

## BEFORE

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the ) CASE NOS.  
 Application of the East Ohio ) 07-829-GA-AIR  
 Gas Company, doing business ) 07-830-GA-ALT  
 as Dominion East Ohio, ) 07-831-GA-AAM  
 for Authority to Increase ) 08-169-GA-ALT  
 Rates For Gas Distribution ) 06-1453-GA-UNC  
 Service and Other Related )  
 Matters.

**ORIGINAL**

BE IT REMEMBERED, that upon the hearing of  
 the above-entitled matter, held at the Oliver R.  
 Ocasek Government Center, West Auditorium, 161  
 South High Street, Akron, Ohio, before Scott  
 Farkas, Attorney Examiner, and commencing on  
 Thursday, the 31st day of July 2008, at 1:30  
 o'clock p.m., at which time the following  
 proceedings were had.

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1     **APPEARANCES:**

2

3       On Behalf of the Public Utilities Commission  
4       Of Ohio:

5                   PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

6       BY:       Scott Farkas, Attorney Examiner

7                   180 East Broad Street

8                   Columbus, Ohio 43215

9                   800/686-7826

10

11       On Behalf of Ohio Consumers' Counsel:

12                   OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

13       BY:       Joseph P. Serio

14                   Assistant Consumers' Counsel

15                   Christopher F. Verich

16                   Outreach & Education Specialist

17                   10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800

18                   Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485

19                   614/466-8574

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25

1 APPEARANCES (CONTINUED):

2

3 On Behalf of The East Ohio Gas Company

4 dba Dominion East Ohio:

5 JONES DAY

6 BY: Mark A. Whitt, Attorney at Law

7 325 John H. McConnell Boulevard

8 Suite 600

9 Columbus, Ohio 43215-2673

10 614/469-3939

11 **ALSO PRESENT:** Anthony Dill, Patricia Chang,

12 Vicki H. Friscic, Charles Walker, John Thomas,

13 John Sullivan, Mary South, Brenda Tucker

14 Pakeeree, Charlotte Robinson, Patty Spencer,

15 John Nelson, James A. Stender, Jim Iona and

16 Robert J. Otterman

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## I N D E X

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3	Akron Public Hearing Exhibit 1	22
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1                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Since it's 1:30 and  
2     I know everyone has taken the time to come here,  
3     and I appreciate everybody coming, I thought we  
4     would start right on time.

5                   The Public Utilities Commission has  
6     assigned for public hearing at this time and  
7     place Case Numbers 07-829-GA-AIR, 07-830-GA-ALT,  
8     07-831-GA-AAM, 08-169-GA-ALT and 06-1453-GA-UNC,  
9     which are captioned, "In the Matter of the  
10    Application of the East Ohio Gas Company, dba  
11    Dominion East Ohio, for Authority to Increase  
12    Rates for its Gas Distribution Service and Other  
13    Related Matters."

14                  My name is Scott Farkas. I'm an  
15    Attorney Examiner with the Commission's legal  
16    department and I will be conducting this  
17    hearing. There are other Commission personnel  
18    representing our Service Monitoring and  
19    Enforcement Division. Lawrence Hampton and Lee  
20    Gary were handing out materials in the front as  
21    you walked in. These PUCO staff members are  
22    available if you have questions concerning a  
23    utility matter other than the applications which  
24    are the focus of today's hearing.

25                  At this time I would also like to

1 take appearances on behalf of the parties.

2 First on behalf of the Company?

3 **MR. WHITT:** Your Honor, Mark  
4 Whitt from the Jones Day law firm. 325 John  
5 H. McConnell Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio 43125.

6 **MR. FARKAS:** Okay. Thank you.  
7 And on behalf of the Consumers' Counsel?

8 **MR. SERIO:** Thank you, Your  
9 Honor. On behalf of the residential utility  
10 customers of East Ohio Gas Company, Janine  
11 L. Migden-Ostrander, Consumers' Counsel, my name  
12 is Joseph P. Serio.

13 Also with me are representatives of  
14 the office if you have questions. The OCC is a  
15 state agency that by law represents residential  
16 customers in cases like this one today.

17 **MR. FARKAS:** Thank you. And  
18 other interveners in these cases include the  
19 Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy, the  
20 Neighborhood Environmental Coalition,  
21 Empowerment Center of Greater Cleveland,  
22 Cleveland Housing Network, Consumers for Fair  
23 Utility Rates, Interstate Gas Supply, Integrys  
24 Energy Services, Inc., Dominion Retail, Inc.,  
25 Stand Energy Corporation, Utility Workers Union

1 of America Local G555, The Ohio Oil and Gas  
2 Association, the City of Cleveland and the  
3 Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel. Each of  
4 these parties represents various constituents in  
5 these cases before the Commission.

6 Dominion filed the rate case  
7 proceeding application on August 30th, 2007.  
8 The local public hearings scheduled in this case  
9 are only one aspect of the process in this case,  
10 and an evidentiary hearing is also scheduled to  
11 commence on August 1st, 2008 at the Commission  
12 offices in Columbus.

13 Other local hearings have been held  
14 and will be held. Tonight there is a hearing in  
15 Canton. Monday there is a hearing at 12:30 in  
16 the Cleveland and at 7:00 in Geneva. On  
17 Tuesday, August 5th, there will be another  
18 hearing in Marietta, Ohio. And there are now  
19 scheduled three additional evening hearings, one  
20 in Garfield Heights on August 18th at 6:00, one  
21 in Youngstown on August 19th at 6:00 and another  
22 hearing here in Akron on August 21st at 6:00.

23 The purpose of these public hearings  
24 is to receive comments from the public regarding  
25 Dominion's applications in these cases. As you

1 may have noticed, there is a court reporter  
2 present right there and she will be transcribing  
3 the hearing. Basically that means that the  
4 court reporter will be recording, in typewritten  
5 fashion, the statements made at the hearing  
6 today. (Indicating.)

7 When you arrived, you were offered  
8 the opportunity to sign up to testify. If you  
9 missed that opportunity, you may still add your  
10 name to the list at the back of the room.

11 At this time I'll be calling  
12 witnesses forward who wish to give statements  
13 for the record. Before you begin your  
14 statement, I will ask you for your name and  
15 address. Your testimony will be considered part  
16 of the official record of the case to be  
17 reviewed by the Commissioners before they make  
18 their final decision.

19 Before presenting sworn testimony,  
20 you will be required to take an oath or  
21 affirmation stating what you are about to say is  
22 the truth. Attorneys for the Company and OCC  
23 and any other party, had they been here, will be  
24 allowed to ask questions about your statement  
25 while you're under oath.



1                   Should you decide that you do not  
2   want to testify when I call your name, you can  
3   merely pass to the next witness. Once you  
4   finish testifying, or if you're just in  
5   attendance to observe the hearing, you may leave  
6   at any time you wish.

7                   Since today's hearing is being  
8   transcribed, I would ask that if you plan to  
9   testify, please speak plainly and clearly so  
10   that the court reporter can accurately reflect  
11   your comments on the record.

12                  If you have a prepared written  
13   statement, it will be helpful for you to provide  
14   a copy of that to the court reporter, also. I  
15   appreciate your participation in today's  
16   hearing. I want everyone who wishes to make a  
17   public statement to be able to do so.

18                  If you choose to make a public  
19   statement, please be considerate of others  
20   waiting to give their testimony and keep your  
21   statements to a reasonable period of time.

22                  Are there any questions as to the  
23   process to be followed? No questions?

24                  Okay. At this time I'll begin  
25   calling witnesses forward. Thank you. I

1 apologize in advance if I mispronounce anyone's  
2 name.

3 Okay. Charles Walker? I will ask  
4 you to raise your right hand.

5 (Thereupon, Mr. Walker was sworn.)

6 **MR. FARKAS:** Thank you. Please  
7 state your name and address for the record.  
8 Here's the mic, but you don't have to hold it.

9 **MR. WALKER:** My name is Charles  
10 Walker. I represent --

11 **UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:** Can't hear.

12 **MR. WALKER:** Testing. My name  
13 is Charles Walker. I represent Police Community  
14 Dialogue Program. I heard about the hearing  
15 this morning on WAKR and I felt it was important  
16 to come and testify. I'm one that happens to be  
17 disabled. It is very hard to be day to day.  
18 Seniors, disabled, minorities and low income,  
19 they're going to have a hard time as well. They  
20 are having a hard time this summer.

21 The gasoline prices are going up.  
22 The gas company is asking for an increase.  
23 People cannot do without gas. They may cut back  
24 on driving a car, but we cannot have people  
25 freezing to death. Maybe they can postpone it

1 for six months or until next spring.

2 It becomes so hard for the average  
3 person to do anything. You cannot go to a  
4 baseball game. An average man cannot even  
5 afford a mistress these days. It's becoming so  
6 difficult that if this goes through it's going  
7 to become more difficult. People are going to  
8 have a difficult time making ends meet. There's  
9 going to be more crime, violence and  
10 dislocation. So I will urge the PUC to  
11 reconsider.

12 I know most of the members are pro  
13 business and with the hold of the last  
14 administration, I don't know how many labor  
15 people are on the Commission or working people,  
16 but this is a difficult decision for them and  
17 for the Company.

18 But I -- what I do know is seniors,  
19 disabled and low income cannot afford an  
20 increase at this time. Thank you very much.

21 **MR. FARKAS:** Okay. Does the  
22 company have any questions for the witness?

23 **MR. WHITT:** No questions.

24 **MR. SERIO:** No questions.

25 **MR. FARKAS:** Okay. Thank you.

1 John Thomas?

2 MR. THOMAS: I feel like Jerry  
3 Seinfeld in an episode. I think my leg fell  
4 asleep when I was sitting up there. You want me  
5 to put this up here?

6 MR. FARKAS: Or you can hold it.  
7 Raise your right hand.

8 MR. THOMAS: Sure.

9 (Thereupon, Mr. Thomas was sworn.)

10 MR. FARKAS: Thank you. Please  
11 state your name and --

12 MR. THOMAS: John Thomas, 1621  
13 Chadwick Drive, Kent. And I won't call myself  
14 an average man given the previous part of that  
15 testimony, but I'm here to speak in opposition.  
16 I guess my special interest group is myself and  
17 our family of six where I live in Kent. I'll  
18 give you a few facts and statistics, sir.

19 Our family spent about \$20,000 in  
20 less than 6 years to bring our home up to making  
21 it more energy efficient, \$20,000. Now, we're a  
22 middle class family, but that's a significant  
23 capital investment for our family.

24 To make it energy efficient, I'll  
25 give you a couple more statistics. In the last

1 12 months the most we spent on natural gas to  
2 heat our home is \$180. \$180. I think that's  
3 pretty darn good. I don't know what the average  
4 would be in this room, let alone the average  
5 middle class family. We also spend no more, in  
6 any of the 12 months on electricity to help heat  
7 that home and cool that home, more than \$80.

8 We have a whole house air conditioner  
9 that, last year, last summer, I don't think we  
10 ran more than 12 times. This year maybe 6  
11 times, and we set the thermostat at 78, 80  
12 degrees all the time.

13 The reason I'm bringing you these  
14 statistics is that the philosophy behind the  
15 Applicant's request for an increase runs  
16 counterintuitive, at least to what my family and  
17 probably scores of other families in the  
18 Dominion area are trying to do, namely, make  
19 themselves energy efficient and conserve energy.

20 And by going with the philosophy of  
21 increasing the fixed cost, you know, I might as  
22 well just throw up my hands and walk away and  
23 give my key to the utility company to my home.  
24 Because I'm even -- I was even considering, sir,  
25 investing about \$15,000 in a quasi solar heating

1 system and power system for my home, but I  
2 don't -- God help me if I can live my natural  
3 lifespan. I don't think, if this rate increase  
4 goes through as proposed, I'll ever begin to see  
5 the cost savings during my lifetime. It just  
6 runs counterintuitive.

7 We as Commissioners -- or consumers,  
8 excuse me, are told every day, get ahead,  
9 conserve, be energy efficient. Well, doggone  
10 it, that's what my family's doing and scores of  
11 other families are doing.

12 It's like I told this gentleman when  
13 I came in, it seems like me and the rest of us  
14 in this room take one step ahead and we're  
15 kicked back three. And I'll just leave you with  
16 this. When you consider the statistics that the  
17 Applicant's going to give you, Mark Twain said  
18 something about numbers and statistics once.  
19 Once you get them down, they're kind of like a  
20 lady of the night. You can make them do  
21 anything you want. Thank you.

22 MR. FARKAS: Wait a minute, sir.  
23 Sir?

24 MR. THOMAS: Sure.

25 MR. FARKAS: Do you have any

1 questions?

2 MR. WHITT: No questions, Your  
3 Honor.

4 MR. SERIO: No.

5 MR. THOMAS: I'm not surprised.

6 MR. FARKAS: Thank you. Bob  
7 Ortizman, "Ortizman"?

8 MR. OTTERMAN: Otterman,  
9 O-t-t-e-r -- may I pass at this time until I  
10 hear the information?

11 MR. FARKAS: Yes. Jane Tatko?

12 MS. TATKO: Can I wait?

13 MR. FARKAS: Sure. Stan Tatko?

14 MR. TATKO: Pass.

15 MR. FARKAS: John Sullivan?

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We can't hear  
17 back here.

18 MR. FARKAS: I'm sorry. John  
19 Sullivan? Raise your right hand.

20 (Thereupon, Mr. Sullivan was sworn.)

21 MR. FARKAS: Thank you. State  
22 your name and address, please.

23 MR. SULLIVAN: John Sullivan --

24 MR. FARKAS: Just hold the mic.

25 MR. SULLIVAN: John Sullivan, 635

1 Inverness Road, Akron, Ohio. I thought I would  
2 be able to ask you guys questions, but I guess I  
3 can't. I just would like you to know that I  
4 think this rate is outrageous.

5 **MR. FARKAS:** Do you have any  
6 questions?

7 **MR. WHITT:** (Counsel shaking  
8 head from side to side.)

9 **MR. FARKAS:** Does the OCC have  
10 any questions?

11 **MR. SERIO:** No.

12 **MR. FARKAS:** Okay. Ric --

13 **MR. SCHWABE:** I pass.

14 **MR. FARKAS:** Mary South? You  
15 want to raise your right hand?

16 (Thereupon, Ms. South was sworn.)

17 **MR. FARKAS:** Thank you.

18 **MS. SOUTH:** My name is Mary  
19 South. I live at 95 Donova Lane, Akron, Ohio  
20 44310.

21 **MR. FARKAS:** I think you need to  
22 hold the mic closer.

23 **MS. SOUTH:** All right. My name  
24 is Mary South, and I live at 95 Donova,  
25 D-o-n-o-v-a, Lane, Akron, Ohio 44310. And I'm



1 here against this proposed increase as well.

2 I agree with Mr. Walker in the  
3 first -- who was the first speaker. What are  
4 seniors going to do? Do we get to wrap  
5 ourselves in blankets, turn off our heat so we  
6 can eat? Do we get to eat and not pay our  
7 bills? What do we do?

8 My rate increase has almost doubled  
9 in the last two months. I received two  
10 increases in amounts to be charged per measured  
11 cubic foot in the last two months. It's gone  
12 from 9 to 12 to 13, more than 12, more than 13  
13 at this point. What do I do?

14 My budget amount was \$59. It's now  
15 110. That's almost a double -- that's almost  
16 doubling. What do people do? I'm on a fixed  
17 income, so what am I supposed to do? How do I  
18 cope? How do I manage? My vote is no.  
19 Vehemently no.

20 MR. FARKAS: Do you have any  
21 questions?

22 MR. WHITT: No questions.

23 MR. FARKAS: Mr. Serio?

24 MR. SERIO: (Counsel shaking  
25 head from side to side.)

1                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Brenda Tucker  
2   Pakeeree?   Raise your right hand.

3                   (Thereupon, Ms. Tucker Pakeeree was  
4                   sworn.)

5                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Thank you.   State  
6   your name and address, please.

7                   **MS. TUCKER PAKEEREE:** My name is a  
8   Brenda Tucker Pakeeree.   I'm a consumer.   I live  
9   at 1433 Sackett Hills Drive, 44313.

10                  I came down here when I heard of the  
11   proposal as much for myself as for the young  
12   families.   How can they afford to pay more in  
13   utilities when everything else is all -- already  
14   crowding out their incomes?   They have to choose  
15   between whether they're going to put food on the  
16   table or whether they're going to provide for  
17   their families, clothing and all the other  
18   things that they have to pay for.

19                  I really feel sorry, not only for the  
20   elderly population, but for the younger families  
21   as well.   And I think that we need proof.   We  
22   need solid proof as to why these increases are  
23   necessary.   I think we can hide behind the  
24   distribution costs, but also the MCFs has gone  
25   up as well.

1                   Our gas bill, as the previous people  
2     have suggested, has doubled in the last couple  
3     years. And it's not because we are using  
4     excessive gas. We keep our thermostat, you  
5     know, 68. And as the man previous to me said  
6     that, you know, his air conditioning, we hardly  
7     use that. But I guess my real feeling for the  
8     impact of these increases goes out to the young  
9     families and the elderly population where  
10    they're on fixed or limited incomes. And I'm  
11    against this proposal.

12                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Thank you. Do you  
13    have any questions?

14                   **MR. WHITT:**           No questions.

15                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Any questions?

16                   **MR. SERIO:**           (Counsel shaking  
17    head from side to side.)

18                   **MS. TUCKER PAKEEREE:** Oh, I'm sorry.

19                   **MR. SERIO:**           (Counsel shaking  
20    head from side to side.)

21                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Charlotte Robinson?

22                   **MS. ROBINSON:**       Yes.

23                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Good. Raise your  
24    right hand.

25                                   (Thereupon, Ms. Robinson was sworn.)

1                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Thank you. State  
2     your name and address, please.

3                   **MS. ROBINSON:**       Charlotte Robinson.  
4     My home address is 638 Roslyn Avenue, Akron  
5     44320. And I'm representing Akron Summit  
6     Community Action, and I do have a --

7                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Prepared statement?

8                   **MS. ROBINSON:**       Yes.

9                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Okay. You can --

10                  **MS. ROBINSON:**       I want to read it,  
11     but you said I can hand something in?

12                  **MR. FARKAS:**           Well, you can read  
13     it and hand it in if you like.

14                  **MS. ROBINSON:**       Yes. I made a  
15     copy.

16                  **MR. FARKAS:**           Okay. Thank you.

17                  **MS. ROBINSON:**       Okay. I'm speaking  
18     on behalf of Akron Summit Community Action and  
19     over 7,800 households that represent 20,000  
20     individuals who came to our agency in 2007  
21     requesting assistance with utilities, food,  
22     clothing, eyeglasses, dental, rent, mortgage  
23     help and household items.

24                         All of these families were at or  
25     below 175 percent of poverty and all had one

1 thing in common, they were not able to make ends  
2 meet. Many of these people work more than one  
3 job and 17 percent of them have no health  
4 coverage.

5 In addition to providing the  
6 assistance available through our funding  
7 sources, and we are the Home Energy Assistance  
8 grantee for Summit County, we run the Head Start  
9 program, we provide FEMA rent/mortgage  
10 assistance, we have various funding sources.  
11 But in addition to that we spend countless hours  
12 leveraging additional services to keep people  
13 housed, clothed and fed.

