

**From:** [M.S](#)  
**To:** [Puco Docketing](#)  
**Subject:** testimony for upcoming hearing for Columbia Gas  
**Date:** Wednesday, June 22, 2022 12:10:05 PM  
**Attachments:** [PUCO testimony re Columbia Gas 061822.pdf](#)

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Attached please find my written testimony for the hearing.  
Kindly let me know you received it and it will be shared with the Board and the public for this hearing.  
Thanks.  
Marcia Silver  
Cuyahoga County, 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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AAM**

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