



Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel

Your Residential Utility Consumer Advocate

Janine L. Migden-Ostrander
Consumers' Counsel

June 4, 2008

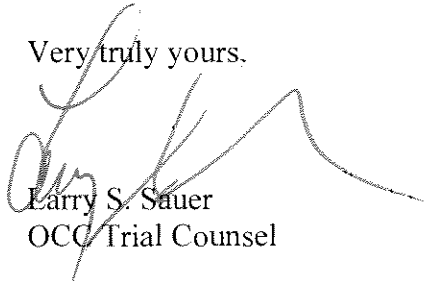
Ms. Renee Jenkins, Director
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street, 13th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Re: *In the Matter of the Application of Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. ("Duke") for an Increase in Gas Rates*, Case Nos. 07-589-GA-AIR, et al.

Dear Ms. Jenkins:

The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel ("OCC") supports the Motion to Stay¹ filed by the Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy ("OPAE") on June 3, 2008, in the above-captioned proceedings. OPAE is asking the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") to stay the PUCO's recent and unprecedented approval of residential rates for natural gas service based on the "straight fixed variable" rate design that features a higher monthly customer charge (from \$6.00 currently up to ultimately \$25.33 in 2009) and a corresponding lower per-unit charge for collecting distribution costs from Duke's 380,000 residential consumers. Granting the stay will avoid the additional customer confusion that would result if the new rate design is implemented now and then reversed upon the applications for rehearing that OPAE, as well as OCC, will be filing or upon any appeal.

Very truly yours,



Larry S. Sauer
OCC Trial Counsel

Cc: Parties of Record

¹ The full title of OPAE's Motion is "Motion to Stay Implementation of the May 28, 2008 Opinion and Order and Issuance of the Entry Approving the Tariffs"

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in

Case No(s). 07-0589-GA-AIR, 07-0590-GA-ALT, 07-0591-GA-AAM

Summary: Correspondence OCC Letter in Support of OPAE's Motion to Stay. electronically filed by Ms. Deb J. Bingham on behalf of Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel