

6
1 BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

2 - - -
3 In the Matter of the :
4 Application of Columbia :
5 Gas of Ohio, Inc. for :
6 Authority to Amend Filed : Case Nos. 08-72-GA-AIR
7 Tariffs to Increase the : 08-73-GA-ALT
8 Rates and Charges for Gas : 08-74-GA-AAM
9 Distribution Service, : 08-75-GA-AAM
10 for Approval of an :
11 Alternate Form of :
12 Regulation and for a :
13 Change in its Rates and :
14 Charges, for Approval to :
15 Change Accounting Methods, :
16 and for Authority to :
17 Revise its Depreciation :
18 Accrual Rates. :
19 - - -

20 PROCEEDINGS

21 before Ms. Cheryl Roberto, Commissioner, and Mr. Paul
22 Duffy, Hearing Examiner, at the Wolfe Park Shelter
23 House, 105 Park Drive, Columbus, Ohio, called at 6:30
24 p.m. on Thursday, November 6, 2008.
25 - - -

11-7-08 Transcript docketed electronically

ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC.
185 South Fifth Street, Suite 101
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5201
(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481
Fax - (614) 224-5724

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PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

COMPANY: COLUMBIA GAS CASE NO.: 08-72-GA-AIR
DATE: 11-6-08 LOCATION: COLUMBUS

If you would like to provide testimony,
please **PRINT** your name and address below.

[illegible]



PUBLIC HEARING SIGN-IN SHEET

COMPANY:

DATE:

CASE NO.:

LOCATION:

If you would like to provide testimony,
please **PRINT** your name and address below.

[illegible]



Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

November 6, 2008

Testimony to the PUCO
Re: Case # 08-0072-GA-AIR

111 Liberty Street
Suite 100
Columbus, Ohio 43215
T 614.228.2663
F 614.228.1904
TDD 1.800.886.2663
www.morpc.org

Good evening. The Mid Ohio Regional Planning Commission – also known as MORPC – along with the Center for Energy & Environment at MORPC would like to express support for the Columbia Gas of Ohio's Demand Side Management and WarmChoice programs as you consider the company's rate increase proposal. If you are not familiar with MORPC, we are a voluntary association of 45 local governments in central Ohio with programs, planning and services spanning 12 counties in the Columbus metropolitan region. Our Center for Energy & Environment was launched in 2007 to address the new environmental and energy challenges facing our region and country through innovative and collaborative partnerships, programs and policies.

Columbia Gas' promotion and funding of these very vital and necessary programs are an important component of the rate increase proposal, and I would like to share with you this evening about how this will benefit Ohio residents, local communities and our state's quality of life and economy.

First, MORPC's interest in energy efficiency goes back over 20 years, as we have been operating the WarmChoice program in Franklin County since 1987. The WarmChoice program is a home weatherization program for low-income customers. Program clients receive an energy audit and services that reduce their energy usage such as replacement of old furnances and putting insulation in their home. These services have been documented to provide an average of 23 percent reduction on clients' energy bills which can add up to approximately \$325 per year in savings.

These programs also directly support a major goal of MORPC's Public Policy Agenda: to promote energy efficiency and conservation. I think it is important to note that MORPC's Public Policy Agenda is shaped by members of our Central Ohio Regional Policy Roundtable, which is a group of diverse interests and representation from the 12 county region including local government, business, non-profit and education.

For our central Ohio communities, we also see implementation of energy efficiency measures as an important strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to achieve air quality attainment in central Ohio. It's been estimated that these measures could help reduce carbon dioxide emissions into Ohio's air by nearly 458,000 tons.

Dean C. Ringle
Chair

Derrick R. Clay
Vice Chair

Marilyn S. Brown
Secretary

Chester R. Jourdan, Jr.
Executive Director

The other component of Columbia Gas' plan to invest millions in improving its natural gas pipeline system in Ohio will be good for jobs and for the environment, which are meaningful and significant benefits to our local governments and their residents.

Recently, we served on the DSM Stakeholder Group for Columbia Gas of Ohio. We are excited to see that WarmChoice will be expanded and new programs will be created to serve all residential, commercial and industrial customers- including assistance to our members which are searching for ways to reduce energy use and expenditure of tax payers dollars. The expeditious authorization of these energy efficiency programs will allow us, as a WarmChoice provider, to better prepare for ramping up our service delivery in 2009. I would like to share with you're a few of the many benefits of the WarmChoice program and its energy conservation efforts:

- It helps Ohio residents effectively deal with rising energy costs.
- Improves the value of Ohio homes and neighborhoods.
- Improves the safety, health and comfort of homes.
- Helps our state address energy security and global warming.

In closing, I would like to share with you feedback that we've received from WarmChoice program clients and how these important services have made significant changes in their quality of life.

Put comments here

In addition, one of our customers Rheba Otey, who could not be here tonight to testify in person due to health reasons, requested I read this on her behalf.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me – I've included my contact information.

Erin Miller, Director of MORPC's Center for Energy & Environment
614-233-4178
emiller@morpc.org

TO: Center of Energy and Environment

FROM: Rheba Otey
2142 Oriole Place
Columbus, Ohio 43219
614-253-8068

DATE: November 6, 2008

RE: TESTIMONY

I was looking forward to giving my testimony tonight at the hearing on the Columbia Gas rate case at Wolfe Park Shelter house, however, I have been battling an illness for the past month.

I am so sorry I cannot be there in person. I wanted to come and tell you how great I think this program is and how it has helped me.

I was impressed mostly by the MORPC staff.

My neighbor told me about the program and I called and talked with Ms. PJ. She never once made me feel like I was getting a hand-out. Mr. Wagoner was so happy to help me. He was so joyous and it showed that he enjoyed helping people. Mr. Wildman came and measured for a new furnace and hot water tank, which I otherwise could not afford. Everyone that came here treated me with great respect. They were efficient and knowledgeable. My house is so warm and I appreciate all that was done.

I would love to be there and tell you in person, please feel free to call me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Otey