14 We ask that you consider the hardship  
15 already faced by families with inadequate  
16 incomes. Also consider how detrimental rate  
17 increases are to senior citizens, the  
18 handicapped and other fixed income households.  
19 We ask that you look at options that increase  
20 investment in energy efficiency that help  
21 families lower their bill instead of increasing  
22 it.

23 Finally, consider the current economy  
24 where people are already losing their homes to  
25 foreclosure, getting \$5 worth of gas because

1 they can't afford a full tank, running room  
2 heaters to keep Dominion meters turned down and  
3 increasing their electric bill because they're  
4 robbing Peter to pay Paul or they pile on  
5 blankets because the utilities are already  
6 disconnected. Please make decisions that are  
7 humane instead of just profitable. Thank you.

8 **MR. FARKAS:** Do you have any  
9 questions?

10 **MR. WHITT:** No questions.

11 **MR. FARKAS:** Any questions?

12 **MR. SERIO:** (Counsel shaking  
13 head from side to side.)

14 **MR. FARKAS:** No one had any  
15 questions. I will mark your prepared statement  
16 as Akron Public Hearing Exhibit 1.

17 **MS. ROBINSON:** Yes.

18 **MR. FARKAS:** Okay?

19 **MS. ROBINSON:** Thank you.

20 **MR. FARKAS:** And admit it into  
21 the record.

22 (Thereupon, Akron Public Hearing  
23 Exhibit 1 of the Dominion East Ohio  
24 Case Nos. 07-829-GA-AIR, et al.,  
25 hearing was marked for purposes of

1 identification.)

2 **MR. FARKAS:** Patty Spencer?

3 Raise your right hand.

4 (Thereupon, Ms. Spencer was sworn.)

5 **MR. FARKAS:** Thank you. State  
6 your name and address, please?

7 **MS. SPENCER:** My name is Patty  
8 Spencer. I am representing Akron Summit  
9 Community Action Agency Heat and Energy  
10 Assistance Program. I am the HEAP  
11 administrator, and last season we assisted over  
12 7,400 households who were at or below 175  
13 percent of poverty with their heating costs, a  
14 considerable number of these clients were below  
15 100 percent of poverty.

16 Low income consumers are struggling  
17 right now to make gas payments and making energy  
18 saving changes in their households to help with  
19 the heating costs. This additional charge will  
20 negate any efforts they have made to reduce  
21 their bills.

22 A flat rate charge will have much  
23 more of an impact on low income consumers whose  
24 lifestyles are much different than those of  
25 higher incomes. They generally have smaller

1 homes to match their smaller incomes, and to  
2 expect them to pay the same flat late as all  
3 consumers is not fair.

4 **MR. FARKAS:** Okay. Do you have  
5 any questions?

6 **MR. WHITT:** No.

7 **MR. FARKAS:** OCC?

8 **MR. SERIO:** No.

9 **MR. FARKAS:** Okay. Thank you.  
10 Jean White? Raise your right hand.

11 (Thereupon, Ms. White was sworn.)

12 **MR. FARKAS:** Thank you. Please  
13 state your name and address.

14 **MS. WHITE:** My name is Jean  
15 White. I'm a senior probation officer with  
16 Summit County Adult Probation. I will be 71  
17 years old in September. I would like to retire,  
18 but I can't. I'm speaking not only for myself,  
19 but for my friends who continue to work for the  
20 same reason. We cannot afford to retire. My  
21 neighbor is 80 years old and she's worried about  
22 losing her house.

23 I bought my house about 12 years ago  
24 and I put in new windows, new doors, new  
25 furnace, insulation, everything you could ask



1 for.

2 At the time the -- the people that I  
3 bought from, they were paying \$200 a month gas  
4 bills because their windows leaked and so on. I  
5 thought I corrected all that. I got a letter  
6 recently from my current gas supplier. They are  
7 giving me the opportunity to pay close to \$17  
8 per thousand cubic feet of gas on top of that.

9 Do I want to pay an additional  
10 transportation charge by Dominion East Ohio Gas?  
11 No, I don't. And none of my friends and none of  
12 my working senior friends do either. I hope  
13 that the PUCO does reconsider this rate hike.

14 MR. FARKAS: Do you have any  
15 questions?

16 MR. WHITT: (Counsel shaking  
17 head from side to side.)

18 MR. FARKAS: OCC any questions?

19 MR. SERIO: No.

20 MR. FARKAS: Janet Spencer?

21 That's the list of names of people that signed  
22 up to testify.

23 Is there -- we're going to have  
24 someone check to see if there are other names of  
25 people who have signed up. Nobody out there?

1                   Okay. Would you like to testify?

2    Yes, sir. Okay. Raise your right hand.

3                   (Thereupon, Mr. Nelson was sworn.)

4                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Thank you. State  
5    your name and address, please.

6                   **MR. NELSON:**          My name is John  
7    Nelson, and I stay at 1252 Andrus Street, Akron,  
8    Ohio.

9                   **MR. FARKAS:**          Take the mic, why  
10   don't you.

11                  **MR. NELSON:**          I stay at 1252  
12   Andrus, Akron, Ohio, but I'm a block club  
13   captain. I'm also president of the Barberton  
14   NAACP.

15                   Like the young lady that just left  
16   said, in my block club I have 20 some members of  
17   my block club, South Akron Neighborhood Block  
18   Club, and they're all over 65 years old, and I  
19   have 3 or 4 that's 80, I have one that's 91.  
20   So, you know, asking them to pay any more will  
21   really be a hardship on them and that's the way  
22   that they feel.

23                   And it just goes a little bit too far  
24   for the senior citizens that's on a fixed  
25   income. And the people that have to work, it's

1 a little too much. So I think that the PUCO  
2 needs to turn that rate hike down. Thank you.

3 **MR. FARKAS:** Okay. Do you have  
4 any questions?

5 **MR. WHITT:** No.

6 **MR. FARKAS:** Any questions?

7 **MR. SERIO:** No.

8 **MR. FARKAS:** Is there anyone who  
9 signed up we passed earlier?

10 **MR. STENDER:** I signed up, but  
11 you didn't call my name.

12 **MR. FARKAS:** Okay. Come on up.  
13 Is that it? Well, maybe this is -- Jim?

14 **MR. STENDER:** Yes.

15 **MR. FARKAS:** Okay. That's you.  
16 Raise your right hand.

17 (Thereupon, Mr. Stender was sworn.)

18 **MR. FARKAS:** Thank you. State  
19 your name and address, please.

20 **MR. STENDER:** Jim Stender,  
21 S-t-e-n-d-e-r, and I'm here representing the  
22 City of Barberton. I'm the utilities director  
23 there. Our address is 576 West Park Avenue,  
24 Barberton 44203.

25 I am here to support the Ohio

1 Consumers' Counsel in the opposition of this  
2 increase. I think the documentation available  
3 speaks very well to the case at hand, that being  
4 specifically that the flat rate customer charge  
5 increase is going to negatively impact customers  
6 who attempt to conserve energy and will also  
7 result in low use customers paying a  
8 disproportionate amount of the cost of gas.

9 So I am here to state restraint with  
10 regard to the escalating price of gas on behalf  
11 of the City itself, because we're a consumer,  
12 our citizens and the businesses of Barberton,  
13 Ohio. Thank you.

14 MR. FARKAS: Okay. Do you have  
15 any questions?

16 MR. WHITT: No.

17 MR. FARKAS: Any questions?

18 MR. SERIO: No.

19 MR. FARKAS: Thank you. Jim  
20 Iona? Raise your right hand.

21 (Thereupon, Mr. Iona was sworn.)

22 MR. FARKAS: State your name and  
23 address.

24 MR. IONA: Jim Iona, 330  
25 Hiwood Avenue, Munroe Falls 44262.

1                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Thank you.

2                   **MR. IONA:**           I just would like  
3     to take the opportunity -- my expertise, I'm a  
4     real estate broker with over 28 years'  
5     experience in the Summit County area and I do a  
6     lot of property management. And we're having a  
7     record year as far as foreclosures and a record  
8     year as far as people being unable to pay their  
9     rent; and I think at a time like this with gas  
10    prices and the economy and all the other  
11    situations, especially Summit County is in, that  
12    this is the wrong time to ask for an increase  
13    with the natural gas.

14                   Even though it doesn't seem as high  
15    as maybe some people think it is, any amount  
16    right now is insignificant when people can't pay  
17    their rent and pay their mortgage payment. Any  
18    increase of any utility at this time would put  
19    an adverse effect on the general population of  
20    Summit County. Thank you.

21                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Okay. Any  
22    questions?

23                   **MR. WHITT:**           No questions.

24                   **MR. FARKAS:**           OCC?

25                   **MR. SERIO:**           No.

1                   **MR. FARKAS:**           There were a number  
2 of people that signed up to testify that passed.  
3 Are any of them interested in testifying at this  
4 time? Okay.

5                   (Thereupon, Mr. Otterman was sworn.)

6                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Thank you. State  
7 your name and address, please?

8                   **MR. OTTERMAN:**       Thank you very much  
9 for letting us testify. I was hoping that the  
10 room would be filled. If there was adequate  
11 publicity from the "Beacon Journal" we would  
12 have had more people down here. But I want to  
13 apologize for my not being prepared because I  
14 just got off vacation and just got a letter this  
15 morning stating this, but I didn't see anything  
16 in the paper, so hopefully we'll have more.

17                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Could you state  
18 your name and address, please?

19                   **MR. OTTERMAN:**       Yes. Robert J.  
20 Otterman, 1969 Wells Creek Run, Akron,  
21 44312-1986.

22                   **MR. FARKAS:**           Thank you. Go  
23 ahead.

24                   **MR. OTTERMAN:**       I would just like  
25 to be here to testify on behalf of the Ohio

1 Counsel, Consumers' Counsel. I believe the  
2 position that they're taking is the right one  
3 and I'm opposed to the increase that Dominion  
4 East Ohio is asking for.

5 This case is a base distributing  
6 case. It covers meter reading, billing,  
7 maintenance, the distribution equipment. These  
8 charges represent about roughly, to my figures,  
9 about 28 percent of a typical customer bill.  
10 The cost of actual natural gas is not a part of  
11 this case, to my understanding.

12 In addition, the proposal is to  
13 replace some 1.3 million gas meters to the  
14 automatic gas reading; that you don't need the  
15 meter people any more. I just wondered how many  
16 people will be laid off because of that. I  
17 think that the Dominion proposal rates are  
18 unreasonable and should be rejected by PUCO.

19 Also one thing I am in favor of with  
20 Dominion East Ohio is the increase in the  
21 proposed investment in energy efficiency from  
22 the \$6 million that they have proposed to  
23 something like 15 million, 15.6 million per year  
24 as we would like to see.

25 We, the customers, need as much

1 resources as possible to control the natural gas  
2 prices, and hopefully by more education and more  
3 research, business with our -- at least the  
4 prices would stay stable, if not go down. I'm  
5 in favor of the Office of Consumers' Counsel's  
6 standing. Thank you.

7 **MR. FARKAS:** Thank you. Do you  
8 have any questions?

9 **MR. WHITT:** No questions.

10 **MR. FARKAS:** Do you have any  
11 questions?

12 **MR. SERIO:** (Counsel shaking  
13 head from side to side.)

14 **MR. FARKAS:** Is there anyone  
15 else that would like to testify?

16 Seeing no one else, I will note that  
17 there are no more witnesses that seek to testify  
18 in this public hearing and the testimony will be  
19 submitted on the record for the Commission's  
20 consideration in this case. And I appreciate  
21 everybody coming out and -- to this hearing.  
22 Thank you.

23 (Thereupon, the proceedings were  
24 concluded at 2:05 o'clock p.m.)

25 - - -



## C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF OHIO, )  
 ) SS:  
SUMMIT COUNTY, )

I, Christina A. Arbogast, a Registered Professional Reporter and Notary Public within and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that these proceedings were taken by me and reduced to Stenotypy, afterwards prepared and produced by means of Computer-Aided Transcription and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription of the proceedings so taken as aforesaid.

I do further certify that these proceedings were taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified.

I do further certify that I am not a relative, employee of or attorney for any party or counsel, or otherwise financially interested in this action.

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 Rule 28(D).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Akron, Ohio on this 7th day of August, 2008.

  
Christina A. Arbogast, RPR

My commission expires December 7, 2010.

- - -



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Akron  
1:30



**Akron Summit  
Community Action, Inc.**

ADVOCATING FOR A POVERTY-FREE COMMUNITY

Malcolm J. Costa  
President/CEO

July 31, 2008

To: Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
Attn: Docketing Division  
180 E. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

I am speaking on behalf of Akron Summit Community Action (ASCA) and over 7,800 households (20,000 individuals) who came to the agency in 2007 requesting assistance with utilities, food, clothing, eyeglasses, dental, rent, mortgages, and household items. All of these families were at or below 175% of poverty, and all had one thing in common...they were not able to make ends meet. Many of these people work more than one job, and 17% of them have no health coverage. In addition to providing the assistance available through our funding sources, we spend countless hours leveraging additional services to keep people housed, clothed and fed.

We ask that you consider the hardship already faced by families with inadequate incomes. Also consider how detrimental rate increases are to senior citizens and other fixed income households. We ask that you look at options that increase investment in energy efficiency, that help families lower their bill instead of increasing it. Finally, consider the current economy where people are already losing homes to foreclosure, getting \$5.00 worth of gas because they can't afford a full tank, run room heaters to keep the thermostat down lower, or pile on the blankets because the utilities are disconnected. Please make decisions that are humane instead of just profitable.

Sincerely

Charlotte Robinson, Director  
Social and Special Programs

Akron  
Public  
Utilities  
EX

## CSBG Annual Client Characteristics Report

Grant No. 07-751

1. Agency: Akron Summit Community Action, Inc.

2a. Total Non CSBG Resources Reported  
in OCS Form 315

2b. Total amount of CSBG Funds allocated

Total Resources for FY 2007 (2a + 2b)

3. Total unduplicated number of persons about whom one or more characteristics were obtained

4. Total unduplicated number of persons about whom no characteristics were obtained

5. Total unduplicated number of families about whom one or more characteristics were obtained

6. Total unduplicated number of families about whom no characteristics were obtained

7	Gender	No. of Persons
a.	Male	7,960
b.	Female	12,322
<b>TOTAL *</b>		<b>20,282</b>

  

8	Age	No. of Persons
a.	0 - 5	2,952
b.	6 - 11	3,298
c.	12 - 17	3,376
d.	18 - 23	1,689
e.	24 - 44	5,215
f.	45 - 54	1,941
g.	55 - 69	1,357
h.	70 and over	454
<b>TOTAL *</b>		<b>20,282</b>

