

**Andrew J. Campbell**  
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May 3, 2021

Ms. Barcy F. McNeal  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: *In re The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio*, Case No. 21-0523-GA-EDP

Dear Ms. McNeal:

On December 20, 2017, The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio (DEO) filed an application in Case Nos. 17-2514-GA-ATA and 17-2515-GA-IDR requesting authority to establish an Infrastructure Development Rider (IDR). The IDR application sought to establish the rider, but did not request recovery of any amounts. The IDR application was approved on May 2, 2018. DEO has since received approval for several economic development projects, and on September 2, 2020, DEO filed tariffs setting an IDR rate of six cents per customer, effective with bills rendered on or after September 3, 2020.

Through this Economic Development Project Notice (the Notice), DEO requests authority to incur and defer infrastructure development costs for recovery through the IDR. DEO files this Notice in accordance with R.C. 4929.163 and Ohio Admin. Code 4901:1-43-03(A).

DEO has filed this Notice prior to beginning construction on the Project, and advises the Commission of the following information required by rule:

**(A) This notice shall contain the following information:**

**(1) The name and location of the project.**

The Project to which this Notice pertains involves an approximate 4,400-foot extension of a four-inch mainline from an existing pipeline at Geyers Chapel Road to the Wooster Innovation Park, located at Daisy Way, Wooster, OH 44691, in Wayne County. Wooster Innovation Park currently lacks any natural gas utility infrastructure.

The prospective development that this Project may benefit is the construction of a light manufacturing and distribution facility by Wooster Brush. This prospect requires access to natural gas to locate at Wooster Innovation Park.

DEO's understanding is that this prospect is in the final stages of the site selection process and anticipates making a final location decision soon, contingent upon the company obtaining economic, tax, and other incentives from applicable state and local governmental agencies.

**(2) A background of the subject company of the economic development project.**

Wooster Innovation Park is a 150-acre commercial/industrial development located in the Wooster, Ohio area.

Wooster Brush is evaluating the option to purchase approximately 44 acres of this development at or in the vicinity of 2500 Daisy Way in order to build a 400,000-square-foot light manufacturing and distribution center, with the capabilities to expand by an additional 200,000 square feet. Wooster Brush, located in Wooster, Ohio, produces over 2,000 products for painters. Established in 1851, it is one of the oldest manufacturers of brushes in the United States. Wooster Brush through its 170-year existence has been known for applicator innovation, including by inventing popular paintbrush styles, being the first to use nylon filaments for latex paints, and the first to use synthetic fabrics for roller covers. Madison Avenue in Wooster has remained the company's headquarters since 1909.

**(3) The level of total investment and capital expenditure by the subject company and the economic development impact. This description shall contain the following information:**

**(a) Estimated state and local taxable base increase.**

According to Wooster Brush, estimated retained payroll of \$2.23 million and \$702,000 in estimated new payroll is associated with the facility (exclusive of benefits) and its expected total investment is estimated at \$26 million, comprising \$20 million in building and land costs and \$6 million in machinery and equipment costs.

DEO does not have an estimate for any other state and local taxable base increases or tax impacts that may result from this Project.

**(b) Anticipated number of new jobs created and jobs retained by the project.**

According to Wooster Brush, the company will retain 50 jobs and create 25 new jobs at the new facility.

**(c) Description of the community served and the benefits to that community.**

Wooster is located in Wayne County, Ohio, and has a population of approximately 26,673, while the surrounding county population is approximately 115,710. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics for November 2020, Wayne County's

unemployment rate of 3.7% was slightly lower than Ohio's unemployment rate of 5.7%, while the City of Wooster's poverty rate is 14.3%. As discussed above, the Wooster area will retain up to 50 employees and welcome 25 new employees by opening the new facility in Wooster Innovation Park and will enjoy the resulting increase in payroll and property taxes. The utilization of the new development by the prospective developer, and the extension of natural gas service to the development, may also contribute to attracting other new employers to this development.

**(4) To the maximum extent practicable, a description of other potential locations that may compete with the proposed location, including the type, location, and time frame of potentially competing projects.**

DEO's understanding is that Wooster Brush is interested in this development because of its proximity to its current headquarters and its proximity to highways and railroads. Based on information provided to DEO, Ohio is in competition with Nevada for the proposed investment.

**(5) The level of infrastructure investment anticipated by the natural gas company. This description shall contain the following information:**

**(a) A description of how the infrastructure development costs are projected to generate a return less than the most recently authorized rate of return.**

The total infrastructure development cost of the Project is [REDACTED]. To meet DEO's authorized rate of return, a deposit of \$996,408, including the associated income tax impacts and financing costs, is required through IDR funding. Without IDR funding, this Project will earn less than DEO's authorized return and, accordingly, is not financially viable.

DEO would also note that in determining the deposit required for this Project, the Company has assumed a certain level of revenues, the exclusion of which would have increased the amount of the deposit required. In the event this Project generates incremental revenues (as defined in DEO's tariff) beyond the assumed level, DEO will consult with Staff prior to filing any subsequent rate adjustment to ensure that incremental revenues are fairly recognized but not double-counted.

As noted in DEO's Motion for a Protective Order filed in this docket, details regarding Project cost and responsibility are highly confidential and proprietary. Due to its confidential nature, DEO will meet with Commission Staff to discuss this information.

**(b) A description of how the utility will not exceed the one dollar and fifty cents recovery cap on a monthly basis from any single customer in this state.**

In Case No. 20-519-GA-IDR, DEO obtained approval to establish its IDR rate at \$0.06. The maximum \$996,408 requested in this Notice, in addition to any other pending or planned economic development projects, may be spread over DEO's approximately 1.2 million customers without exceeding the \$1.50 per customer monthly cap.

**(6) The support for the project by an economic development entity or chamber of commerce.**

In accordance with R.C. 4929.163(C)(4), DEO has attached as Exhibit A the support for the Project by Wooster Mayor Bob Breneman; and Jonathan Millea of the Wooster Growth Corporation.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrew J. Campbell

Andrew J. Campbell

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(Counsel is willing to accept service by email)

ATTORNEY FOR THE EAST OHIO GAS  
COMPANY D/B/A DOMINION ENERGY OHIO

# EXHIBIT A



**Wooster Growth Corporation**  
**City of Wooster's CIC**  
**538 N. Market Street.**  
**Wooster, Ohio 44691**

**OFFICERS**

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*John Scavelli*  
*Legal Counsel*

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio April 28, 2021  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Chair Jenifer French  
Commissioner M. Beth Trombold  
Commissioner Daniel Conway  
Commissioner Dennis Peters  
Commissioner Lawrence Friedeman

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*Dr. Michael Knopic*  
*Dr. Kris Boone*

**STAFF**

*Jonathan Millea*  
*Project Manager*

*Lynne DePaulo*  
*Recording Secretary*

**Re: Seeking PUCO's Support for The Wooster Brush Company with Dominion Energy Ohio Gas Betterment at Wooster Innovation Park**

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing today to express The Wooster Growth Corporation's support for funding through HB26 to Dominion Energy Ohio to extend gas lines and natural gas supply to the Wooster Innovation Park. A commitment to establish this betterment is critical to supporting an imminent basic-sector manufacturing business expansion at the site.

- **The Wooster Brush Company.** The facility being evaluated would be a 400,000-square-foot light manufacturing and distribution center, with the capabilities to expand by an additional 200,000 square feet. The expected total investment is estimated at \$26 million, comprising \$20 million in building and land costs and \$6 million in machinery and equipment costs. The estimated retained and new payroll associated with this facility (exclusive of benefits) is \$2.23 million and \$702,000, respectively. The estimated retained and new jobs associated with this facility are 50 and 25, respectively.

Without this betterment, this business project will be lost to Wayne County, given the competitiveness of this project, and potentially the State of Ohio. Separately, other businesses would also benefit from the flexibilities granted by an improved gas system, including Schaeffler USA, United Titanium, and Daisy Brand, each of which serve their products to a global market and continue to expand their technologies.

We wish to commend the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for their efforts to help our community support this economic opportunity. We are asking your organization's support in approving the funding necessary for the gas supply and capacity expansion in order to secure much-needed job growth in Wooster, Wayne County, and northeastern Ohio.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. On behalf of the Wooster Growth Corporation, thank you.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Millea  
Wooster Growth Corporation - Project Manager



*Robert F. Breneman, Mayor*

**CITY OF WOOSTER**  
538 N. Market Street  
P.O. Box 1128  
Wooster, Ohio 44691-7082

**Jonathan S. Millea AICP, CEcD**  
Development Coordinator  
Phone: (330) 263-5250  
Fax: (330) 263-5247  
Email: jmillea@woosteroh.com

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

April 28, 2021

Chair Jenifer French  
Commissioner M. Beth Trombold  
Commissioner Daniel Conway  
Commissioner Dennis Peters  
Commissioner Lawrence Friedeman

**Regarding: City of Wooster Seeks Support for PUCO's Approval of HB26 Funding to Support Dominion Energy Ohio Betterment at Community-Owned Wooster Innovation Park**

Dear Commissioners,

The City of Wooster thanks this Commission for its time and consideration of extending funding support to Dominion Energy Ohio for a critical betterment at our community-owned Wooster Innovation Park which will support a major business expansion that would retain and create jobs for our community and the State of Ohio. The current lack of capacity is threatening the relocation of this important expansion to an alternative site outside of the State of Ohio.

This company serves as a leader in our business community. Our community, and the State of Ohio, would benefit greatly from being able to accommodate its expansion in Wooster. In addition to the City's previous \$2.8MM investment to acquire and prepare the site with infrastructure, JobsOhio has partnered to support this business project to secure its expansion at the Wooster Innovation Park.

The Wooster Brush Company. The facility being evaluated would be a 400,000-square-foot light manufacturing and distribution center, with the capabilities to expand by an additional 200,000 square feet. The expected total investment is estimated at \$26 million, comprising \$20 million in building and land costs and \$6 million in machinery and equipment costs. The estimated retained and new payroll associated with this facility (exclusive of benefits) is \$2.23 million and \$702,000, respectively. The estimated retained and new jobs associated with this facility are 50 and 25, respectively.

Limited gas capacity is the constraint holding this investment back. In addition, neighboring companies are at risk as their demand for gas increases without the proposed betterments. Support for funding through HB26 would ensure that the gas capacity issue is addressed and will directly result in new investment and job creation supporting the economic welfare of our community and our State.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the information above. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bob Breneman  
Mayor

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**5/3/2021 4:27:27 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 21-0523-GA-EDP**

Summary: Application In the Matter of the Application for Approval of an Economic Development Project: Wooster Innovation Park electronically filed by Christopher T Kennedy on behalf of The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio