	guess (2)
East (15)	Exemption (2)	firm (2)	10:7,9,19 11:9	23:2,4
1:6,7 2:8 4:5,6	1:9 4:7	5.9 28:13	11:11,18,20	
5:16 7:21,22	existing (1)	first (6)	12:7,10 15:15	H
8:2,16 10:18	10:22	13:10 14:23	15:18 18:19,23	H (2)
11:5 12:6	exit (1)	17:19 21:15	19:1 20:7 23:6	3:6 5:10
23:13 24:17	12:6	22:22 23:25	24:3,15 25:1,7	half (1)
effect (2)	expires (1)	fixed (4)	25:15,21 26:2	8:6
20:4,11	28:24	21:23 24:8,9	GCR (2)	hand (5)
either (1)	explain (1)	26:13	8:13,21	14:20 17:16
8:5	13:18	flipped (1)	gee (1)	21:12 22:19
eligible (2)	explained (1)	16:20	16:9	28:15
9:23 10:3	13:16	Floor (1)	general (3)	hands (1)
emergency (1)		1:18	1:9 4:7,17	16:5
11: <b>15</b>	F	following (1)	gentleman (4)	happen (1)
employee (1)	F (1)	1:21	16:7 19:16,22	16:11
28:11	28:1	follows (4)	23:9	happened (1)
employees (3)	far (1)	14:24 17:20	gentleman's (1)	18:8
16:22,23,24	23:17	21:16 22:23	19:22	happy (1)
Energy (10)	fast (1)	forced (3)	give (5)	20:25
5:25,25 6:1,2,3	14:14	23:5 25:14 26:8	6:19 7:9 12:8	hearing (9)
8:4 9:24 10:4	fee (1)	foregoing (2)	14:4 20:1	1:15 4:3,13 6:10
10:23 11:3	25:6	28:8,10	giving (1)	6:12,13,15
Enforcement (1)	feel (1)	form (1)	7:12	18:4 26:21
14:1	5:3	11:7	go (12)	hearings (3)
Enron (1)	fees (1)	forward (5)	11:2 14:25 15:9	6:8,25 7:5
15:7	25:17 54 (1)	5:4 12:19,19	15:20 17:1,21	held (1)
entities (1)	feet (1)	13:14 17:8	19:3,4,6 22:25	1:16
5:24	24:17	found (2)	24:25 25:1	help (3)
environment (1)	fell (1) 15:15	19:1 24:12	goes (2)	4:16 17:11 21:25
10:25	15:15 field (1)	Frank (1)	15:19 17:24	hereinafter (4)
evening (1)	16:4	1:16	going (12)	14:23 17:19
6:11	fifteen (1)	free (2)	12:17 13:6	21:15 22:22
Everybody (1)	23:17	5:3 11:2	15:21,24 16:1	hereunto (1)
20:8		front (1)	16:7,9,11,25	28:15
everyone's (1)	<b>filed (4)</b> 6:7 9:19 12:3,13	13:6	24:11 25:13,15	hey (1)
4:22	6.7 9.19 12.3,13 filing (2)	function (1)	good (7)	20:11
evidentiary (1)	11111g (2) 12:4,7	6:18	15:5 21:4,5	high (1)
6:13	finally (1)	further (3)	22:10,12,13	18:23
exactly (1)	24:20	28:9,11,13	24:2	high-ranking (
6:20 Evaminar (1)	financially (1)	<b>G</b>	governmental 10:24	15:8
Examiner (1) 4:11	28:12	gas (39)	Group (1)	hire (1)
excise (4)	find (3)	1:6,10 4:6,8	6:4	16:23
25:25 26:3,10,13	18:2,11 19:12	5:16 6:4 7:20	groups (1)	Honor (1)
25.25 20.5,10,15		2.22 271 .323	Prouhs (1)	(=)
			 	l

7:12	issue (1)	Lausche (1)	24:3	5:16
hooked (1)	23:10	1:17	lower (2)	mispronunciat
18:1	issues (5)	law (2)	24:18 26:12	13:7
house (3)	11:15,16 13:22	3:5 5:9	lowest (1)	money (6)
18:5,19,23	14:3 25:3	lawful (4)	10:7	9:12 15:6 19:4
		14:22 17:18	low-income (1)	24:23 25:22
		21:14 22:21	9:25	26:6
idea (3)	J (2)	leaving (1)		Monitoring (1)
22:10 24:10,25	1:16 3:5	24:10		14:1
identified (2)	Janine (1)	legal (2)	Macedonia (1)	month (4)
10:16,18	5:16	2:7 4:12	18:22	7:5 23:12,15
immediately (1)	Jeffrey (2)	let's (1)	mail (1)	24:14
15:16	7:12,19	15:21	18:6	monthly (1)
impact (1)	John (4)	Linda (3)	major (1)	24:9
10:22	3:6 4:15 5:8,10	17:4,13,17	9:2	months (2)
independent (	Jones (2)	list (2)	March (1)	7:1 20:13
23:6,11,14 24:5	3:4 5:9	5:1 23:16	28:24	move (1)
24:7,11,14	Joseph (2)	little (2)	market (1)	10:25
25:1,15,22	2:14 5:17	16:17 23:12	9:7	Murphy (6)
index-based (1)	J-e-f-f-r-e-y (1)	lived (1)	marketers (3)	7:12,15,18,19,24
9:11	7:19	18:23	6:3,4 10:10	12:16
indicates (1)	K	living (1)	Marvin (1)	MXenergy (1)
23:13		18:5	13:10	6:2
indicating (1)	keep (1)	local (4)	matter (3)	M-u-r-p-h-y (1)
23:1	24:2	6:8,10,11,25	1:4,16 4:5	7:19
individual (1)	Keeping (1)	location (1)	McConnell (2)	M.T (1)
24:3	18:19	7:17	3:6 5:10	2:6
individuals (2)	kept (1)	locked (2)	MCFs (1)	
5:23 20:21	25:11	25:11,16	15:15	<u>N</u>
Industrial (1)	kind (1)	longer (1)	mean (2)	name (17)
6:1	25:11	5:3	15:24 16:1	4:10,22 5:2,21
information (6)	know (13)	look (1)	means (3)	7:16,18 12:20
9:17 14:4 15:13	15:14,14 16:25	10:17	11:8,10 28:7	13:8,9 14:16
19:14 20:2,19	18:3,10 19:3,6	looked (1)	mechanism (3)	16:9,10 17:11
Integrys (1)	19:8,21 20:9	19:1	8:21,23 11:23	19:22 21:7,8
5:25	20:16 25:13	looking (3)	mentioned (1)	22:15
interested (3)	26:11	18:12 23:15	16:7	National (1)
7:3 26:5 28:12	known (1)	24:13	merchant (1)	6:3
Interstate (2)	8:11	lose (2)	6:18	natural (11)
24:15 25:7		15:6,21	Merit (1)	1:10 4:8 9:8,11
intervened (1)		lot (4)	28:4	9:22 10:19
5:20	L (1) 5:16	15:10 18:9	meter (1)	11:8,18,20
introduced (1)	5:16	20:15,16	19:1	12:7,9
8:9	large (1)	loud (1)	microphone (1)	necessarily (1)
investment (1)	10:9	14:13	14:11	5:1
15:5	late (2)	low (1)	Migden-Ostra	need (4)
	9:20 12:13			
	<del>-</del>	<u> </u>		

	•			
5:4 11:7 16:2,3	official (1)	26:12	period (2)	prepared (1)
neighbors (1)	15:8	o'clock (2)	25:9,18	28:7
21:23	Ohio (35)	1:20 27:2	periods (1)	present (5)
Nellis (9)	1:2,6,8,18 2:4,5		25:16	5:7,22 7:9,10
17:4,6,9,13,13	2:9,12,13,17	<u> </u>	permitted (1)	12:25
17:17,23 19:11	3:8 4:2,5,6	P (2)	8:19	presentation (2)
20:3	5:11,16,18,24	2:14 5:17	personnel (1)	6:20 7:13
new (4)	6:1,2,3,12 7:21	paper (1)	4:15	pretty (1)
17:9,24 22:1	7:22 8:2,16	15:16	pilot (2)	15:14
25:14	10:18 11:5	part (4)	8:1,9	previous (2)
NOPEC (7)	12:6 14:18	11:20 15:18,19	Pirik (32)	6:9 23:9
17:25 18:3,6,13	21:10 23:13	<b>18:3</b>	2:6 4:1,10 5:12	previously (1)
18:21,21 19:4	28:2,5,16	participate (4)	5:19 7:14,23	11:17
Northeast (1)	Ohio's (1)	5:21 9:25 10:4	12:15 13:13,19	price (8)
6:2	24:18	10:23	14:8,15,19,25	9:6,7,10,11 10:7
Northland (1)	okay (7)	particular (3)	17:2,7,10,15	16:18 21:23
17:14	13:19 14:8,12	10:8,11,12	17:21 19:8,13	23:10
Notary (1)	15:19 16:6	parties (4)	19:21 20:18	pricing (3)
28:5	17:1 26:20	5:6,20 6:4 11:24	21:2,6,11,17	8:14,23 12:10
notice (1)	older (1)	Partners (1)	22:8,14,18,24	probably (1)
7:4	18:9	5:24	26:16	7:5
notices (1)	ones (1)	party (1)	place (4)	problem (3)
20:6	16:4	28:11	4:3 13:17 16:24	15:9 19:7 25:4
number (5)	one-third (1)	Pat (1)	28:10	problems (1)
4:4 6:24 11:17	8:3	14:10	Plain (3)	13:17
15:4 16:1	one-year (1)	Patricia (2)	15:13 21:20	proceedings (5)
nutshell (1)	24:21	14:17,21	23:12	1:21 27:1 28:6,8
22:5	opinion (2)	Patrick (2)	please (6)	28:9
	15:3 17:1	28:4,23	14:20 17:16	process (2)
<u>_</u>	opportunity (2)	pay (7)	21:6,11 22:14	11:10 25:14
oath (2)	4:25 26:19	8:25 10:13	22:18	procure (1)
12:22,23	opposed (8)	21:22 22:3,6	plus (1)	11:11
object (1)	23:2,8,14 24:24	25:6 26:9	9:11	produced (1)
25:18	25:22 26:4,7	paying (3)	podium (1)	28:7
occur (1)	26:15	18: <b>11 24:16</b>	12:20	profit (4)
7:7	opt (4)	26:3	point (4)	8:15,16,19,24
October (3)	18:7 20:13	payment (1)	7:2 15:9 16:20	program (9)
18:8 19:5 24:20	24:21 25:8	9:25	25:4	8:1,4,9 9:15,24
offer (6)	option (4)	pending (1)	pool (1)	10:1,4,24
8:7,12,22 9:10	8:5 12:9 18:7	6:22	10:9	23:25
10:14 11:3	20:5	people (6)	portion (3)	proposal (2)
office (4)	options (2)	16:2,3 18:9	8:15,24 11:19	9:20 26:15
1:17 5:13 19:16	11:22 19:24	20:15,16 23:4	possible (2)	proposed (2)
28:15	ought (1)	percent (6)	12:1 24:3	10:21 11:23
offices (3)	26:6	15:22,25 23:17	potential (1)	provide (3)
6:14 15:23 16:2	overall (1)	25:24 26:1,1	12:5	9:17 10:7 15:22
	, ,			

		1		<b>i</b>
provided (1)	14:20 16:14	9:7	10:6 12:8 13:6	September (1)
10:10	17:16 21:12	regarding (1)	13:12 14:20	18:8
providers (1)	22:19	6:16	16:4 17:10,16	Serio (7)
9:5	raised (1)	Registered (1)	19:23 21:12	2:14 5:14,17
providing (4)	23:9	28:4	22:19 26:1	13:1 19:17,20
4:21 11:18,19	rate (13)	relative (1)	rights (1)	20:25
12:7	6:22 7:1 8:11,13	28:11	18:2	service (11)
provision (1)	8:17,22 10:13	REMEMBER	RMR (1)	8:7,12,22 9:9
12:11	16:12 24:8,9,9	1:15	28:23	10:14 11:15,18
public (18)	24:18 26:12	replacement (1)	room (1)	11:20 14:1,2
1:2 2:3,5 4:1,3	rates (4)	8:10	4:15	23:7
6:2,16 7:4,25	7:20 16:12,18	Reporter (2)	roughly (2)	serviced (1)
8:19 9:14 11:6	24:13	28:5,5	8:3,6	23:6
11:12,25 12:1	read (1)	reporting (1)	Rule (1)	services (7)
19:15 26:21	21:19	28:13	28:14	1:11,12 4:8,9,18
28:5	realize (2)	representative		5:25 15:22
publication (1)	18:16 20:17	13:21,24,25 19:9	S	set (1)
7:7	really (3)	19:18 20:1	salaries (1)	28:15
PUCO (4)	10:9 16:19	22:9	15:25	seven (1)
9:15 15:10 20:3	21:19	represents (1)	Sale (1)	25:24
20:11	Realtime (1)	6:5	4:8	Sharkey (6)
purchase (3)	28:5	requested (1)	sales (5)	14:10,12,17,17
9:21 11:8 12:9	reason (4)	9:2	1:11 25:23 26:4	14:21 15:2
purchases (1)	9:2 23:8 24:24	require (1)	26:9,14	sheet (1)
8:2	26:7	23:3	save (3)	4:20
purpose (1)	reasons (2)	requiring (1)	24:23 25:21	shop (1)
6:15	26:11,14	24:25	26:1	24:1
put (4)	receive (1)	residential (1)	saving (1)	short (2)
20:4,9,11,12	6:16	5:15	26:6	6:19 7:9
putting (2)	record (9)	response (1)	saw (1)	shortly (1)
7:6 20:19	5:22 12:21	11:16	24:6	6:21
p.m (2)	14:16 17:12	restricted (1)	says (1)	sign (3)
1:20 27:2	20:19 21:7	23:22	21:21	4:19,24 26:19
	22:15 23:1	result (2)	Schinagle (4)	signed (1)
Q	26:22	9:9,16	13:11,12,15 14:7	4:23
qualified (1)	recover (1)	results (1)	Schultz (6)	significant (1)
28:6	8:18	9:13	22:12,13,16,16	24:23
question (2)	Recovery (2)	Retail (1)	22:20,25	significantly (1)
21:19,25	8:11,13	6:2	seal (1)	24:18
questions (5)	reduce (2)	review (1)	28:15	sign-up (1)
4:17 13:2,2,3	15:25 16:1	11:13	seeing (1)	4:20
20:23	reduced (1)	reviewing (1)	23:16	similar (2)
R	28:7	11:22	sending (2)	10:5 11:20
	refer (1)	revised (1)	18:6 20:6	sit (1)
R (1)	10:14	12:10	separate (2)	21:1
28:1	reflect (1)	right (12)	6:24 20:6	situation (3)
raise (5)				
L				

				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
20:20 23:2	stayed (1)	switched (1)	26:22	today (4)
26:8	21:22	24:19	thank (24)	4:19 11:14 14:6
somebody (1)	staying (1)	sworn (4)	5:12,14,19 7:11	26:17
18:12	22:7	14:23 17:19	7:14,23 12:14	told (1)
Sorry (1)	Stenotypy (1)	21:15 22:22	12:15 14:8,19	15:8
18:14	28:7	S-c-h-u-l-t-z (1)	14:25 17:1,2	tosses (1)
sort (1)	Stephens (6)	22:17	17:15,21 21:2	20:8
25:1	21:4,5,8,9,13,18	S-t-e-p-h-e-n-s	21:11,17 22:10	traditional (1)
speak (1)	stick (1)	21:9	22:18,24 26:15	12:23
22:9	20:5		26:16,23	transcription (
specific (4)	straighten (1)	T	thing (4)	28:8,8
6:5 9:11 10:15	19:7	T (2)	20:10 25:10,20	transition (1)
16:13	street (6)	28:1,1	25:21	11:7
specified (1)	2:8,16 5:17 7:22	table (1)	things (1)	true (1)
28:10	14:18 18:10	14:6	14:5	28:8
spelling (3)	structured (1)	take (2)	think (9)	Trust (1)
7:16 21:7 22:15	12:8	5:5 15:24	20:20 22:8,10	8:11
spellings (1)	stupid (1)	taken (4)	23:20,21 24:16	truth (2)
12:21	18:15	16:8 28:6,9,10	24:19 25:10	12:23,23
SS (1)	submitted (1)	talk (8)	26:6	try (2)
28:3	26:22	13:23 14:2,12,14	Thomas (3)	14:3 24:1
SSO (1)	substance (1)	19:6,25 20:21	22:12,16,20	trying (4)
8:22	12:13	21:1	thought (1)	13:17 18:1
staff (1)	Suite (3)	talked (2)	18:14	19:12 24:2
11:24	2:16 3:7 5:10	13:15 20:16	thousand (1)	Tuesday (1)
Stallings (2)		tax (8)	24:17	6:10
4:16 19:14	summary (1) 7:9	25:23,25 26:3,4		
		26:9,10,13,14	<b>three (2)</b> 19:23 26:11	twenty (1) 23:17
stand (1) 15:11	<b>SUMMIT (1)</b> 28:3	tell (1)		
		12:22	three-quarters 25:24	two (3) 21:24 22:3 24:5
standard (6)	Superior (1)	Ten (1)		
8:12,22 9:9	1:17	23:17	Thursday (1)	two-thirds (1)
10:14 11:3	supplier (12)	termination (1)	1:19	9:4
