

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Annual Report of     )  
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for            )     Case No. 17-521-GA-IDR  
Approval of an Adjustment to its         )  
Infrastructure Development Rider Rate.    )

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**MOTION TO INTERVENE  
BY  
THE OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL**

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The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel ("OCC") moves to intervene in this case to make recommendations on behalf of Columbia Gas of Ohio's 1.3 million residential customers regarding the rate increases proposed and the process by which the proposed economic development projects are considered. The reasons the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") should grant OCC's Motion are set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,

BRUCE WESTON (0016973)  
OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

/s/ Jodi Bair  
Jodi Bair, (0062921) Counsel of Record  
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Assistant Consumers' Counsel

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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT**

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On October 21, 2016, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (“Columbia”) filed an application to create a new Infrastructure Development Rider (“IDR”) under Ohio law.<sup>1</sup> On March 15, 2017, Columbia filed an Annual Report for Approval of an adjustment to its Infrastructure Development Rider Rate.<sup>2</sup> This filing seeks to allow Columbia to begin charging (through the infrastructure development rider) certain infrastructure costs that are associated with economic development projects.

R.C. 4903.221 provides, in part, that any person “who may be adversely affected” by a PUCO proceeding is entitled to seek intervention in that proceeding. In this proceeding Columbia seeks authority to charge residential customers \$0.14 per month or \$1.68 per year.<sup>3</sup> So, for purposes of the statute, residential customers may be adversely affected. This element of the intervention standard in R.C. 4903.221 is satisfied.

R.C. 4903.221(B) requires the Commission to consider the following criteria in ruling on motions to intervene:

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval to Establish an Infrastructure Development Rider*, Case No. 16-2067-GA-ATA, Application (Oct. 21, 2016).

<sup>2</sup> *In the Matter of the Annual Report of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of an Adjustment to its Infrastructure Development Rider Rate*, Case No. 17-521-GA-IDR, Annual Report (March 15, 2017).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 1.

- (1) The nature and extent of the prospective intervenor's interest;
- (2) The legal position advanced by the prospective intervenor and its probable relation to the merits of the case;
- (3) Whether the intervention by the prospective intervenor will unduly prolong or delay the proceeding; and
- (4) Whether the prospective intervenor will significantly contribute to the full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues.

First, the nature and extent of OCC's interest is to represent Ohio residential customers to ensure that the economic development costs are just and reasonable and prudently incurred before being collected from the Utility's customers. This interest is different than that of any other party and especially different than that of Columbia.

Second, OCC's legal position will include advancing that any costs charged to consumers should be reasonable, prudent and lawful. OCC's position is directly related to the merits of this case that is pending before the PUCO. The PUCO is an authority tasked with promoting "the availability to consumers of adequate, reliable, and reasonably priced natural gas service and goods[.]"<sup>4</sup>

Third, OCC's intervention will not unduly prolong or delay the proceedings. OCC, with its longstanding expertise and experience in PUCO proceedings, will allow for the efficient processing of the case with consideration of the public interest.

Fourth, OCC's intervention will significantly contribute to the full development and equitable resolution of the factual issues. OCC will obtain and develop information that the PUCO should consider for equitably and lawfully deciding the cases in the public interest.

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<sup>4</sup> R.C. 4929.02(A)(1).

OCC also satisfies the intervention criteria in the Ohio Administrative Code (which are subordinate to the criteria that OCC satisfies in the Ohio Revised Code). To intervene, a party should have a “real and substantial interest” according to Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(A)(2). As the advocate for residential utility customers, OCC has a very real and substantial interest in this case where economic development costs could be passed on to customers.

In addition, OCC meets the criteria of Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B)(1)-(4). These criteria mirror the statutory criteria in R.C. 4903.221(B) that OCC already has addressed and that OCC satisfies.

Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11(B)(5) states that the Commission shall consider the “extent to which the person’s interest is represented by existing parties.” While OCC does not concede the lawfulness of this criterion, OCC satisfies this criterion. OCC is the state representative of Ohio’s residential utility customers. That interest is different from, and not represented by, any other entity in Ohio.

The Supreme Court of Ohio confirmed OCC’s right to intervene in PUCO proceedings, in deciding two appeals in which OCC claimed the PUCO erred by denying its interventions. The Court found that the PUCO abused its discretion in denying OCC’s interventions and that OCC should have been granted intervention in both proceedings.<sup>5</sup>

OCC meets the criteria set forth in R.C. 4903.221, Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-11, and the precedent established by the Supreme Court of Ohio for intervention. On behalf of Ohio residential customers, the PUCO should grant OCC’s Motion to Intervene.

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<sup>5</sup> See *Ohio Consumers’ Counsel v. Pub. Util. Comm.*, 111 Ohio St.3d 384, 2006-Ohio-5853, ¶¶ 13-20 (2006).

Respectfully submitted,

BRUCE WESTON (0016973)  
OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL

/s/ Jodi Bair

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that a copy of this Motion to Intervene was served on the persons stated below via email, this 1st day of May 2017.

/s/ Jodi Bair

Jodi Bair

Assistant Consumers' Counsel

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Summary: Motion Motion to Intervene by The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel electronically filed by Ms. Jamie Williams on behalf of Bair, Jodi Mrs.