

FILE

4

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 E. Broad St.
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793
June 5, 2017

2017 JUN -6 AM 10: 25

PUCO

Dear Ohio Public Utilities Commissioners,

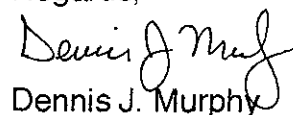
I'm writing in reference to Case No. 17-1298-GA-CSS as a stakeholder of the German Village Historic District in Columbus. I do not want natural gas meters removed from basements and placed outside of our properties in German Village. It is a blight to our preserved district, and undermines more than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

No one from Columbia Gas has reached out to me to explain why they are embarking on this meter relocation initiative. I am 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? 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. I have been informed that five different sources, including the PUCO, Columbia Gas of Ohio and the Pipeline Safety Trust, confirmed that no such study has ever been undertaken. I have also been told the data that is available indicates significant safety risk with outside meters. Is this true? As a public utility customer, I demand to know the answers to these questions.

The first step must be to conduct a complete and independent study on the safety of outside gas meters in a neighborhood with our characteristics. If such study proves that outside meters are unequivocally safer outdoors, then Columbia Gas should be required to work with the City of Columbus Historic Preservation Office and the German Village Architectural Review Commission, one property at a time, to find the least invasive place to install the meters. Columbia Gas should be subject to the same rules and regulations as I am, when it comes to altering any aspect of my home's exterior. At this time, as I understand it, Columbia Gas intends to relocate the meters so that they are completely visible from the street -- the quickest and easiest installation for Columbia Gas. That is a travesty.

I am asking the PUCO to stand up for us, public utility consumers, and stop the outside relocation of natural gas meters in German Village and to help us continue our legacy of historic preservation.

Regards,


Dennis J. Murphy

cc: The 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 Am Date Processed 6/6/17

FILE

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

2017 JUN -6 AM 10: 25

May 30, 2017

PUCO

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 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 \$400,000 in my home and property. Each and every time I revised the exterior of my home, 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 meters 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 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,



Cc: The German Village Society

FILE

JAY PANZER & JENNIFER HEITMEYER

220 EAST SYCAMORE STREET, COLUMBUS, OH 43206
614.224.4003 JAYPANZER@GMAIL.COM

JUN -6 AM 10:25

PUCO

3 June 2017

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

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

Commissioners:

We are writing as stakeholders of the German Village Historic District in Columbus.

The manner in which Columbia Gas is undertaking the current modernization project undermines more than five decades of consistent, focused effort to revitalize the historic elements of this community and to foster investment in its continued development. Over the years, we have invested over \$500k in our home and property. Whenever we wish to modify the exterior of our home in any way, we are required to bring our plans before the German Village Commission to request a Certificate of Appropriateness. Columbia Gas should be required to work within the same rules in this fragile historic district as other stakeholders do to preserve its historic character.

Furthermore, concerns have been raised that there is a gap in safety data concerning one simple question at the core of the Columbia Gas position: Are meters safer on the inside or the outside of homes in dense, urban neighborhoods such as German Village? It seems only reasonable that an independent study be undertaken of the available Federal incident data from 2010 to 2017, compiled by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration. Concerns have been raised that this data indicates significant safety risk with outside meters. Recent years have seen several meters installed in locations I view as just plain stupid, due to their proximity to and in a couple of cases directly in the path of regular vehicular traffic.

As caretakers of the German Village legacy, we believe it is incumbent upon Columbia Gas to be a cooperative partner in the maintenance and the caretaking of this special place. Relocation of meters to hundreds of primary facades in one of the pre-eminent historic districts in the country is an insult to property owners and our personal investments, made with the understanding that properties in the Village are protected by review of the German Village Commission. With all due respect, please stop the wholesale relocation of natural gas meters in German Village and require that, to protect its citizens and its historic visual integrity, Columbia Gas take a more measured approach.

Lastly, the canard that Columbia Gas will work with each property owner to arrive at an agreed upon location is nothing more than that – a myth. Negotiating such an agreement presumes some reasonable equivalence in positions. Columbia Gas being able to end (or, for that matter, begin) any negotiation by saying, "Here's where we're going to put your meter, or we can just turn off your gas," does not meet the reasonableness test. Whereas, having Columbia Gas propose a specific location on each property to the German Village Commission does.

Regards,



FILE

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

2017 JUN -6 AM 10:25

May 30, 2017

PUCO

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 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 \$400,000 in my home and property. Each and every time I revised the exterior of my home, 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 meters 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 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,



Cc: The German Village Society