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Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP

65 East State Street, Suite 1000 / Columbus, OH 43215-4213 / Tel: 614.221.2838 / Fax: 614.221.2007 / www.taftlaw.com Cincinnati / Cleveland / Columbus / Dayton / Indianapolis / Northern Kentucky / Phoenix

ZACHARY D. KRAVITZ DIRECT: 614.334.6117 zkravitz@taftlaw.com FILE

September 20, 2012

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PUCO

Betty McCauley Chief of Docketing The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio 180 E. Broad Street, 11th Floor Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re:

In the Matter of the Complaint of The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, et al., v. Interstate Gas Supply d/b/a Columbia Retail Energy PUCO Case No. 10-2395-GA-CSS

Dear Ms. McCauley:

Pursuant to the Attorney Examiner's Entry filed September 9, 2012 in the above-referenced case, please find attached for public filing Interstate Gas Supply, Inc.'s public version of its Supplemental Motion for Protective Treatment and Interstate Gas Supply, Inc.'s revised proposed redacted versions of the Confidential Transcripts and Service Mark License Agreement.

Additionally, please find attached for confidential filing under seal, Interstate Gas Supply, Inc.'s "Attorneys' Eyes Only" version of its Supplemental Motion for Protective Treatment and Interstate Gas Supply, Inc's unredacted versions of the Confidential Transcripts and Service Mark License Agreement for the Commission's *in camera* review.

Thank you for your assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns.

Very truly yours,

Zachary D. Kravitz

cc: All Parties

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO
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    In the Matter of the
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    Complaint of The Office
    of the Ohio Consumers'
    Counsel, et al.,
5
            Complainants,
 6
                                : Case No. 10-2395-GA-CSS
        vs.
7
    Interstate Gas Supply
    d/b/a Columbia Retail
8
    Energy,
 9
            Respondent.
10
                          PROCEEDINGS
11
12
     before Ms. Katie Stenman, Attorney Examiner, at the
     Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad
13
14
     Street, Room 11-C, Columbus, Ohio, called at 10:00
    a.m. on Monday, November 7, 2011.
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                VOLUME I - CONFIDENTIAL EXCERPTS
17
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20
21
                     ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC.
22
               222 East Town Street, Second Floor
                   Columbus, Ohio 43215-5201
23
                (614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481
24
                      Fax - (614) 224-5724
25
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 1
     APPEARANCES:
 2
             Bruce J. Weston.
             Interim Ohio Consumers' Counsel
             By Mr. Joseph P. Serio
 3
             Mr. Larry S. Sauer
             Ms. Kyle Verrett
 4
             Assistant Consumers' Counsel
 5
             10 West Broad Street, Suite 1800
             Columbus, Ohio 43215-3485
 6
                  On behalf of the residential utility
 7
                  customers of the state of Ohio.
 8
             Chester, Willcox & Saxbe, LLP
             By Mr. John W. Bentine
 9
             Ms. Sarah Daggett Morrison
             Mr. Zachary D. Kravitz
10
             65 East State Street, Suite 1000
             Columbus, Ohio 43215-4213
11
                  On behalf of Interstate Gas Supply, Inc.
12
             Bricker & Eckler, LLP
             By Mr. Matthew W. Warnock
13
             Mr. Thomas J. O'Brien
             Ms. Sommer L. Sheely
14
             100 South Third Street
15
             Columbus, Ohio 43215-4291
16
             Bricker & Eckler, LLP
             By Glenn S. Krassen
             1001 Lakeside Avenue East, Suite 1350
17
             Cleveland, Ohio 44114-1142
18
                  On behalf of Northeast Ohio Public Energy
19
                  Council.
             McIntosh & McIntosh
20
             By Mr. Michael Todd McIntosh
             Mr. A. Brian McIntosh
21
             1136 Saint Gregory Street, Suite 100
22
             Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
23
                  On behalf of Stand Energy Corporation.
24
25
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1 2

13 Mr. Warnock.

(CONFIDENTIAL PORTION.)

EXAMINER STENMAN: Going back to

MR. WARNOCK: Yes, your Honor. I have -what I'm going to start with is the service mark
license agreement and I have -- in discovery we were
provided both a redacted version and an unredacted
version of it. I'm going to provide both to all the
parties and I'm going to mark them separately, as
separate exhibits.

You know, I know that the confidentiality issues are going to be addressed separately, but I would ask, and I would like the record to note that our contention is that the redacted version of this agreement is public and there's nothing -- all the

confidential trade secret information was redacted. We don't see how this is a confidential document.

With the unredacted version we would ask that each of the specific redactions be addressed separately because I know that at least some of the redacted material has been in the public record. We acknowledge that the specific, you know, fee amounts are confidential and are to be treated as trade secrets, but the majority of this even unredacted document, it's our position that it's not confidential. I have a feeling that IGS will beg to differ with that but I just wanted to get that on the record before I started my questioning.

that you mark your exhibits as, for example, 5 and then 5A can be the confidential version. And as I said before, the burden will obviously be on IGS when we get the confidential transcripts to go through and in as limited a fashion as possible redact it and let us know what is confidential and then, obviously, you'll have a chance to respond. So we'll deal with those arguments at that time.

You can proceed when you're ready.

MR. WARNOCK: The redacted will be 5 and the -- the unredacted will be 5A.

1 EXAMINER STENMAN: 2 (EXHIBITS MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.) 3 MR. WARNOCK: Your Honor, after the lunch 4 hour, I don't have quite enough copies of the 5 unredacted version, I'll make a copy over the lunch 6 hour for the court reporter. 7 EXAMINER STENMAN: That will be fine. 8 MR. WARNOCK: Okay. 9 MR. BENTINE: You said of the unredacted? 10 We've got an extra we can give to the court reporter 11 if she needs to refer to it. 12 EXAMINER STENMAN: Thank you. 13 MR. WARNOCK: Thank you. 14 MR. BENTINE: Anything I can do to 15 accommodate, Matt. 16 MR. WARNOCK: Thank you, Mr. Bentine. 17 18 DIRECT EXAMINATION (AS ON CROSS) (continued) 19 By Mr. Warnock: 20 Now, before I get to the licensing Q. 21 agreement I'm going go back to a couple of questions 22 we agreed would be asked on the confidential record, 23 and first I'm going to go back to the questions that 24 I was asking about the board of directors. I think

we left off that there are four directors on the

54 1 board at IGS; is that correct? 2 Α. Correct. 3 And who are those four directors? Ο. 4 It's myself -- actually there's five, I 5 apologize. There's five. Laurie Kruppa, Cathy Conner, Steve White, and Doug Austin. 6 7 And Laura Kruppa and Cathy, I didn't Q. catch her last name, are your sisters? 9 Laurie Kruppa and Cathy Conner are my 10 sisters. 11 ٥. And Steve White is your brother. 12 A. Correct. 1.3 And what was Doug Austin's position with Q. 14 IGS? 15 He's our vice president of sales and Α. 16 marketing. 17 Ο. And how often does the board of directors' meet? 18 19 A. A minimum of once a year. 20 Q. And during any board of directors 21 meetings has the board discussed this complaint case?

relevance, for what it's worth.

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I'll withdraw the objection.

MR. BENTINE: I'm going to object to

- A. I believe we covered the, along with a number of other business items, I think we have provided updates, the fact that there is a case against it, yeah.
- Q. And do you know approximately when that meeting would have occurred where you discussed this case?
- A. I don't -- I think our last meeting was in April of last year and I don't know, we really didn't cover it in any great length or detail, I don't know if I brought it up at the meeting or not to be honest.
- Q. Okay. I'm going to move on to the number of customers. I think where we left off you had indicated that IGS has approximately 870,000 customers; is that correct?
 - A. Correct.

Q. And how many of those customers are in the Columbia Gas of Ohio system?

MR. BENTINE: Objection.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Grounds?

MR. BENTINE: I believe that's

confidential and trade secret information, it doesn't have any relevance here.

MR. WARNOCK: I think that's why we're on

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this confidential record, so we can address those topics.
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EXAMINER STENMAN: You can answer if you know. It will be overruled.

A. I believe approximately

MR. BENTINE: Could I have the question

reread?

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EXAMINER STENMAN: Yes.

(Record read.)

MR. BENTINE: Thank you.

- Q. Is that approximately customers, is that as of about the current date?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Do you know how many customers in the Columbia Gas of Ohio system you had at the end of 2010?

MR. BENTINE: Objection.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Grounds?

MR. BENTINE: Well, that number in and of itself is not relevant to anything in this proceeding and it is confidential information. I understand we're under protective order, but I believe I have an obligation to try to keep things that are not relevant that are confidential information out of this. I don't know what the end ruling is going to

be with regard to this information, and the growth of our customers could very well be looked at as confidential market information.

1.5

Someone, a competitor, could go back and look at what things were sent out at the time over that time and then make a determination of how well those things worked in terms of mailings or other kinds of marketing programs in a particular area. So I think it's highly competitive trade secret information, and I think the total number of customers is irrelevant here anyway.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Mr. Warnock.

MR. WARNOCK: Well, I think that the potential increase in the number of customers in the Columbia Gas of Ohio system from 2010 to 2011 is directly at stake here. That's the time frame when this licensing agreement went into effect and, you know, that's the exact time frame we're talking about here.

EXAMINER STENMAN: I agree with you,

Mr. Bentine, that this information is confidential;

however, we're in a confidential transcript. We only
have attorneys in the room.

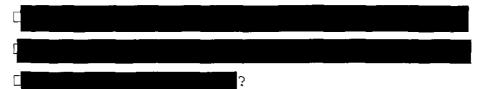
You can answer, Mr. White. It will be overruled.

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58
                  So the question?
 1
             Α.
 2
                  (Record read.)
 3
             Α.
                  Yes.
                  How many customers?
 4
             Q.
 5
                  Approximately□ .
             Α.
 6
             Q.
 7
8
             Α.
9
             Q.
10
11
12
                   We also have a website, we maintain our
13
14
      website also within IGS Energy. As part of our IGS
15
      Energy website Columbia products can be purchased
16
      from IGS Energy.
17
             Q.
18
19
20
21
             Α.
                  You said "marketing." You mean like
      solicitations and mailers?
22
23
                  Correct.
             Q.
24
25
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- Q. Is there any intention of winding down IGS Energy?
 - A. No.

Q. And I think one last question before we move on to the service mark licensing agreement.

Previously we talked about IGS's recent certification as a competitive retail electric supplier in Ohio.



A. \square

MR. BENTINE: Objection. I believe the answer is on the record.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Pardon?

MR. BENTINE: Could we inquire if the answer was on the record?

THE REPORTER: It was.

MR. BENTINE: I withdraw the objection.

Q. (By Mr. Warnock) All right. Now, turning to the service mark license agreement, there are two documents before you, two versions of the service mark license agreement, the first which has been marked as NOPEC Exhibit 5 is the redacted version which is the one with solid black lines on portions of the agreement. Do you have that in front of you?

A. Yes.

Q. And the second document is what's been marked as NOPEC Exhibit 5A and this is the same agreement but it is unredacted so any of the previously redacted language is now, it looks like a little gray box around it but you can visualize it. Do you have that in front of you?

A. Yes.

- Q. And I'd note that on the redacted versions, so the one with the black boxes, in the bottom right-hand corner there are Bates stamps. Do you see that? There is a number that says IGS000139?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And this document was produced during discovery by IGS, correct?

MR. BENTINE: So stipulated.

- Q. And turning to the other version of the agreement marked IGS000161; do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And this document was also provided during the discovery process.

