

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Direct Energy Business, LLC and Direct Energy Services, LLC for Waivers of Certain Provisions of Chapters 4901:1-21 and 4901:1-29, O.A.C., to Permit Third-Party Verification by Digital Confirmation.)
) Case No. 18-382-GE-WVR
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**INITIAL COMMENTS OF
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.**

Direct Energy Business, LLC and Direct Energy Services, LLC (collectively, “Direct”) request waivers of certain rules governing the third-party verification (“TPV”) process for new customers enrolled through sales channels requiring TPV. Pursuant to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio’s (“Commission”) June 26, 2019 Entry in the above-referenced docket, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (“Columbia”) submits this Initial Comment for Commission consideration. Columbia does not object to giving customers the option of third-party verification through a digital platform. However, Columbia requests the Commission ensure that Direct must still provide the TPVs to Columbia upon request, pursuant to Ohio Adm. Code 4901:1-29-06(D)(6)(b)(v).

Respectfully submitted by,

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

/s/ Joseph M. Clark

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the parties referenced on the service list of the docket card who have electronically subscribed to the case. In addition, the undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing document is also being served via electronic mail on the 8th day of August, 2019 upon the parties listed below.

/s/ Joseph M. Clark

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Summary: Comments /Initial Comments electronically filed by Cheryl A MacDonald on behalf of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.