

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Piedmont Gas Company for Authority to)	
Abandon Natural Gas Service to Three)	Case No. 17-2003-GA-ABN
Customers in Harrison County, Ohio.)	

**APPLICATION OF PIEDMONT GAS COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO ABANDON
SERVICE TO THREE CUSTOMERS IN HARRISON COUNTY**

NOW COMES Piedmont Gas Company ("Piedmont" or "Applicant"), pursuant to Sections 4905.20 and 4905.21, Revised Code, and files this application seeking authority from this Commission to abandon retail natural gas service for three customers located in Harrison County, Washington Township, Section 9. In support of its application, the Applicant states the following:

1. Piedmont is a natural gas company and a public utility within the meaning of Sections 4905.02 and 4905.03(A)9(5) Revised Code and is therefore subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

2. Piedmont began offering service to customers in eastern Ohio in 1987, who previously did not have access to natural gas service.

3. Piedmont has served three customers as part of a farm tap or production line located in Harrison County, Washington Township, Section 9 since April of 1993. These customers are: Lakeland Area Ministries-Church of the Nazarene, 79030 Freeport-Tippecanoe Road, Tippecanoe, OH 44699; Arlene Engstrom, 79011 Freeport- Tippecanoe Road, Tippecanoe, OH 44699; and Randall Stine, 30450 Friendly Ridge Road, Tippecanoe, OH 44699.

4. These three customers have been served with local Ohio gas through an aging production line owned by another company since 1993. Over the years, production of gas has greatly been reduced and the production line has deteriorated.

5. During the heating season when demand for supply is at its peak, the pressure on this line drops to the point where Piedmont's equipment cannot operate it properly.

6. Piedmont has experienced various failures and problems with this deteriorating production line over the last five to ten years.

7. Piedmont has installed catalytic heaters to keep equipment from freezing, added a vertical separator, an oil tank, and tried to manage the crude oil with a ball stop drip tank that will shut the gas flow off as a final protective measure. Despite these measures, Piedmont has not been able to give reliable service to these three customers.

8. These three customers identified above are aware of the failures and problems associated with this production line. All three customers were notified of Piedmont's intent to abandon natural gas service and each has now acquired an alternative energy source.

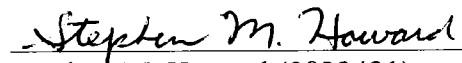
9. It has become economically impractical to continue to supply gas to these three customers; further, due to the possibility of fluid getting into the residential equipment, there is a potential for a catastrophic failure.

10. The company that owns the production line does not plan to make any improvements to this production line.

11. In view of the facts that natural gas production on the pipeline has been reduced, that the production line has deteriorated, that Piedmont has been unable to maintain the required pressure, that this line could pose a real safety threat, and that all three customers have now acquired an alternative energy source, Piedmont respectfully requests that the Commission authorize it to abandon service to these three customers having due regard for the welfare of the public and the cost of operating the service and related facilities.

WHEREFORE, Piedmont Gas Company respectfully requests that the Commission authorize the abandonment of retail natural gas service to these three customers located in Harrison County, Washington Township, Section 9.

Respectfully submitted,



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Summary: Application for Piedmont Gas Company for Authority to Abandon Service to Three Customers in Harrison County electronically filed by Mr. Stephen M Howard on behalf of Piedmont Gas Company