MR. BENTINE: So stipulated.

Q. I'm going to turn your attention in the redacted version to page 12, actually, page 12 in both documents. Are you there?

- A. Yes.
- Q. And you signed this agreement on behalf of Interstate Gas Supply; is that correct?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And this is your signature on page 12?
- A. Yes.

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- Q. And the date of your signature is July 13th, 2010, correct?
- A. Correct.
- Q. And who signed the agreement for the licensor, which is NiSource Retail Services, Inc.?
 - A. Jimmy Staton.
 - Q. Do you know Mr. Staton?
- 14 A. I met him, Yeah.
 - Q. What is his position with NiSource Retail Services, Inc.?
 - A. He was or is the executive VP and group CEO. I think he has had a job change since then.
 - Q. Do you know where he is employed now?
 - A. I believe he is currently the head of the transmission and pipeline system.
 - Q. Still for a NiSource entity?
- 23 A. For NiSource, yeah.
- Q. And what was the date of his signature?
- 25 A. July 15th, 2010.

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                  Okay. Now, generally when did
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2
     discussions about a licensing agreement begin?
                  January of 2010.
3
             Α.
                  And did you initiate those discussions?
4
             0.
5
             Α.
                  I believe I did.
                  And who did you initiate those
             0.
6
      discussions with?
7
                  Jimmy Staton.
8
             Α.
                  Was Mr. Staton the only one that you
9
             Q.
10
      spoke to initially about such an agreement?
                  Well, I don't know what you mean,
11
      initially. I initially started the conversations
12
13
      with Jimmy Staton, yes.
14
             Q.
15
16
17
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19
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2.4
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ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC., Columbus, Ohio (614) 224-9481

- Q. Do you know if Columbia Gas of Ohio has an unregulated affiliate in Ohio currently?
- A. For the purpose of selling retail natural gas.
 - Q. Yes.

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- A. They do not.
- Q. And when you were discussing a licensing agreement with Mr. Staton, who negotiated the ultimate agreement for IGS?
 - A. That would be me.
 - Q. Anyone else?
 - A. No. I was the lead on that.
 - Q. And who negotiated for NiSource?
 - A. Steve Warnick,
 - O. And who is Mr. Warnick?
- A. He was their designated negotiator for this agreement. At the time I don't know his exact title. I think he was at a president level or their -- I really don't know.
- Q. Do you know if Mr. Warnick worked for your father at Columbia Gas of Ohio?
 - A. I do know he did not.
- Q. And did initial -- when you initially started discussing this type of agreement with Mr. Staton,

A. [

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- Q. All right. Now I'd ask that you turn to the first page of the unredacted version, so version 5A. NiSource Retail Services, Inc. is the licensor, correct?
 - A. Are we on page --
 - Q. The first page of the document.
 - A. 139 or on 161?
 - 0. 161.
- A. Okay. And the document is with NiSource Retail Services, Inc.
- Q. Do you know why the agreement is with NiSource Retail Services, Inc. rather than NiSource Retail Services Company?
 - A. No, I do not.
- Q. And on the second line of that document the date of the agreement is July 13th, 2010, correct?
- 19 A. Correct.
- Q. And I'll turn you to page 2 of that agreement, IGS000162.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. You'd agree that in section 2.4, the effective date is ..., correct?
- 25 A. Correct.

1	Q. Do you know why the effective date is
2	, while the agreement was signed or
3	I guess is dated[?
4	A. I believe it's so that we would have some
5	time after signing it to begin some of the logistical
6	work that would need to be done for us to enter the
7	marketplace.
8	Q. And what were those logistical items that
9	you had to address before it took effect?
10	MR. BENTINE: Let me state this, if I
11	might, your Honor, and I am not in any way impugning
12	Mr. Dosker but he also can't take a brain wipe here.
13	He is in house general counsel and I understand and
14	take that he would not talk about
15	MR. WARNOCK: Mr. Dosker has agreed,
16	he'll leave if that's what you would wish.
17	MR. BENTINE: If we're going to talk
18	about what their strategies were in this document,
19	then yes, I think that would be appropriate.
20	MR. WARNOCK: That's fine.
21	MR. DOSKER: Okay.
22	EXAMINER STENMAN: Thank you, Mr. Dosker.
23	As I said earlier, 11-D next door is open.
24	MR. DOSKER: Thank you.
25	MR. BENTINE: Thank you, your Honor.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Thank you.

MR. WARNOCK: Can you repeat the question, please?

(Record read.)

A. Well, we had done a lot of research in the spring when we were contemplating this agreement, and in that research there were a number of legal aspects that we had to comply with and do to properly use the license trade name. It really is an intellectual property element, so the first thing we had to do was get it to go to the state, each state, and notify with the appropriate party, I don't know what that is, but there's a -- the use of the name in the marketplace.

We also had to go to each commission or we felt -- we didn't have to but we felt that we should go to the commission of each state and have a discussion with them and have their input on disclosures.

- Q. And I know that you mentioned doing some research and you had to do some -- evaluate some legal aspects. Other than the intellectual property issue were there any other legal aspects you had to explore?
 - A. Well, we looked at each of the

commissions' rules regarding this type of -- using a name, would that be prohibitive, not be prohibitive, are there guidelines, those types of things.

- Q. And in your research did you find that any public utility commission rules either -- prohibited your use of a utility name by a nonaffiliate?
- A. No. We didn't find any prohibition. We found a lack of, really a lack of rules regarding the use of a nonaffiliate. We found lots of rules regarding the use of an affiliate using the name.

We decided that the best thing for us to do would be to comply with the rules that would be of an affiliate in terms of providing similar disclosures.

- Q. And in paragraph 1 which is on page, this is on 161 of the unredacted version, paragraph 1, the Grant of License, is it your understanding that this agreement limits IGS's use of service marks to the Columbia Gas service territories defined in this agreement as NDC Territories?
 - A. Yes.

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- Q. Did you ask if you could use it in any other service territory?
 - A. No.
- Q. And then in the definition of NDC on page 2, section 2.10, it specifically defines NDC to mean NiSource distribution companies and specifically Columbia Gas of Ohio, Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Columbia Gas of Maryland, Columbia Gas of Virginia, and Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania. Do you see that? Page 2, section 2.10.
- A. I see as defined below on my version.

 It's my understanding that that's what the agreement says.
- Q. And do you know if the natural gas markets in, well, let's start with Kentucky. Does Kentucky have a competitive natural gas market?
 - A. Yes, they have a Choice program.
 - Q. Does Maryland?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. Virginia?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. Pennsylvania?
- A. Yes.

- Q. I'm going to turn your attention to page 3, section 3.2, and toward the bottom of that section there's a sentence that starts "The Parties understand and agree." Do you see that?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Can you read that sentence into the record, please?
- A. "The Parties understand and agree that, in implementing this Agreement, they will obey and comply with the federal and state antitrust laws and will not engage in any concerted conduct that may unreasonably restrain competition, including but not limited to improperly granting access to information or receiving services not available to all suppliers."
- Q. Is there such a thing as a reasonable restraint on competition?

MR. BENTINE: Objection.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Grounds?

MR. BENTINE: That is a phrase that has significant legal connotations, if he's asking in that context I object.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Mr. White, are you a

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      lawyer?
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                  THE WITNESS:
                                No.
                  MR. WARNOCK: I'm not. I'm just asking
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 4
      him his opinion as a nonlawyer.
 5
                  EXAMINER STENMAN: You can give your lay
      opinion.
 6
 7
                  THE WITNESS: Could you repeat the
      question?
8
9
                  (Record read.)
10
                  I believe in competition. I believe
11
      that -- I don't think we should restrain competition.
12
      I don't know, I really don't know if I'm qualified to
13
      answer that. Certainly it's not our intent to
14
      restrain competition through this agreement.
15
                  Now turning your attention to section
             Q.
16
      3.3, which is the next paragraph down, you'd agree
17
      that this agreement[
18
19
              , correct?
20
             Α.
21
                  And what are examples of
             Q.
22
23
                  Well, it says specifically
             Α.
2.4
                  and□
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             Q.
                  And are these the types of [
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71
 1
 2
             Α.
                  Does IGS provide any of those
 3
             0.
                  No, IGS doesn't.
             Α.
 4
                  Now, turn your attention to section 5
 5
      which is the Licensing Fee. There is a -- would you
 6
 7
      agree with me that there's al
                                                paid by IGS
      to NiSource for the use of its service marks?
 8
 9
             Α.
                  Yes.
                  And you'd agree that this
10
             0.
11
      based on the
12
13
             Α.
14
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             Q.
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17
             Α.
18
                  And under this agreement there are two
             0.
19
      categories of customer, mass market Choice customers
      and governmental aggregation customers, correct?
20
21
             Α.
                  Correct.
22
                  Can you kind of explain to me the
             Q.
23
      difference between those two categories?
24
                  Mass market Choice customers would be
      those who have individually signed up for one of our
25
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products. A government aggregation would be customers we serve through the government aggregation process.
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Q. Now, in terms of these categories of customer, how would customers assigned to IGS or Columbia Retail Energy under Columbia's SCO program, how would they fall in these categories?

MR. BENTINE: Could I have that question reread, please.

(Record read.)

MR. BENTINE: I'm going to object.

Customers aren't assigned to IGS or CRE. They sign
up for it, but they're not assigned.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Mr. Warnock.

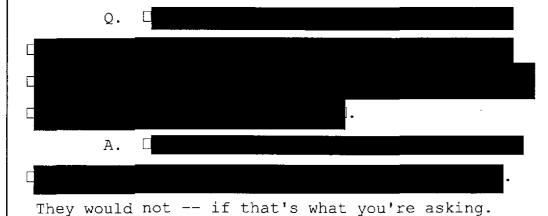
- Q. Mr. White, are you familiar with Columbia's standard service offer program?
 - A. Yes.

2.4

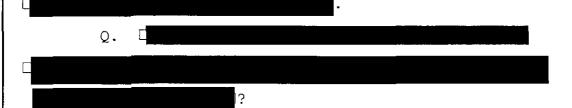
- Q. Are you familiar with Columbia's standard choice offer program that's designed to go into effect sometime soon?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. What's the difference between the SSO and the SCO programs?
- A. One's a wholesale auction and one's a retail auction.

Q. And is it your understanding that as part of the SCO process that customers would be assigned to a retail supplier by Columbia Gas?

- A. If they were a winning auction -- if they won the tranche in the auction, yes.
- Q. So, you know, in the event IGS or Columbia Retail Energy was successful in the auction and customers were assigned to IGS or Columbia Retail Energy, how would those customers be treated under this agreement?
- A. They wouldn't be. They're neither government aggregation nor the customers that chose to be supplied by IGS.



Because neither are al



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74
1
             Α.
2
                  What is throughput?
             Q.
3
                  Throughput is the measurement of the
4
     volume for the month that the customers who are mass
5
     market or government aggregation customers consume.
                  And I believe you -- well, strike that.
6
             0.
7
                  And what are the, [
      first of all, what is a Bcf?
8
9
                  It's a billion cubic feet.
                  Under section 5.1(i) on page 4 of the
10
             Q.
11
      agreement,[
12
13
             Α.
14
15
16
17
18
                  So at the time of this agreement IGS was
      serving approximately
19
20
             Α.
                  And how many Dare they currently
21
             Q.
22
      serving?
                  Well, I'll clarify,[
23
             Α.
24
             Q.
25
             Α.
```

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75
                                   We're right about the
 1
 2
      same.
                  Do you know if it's more or less?
 3
             Q.
             Α.
                  I do not know.
 4
 5
                  And in sections 5.1(iii) and (iv), these
             ٥.
 6
      have to do with[
 7
      correct?
 8
             Α.
 9
                  And why is it that the amount for I
             0.
                           is less than the amount above for
10
11
      other
12
             Α.
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15
                  And for the time period
             Q.
          □ through[
                               l, how much int
16
17
      licensing fees did IGS pay NiSource?
             Α.
                  I'm sorry. Could you repeat that?
18
19
                  MR. WARNOCK: Do you mind repeating the
20
      question, Maria?
21
                  (Record read.)
22
             Α.
                  We paid them
23
                  And by□
24
             Q.
25
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76
 1
 2
 3
                  And for that period beginning[
                 through
 4
 5
 6
             Α.
 7
                  And are the licensing fees paid monthly
      or annually?
 8
 9
             Α.
10
11
12
                   Do you know the amount of[
             Q.
13
                       the total amount that's been paid
      from[
14
15
             Α.
16
                  And would you agree with me that[
             Q.
17
18
19
             Α.
20
                  And you'd agree that there's an incentive
21
      for NiSource to encourage customers to contract with
22
      IGS?
23
                  You would think so.
             Α.
24
                  Is that a "yes"?
25
             Α.
                   I would think so, yes.
```

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77
                  Do you know what, if any, steps NiSource
 1
 2
      has taken to encourage customers to contract with
      IGS?
 3
 4
             Α.
                  None.
 5
             Q.
                You know of none or --
                  I don't know of any.
 6
             Α.
 7
             Q.
                  So there's al
           NiSource□
 8
                                                 Din the
      Columbia Gas of Ohio service territory
 9
10
11
             Α.
                  That depends.
                                  If we're at[
12
13
14
15
             Q.
                  Do you anticipate that for the time
      period beginning[
16
                                        , and ending \Box
17
               , that IGS[
18
19
             Α.
20
                  And you'd agree that [
21
                    □from□
                                     , through□
22
23
             Α.
24
                  Do you know how thel
             Q.
25
                     Dwere determined? The amounts of
```

78 1 those. 2 Α. I believe it was based on a presumption 3 that there would be[4 5 So you'd agree that -- I'm sorry. When 6 0. 7 this agreement was signed, was the expectation that there would be continued growth in the amount of 8 9 10 Α. Would receive? Or would get. Strike that. 11 0. 12 Did IGS expect for there to be growth in 13 the amount of[during the term of this 14 agreement? 15 MR. BENTINE: [as defined in 16 the contract? 17 MR. WARNOCK: [Das defined in 18 the contract. Yes. 19 Α. 20 Q. Did NiSource or, I'm sorry, did IGS have 21 any expectation that NiSource would take any steps to 22 encourage customers to go to IGS during the term of 23 this agreement? 24 Α. No. 25 During the term of this agreement does Q.

!		79
1	IGS expect to	
2	?	
3	A. At this point I don't know. [
4	C.	
5	Q. And you'd agree that there's all	
6	Of this agreement?	
7	A. Yes.	
8	Q. Are there any [?	ļ
9	A. The agreement can be a	ŀ
10		
11	Q. Is there a reason that is there a	
12	reason that the agreement is for a term of \square	
13	Ţ arina ;	ļ
14	A. I believe it was, this type of	
15	arrangement was new to both companies and we wanted	ľ
16	to see if it made sense for all period	
17	before determining whether or not to continue.	
18	Q. In your opinion is this agreement, in	
19	light of the licensing fees that have been paid,	
20	making good business sense to IGS?	
21	A. 🗆	
22	Q. As of today's date?	
23	А. С	1
24		
25	Q. So NiSource is receiving licensing	

fees from IGS. What benefits is IGS receiving from NiSource under this agreement?

A. Well, we get to use -- we get to put the name Columbia Retail Energy out into the marketplace. It's our hope that having that name out there, because it was not out there prior to this, that will help the Choice program be more accepted, and we hope that the utility will be of the mind-set of trying to create a better marketplace in their choice -- in the Choice program.

MR. WARNOCK: Can I have that answer reread, please.

(Record read.)

- Q. And when you say that you're hoping that it encourages acceptance of the Choice program, what do you mean by that?
- A. I mean we compared the Columbia program migration rates compared to the Dominion migration rates and the Vectren migration rates and noticed that the Dominion migration rates were far in excess of Columbia migration rates. We also knew that having the utility itself is very proactive in promoting the program in Cleveland under the Dominion was very proactive in educating and promoting the program where Columbia was less active.

Q. All right. Now I'm going to turn you to section 8.4 of this agreement. This paragraph contemplates or -- I'm sorry. Strike that. This paragraph addresses the situation where there's a potential adverse ruling by a legislative or regulatory body, correct?

A. Correct.

- Q. And specifically it contemplates what would happen if there's a material adverse action regarding the use of the service marks under this agreement, correct?
 - A. Correct.
- Q. And, in your opinion, would a material adverse action include a ruling by the PUCO that IGS could no longer use the Columbia Retail Energy name?

 MR. BENTINE: I assume that's being asked as a lay question.
- MR. WARNOCK: That's being asked as a lay question.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. I'm going to turn your attention to section 8.5. I'm sorry. 8.6. Can you please read section 8.6?
- 24 A. C 25 C

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1
2
 3
                  What does it mean by□
 4
             Q.
 5
                                   □?
 6
 7
 8
 9
10
11
12
13
             Q.
                  Do you know if NiSource Retail Services
      is currently certified by the PUCO as a competitive
14
15
      retail natural gas supplier?
16
                  I highly doubt that. I do not think they
             Α.
17
      are.
18
                  I'm going to turn your attention to
      paragraph 15. This is on page 8 of the agreement.
19
20
                  Yes.
             Α.
21
             Ο.
                  This paragraph has to do with management
22
      meetings. Do NiSource and IGS have regular senior
23
      management meetings?
24
                  Well, we have regular meetings. I now
25
      have -- I guess it depends on what "senior
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management" would be defined as. We have specifically Larry Friedeman, who is one of my direct reports, engaged in this process from a communications standpoint and meeting standpoint with Dean Bruno. To the extent that constitutes regular senior management, then yes.

- Q. But you'd agree that IGS and NiSource do have regular meetings about this agreement?
- A. Well, there's regular communications.

 Yeah, there are meetings. There's three, four a year with, specifically from our standpoint, Larry

 Friedeman as our representative.
- Q. And so for purposes of this paragraph Larry Friedeman would be designated what's, quote/unquote, the primary point of contact?
 - A. Yes.

- Q. And do you know who the primary point of contact would be at NiSource?
 - A. Dean Bruno.
- Q. All right. I'm going to turn your attention to Paragraph 19. This is entitled Regulatory/Legislative Collaboration. You'd agree that this provision discusses NiSource and IGS agreeing to collaborate on various regulatory and legislative issues, correct?

A. Correct.

- Q. Why was this provision included in the agreement?
- A. Well, this level of activity is only going to have a benefit for us or NiSource if there's a valid -- a vibrant Choice program. And this agreement covered multiple states in which there was uncertainty of various degrees in their continuation of the programs.
- Q. And what legislative, well, let's start with legislative. What legislative efforts have NiSource and IGS collaborated on since this agreement was entered into in July of 2010?
- A. None, with the exception of Kentucky.

 No, that was commission. No. I don't know of any legislative actions that have affected this agreement.
- Q. And has there been any collaboration on the regulatory front between NiSource and IGS?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. And in what regulatory proceedings? Let's focus on Ohio first.
- A. I don't know of anything directly related to this agreement. There was a, prior to this agreement there was an understanding that Columbia

would go from a SSO auction to an SCO auction; they continue to follow through with that. And that's really the only Commission proceeding that I think Columbia's been a part of that I can — offhand that I can recall.

- Q. Does IGS have registered lobbyists in Ohio?
 - A. Yes.

Q. And who are those registered lobbyists?

MR. BENTINE: Objection. I don't know what this has to do with anything.

MR. WARNOCK: Well, this ties directly in with legislative collaboration and the fact that at least one registered lobbyist, I believe, works for both Columbia and IGS, and I'm just trying to understand, you know, how they're working together on the legislative aspect of it.

MR. BENTINE: While that may be interesting for Mr. Warnock to understand, it's not relevant to this proceeding.

MR. WARNOCK: It's directly relevant to this proceeding which contemplates collaboration on legislative issues between NiSource and IGS.

EXAMINER STENMAN: The objection is sustained.

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MR. WARNOCK: Your Honor, can we make a
1
     proffer of evidence relating to that topic for which
2
     the objection was just sustained?
3
 4
                  EXAMINER STENMAN:
                                     You may.
 5
                  MR. WARNOCK: May I approach?
                  EXAMINER STENMAN:
 6
                                     You may.
7
                  MR. WARNOCK: Do you want me to mark this
     as an exhibit kind of temporarily, or how do you want
8
     to do this?
 9
                  EXAMINER STENMAN: Let's mark it as an
10
     exhibit just for clarity of the record.
11
12
                  MR. WARNOCK: Is this Exhibit 6?
13
                  EXAMINER STENMAN: Yes. It will be
     marked as NOPEC 6.
14
15
                  (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)
                  MR. WARNOCK: Under this proffer I'm
16
     going to ask Mr. White if he can identify this
17
18
     document.
19
                  THE WITNESS: Yeah, it's agents for
20
      IGS --
                  MR. BENTINE: Objection. Just because
21
     he's proffering doesn't mean he can continue to ask
22
23
     questions.
                 He proffered an exhibit.
                  MR. WARNOCK: Well, I'm going to also
24
25
     proffer some of the questions that I would have asked
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Mr. White as part of this exhibit.

MR. BENTINE: And you may proffer the questions, but he doesn't answer the questions on a proffer.

MR. WARNOCK: Well, I would have, although we think that's a little bit unusual, I would have asked some foundational questions about this document which is --

EXAMINER STENMAN: Let me stop you there. It's 12:30. I think this is an excellent time to take a break and to actually take a lunch break because it looks like we're going to go well into the afternoon with Mr. White. So let's go off the record and take a lunch break for an hour, we'll be back at 1:30.

(At 12:28 p.m. a lunch recess was taken until 1:30 p.m.)

Monday Afternoon Session, November 7, 2011.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Let's go back on the record.

MR. WARNOCK: I would like to make a proffer relating to the questions pertaining to IGS's lobbying activities, and I would note that a proffer with just questions is really not offering any evidence in the event that the objection is ultimately overruled. So I would ask that the Bench allow me to ask Mr. White questions and hear his answers, otherwise, you know, we don't have the luxury of a deposition transcript to proffer as evidence for these questions and my questions alone aren't going to do anything. There's going to be no actual evidence in the record.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Mr. Warnock, typically a proffer is — there would be no difference in a proffer, between a proffer and actual questioning, if you were allowed to ask the witness questions; however, you are allowed to tell us what you would hope to present from those questions. For example, if you asked the question and you believe you would get X as a response, you're allowed to say that "I

believe this would show X" and then "I would ask this question, and that would show Y" and such a format.

MR. WARNOCK: Okay. Then I am happy to proceed that way. One thing I would note is I don't believe that these questions that I'm going to ask, and I'm not going to refer to the agreement themselves, I don't think anything relating to the lobbying activities is confidential so I would note that for the record.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Thank you.

MR. WARNOCK: Well, to start this proffer, I had handed the witness what had been marked as NOPEC Exhibit 6 which was a page of public document from the Joint Legislative Ethics Commission related to the agents or lobbyists for Interstate Gas Supply, Inc.

I was going to walk through this document and identify that there are seven agents or lobbyists identified working on behalf of Interstate Gas
Supply, Inc. including Donald Thibaut. I was going to ask what each of these individual lobbyists did for Interstate Gas Supply or IGS and specifically what Mr. Thibaut did. I was going to ask about
Mr. White's dealings with Mr. Thibaut, his familiarity with Mr. Thibaut, and what Mr. Thibaut

did in terms of lobbying for IGS.

I was also going to ask Mr. White whether he knew that Mr. Thibaut was also the lobbyist for Columbia Gas of Ohio. I was also going to ask questions about, and actually I will also proffer what's going to be marked as NOPEC Exhibit 7 which is an article from The Columbus Dispatch dated May 23rd.

EXAMINER STENMAN: That will be marked as NOPEC 7.

(EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

MR. WARNOCK: In particular, I was going to ask about Mr. White's familiarity with this article, whether it's true that IGS hired Mr. Thibaut in response to the filing of this complaint case, and then I guess Mr. White and IGS's interactions with Mr. Thibaut as it pertains to this case and the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel.

And then in terms of what we expected this to show is that there is a direct link between Interstate Gas Supply and Columbia Gas of Ohio in the form of its lobbyist, specifically Mr. Thibaut; that Mr. Thibaut was hired to address and deal with issues in this case specifically relating to the Ohio Consumers' Counsel; and that there were efforts to

1 cut the budget of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel because 2 of the filing of this complaint case. 3 EXAMINER STENMAN: Does that conclude your proffer? 4 5 MR. WARNOCK: Yes, your Honor. 6 MR. BENTINE: We have no objection to the 7 proffer, your Honor, however, reserve objections with 8 regard to relevancy, hearsay, all the other appropriate objections. EXAMINER STENMAN: Of course. 10 11 Do you want to continue with your 12 questioning, Mr. Warnock? 13 MR. WARNOCK: Yes, your Honor. I have a 14 few more confidential questions and then I would like 1.5 to go back on the public record. 16 EXAMINER STENMAN: Just to be clear that 17 we're still in the confidential portion of the 18 transcript. 19 20

DIRECT EXAMINATION (AS ON CROSS) (continued)
By Mr. Warnock:

- Q. Mr. White, do you still have in front of you the service mark license agreement which is the unredacted version?
 - A. Yes.

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24

92 1 Q. Can you please turn to Exhibit B which is on page IGS000176. 2 3 Α. Yes. Ο. Can you explain to me what this exhibit 4 5 shows? 6 Α. It shows□ 7 8 9 Q. Are these[10 Α. Those are Dof -- it's part of the 11 agreement. 12 Can you explain to me how -- let's just Q. 13 start with[. So that the[and I presume that's -- is that[14 15 That's Α. . Now, how is that number determined? 16 17 It's just on the agreement. It's an 18 estimate of what constitutes the approximate[19 that we were currently supplying. 20 Ο. Okay. Now can you turn to the next exhibit which is Exhibit C. And this exhibit shows 21 22 customers of Columbia Gas of Ohio who do not count 23 for purposes of calculating the licensing fee, 24 correct? 25 Α. That's correct.

		93
1	Q. How were these customers chosen?	ł
2	A. These are customers whose	ļ
3		}
4	Q. And why was[}
5	.	
6	A. Because the agreement was really only	}
7	pertaining to the mass market, what we defined to be	}
8	mass market customers.	ľ
9	Q. And by "mass market" do you mean	Ì
10	Decembers or Double of the Double of Double of the Double	
11	something more?	
12	A. Yes.	
13	Q. Candland	
14	customers.	!
15	Now, have any other customers been added	ĺ
16	to Exhibit C since the effective date of the	j
17	agreement?	
18	A. Not that I'm aware of.	
19	Q. And does IGS or Columbia Retail Energy	ļ
20	have any customers that have annual usage of more	
21	thanD but are not listed on Exhibit	ļ
22	C?	
23	A. It's possible. If that's the case, then	
24	we need to update Exhibit C.	!
25	Q. Do you know approximately how much IGS	

invests in the IGS trade name each year?

MR. BENTINE: Objection.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Grounds?

MR. BENTINE: I don't think that's relevant to this proceeding.

MR. WARNOCK: Well, the use of the IGS or Columbia Retail Energy name is the big issue in this case. I'm just trying to figure out how much effort and resources are devoted to the use of the IGS name compared to the Columbia Retail Energy name.

EXAMINER STENMAN: The objection will be overruled.

MR. WARNOCK: Can you repeat the question for the witness?

(Record read.)

A. It's hard for me to answer that. I don't know if I really understand what you want to know. For instance, we have a marketing budget; I don't know if that's investing in the trade name. If I have dollars allocated for telemarketing, for example, is that investment in the trade name? If I advertise at the Blue Jackets, is that investment in trade name? You know, I don't really understand how to answer your question. We don't have a separate line item that says "trade name investment."

95 1 But you do have a marketing budget that Ο. 2 you have invested in the name? 3 Yeah, we have a marketing budget. And what is that marketing budget? 4 Q. 5 Α. The marketing budget is approximately 6 7 Q. And it's approximately[for 8 fiscal year 2011? Α. Yes. 10 0. And was it more or less in --11 Α. 12 -- the year 2010? \square Q. 13 Α. 14 To date has IGS had any discussions with Q. 15 any NiSource entity regarding□ 16 Α. 17 To date has IGS had any discussions with 18 any NiSource entity regarding[19 Α. 20 Have you approached any NiSource entity 21 regarding a or a□ 22 Α. 23 MR. WARNOCK: I think that's the end of 24 my confidential questions. I do have a few more to

pursue on the public record if that's okay with you.

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                   EXAMINER STENMAN: Let's go out of the
 1
 2
      confidential portion of the transcript back into the
      public portion.
 3
                   (OPEN RECORD.)
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(CONFIDENTIAL PORTION.)

- Q. (By Mr. Bentine) Mr. White, first -MR. BENTINE: I guess John could have
 stayed for this one.
- Q. But it was brought up in the -- if you would look at NOPEC 4, which is Exhibits 3, 4, and 5 from Mr. Parisi's testimony, I believe.
 - A. Okay.
- Q. I believe you indicated -- in response to questions from counsel from NOPEC you had read and referred to the disclaimer at the top of the first page of NOPEC 4 and at the bottom of that page.
 - A. Yes.

MR. BENTINE: If I could approach the witness and give him my highlighted copy, this will go faster.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Okay.

Q. Would you turn to the next page of NOPEC 4, please. And would you, referring to the highlighted sections for speed, would you tell me if there are also then disclaimers at the heading of that second page and also buried within the body of that first paragraph.

A. Yes. At the very top, the heading of the whole page, it says "My Natural Gas Supply Contract with Columbia Retail Energy," and then in parentheses "(Interstate Gas Supply, Inc.)".

- Q. And then further down in that paragraph.
- A. Under the first section, Term, it talks about Interstate Gas Supply doing business as Columbia Retail Energy and at the end of the paragraph it says "The trademark COLUMBIA RETAIL ENERGY including the starburst design is a trademark of NiSource Corporate Services Company and is used under license by Interstate Gas Supply. Interstate Gas Supply is not an affiliate of NiSource Corporate Services Company or Columbia Gas of Ohio."
 - Q. Thank you.

Now would you turn to the page that has the sticker Exhibit 4 that and would you tell us the disclaimers on that page as well?

- A. Yeah. There's two disclaimers, both underneath the -- the trademark appears twice, one as a header to the letter and one as a part of the enrollment card itself, and under both of those there's the language "Service is provided by IGS Energy under the trade name Columbia Retail Energy."
 - Q. Okay. And then finally the final two

pages of this exhibit, would you tell me what those two pages are, then, and read the disclaimers there?

- A. This refers to the envelope itself where the Columbia Retail Energy logo is displayed and it says "Service is provided by IGS Energy under the trade name Columbia Retail Energy." And the last is a snapshot from our website where, again, the logo Columbia Retail Energy is displayed and the words "Service is provided by IGS Energy under the trade name Columbia Retail Energy."
- Q. Thank you. And it's been pointed out I even missed another one, that is -- I just found it, it's back on the one marked Exhibit 4 on the back, and there's a disclaimer just above the enrollment card is there not?
- A. Yeah, in the body of the letter, the bottom of the body of the letter. It says "Columbia Retail Energy is not the utility and neither Columbia Retail Energy nor Interstate Gas Supply, Inc. (IGS Energy) is an affiliate of NiSource Retail Services or the utility, Columbia Gas of Ohio. The Columbia Retail Energy name and starburst design are used by Interstate Gas Supply, Inc. under a license agreement with NiSource Retail Services."
 - Q. Thank you.

Referring now to what was marked as NOPEC 5A, Mr. White.

A. Yes.

2.

- Q. And turning to page 9 of that document,
 Bates stamped IGS000169, would you look at paragraph
 19.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. You'll recall some questions by counsel for NOPEC regarding that paragraph; do you not?
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Would you tell the attorney examiner what you believe to be the scope of that agreement that's embodied in 19 and how wide that was?
- A. Well, this would pertain to activities regarding the Choice program or the agreement, this agreement which -- this issue regarding the Choice programs in general.
- Q. Now, I believe in answer to a number of questions by counsel for NOPEC you indicated that the Columbia name was also being used in four other jurisdictions: Kentucky, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.
 - A. Yes.
- Q. Can you tell me, are there proceedings like this going on in those other states?

A. No. There was initially some objection to our use of the name in Pennsylvania by RESA and potentially by a group I think -- I don't know the name of the group, it's a group that would be the counterpart to the OCC, I think they may be called the POCA, they originally objected or were concerned about the way that we would use the name.

We met with them and we resolved that and by agreeing to the disclosures that they would like to see we settled that case and they withdrew it.

But they did not protest our right to use the Columbia name, just they were concerned about the disclosures and how we were to use it.

- Q. And are those programs going forward today without a complaint or without --
 - A. Yes.

- Q. -- legal question?
- A. Yes, they're active.
- Q. And are those disclaimers used in those states similar to the disclaimers that are contained in the RESA agreement that is attached to Mr. Parisi's testimony that was entered into for the state of Ohio?
 - A. Yes.
 - Q. And are they similar to that which are

currently being used by IGS in its Columbia CRE program?

A. Yes.

- - A. Yes.
- Q. In terms of that incentive, Mr. White, did you or IGS ever contemplate that that incentive would cause Columbia Gas to discriminate in IGS's favor, Columbia Retail Energy's favor, or violate any rules or regulations or laws in their conduct after you signed the agreement?
 - A. No.

MR. BENTINE: That's all I have for Mr. White.

EXAMINER STENMAN: Thank you.

MR. WARNOCK: I just have a couple of questions.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

23 By Mr. Warnock:

Q. First I'm going to turn you back to NOPEC Exhibit 4 which is the marketing materials and

specifically the page that's got kind of a cutout of a, it looks like an envelope on it, looks like the second-to-the-last page. EXAMINER STENMAN: Do we need to be in the confidential portion of the transcript for your questions? MR. WARNOCK: No. EXAMINER STENMAN: Go forward. Let's make sure that we're in the open record. (OPEN RECORD.)

CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Monday, November 7, 2011, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

Maria DiPaolo Jones, Registered Diplomate Reporter and CRR and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio.

My commission expires June 19, 2016.

11 (MDJ-3923A)

ARMSTRONG & OKEY, INC., Columbus, Ohio (614) 224-9481