BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO 2019 JAN 26 PM 3:59 PUCO RECEIVED-BOCKETING BIV MARK ANTONY SMITH, Complainant, Case No. 09-10-GA-CSS DOMINION EAST OHIO,

ANSWER

Respondent Dominion East Ohio ("DEO"), for its Answer to the Complaint of Mark Antony Smith ("Complainant"):1

FIRST DEFENSE

2. DEO admits that Complainant is a current customer of DEO.

Respondent.

- 3. DEO admits that between April 2007 and April 2008 DEO estimated Complainant's gas usage at 1791 Idlehurst Drive, Euclid, Ohio 44117 on numerous occasions because DEO employees were unable to gain access into Complainant's property.
- 4. DEO avers that between April 2007 and April 2008 DEO sent six letters to Complainant requesting access to Complainant's property to read the meter. Said letters specifically stated that DEO required access to the property to ensure that Complainant's bill was based on an accurate reading. Said letters further stated that Complainant's

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Although Complainant did not present his allegations in individually-numbered paragraphs, DEO hereby responds to those allegations in paragraph form. As noted in ¶ 9, any allegation not specifically admitted or denied herein is denied.

action in preventing DEO from reading his meter could result in "large back bills" for gas used but not billed and/or properly metered. Despite said letters, DEO was able to obtain an actual reading during the above-referenced period, on only one occasion, April 28, 2008.

- 5. DEO admits that DEO underestimated Complainant's gas usage during the above-referenced period, however DEO avers that said underestimation was due to DEO being prevented from accessing Complainant's property to obtain an actual reading of the meter.
- 6. DEO admits that Complainant received a final bill from the April 28, 2008 actual reading in the amount of \$3,635.92, which was quickly adjusted to \$1255.48. DEO avers that said adjusted final bill was the result of gas used but not billed at the referenced property over the prior twelve months.
 - 7. DEO avers that it prepared said final adjusted bill on May 20, 2008.
- 8. DEO denies Complainant's remaining allegations due to being untrue, or due to DEO's want of knowledge or information of same.
- 9. Denies generally any allegation not specifically admitted or denied herein, pursuant to O.A.C. § 4901-9-01 (D).

SECOND DEFENSE

10. The Complaint fails to set forth reasonable grounds for his complaint.

THIRD DEFENSE

11. DEO at all times complied with Title 49, Ohio Revised Code; the rules, regulations, and orders of the Commission; and DEO's tariff. These statutes, rules, regulations, and tariff provisions bar Complainant's claims.

12. DEO reserves the right to raise additional defenses as warranted by discovery in this matter.

WHEREFORE, DEO respectfully requests an Order dismissing the Complaint and granting DEO all other necessary and proper relief.

Respectfully submitted,

Lessie Milton Jones (0027954)

per authorization

Attorney for Respondent The East Ohio Gas Company dba Dominion East Ohio 1201 East 55th Street

Cleveland, Ohio 44103

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Answer was sent by ordinary U.S. mail to the following persons this 26th day of January, 2008.

Mark Antony Smith 5552 Quail Run North Olmstead, Ohio 44070

Lessie Milton Jones (002/954) per authorization

Attorney for Respondent The East Ohio Gas Company dba Dominion East Ohio