

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In The Matter of The Application of Columbia)	
Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Amend its)	
Filed Tariffs to Increase the Rates and Charges)	Case No. 21-637-GA-AIR
for Gas Services and Related Matters.)	

In The Matter of The Application of Columbia)	
Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of an)	
Alternative form of Regulation.)	Case No. 21-638-GA-ALT

In The Matter of The Application of Columbia)	
Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of a Demand)	
Side Management Program for Its Residential)	Case No. 21-639-GA-UNC
and Commercial Customers.)	

In The Matter of The Application of Columbia)	
Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval To Change)	
Accounting Methods)	Case No. 21-640-GA-AAM

**NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL’S
MOTION TO INTERVENE**

Pursuant to R.C. 4903.221, and O.A.C. 4901-1-11, the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (“NOPEC”) respectfully requests that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio grant its motion to intervene in these proceedings. The reasons supporting NOPEC’s motion to intervene are contained in the accompanying Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,



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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

The Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (“NOPEC”) is a regional council of governments established under R.C. Chapter 167, and is the largest governmental retail energy aggregator in Ohio. It is comprised of approximately 244 member communities in nineteen (19) counties. NOPEC provides energy aggregation service to approximately one million residential and small commercial retail customers in the state, including retail natural gas customers in Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.’s (“COH”) service territory. NOPEC is the governmental retail gas aggregator in 65 NOPEC member communities served by COH, and is the largest natural gas governmental aggregator in all of COH’s service territory. NOPEC has been an active participant in Ohio’s competitive natural gas and electric markets since their inception, and has arranged supply contracts that have resulted in significant customer savings and benefits since 2001.

On June 30, 2021, Columbia filed an application (“Application”) to: (1) change its distribution rates; (2) modify its rate class structure; (3) make various other changes to its tariffs and accounting methods, recover approved cost deferrals since the last rate case; (4) and adopt new riders. Columbia’s Application, if approved by the Commission, may impact customers served by NOPEC.

R.C. 4903.221(B) and OAC Rule 4901-1-11(A)(2) govern intervention in Commission proceedings. Substantially similar in substance, these provisions provide that the Commission may consider the following in determining whether to grant intervention:

- (1) The nature and extent of the person’s interest;¹
- (2) The legal position of the person seeking intervention and its relation to the merits of the case;²
- (3) Whether intervention would unduly delay the proceeding or unjustly prejudice any existing party;³
- (4) The person’s potential contribution to full development and equitable resolution of the issues involved in the proceeding;⁴ and
- (5) The extent to which the person’s interest is represented by existing parties.⁵

NOPEC has a real and substantial interest in these proceedings considering that COH seeks to increase rates for NOPEC’s natural gas aggregation residential and commercial customers located in 65 member communities in COH’s territory. NOPEC has a substantial interest that its customer choice aggregation customers are assessed only reasonable costs and terms of service for natural gas distribution service.

¹ R.C. 4903.221(B)(1) and OAC 4901-1-11(B)(1).

² R.C. 4903.221(B)(2) and OAC 4901-1-11(B)(2).

³ R.C. 4903.221(B)(3) and OAC 4901-1-11(B)(3).

⁴ R.C. 4903.221(B)(4) and OAC 4901-1-11(B)(4).


⁵ OAC 4901-1-11(B)(5).

NOPEC's motion to intervene will not unduly delay these proceedings, or unjustly prejudice any existing party. NOPEC will work cooperatively with others in the case in order to maximize case efficiency, where practical, to reach an equitable resolution of all issues.

Finally, NOPEC submits that no current party represents its unique interests in assuring that rates and terms of service to its natural gas customer choice aggregation customers are just and reasonable. Disposition of these proceedings without its participation will impair or impede NOPEC's ability to protect those interests.

WHEREFORE, NOPEC respectfully request that its motion to intervene be granted.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

In accordance with Rule 4901-1-05, Ohio Administrative Code, the PUCO's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document upon the following parties. In addition, I hereby certify that a service copy of the foregoing *Motion to Intervene* was sent by, or on behalf of, the undersigned counsel to the following parties of record this 28th day of September 2021.



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This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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9/28/2021 5:10:06 PM

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Case No(s). 21-0637-GA-AIR, 21-0638-GA-ALT, 21-0639-GA-UNC, 21-0640-GA-AAM

Summary: Motion to Intervene and Memorandum in Support by Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council electronically filed by Teresa Orahod on behalf of Devin D. Parram