

FILE

MR. AND MRS. JEFF JONES

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Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
Attention Docketing Division
180 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215

PUCO

Dear Sirs:

I am writing in regards to case no. 07-829-GA-AIR concerning the proposed increase in my area. I do not feel this is the time to be increasing rates on our basic needs in life. Dominion East Ohio has not improved our service over the years with the profits they have already collected.

I read the enclosed article in our newspaper and if this man had not brought his story to the attention of the Lima News, I wonder if Dominion would have repaired the problem in a timely manner. They told him there was no danger, but people are always walking by my home and throwing cigarette butts in my yard. I find several of them a day near my mailbox. It posed a danger in my mind for this local citizen. After several gas explosions in our area this year, Dominion should err on the cautious side and not put off repairing any leaks. This is just one example of the service they give their customer base.

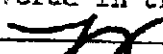
We do not have our gas meters read on a monthly basis and often they overestimate our readings to get more money in the winter months. Their MCF rates have been outrageous this past year. We have even paid high rates all summer when in the past, it has dropped significantly as the demand dropped. Our rates have doubled since last year at this time. Last winter, I turned my thermostat down to 45 degrees and had my family wear layers of clothing to keep warm, in order to keep my cost down. I can't afford to pay more this coming year.

It doesn't help if I change providers because Dominion hikes the transportation charges on my new gas provider, and makes my costs even higher, than if I stayed with them. I believe we have a monopoly in this area on all of our utilities. Therefore these companies set their rates as high as they want, because we have no choice but to buy from them.

An increase at this time would be a hardship on most families in Northwest Ohio. Our economy is slow and many people are layed off or could be layed off soon. My family and community would appreciate your keeping our gas rates low, and not causing more expense for little service, and often times no service from our local gas company.

Thank you,


Jeff Jones

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GAS LEAK HAS RESIDENT WORRIED



BRANDON SWANSON • The Lima News

Scott Moore squats next to a hole in the front yard of his Lima home Friday. Moore said natural gas has been leaking from the hole. He and his family are concerned about the leak, which they fear could cause an explosion. Officials with the gas company, Dominion East Ohio, say the leak poses no danger.

Dominion: There's no danger

By BETH L. JOKINEN
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LIMA — A gas leak in front of Scott Moore's home and what he calls a slow response from Dominion East Ohio has an area family worried about its safety, even though officials say the leak poses no threat.

"The family does not feel safe here. My family's safety is No. 1," Moore said.

Dominion Spokeswoman Peggy Ehora said the leak is classified as a Type 2.

"Meaning it needs to be repaired, but it poses no danger to the community," she said, adding that a Type 1 leak poses a threat. "If we felt that there was a danger there, we would fix it."

Moore, who has lived in the South West Street house since last November, noticed the smell of gas last Sunday when returning from a walk with his

wife and daughter. He noticed it again Tuesday and called Dominion.

The Dominion worker took a reading and told Moore there was about 30 percent natural gas coming from the ground. It was determined that the leak was not migrating toward the house. His gas was not turned off. Officials said he is not in danger, but Moore is still worried.

"One of their representatives on the

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phone told me, 'just keep an eye out for people walking by, lighting cigarettes or throwing cigarettes out the car,'" he said. "That's not my responsibility. I'm not going to take time out of my day to baby-sit everybody who walks up and down here."

Moore has called Dominion multiple times since, and has been told someone would be out. Ehora said Dominion planned to do the work Wednesday, but more serious emergency work pushed that back. She said someone has been to the house three times since Tuesday.

Dominion continues to monitor these types of leaks, Ehora

"It needs to be repaired, but it poses no danger to the community."

— Peggy Ehora
Dominion East Ohio

said, but by law has 450 days to fix them. The plan is to fix it next week.

The leak, on the edge of the lawn near the sidewalk, is about 25 feet from Moore's front door. He says the smell is strongest in the mornings and evenings. He is worried that

someone or something could spark an explosion.

"I remember when the house on West High Street exploded, and now this year with the incident out at Tuttle (Construction)," he said. "I feel like the gas company just doesn't really care."

The company is very sensitive to people who are fearful when they smell gas, Ehora said.

"We make it smell for a reason, because we want people to call us when they smell it," she said. "Then it's our job to come out and determine what it is, what kind of leak it is."

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