16:6	10:11,16,19,20	11:1	till (1)	two-year (1)
started (2)	17:25 24:5,7	terms (1)	19:5	24:21
23:25 24:4	24:11,14 25:2	26:9	Timberlane (1)	U
state (11)	25:15,23	testified (4)	22:17	ultimately (2)
1:17 7:15 12:20	suppliers (7)	14:24 17:20	time (12)	12:2,6
14:15 15:8	8:7 20:7 22:2	21:16 22:23	1:21 4:3 5:5 7:8	understand (2)
17:11 21:6	23:5,11,14,18		12:17 13:3	13:20 16:17
22:14 26:9	supply (5)	testify (6) 4:19,24 5:3 14:6	14:14 16:13	unfortunately
28:2,5	7:20 12:11 23:7	4:19,24 5:5 14:6 17:5 26:18	18:6 24:22	15:10,11
statement (1)	24:15 25:7		25:16 28:10	•
15:1	sure (3)	testifying (2)	times (1)	Users (1) 6:1
stay (4)	7:4,18 9:6	21:3 22:11	15:11	* · -
16:12 18:7 22:2	switch (4)	testimony (3)	title (1)	utilities (11)
25:25	18:20 22:1,6,6	12:25 13:4	7:17	1:2 2:3,5 4:2
	J			
			40 TO SECURE AND A SECURE OF THE SECURE AND A SECURE OF THE SECURE AS A SECURE OF THE SECURE AS A SECURE OF THE SECURE AS A SECURE OF THE SECU	77.7 N. W. T. W.

		<u> </u>		rage 5
11:6,12 12:1	16:24		1:19	1:17
19:15		11		1:17
	whatsoever (1) 10:22	1 (1)	30 (2)	7
utility (6)		23:4	18:24,25	7th (2)
5:15 8:20 9:14	WHEREOF (1)	1st (1)	300,000 (4)	6:13 28:16
11:25 15:4,12	28:15	6:11	21:21 22:2 23:4	0.15 28.10
$\mathbf{v}$	wife (2)	1:00 (1)	24:25	8
	23:1,24	27:2	325 (2)	8808 (1)
vie (1)	wise (1)	10 (2)	3:6 5:9	21:10
10:6	25:10	2:16 5:17	3406 (1)	21.10
views (1)	wish (3)	10.49 (1)	14:18	9
13:18	4:24,24 10:25	15:15		91 (1)
W W	witness (8)	12:35 (1)	4	22:17
	13:5,10 14:22	1:20	4.9 (1)	
W (2)	17:18 20:24	<b>1201</b> (1)	25:25	
28:4,23	21:14 22:21	7:21	40 (2)	
want (10)	28:15	13 (1)	15:22,25	
5:3 15:6 16:21	witnesses (3)	28:24	43215 (2)	
20:4,8,21	12:18,18 26:20	148th (1)	5:11,18	
22:25 25:3,7	worry (1)	14:18	43215-2673 (1)	
25:17	15:17	180 (1)	3:8	
wanted (3)	wrong (1)	2:8	43215-3485 (1)	
9:5 19:3 24:8	19:2	1800 (1)	2:17	
wants (1)		2:16	43215-3793 (1)	
23:3	Y	2.10	2:9	
Wasn't (1)	year (7)	2	44103 (1)	
18:8	9:16,20 12:14	2nd (1)	7:22	
watch (1)	16:10 24:5,13	1:18	44104 (1)	
7:4	25:8	2006 (3)	21:10	
way (4)	years (4)	7:25 9:3 10:2	44202 (1)	
8:1 9:21 10:2	18:24 21:24		22:17	
11:21	22:4 24:1	2007 (1)		
wear (1)	Youngstown (1)	6:8	5	
11:23	6:10	2008 (3)	50 (1)	
week (2)	0.10	1:20 9:19 28:16	18:19	
6:12 21:20	<u> </u>	2010 (1)	55th (1)	
weeks (1)	\$150 (1)	28:24	7:22	
21:20	25:8	2145 (1)		
Went (1)	\$6,000 (1)	17:13	6	
18:10	18:20	28 (1)	600 (2)	
West (4)	\$9.99 (1)	6:8	3:7 5:10	
1:17 2:16 5:17	39.99 (1) 24:16	28(D) (1)	614/466-8574 (	
14:18	24.10	28:14	2:18	
B	0		614/469-3939 (	
We'll (1)	07-1224-GA-E	3	3:9	
20:25	1:7 4:4	3 (1)	614/644-8955 (	
we're (2)	07-829-GA-AI	26:1	2:10	
16:9 24:2	6:24	3rd (1)		
we've (1)	U.4 <del>1</del>		615 (1)	
			- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	