  

9	Ethnicity/Race	No. of Persons
<b>I. Ethnicity</b>		
a.	Hispanic or Latin	132
b.	Not Hispanic or Latin	0
<b>TOTAL *</b>		<b>132</b>
<b>II. Race</b>		
a.	White	7,538
b.	Black or African American	12,328
c.	American Indian and Alaska Native	22
d.	Asian	19
e.	Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0
f.	Other	243
g.	Multi-race (any 2 or more above)	0
<b>TOTAL *</b>		<b>20,180</b>

  

10	Education Levels of adults	# of Persons 24 and older
a.	0 - 8	8,980
b.	9 - 12/non-graduates	3,978
c.	high school graduate/GED	5,310
d.	12 + some post secondary	1,575
e.	2 or 4 year college graduates	385
<b>TOTAL **</b>		

  

11	Other Characteristics	No. of Persons	# surveyed
a.	No health insurance	3,509	
b.	Disabled	2,580	

  

12	Family Type	No. of Families
a.	Single Parent Female	3,817
b.	Single Parent Male	149
c.	Two-Parent Household	717
d.	Single Person	2,405
e.	Two Adults No Children	345
f.	Other	630
<b>TOTAL ***</b>		

  

13	Family Size	No. of Families
a.	One	2,431
b.	Two	1,839
c.	Three	1,608
d.	Four	1,084
e.	Five	571
f.	Six	214
g.	Seven	68
h.	Eight or more	48
<b>TOTAL ***</b>		<b>7,752</b>

  

14	Source of Family Income	No. of Families
a.	Unduplicated # of Families Reporting One or More Sources of Income	7,718
b.	Unduplicated # of Families Reporting No Income	1,560
<b>TOTAL UNDUPLICATED Families who responded as either having a source of income or having no income.</b>		<b>9,278</b>

Below please report the total # of families identifying the applicable sources of income

c.	TANF	976
d.	SSI	1,755
e.	Social Security	1,258
f.	Pension	260
g.	General Assistance	0
h.	Unemployment Insurance	233
i.	Employment + other sources	480
j.	Employment only	2,744
k.	Other	373

  

15	Level of Family Income (% of HHS Guideline)	No. of Families
a.	Up to 50%	3,485
b.	51% to 75%	1,814
c.	76% to 100%	1,149
d.	101% to 125%	814
e.	126% to 150%	475
f.	151% and over	325
<b>TOTAL ***</b>		

  

16	Housing	No. of Families
a.	Own	1,567
b.	Rent	8,198
c.	Homeless	39
d.	Other	161
<b>TOTAL ***</b>		<b>9,965</b>

(The sum of this category should not exceed the value of item 3)

AKRON



DOMINION EAST Ohio Gas  
07-829-GA-AIR

ANYONE WANTING TO TESTIFY IN THE ABOVE CASE, PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW:

- |       | NAME                               | ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE                                  |
|-------|------------------------------------|---|
| ✓ 1.  | Charles Walker                     | 906 Dealish Ave<br>Akron 44320                        |
| ✓ 2.  | John Thomas                        | 1621 Chadwick Rd.<br>Kent 44240                       |
| ✓ 3.  | Bob Ottierman                      | 1969 Wells Creek Run<br>Akron 44312-1986 330-733-8254 |
| 4.    | JANE TATKO                         | 896 DAN ST., AKRON                                    |
| 5.    | STAN TATKO                         | 543 MEADOW LN C.F.O                                   |
| ✓ 6.  | John Sullivan                      | 635 INVERNESS AVE.                                    |
| 7.    | Ric Schwabe                        | 420 Irma St, Kent 44240                               |
| ✓ 8.  | Mary South                         | 95 Dunova Ln Akron, 44310                             |
| ✓ 9.  | Brenda Tucker Pakereee             | 1433 Sackett Hills Dr<br>Akron Ohio 44313             |
| ✓ 10. | Charlitta Robinson, <del>AKA</del> | 638 Roslyn Ave<br>AKRON, OH 44320                     |
| ✓ 11. | Patty Spencer<br>Patty Spencer     | 478 Paul Teel Trl<br>Tremont, Ohio 44278              |
| ✓ 12. | Jean White                         | 131 Still Ave Akron 44312                             |
| ✓ 13. | James A. Spencer                   | Cornel Barber<br>576 W Park Ave Akron 44320           |
| 14.   | <del>William Miller</del>          | 605 Nantuxa Bl<br>Akron Ohio 44314                    |



Akron

Dominion East Ohio Gas

07-829-GA-AIR

ANYONE WANTING TO TESTIFY IN THE ABOVE CASE, PLEASE **PRINT** YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS BELOW:

NAME

ADDRESS AND ZIP CODE

1.

Jim IONA

330 Newwood Dr

Munroe Falls, OH 44264

2.

3.

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