

Public Utilities Hearing

Case No. 23-154-GA-AIR; 23-155-GA-ATA;  
23-156-GA-ALT

Moderated by Isabel M. Marcelletti  
Tuesday, December 5, 2023  
6:01 p.m.

Wooster Community Center  
241 South Bever Street  
Wooster, OH 44691

Reported by: Nic Joseph  
JOB NO.: 6166738

A P P E A R A N C E S

List of Attendees:

Isabel M. Marcelletti, Administrative Law Judge for  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Kari Hehmeyer, Attorney Representing Northeast Ohio  
Natural Gas Corporation (NEO)

Roger Sarver, Gas Supply Manager for Northeast Ohio  
Natural Gas Corporation (NEO)

Don Kral, Assistant Consumers' Counsel for Ohio  
Consumers' Counsel

Tonja Stewart Shaw, Senior Outreach and Education  
Specialist for Ohio Consumers' Counsel

P R O C E E D I N G S

THE REPORTER: Good evening. My name is Nic Joseph; I am the reporter assigned by Veritext to take the record of this proceeding. This is the public hearing taken In the Matter of The Application of Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corporation, on December 5, 2023, at 241 South Bever Street, Wooster, Ohio 44691. We are on the record at 6:01 p.m.

MS. MARCELLETTI: Good evening. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio calls for public hearing at this time and place, case number 23-154-GA-AIR, et al., which is captioned In the Matter of the Application of Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corporation for an Increase in Gas Distribution Rates.

My name is Issy Marcelletti, and I am the attorney examiner assigned by the commission to conduct this public hearing. There is also a representative from the commission staff to my right at the table. She is available if you have questions concerning the commission's process if you need assistance in accessing any of the documents submitted in this case, or if you have any general questions about the hearing tonight.

And at this time, I would like to take the appearances of the parties starting with NEO.

1 MS. HEHMEYER: Thank you.

2 Good evening, Your Honor. I'm Kari  
3 Heymeyer from Benesch Law, and I'm counsel for the  
4 company. And with me as company representative, I  
5 have Roger Sarver who is gas supply manager. And he's  
6 here tonight to answer any questions that any  
7 attendees may have.

8 MS. MARCELLETTI: Great. Thank you,  
9 NEO.

10 And on behalf of OCC, Mr. Kral.

11 MR. KRAL: Yes, Your Honor. Thank you.  
12 My name is Don Kral, Office of the Ohio Consumers'  
13 Counsel, 65 East State Street, Suite 700, Columbus,  
14 Ohio 43215. And with me today is Tonja Stewart Shaw,  
15 an outreach specialist from our office.

16 MS. MARCELLETTI: Thank you, Mr. Kral.

17 The subject of tonight's public hearing  
18 is Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corporation, which I  
19 will refer to as NEO tonight, and its application to  
20 increase its natural gas distribution rate, which has  
21 also been consolidated with an application for a  
22 tariff approval, and for an application approval for  
23 an alternative rate plan.

24 Now at this time, I will note that no  
25 one has showed up to testify yet, so we will give it

1 about 15-ish minutes to let folks get here who are  
2 running late and also may have some issues with  
3 weather.

4 So right now, we'll go off the record,  
5 please.

6 THE REPORTER: Okay. We're going to go  
7 off the record at 6:03 p.m.

8 (Off the record.)

9 THE REPORTER: We are back on the  
10 record at 6:23 p.m.

11 MS. MARCELLETTI: On the record the  
12 purpose of tonight's hearing was to receive comments  
13 from the public regarding the application that has  
14 been filed by NEO in this case number.

15 Tonight's hearing was only one aspect  
16 of the process. There will also be an evidentiary  
17 hearing for the company, staff, and parties granted  
18 intervention to present their case to the commission.  
19 This evidentiary hearing is currently scheduled to  
20 convene on January 23, 2024, at the commission's  
21 offices in Columbus.

22 I'd like to note for the record, that  
23 no one has signed up to testify regarding NEO's  
24 pending application tonight and it is currently 6:23.  
25 However, any folks who were unable to make it tonight

1 may file written comments under the case docket.

2 I would like to thank everyone for  
3 traveling here tonight and thank you to Wooster  
4 Community Center for allowing us to conduct the  
5 hearing tonight.

6 The hearing is now concluded and the  
7 transcript will be submitted to the record for this  
8 case and we are adjourned.

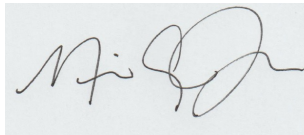
9 Thank you, everyone.

10 THE REPORTER: All right. We're going  
11 to go off the record at 6:24 p.m.

12 (Whereupon, at 6:24 p.m., the  
13 proceeding was concluded.)  
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CERTIFICATE

I, NIC JOSEPH, the officer before whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn; that the proceedings were recorded by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.



NIC JOSEPH

Notary Public in and for the  
State of Ohio

## CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER

I, CHRISTINE O'MALLEY, do hereby certify that this transcript was prepared from the digital audio recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any of the parties to the action in which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of any counsel or attorney employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christine O'Malley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. It is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

CHRISTINE O'MALLEY



<b>1</b>	<b>action</b> 7:12,16 8:8,12	<b>best</b> 7:9 8:6 <b>bever</b> 1:12 3:7	<b>consumers</b> 2:9 2:10,12 4:12
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**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities  
Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on  
12/20/2023 3:57:29 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 23-0154-GA-AIR, 23-0155-GA-ATA, 23-0156-GA-ALT**

Summary: Transcript of local public hearing held on December 5, 2023 at 6:00 pm,  
at Wooster Community Center, 241 South Bever Street, Wooster, OH 44691  
electronically filed by Debbie S. Ryan on behalf of Nic Joseph, Court Reporter.