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Subject: FW: Fwd: written testimony for July 13 hearing re Columbia Gas [ref:_00Dt0GzXt._5008y4TSdY:ref]
Date: Wednesday, June 22, 2022 10:54:14 AM
Attachments: [PUCO testimony re Columbia Gas 061822.pdf](#)

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From: M S [msilver51@gmail.com]
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Subject: Fwd: written testimony for July 13 hearing re Columbia Gas

trying again. Hopefully this is a better address. Please let me know if the attachment doesn't work....

Ideally, I would like to hear back to you that you received this.

Thanks!

M

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From: M S <msilver51@gmail.com>
Date: Sat, Jun 18, 2022 at 8:36 AM
Subject: written testimony for July 13 hearing re Columbia Gas
To: <THE-PUCO@puco.ohio.gov>

Case numbers 21-0637-GA-AIR, 21-0638-GA-ALT, 21-0639-GA-UNC. 21-0640-GA-AAM.

Attached please find my testimony for these case numbers.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Silver, MD, FACP
Cleveland, Ohio

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June 18, 2022

Testimony for the PUCO
re Columbia Gas of Ohio distribution rate hike proposal.

While it is clear that methane leaks are poisoning our climate and extremely dangerous to us all, we need a much more creative and forward looking approach to our aging gas pipeline infrastructure than just replacing old pipes.

One outstanding proposal is described in this article:

<https://www.canarymedia.com/articles/utilities/a-net-zero-future-for-gas-utilities-switching-to-underground-thermal-networks>

Rather than make the arguably wrong investment in replacing gas pipes that should really be eliminated, instead, we need to immediately consider conversion to ground source geothermal on a community basis as described in the article. The approach is a win-win-win one, using the talents, expertise, equipment, and organizational knowhow of the methane gas industry to facilitate an essential and life-sustaining conversion to carbon free systems for heating and cooling our residential and commercial structures.

No rate hike should be approved for any gas company until they demonstrate how they will be keystone participants in the conversion to zero or near zero carbon infrastructure that we must create within the next 7 years if we and our children are to have a livable world.

Today's Plain Dealer has a front page article indicating that Ohio still has billions of dollars in American Rescue Plan Act money that needs to be allocated. Those funds could be a source for collaborative planning for conversion from gas infrastructure to community ground source geothermal infrastructure for many communities across Ohio.

In every case, we must understand that "natural gas" is methane, the highly potent greenhouse gas, an important target for rapid reduction in our efforts to control climate change and global warming.

In summary, all methane gas companies in Ohio should be required to immediately engage in becoming keystone participants in conversion to community based ground source geothermal energy or an alternative they may propose that achieves the essential conversion to zero or near zero carbon infrastructure that we must create within the next 7 years if we and our children are to have a livable world. No rate hike should be approved unless these requirements are met.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Silver, MD, FACP
Cleveland, Ohio

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

Summary: Public Comment of Marcia Silver, via website, electronically filed by
Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing