

BLUE FLAME ENERGY SERVICES 8456 East Washington Street Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023 440-564-2203 440-564-1147 fax www.blueflameenergyservices.com

9/28/2018

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Docketing Division 180 East Broad Street Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793

Re: Renewal Application for Aggregators/Power Brokers Original AGG <u>Case Number 12-2659-GA-AGG</u> <u>Certificate 12-273G (2)</u>

To Whom it May Concern:

Enclosed is Blue Flame Energy LLC's Renewal Certification Application for Competitive Retail Natural Gas Brokers/Aggregators. Included is the Original application with all required attachments as well as three copies of the original with attachments.

Please let us know if any additional information is needed in order to process our Renewal Application.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Simler

President/Director of Operations

This is to certify that the images appearing are an accurate and complete reproduction of a come file document delivered in the regular course of business.

Technician A Date Processed 10/2/18



PUCO USEO	NLY - Version 1:08	
Date Received	Renewal Certification	ORIGINAL AGG
	Number	Case Number
		12 - 2659 - GA-AGG

RENEWAL CERTIFICATION APPLICATION COMPETITIVE RETAIL NATURAL GAS BROKERS/AGGREGATORS

Please type or print all required information. Identify all attachments with an exhibit label and title (Example: Exhibit A-15 - Company History). All attachments should bear the legal name of the Applicant. Applicants should file completed applications and all related correspondence with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Docketing Division, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

This PDF form is designed so that you may directly input information onto the form. You may also download the form by saving it to your local disk.

SECTION A - APPLICANT INFORMATION AND SERVICES

A-1		tends to renew Iral Gas Aggreg		as: (check all that apply) il Natural Gas Broker	
A-2	Applicant in	formation:			
	Legal Name	Blue Flame Ene	ergy LLC		
	Address	8456 East Was	hington Street, Cha	agrin Falls, Ohio 44123	
	Telephone No.	440-564-2203		Web site Address	www.blueflamenergyservices.com
,	Current PUCO (Certificate No.	12-273G(2)	Effective Dates	

Applicant information under which applicant will do business in Ohio:

Name

Blue Flame Energy Services

Address

8456 East Washington Street, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44123

Web site Address www.blueflameenergyservices.com

Telephone No. 440-564-2203

List all names under which the applicant does business in North America:

Blue Energy LLC

Blue Flame Energy Services

A-5 Contact person for regulatory or emergency matters:

Name Jeffrey Simler

Title President

Business Address 8456 East Washington Street, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44023

Telephone No. 440-564-2203

Fax No. 440-564-1147

Email Address jeffs@blueflameenergyservices.co

A-6 Contact person for Commission Staff use in investigating customer complain				mplaints:			
	Name Jeffrey Simler		Title President				
	Business address 8456 East Washi	Business address 8456 East Washington Street, Chagrin Falls, Ohio 44123					
	Telephone No. 440-564-2203	Fax No. 440-564-1147	Email Addre	ss jeffs@blueflameenergyservices.co			
A-7	Applicant's address and toll-f	ree number for custo	mer service and co	mplaints			
	Customer service address 8456 Ea	st Washington Street, Chag	ırin Falls, Ohio 44123				
	Toll-Free Telephone No. 440-665-77	35 Fax No. 440-564	l-1147 Email A	Address jeffs@blueflameenergyservio			
A-8	Provide "Proof of an Ohio Office and Employee," in accordance with Section 4929.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, by listing name, Ohio office address, telephone number, and Web site address of the designated Ohio Employee						
	Name Jeffrey Simler		Title President				
	Business address 8456 East Washin	gton Street, Chagrin Falls,	Ohio, 44123				
	Telephone No. 440-564-2203	Fax No. 440-564-1147	Email Address je	offs@blueflameenergyservices.com			
A-9	Applicant's federal employer	identification number	· 20mm/desp	26-4758159			
A-10	Applicant's form of ownershi	p: (Check one)					
	Sole Proprietorship		Partnership				
	Limited Liability Partnershi	p (LLP)	Limited Liability (Company (LLC)			
	Corporation		Other				

A-11 (Check all that apply) Identify each natural gas company service area in which the applicant is currently providing service or intends to provide service, including identification of each customer class that the applicant is currently serving or intends to serve, for example: residential, small commercial, and/or large commercial/industrial (mercantile) customers. (A mercantile customer, as defined in Section 4929.01(L)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code, means a customer that consumes, other than for residential use, more than 500,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year at a single location within the state or consumes natural gas, other than for residential use, as part of an undertaking having more than three locations within or outside of this state. In accordance with Section 4929.01(L)(2) of the Ohio Revised Code, "Mercantile customer" excludes a not-for-profit customer that consumes, other than for residential use, more than 500,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year at a single location within this state or consumes natural gas, other than for residential use, as part of an undertaking having more than three locations within or outside this state that has filed the necessary declaration with the Public Utilities Commission.)

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A-13 If not currently participating in any of Ohio's four Natural Gas Choice Programs, provide the approximate start date that the applicant proposes to begin delivering services:

Columbia Gas of Ohio	Intended Start Date
Dominion East Ohio	Intended Start Date
Duke Energy. Ohio	Intended Start Date
Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio	Intended Start Date

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS AND LABEL AS INDICATED.

- A-14 Exhibit A-14 "Principal Officers, Directors & Partners," provide the names, titles, addresses and telephone numbers of the applicant's principal officers, directors, partners, or other similar officials.
- A-15 Exhibit A-15 "Company History," provide a concise description of the applicant's company history and principal business interests.
- A-16 Exhibit A-16 "Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws," provide the articles of incorporation filed with the state or jurisdiction in which the applicant is incorporated and any amendments thereto, only if the contents of the originally filed documents changed since the initial application.
- A-17 Exhibit A-17 "Secretary of State," provide evidence that the applicant is still currently registered with the Ohio Secretary of the State.

SECTION B - APPLICANT MANAGERIAL CAPABILITY AND EXPERIENCE

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS AND LABEL AS INDICATED

- **B-1** Exhibit B-1 "Jurisdictions of Operation," provide a current list of all jurisdictions in which the applicant or any affiliated interest of the applicant is, at the date of filing the application, certified, licensed, registered, or otherwise authorized to provide retail natural gas service, or retail/wholesale electric services.
- B-2 <u>Exhibit B-2 "Experience & Plans,"</u> provide a current description of the applicant's experience and plan for contracting with customers, providing contracted services, providing billing statements, and responding to customer inquiries and complaints in accordance with Commission rules adopted pursuant to Section 4929.22 of the Revised Code and contained in Chapter 4901:1-29 of the Ohio Administrative Code.
- **B-3** Exhibit B-3 "Summary of Experience," provide a concise and current summary of the applicant's experience in providing the service(s) for which it is seeking renewed certification (e.g., number and types of customers served, utility service areas, volume of gas supplied, etc.).
- B-4 <u>Exhibit B-4 "Disclosure of Liabilities and Investigations,"</u> provide a description of all existing, pending or past rulings, judgments, contingent liabilities, revocations of authority, regulatory investigations, or any other matter that could adversely impact the applicant's financial or operational

status or ability to provide the services for which it is seeking renewed certification since applicant last filed for certification.

B-5 Exhibit B-5 "Disclosure of Consumer Protection Violations," disclose whether the applicant, affiliate, predecessor of the applicant, or any principal officer of the applicant has been convicted or held liable for fraud or for violation of any consumer protection or antitrust laws since applicant last filed for certification.

V	No	Yes
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If Yes, provide a separate attachment labeled as <u>Exhibit B-5 "Disclosure of Consumer Protection Violations,"</u> detailing such violation(s) and providing all relevant documents.

B-6 Exhibit B-6 "Disclosure of Certification Denial, Curtailment, Suspension, or Revocation," disclose whether the applicant or a predecessor of the applicant has had any certification, license, or application to provide retail natural gas or retail/wholesale electric service denied, curtailed, suspended, or revoked, or whether the applicant or predecessor has been terminated from any of Ohio's Natural Gas Choice programs, or been in default for failure to deliver natural gas since applicant last filed for certification.

✓ No	Yes
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If Yes, provide a separate attachment, labeled as <u>Exhibit B-6 "Disclosure of Certification Denial</u>, <u>Curtailment, Suspension, or Revocation,"</u> detailing such action(s) and providing all relevant documents.

SECTION C - APPLICANT FINANCIAL CAPABILITY AND EXPERIENCE

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS AND LABEL AS INDICATED

- C-1 Exhibit C-1 "Annual Reports," provide the two most recent Annual Reports to Shareholders. If applicant does not have annual reports, the applicant should provide similar information, labeled as Exhibit C-1, or indicate that Exhibit C-1 is not applicable and why.

 (This is generally only applicable to publicly traded companies who publish annual reports.)
- C-2 <u>Exhibit C-2 "SEC Filings."</u> provide the most recent 10-K/8-K Filings with the SEC. If applicant does not have such filings, it may submit those of its parent company. If the applicant does not have such filings, then the applicant may indicate in Exhibit C-2 whether the applicant is not required to file with the SEC and why.
- C-3 "Financial Statements," provide copies of the applicant's two most recent years of audited financial statements (balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement). If audited financial statements are not available, provide officer certified financial statements. If the applicant has not been in business long enough to satisfy this requirement, it shall file audited or officer certified financial statements covering the life of the business. If the applicant does not have a balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement, the applicant may provide a copy of its two most recent years of tax returns (with social security numbers and account numbers redacted).

C-4 <u>Exhibit C-4 "Financial Arrangements,"</u> provide copies of the applicant's financial arrangements to satisfy collateral requirements to conduct retail electric/gas business activity (e.g., parental or third party guarantees, contractual arrangements, credit agreements, etc.,).

Renewal applicants can fulfill the requirements of Exhibit C-4 by providing a current statement from an Ohio local distribution utility (LDU) that shows that the applicant meets the LDU's collateral requirements.

First time applicants or applicants whose certificate has expired as well as renewal applicants can meet the requirement by one of the following methods:

- 1. The applicant itself stating that it is investment grade rated by Moody's, Standard & Poor's or Fitch and provide evidence of rating from the rating agencies.
- 2. Have a parent company or third party that is investment grade rated by Moody's, Standard & Poor's or Fitch guarantee the financial obligations of the applicant to the LDU(s).
- 3. Have a parent company or third party that is not investment grade rated by Moody's, Standard & Poor's or Fitch but has substantial financial wherewithal in the opinion of the Staff reviewer to guarantee the financial obligations of the applicant to the LDU(s). The guarantor company's financials must be included in the application if the applicant is relying on this option.
- 4. Posting a Letter of Credit with the LDU(s) as the beneficiary.

If the applicant is not taking title to the electricity or natural gas, enter "N/A "in Exhibit C-4. An N/A response is only applicable for applicants seeking to be certified as an aggregator or broker.

- C-5 Exhibit C-5 "Forecasted Financial Statements," provide two years of forecasted income statements for the applicant's NATURAL GAS related business activities in the state of Ohio Only, along with a list of assumptions, and the name, address, email address, and telephone number of the preparer. The forecasts should be in an annualized format for the two years succeeding the Application year.
- C-6 Exhibit C-6 "Credit Rating," provide a statement disclosing the applicant's current credit rating as reported by two of the following organizations: Duff & Phelps, Fitch IBCA, Moody's Investors Service, Standard & Poor's, or a similar organization. In instances where an applicant does not have its own credit ratings, it may substitute the credit ratings of a parent or an affiliate organization, provided the applicant submits a statement signed by a principal officer of the applicant's parent or affiliate organization that guarantees the obligations of the applicant. If an applicant or its parent does not have such a credit rating, enter "N/A" in Exhibit C-6.
- C-7 Exhibit C-7 "Credit Report," provide a copy of the applicant's current credit report from Experion, Dun and Bradstreet, or a similar organization. An applicant that provides an investment grade credit rating for Exhibit C-6 may enter "N/A" for Exhibit C-7.

- C-8 Exhibit C-8 "Bankruptcy Information," provide a list and description of any reorganizations, protection from creditors or any other form of bankruptcy filings made by the applicant, a parent or affiliate organization that guarantees the obligations of the applicant or any officer of the applicant in the current year or within the two most recent years preceding the application.
- C-9 Exhibit C-9 "Merger Information," provide a statement describing any dissolution or merger or acquisition of the applicant within the two most recent years preceding the application.
- C-10 Exhibit C-10 "Corporate Structure," provide a description of the applicant's corporate structure, not an internal organizational chart, including a graphical depiction of such structure, and a list of all affiliate and subsidiary companies that supply retail or wholesale electricity or natural gas to customers in North America. If the applicant is a stand-alone entity, then no graphical depiction is required and applicant may respond by stating that they are a stand-alone entity with no affiliate or subsidiary companies.

SECTION D - APPLICANT TECHNICAL CAPABILITY

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS AND LABEL AS INDICATED.

- D-1 Exhibit D-1 "Operations," provide a current written description of the operational nature of the applicant's business functions.
- D-2 Exhibit D-2 "Operations Expertise," given the operational nature of the applicant's business, provide evidence of the applicant's current experience and technical expertise in performing such operations.
- Exhibit D-3 "Key Technical Personnel," provide the names, titles, email addresses, telephone numbers, and background of key personnel involved in the operational aspects of the applicant's current business.

Applicant Signature and Title

Al M President

Sworn and subscribed before me this

/ day of October Month 2018 Year

Karty M Sharholt

KAthryn m. Shanholtzer

Signature of official administering oath

Print Name and Title



My commission expires on Oug. 7, 202 /



The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Competitive Retail Natural Gas Service Affidavit Form (Version 1.07)

for	a Certificate or Renewal Certificate to Provide Case No. [13] - 3657 -GA-AGG				
	Competitive Retail Natural Gas Service in Ohio.				
	te of OHjo				
	JEFFREY SIMLER [Affiant], being duly sworn/affirmed, hereby states that:				
(1)	The information provided within the certification or certification renewal application and supporting information is complete, true, and accurate to the best knowledge of affiant.				
(2)	The applicant will timely file an annual report of its intrastate gross receipts and sales of hundred cubic feet of natural gas pursuant to Sections 4905.10(A), 4911.18(A), and 4929.23(B), Ohio Revised Code.				
(3)	The applicant will timely pay any assessment made pursuant to Section 4905.10 or Section 4911.18(A), Ohio Revised Code.				
(4)	Applicant will comply with all applicable rules and orders adopted by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio pursuant to Title 49, Ohio Revised Code.				
(5)	Applicant will cooperate with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and its staff in the investigation of any consumer complaint regarding any service offered or provided by the applicant.				
(6)	Applicant will comply with Section 4929.21, Ohio Revised Code, regarding consent to the jurisdiction of the Ohio courts and the service of process.				
(7)	Applicant will inform the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio of any material change to the information supplied in the certification or certification renewal application within 30 days of such material change, including any change in contact person for regulatory or emergency purposes or contact person for Staff use in investigating customer complaints.				
(8)	Affiant further sayeth naught.				
	Affiant Signature & Title				
	Sworn and subscribed before me this day of October Month 2018 Year				
	Kauth M Shaholt Kthryn M Shaholtzer Signature of Official Administering Oath Print Name and Title				
	KATHRYN M. SHANHOLITZER Notary Public, State of Orbin Recorded in Portage County My Commission Expires 8-7-21 My commission expires on Oug 7, 2021				

Exhibit A-14

Principal Officers, Directors & Partners

Jeffrey Simler
President/Treasurer/Secretary
16291 Wake Robin Drive
Newbury, Ohio 44065
440-564-2203

jeffs@blueflameenergyservices.com

Exhibit A-15 Company History

Blue Flame Energy LLC was formed and registered with the State of Ohio 0n the 26th day of January 2009 by Jeffrey Simler. Since the formation of the Company Blue Flame Energy LLC's primary focus has been consulting with Clients on how they purchase their electric and natural gas.

Exhibit A-16 Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws

Blue Flame Energy LLC's Articles of Organization have not changed since our original Application.

Exhibit A-17 Secretary of State

Attached is a report from the Secretary of the State of Ohio showing that the status of Blue Flame Energy LLC's Articles of Organization is "Active".



Entity#: 1831911

Filing Type: DOMESTIC LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

Original Filing Date: 01/26/2009

Location: ---

Business Name: BLUE FLAME ENERGY LLC

Status: Active

Exp. Date: -

Agent/Registrant Information

JEFFREY SIMLER 8456 EAST WASHINGTON STREET CHAGRIN FALLS OH 44023 10/28/2011 Active

Incorporator Information

D. SCOT PAULITSCH

Filings

Filing Type	Date of Filing	Document ID
ARTICLES OF ORGNZTN/DOM. PROFIT LIM.LIAB. CO.	01/26/2009	200902601150
FICTITIOUS NAME/ORIGINAL FILING	06/25/2010	201017900954
SUBSEQUENT AGENT APPOINT/LIMITED/LIABILTY/PARTNERS	10/28/2011	201130600590
AGENT ADDRESS CHANGE/LIMITED/LIABILITY/PARTNERS	03/01/2012	201206600353
FICTITIOUS NAME RENEWAL	03/02/2015	201506101845
AGENT ADDRESS CHANGE/LIMITED/LIABILITY/PARTNERS	05/02/2017	201712200498

Exhibit B-1 <u>Jurisdictions of Operation</u>

Blue Flame Energy LLC as of the date of this filing is a certified to provide retail natural gas service and retail/wholesale electric services in the State of Ohio.

Exhibit B-2 Experience & Plans

Blue Flame Energy LLC provides Natural Gas / Energy consulting and aggregation services to consumers in Ohio. Blue Flame Energy LLC has been a certified power broker/ aggregator since 2012 (certificate number 12-561E(1)) and an Ohio Competitive Retail Natural Gas Aggregator/Broker since 2012 (certificate number 12-273G(1)).

Blue Flame Energy LLC works with and plans to continue to work with certified retail electric suppliers / Natural Gas suppliers in Ohio to arrange for the supply of retail electric service and retail Natural Gas service to those customers. Blue Flame Energy LLC does not directly enter into contracts with end-use consumers or provide billing services for the energy supply. Consumers enter into contractual arrangements with certified retail electric suppliers/Natural Gas Suppliers and are billed by either that supplier or their utility. If there are any Customer inquiries or complaints they are directed to the supplier who has contracted with them or the customer's utility.

Exhibit B-3 Summary of Experience

Since its inception, Blue Flame Energy LLC has provided energy consulting services mostly for small to medium commercial customers (typically between 500 - 25,000 MCFs), as they considered their energy options and purchasing natural gas or electricity from various suppliers. Blue Flame Energy LLC has also assisted a few larger industrial and residential clients. To date, the customers have been located in Columbia Gas of Ohio or Dominion East Ohio's service territories.

Exhibit B-4 <u>Disclosure of Liabilities and Investigations</u>

Blue Flame Energy LLC does not have any existing, pending or past rulings, judgments, contingent liabilities, revocation of authority, regulatory investigations, or any other matter that could adversely impact its financial or operational status or ability to provide Natural Gas consulting or aggregation services.

Exhibit B-5

Disclosure of Consumer Protection Violations

Blue Flame Energy LLC or its officers have never been convicted or held liable for fraud. Blue Flame Energy LLC or its officers have not violated any consumer protection or antitrust laws.

Exhibit B-6

<u>Disclosure of Certification Denial, Curtailment, Suspension, or</u> <u>Revocation</u>

Blue Flame Energy LLC has not had any certification, license, or application to provide retail or wholesale electric/natural gas service including aggregation service denied, curtailed, suspended, revoked, or cancelled.

Exhibit C-1 Annual Reports

Blue Flame Energy LLC is a privately held company and is not required to prepare annual reports.

Exhibit C-2 SEC Filings

Blue Flame Energy LLC is a privately held company and does not produce 10K/8-K filings, and is not required to file with the SEC.

Exhibit C-4 <u>Financial Arrangements</u>

Blue Flame Energy does not need to relay on outside financial arrangements to conduct its business providing energy consulting or aggregation services.

Exhibit C-6 Credit Rating

Blue Flame Energy LLC is not a publicly rated company and does not have its own credit rating.

Exhibit C-8 Bankruptcy Information

The company, its affiliates, and officers have not filed for reorganization or bankruptcy protection within the past two years.

Exhibit C-9 Merger Information

Blue Flame Energy LLC has not been involved in any corporate dissolutions, mergers, or acquisitions in the past two years.

Exhibit C-10

Corporate Structure

Blue Flame Energy, LLC is a Limited Liability Company formed in the State of Ohio. Blue Flame Energy does not have any affiliate or subsidiary companies that supply retail/ wholesale electricity or natural gas to customers. Blue Flame Energy, LLC does not have any affiliate or subsidiary companies that aggregate customers in North America.

Exhibit D-1 Operations

Blue Flame Energy LLC operates as an independent energy consultant and/or aggregator/broker, securing energy suppliers to provide viable alternative sources of natural gas and electricity to serve the needs of residential, commercial, and industrial consumers.

Blue Flame Energy LLC works with certified retail natural gas suppliers in Ohio to arrange for the supply of retail natural gas service to those customers, and will not be directly entering into contracts with the end-use consumers, scheduling the delivery of natural gas. providing retail ancillary services, or providing billing services for the energy supply. Consumers will enter into contractual arrangements with certified retail natural gas suppliers and will be billed by either that supplier or their natural gas utility. Customer inquiries and complaints will be directed to the supplier who has contracted with them or the customer's natural gas utility.

<u>D-2</u> <u>Operations Expertise</u>

Blue Flame Energy LLC has been consulting with various clients and advising them as to their available energy options for several years. During these years the Company has built strong relationships not only with its clients but with suppliers as well. As a result of these relationships their clients have realized significant savings on their energy purchases. Blue Flame Energy LLC has experienced stable, steady, and managed growth each year since its inception.

Jeffrey Simler is the President/Director of Operations of Blue Flame Energy LLC. Prior to starting Blue Flame Energy LLC, Mr. Simler was the COO of one of the largest home building companies in Northeast Ohio. He held this position for more than twenty years and his responsibilities included the oversight of the day-to-day business operations of the company as well as negotiating significant contracts for land, supplies, and services. Mr Simler's skill set acquired from his training and longstanding relationships, have proven to be extremely beneficial in advising clients on their energy options and is valuable in negotiating transactions with energy suppliers on behalf of Blue Flame Energy LLC's clients.

Exhibit D-3 Key Technical Personnel

Jeffrey Simler
President/Treasurer
16291 Wake Robin
Drive Newbury, Ohio
44065 440-564-2203
JeffS@blueflameenergyservices.com

See Exhibit D-2 for Mr. Simler's technical background.