

FILE

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834 Mohawk St.
Columbus, OH 43206-2604

JUNE 1, 2017

2017 JUN -5 PM 12:52
PUCO

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad St.
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

Re: Case No. 17-1298-GA-CSS

Dear Commissioners:

As a long-time resident of the German Village neighborhood of Columbus, I was not pleased to hear of Columbia Gas Co. plans to relocate (natural) gas meters to the exteriors of homes. While I think I can understand the preference for a simple, one-size-fits-all policy regarding gas meter relocation, I believe more flexibility than Columbia Gas is willing to exercise (per their April 25 community meeting), is called for in special circumstances, such as German Village.

In German Village, buildings are in very close proximity to one-another, and to the street and sidewalk (often abutting the public rights of way). This development pattern, and the concentration and density of the mostly-residential buildings, is unique in the central Ohio region. I believe that externally-located, bulky gas meters, and associated piping, on house after house, will create a major eyesore, taking away from the attractiveness of our community, and of individual properties.

German Village residents and the city of Columbus, over many decades, have worked hard to maintain and improve the area's appearance, and have put significant financial resources toward this goal. German Village's appearance is a core element in the neighborhood's appeal and continued success, and is why the community is widely-recognized, nationally, and why it is an important tourist attraction for the region.

Another contributing factor to the special circumstances of the neighborhood, I think, is the small-scale (front view) of most of the buildings. If they were larger buildings, perhaps the meters would be less apparent.

Finally, regarding safety, my understanding is that the natural gas meters have been in our basements for decades and I cannot recall any serious safety issues being reported during my three decades in the neighborhood. It seems to me (a non-expert) as though it could even be an advantage having them inside the house where they are sheltered, and where homeowners help to monitor and care for them.

In summary, Columbia Gas Co.'s inflexible-plan to move gas meters from our basements to the exterior, I believe, will have an adverse effect on my own property and, more importantly, on the German Village Historic District. I hope that the Public Utility Commission of Ohio, as the State's utilities regulator, will provide us some relief in this situation.

Regards,



Ethan Ortman

c: German Village Society

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a case file document delivered in the regular course of business.
Technician AS Date Processed 6/5/17

FILE

Michael Russo
2332 Bryden Road
Columbus, Ohio 43209
(614) 736-8170

2017 JUN -5 PM12:52
PUCO

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

June 2, 2017

Dear Ohio Public Utilities Commissioners,

I'm writing in reference to Case No. 17-1298-GA-CSS as a stakeholder of the German Village Historic District in Columbus. We do not want natural gas meters removed from basements and placed outside of our properties in German Village. It is blight to our preserved district, and undermines more than five decades of consistent, focused effort to revitalize the historic elements of this community. Over the years, I have invested a significant amount of money in my property. Each and every time I revised the exterior of my property, I was required to have my plans approved by the German Village Commission. Columbia Gas should be willing or be required to work within the same rules in this fragile, special historic district as other stakeholders do in order to preserve its historic character.

Additionally, I am aware that there is a gap in safety data answering one simple question: Are meter safer on the inside or the outside of homes in dense, urban neighborhoods such as German Village? I demand to know the answer through an independent study of the available Federal incident data from 2010 to 2017, compiled by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration. It has been confirmed by five different sources, including the PUCO, Columbia Gas of Ohio and the Pipeline Safety Trust, that no such study has ever been undertaken. The data indicates significant safety risk with outside meters.

I am a caretaker of the German Village legacy. I want Columbia to be a cooperative partner in the maintenance and the caretaking of this special place, which is a tourist destination for many and thus economically beneficial to Columbus and Franklin County. The meters should remain outdoors.

The proposed disfigurement of hundreds of primary facades in one of the pre-eminent historic districts in the country is an insult to individual property owners and our personal investment, often one made with the knowledge that the cost to maintain the visual integrity of each exterior in the Village would be protected through review. It is an insult to all of us who have battled so very hard time and again to fend off anything that poses an adverse effect to the essence of the legacy we are charged with protecting. It is an insult to those who came before us and painstakingly and with great sacrifice wove the American cultural fabric-and it is ultimately an insult of deepest proportion to those set to experience this place in the future. With all due respect, please stop the outside relocation of natural gas meters in German Village to protect its citizens and its historic, visual integrity.

Regards,



Michael W. Russo

MWR

cc: The German Village Society

FILE

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad Street
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

May 31, 2017

2017 JUN -5 PM12:52
PUCO

Dear Ohio Public Utilities Commissioners,

I am writing in regards to case number #17-1298-GA-CSS as a stakeholder of the German Village Historic District in Columbus. I am a seven year resident of German Village and DO NOT want natural gas meters removed from our basements and placed outside of our homes in German Village. It is a horrible blight to our preserved district and undermines more than five decades of efforts to revitalize the historic elements of our community. Since I have lived in German Village I have spent over \$45,000 on my home and property. I have always been required to have my plans approved by the German Village Commission. I feel that Columbia Gas should be willing or be required to work within the same rules in this fragile, historic district in order to preserve its historic character.

I am aware that there is a gap in safety data answering the one simple questions: Are meters safer on the inside or outside of homes? I demand to know the answer through an independent study of the available Federal incident data from 2010 to 2017, compiled by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration. It has been confirmed by five different sources that NO such study has ever been undertaken. The data indicates significant safety risk with outside meters.

As a resident of German Village I want Columbia Gas to be a cooperative partner in the maintenance and the caretaking of this very special place, which is a tourist destination for many and thus economically beneficial to Columbus and Franklin County.

With all due respect, please stop the outside relocation of natural gas meters in German Village to protect its citizens and its historic and visual integrity.

Sincerely,



Ronald Marshall
704 S. 5th Street
Columbus, OH 43206

FILE

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

2017 JUN -5 PM 12:51
PUCO

June 1, 2017

Dear Ohio Public Utilities Commissioners,

We are writing in reference to Case No. 17-1298-GA-CSS as a stakeholder of the German Village Historic District in Columbus. We do not want natural gas meters removed from basements and placed outside of our properties in German Village. It is a blight to our preserved district, and undermines more than five decades of consistent, focused effort to revitalize the historic elements of this community.

Over the years, I have invested \$500,000.00 in our home and property. Each and every time we revised the exterior of my home, we were required to have my plans approved by the German Village Commission.

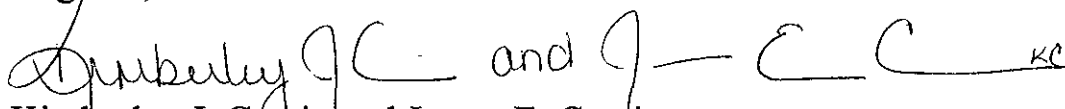
Columbia Gas should be willing or be required to work within the same rules in this fragile, special historic district as other stakeholders do in order to preserve its historic character.

Additionally, we are aware that there is a gap in safety data answering one simple question: Are meters safer on the inside or the outside of homes in dense, urban neighborhoods such as German Village? We demand to know the answer through an independent study of the available Federal incident data from 2010 to 2017, compiled by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration. It has been confirmed by five different sources, including the PUCO, Columbia Gas of Ohio and the Pipeline Safety Trust, that no such study has ever been undertaken. The data indicates significant safety risk with outside meters.

I am a caretaker of the German Village legacy. We want Columbia to be a cooperative partner in the maintenance and the caretaking this special place, which is a tourist destination for many and thus economically beneficial to Columbus and Franklin County. The meters should remain indoors.

The proposed disfigurement of hundreds of primary facades in one of the pre-eminent historic districts in the country is an insult to individual property owners and our personal investment, often one made with the knowledge that the cost to maintain the visual integrity of each exterior in the Village would be protected through review. It is an insult to all of us who have battled so very hard time and again to fend off anything that poses an adverse effect to the essence of the legacy we are charged with protecting. It is an insult to those who came before us and painstakingly and with great sacrifice wove the American cultural fabric - and it is ultimately an insult of deepest proportion to those set to experience this place in the future. With all due respect, please stop the outside relocation of natural gas meters in German Village to protect its citizens and its historic, visual integrity.

Regards,

Handwritten signatures of Kimberley J. Cowie and James E. Cowie. The signature for Kimberley J. Cowie is on the left, and the signature for James E. Cowie is on the right, with the initials "KC" at the end.

Kimberley J. Cowie and James E. Cowie
763 Mohawk St., Columbus, OH 43206
443-498-3135

Cc: The German Village Society