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**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Long-Term Forecast :
Report of Natural Gas Demand of : Case No. 09-116-GA-FOR
Suburban Natural Gas Company :

**PREFILED TESTIMONY
OF
STEPHEN E. PUICAN
RATES & TARIFFS / ENERGY & WATER DIVISION
UTILITIES DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

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1 1. Q. Would you please state your name and business address?

2 A. My name is Stephen E. Puican. My business address is 180 East Broad Street,
3 Columbus, Ohio.

4
5 2. Q. What is your present employment?

6 A. I am currently employed as Co-Chief of the Rates & Tariffs / Energy & Water
7 Division in the Utilities Department of the Public Utilities Commission of
8 Ohio ("PUCO"). In that position I am responsible for oversight of the Utilities
9 Department's positions related to natural gas utility regulation, including all
10 Gas Cost Recovery procedures, tariff and contract applications and customer
11 choice program oversight.

12
13 3. Q. Would you outline your academic and professional qualifications?

14 A. I received a B.A. degree in Economics from Kent State University in 1980 and
15 an M.A. degree in Economics from Ohio State University in 1983. I was
16 employed by the Ohio Department of Development, Division of Energy, from
17 May 1983 until October 1985 at which time the functions of the Division were
18 incorporated into the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. I have been
19 employed in several positions at the PUCO since that time and have been Co-
20 Chief of the Rates & Tariffs / Energy & Water Division since May 2005. Prior
21 to that, I had been Chief of the Gas and Water Division since 1999. In both
22 my current and previous positions I have been responsible for oversight of the

1 Utilities Department's natural gas staff which includes responsibility for all
2 GCR cases, as well as other areas relating to natural gas such as contracts,
3 certain tariff provisions, and certain rate case issues. I have also been involved
4 in the development and evolution of Ohio's customer choice programs and
5 participated in writing the rules that implemented House Bill 9, which for-
6 malized the structure of Ohio's customer choice programs
7

8 4. Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

9 A. I am supporting the Stipulation and Recommendation (Stipulation) between
10 the Commission Staff and Suburban Natural Gas Company (Suburban) filed in
11 this proceeding on November 20, 2009.
12

13 5. Q. Was the Staff present at the discussions that resulted in the Stipulation?

14 A. Yes, the Staff fully participated in the settlement discussions. Since there were
15 no intervenors in this proceeding settlement discussions were limited to Staff
16 and Suburban.
17

18 6. Q. Do you believe the Stipulation filed in this case is the product of serious
19 bargaining among knowledgeable parties?

20 A. Yes, it is. Representatives of both Staff and Suburban have extensive
21 experience in natural gas regulatory matters. I personally have been reviewing
22 and testifying on Long-Term Forecast Reports (LTFR) since their inception in

1 1983. This settlement resulted from serious discussions between the parties.

2
3 7. Q. In your opinion, does the Settlement benefit ratepayers and promote the public
4 interest?

5 A. Yes. The purpose of the Long Term Forecast Report (LTFR) statutes is to
6 require utilities to demonstrate that they are prospectively planning for suffi-
7 cient natural gas supplies based on reasonable projections of demand. Staff
8 has reviewed Suburban's LTFR for compliance with the statutory requirements
9 and is recommending the Commission find that the filing is in compliance.
10 Notwithstanding that determination, the parties have agreed to certain
11 enhancements to the report that Suburban agrees to implement in subsequent
12 LTFR filings. In my opinion the settlement is reasonable and in the public
13 interest.

14
15 8. Q. Does the Stipulation violate any important regulatory principle?

16 A. No it does not. It provides the basis for a reasonable settlement of the issues
17 without the need for a hearing and does so without violating any regulatory
18 principles.

19
20 9. Q. Are you recommending its adoption by the Commission?

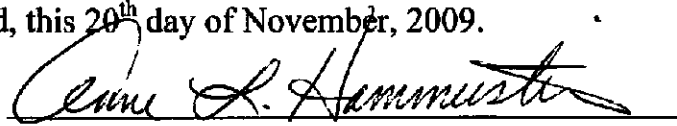
21 A. Yes. I believe the Stipulation represents a fair and reasonable result for
22 Suburban and its customers.

1 10. Q. Does this conclude your testimony?

2 A. Yes, it does.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing Prefiled Testimony of Stephen E. Puican, submitted on behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, was served by regular U.S. mail, postage prepaid, hand-delivered, or delivered via electronic mail, upon the following parties of record, this 20th day of November, 2009.



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