



July 23, 2019

Barcey F. McNeal
Secretary
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor
Columbus, OH 43215-3793

RE: Pike Natural Gas Company, Case No. 19-1456-GA-RDR

Dear Ms. McNeal:

Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAEO) has managed the Demand Side Management Program for Pike Natural Gas Company (Pike) since its inception in 2010. We agree that the program has run its course, and the rider should be terminated. However, our member agencies are prepared to effectively spend the balance of the rider that has already been collected to serve the most vulnerable customers of Pike.

The Staff Audit did not find any financial irregularities. Evaluations of our programs conducted under industry-standard protocols and paid for by our utility funders have documented substantial savings for clients. All the customers served under the Pike program were income eligible, qualifying for service under the Home Weatherization Assistance Program, and were approved by the Company, consistent with the Stipulation approved by the Commission on June 16, 2010, which required that OPAEO would "...initially focus on reducing the demand of high-use low-income percentage of income plan ("PIPP") customers". [Emphasis added.] Stipulation at 4 (March 19, 2010).

We believe the balance of the funding available from the Rider, \$36,680.75, can be effectively spent in partnership with the utility, and will have a larger impact on the community than returning customers roughly \$5. We are coming into the winter heating season, and will begin getting 'no heat' calls after the first cold snap. These funds will provide us the resources to restore services to customers and weatherize their homes. That is why this money was collected, and we stand ready to serve Pike's customers as we have since 2011, if given the opportunity.

OPAEO requests it be allowed to finish the job.

Sincerely,

David C. Rinebolt
Executive Director and Counsel

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Case No(s). 19-1456-GA-RDR

Summary: Correspondence Letter to Docket electronically filed by Mr. David C Rinebolt on behalf of Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy