

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Commission's )  
Investigation of the Customer Choice ) Case No. 98-593-GA-COI  
Program of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. )

In the Matter of the Commission's )  
Investigation of the Energy Choice ) Case No. 98-594-GA-COI  
Program of The East Ohio Gas )  
Company.

In the Matter of the Commission's )  
Investigation of the Customer Choice ) Case No. 98-595-GA-COI  
Program of The Cincinnati Gas & )  
Electric Company. )

ENTRY

The Commission finds:

- (1) Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia), The East Ohio Gas Company (East Ohio), and The Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company (CG&E) are public utilities as defined in Section 4905.02, Revised Code, and, as such, are subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
- (2) On October 17, 1996, Columbia filed for approval of its Full Requirements General and Small General Transportation Service Tariffs in order to establish its Customer Choice program. The program is to make gas transportation service available to residential, small commercial, and human needs customers. By Opinion and Order dated January 9, 1997 in Case No. 96-1113-GA-ATA, being *In the Matter of the Application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. to Establish the Columbia Customer Choice Program*, the Commission approved Columbia's Customer Choice program subject to the incorporation of certain recommendations of the Commission's staff and other modifications of the Commission. The first phase of the program, which began on April 1, 1997, was in effect in the Toledo/Lucas County area for a one-year period.
- (3) On September 25, 1996, East Ohio filed, pursuant to Section 4909.18, Revised Code, an application for approval of two new transportation services, a new pooling agreement, and a revised transportation migration rider to be implemented

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in conjunction with a new Core Market Aggregation Service, (Energy Choice program). On July 2, 1997, the Commission issued its Opinion and Order in *In the Matter of the Application of The East Ohio Gas Company for Authority to Implement Two New Transportation Services, For Approval of a New Pooling Agreement, and for Approval of a Revised Transportation Migration Rider* (Case No. 96-1019-GA-ATA) approving, subject to certain modifications, East Ohio's Energy Choice program. Enrollment in the initial 18-month phase of the Energy Choice program began in October 1997. The program provides approximately 173,000 residential, commercial, and industrial customers in ten counties the opportunity to select their provider of gas service.

- (4) On May 19, 1997, CG&E filed a stipulation in Case No. 95-656-GA-AIR, being *In the Matter of the Application of the Cincinnati Gas & Electric Company for an Increase in its Rates for Gas Service to All Jurisdictional Customers*, to resolve the Commission's directive in the December 12, 1996 Opinion and Order for CG&E and interested parties to develop revised firm transportation and residential firm transportation tariffs. On July 2, 1997, the Commission issued its Supplemental Opinion and Order approving CG&E's pilot Customer Choice program which started in November 1997. All of CG&E's approximate 360,000 gas customers are now eligible to choose an alternative gas marketer.
- (5) On June 18, 1998, the Commission issued an Opinion and Order approving the continuation and/or expansion of the pilot gas choice programs previously implemented by Columbia, East Ohio, and CG&E. For Columbia, the gas choice program was expanded to include all 1.3 million of its customers throughout the state. CG&E's program continues to be offered to all 360,000 of the gas customers in its service area; and East Ohio's gas choice program continues to be offered to approximately 160,000 of its customers in 10 counties in northeast and southeast Ohio.
- (6) In its June 18, 1998 order, the Commission directed Columbia, East Ohio, and CG&E to review the progress of the programs and prepare reports for a review by the Commission's staff in the spring of 1999. The order further directed the staff to submit a report to the Commission after analyzing the data and information gathered with respect to

the utilities' programs, and to offer recommendations regarding the various choice programs.

- (7) The staff has reviewed the performance of the programs of all three utilities and submitted its findings and recommendations to the Commission on June 30, 1999.
- (8) The Commission wishes to provide all interested persons the opportunity to file written comments regarding the staff's report. The deadline for filing comments will be August 2, 1999. Reply comments will be due by August 9, 1999. It is the Commission's desire to review the staff's evaluation of the programs and the comments filed, and to take appropriate actions in an expeditious manner. Therefore, the Commission will not entertain motions for extension of time of the comment period. Interested persons filing comments need not file motions to intervene.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That interested persons shall have until August 2, 1999 to file comments to the staff's June 30, 1999 report, and shall have until August 9, 1999 to file reply comments. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this entry be served upon all interested parties of record in these cases.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Alan R. Schriber, Chairman

  
Ronda Hartman Fergus

Craig A. Glazer

  
Judith A. Jones

Donald L. Mason

RRG/SP;jkg

Entered in the Journal

JUL 15 1999

A True Copy

Gary E. Vigorito  
Secretary

SERVICE NOTICE  
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PAGE 1

CASE NUMBER 98-595-GA-COI  
CASE DESCRIPTION CINCINNATI GAS & ELECTRIC CO.  
DOCUMENT SIGNED ON July 15, 1999  
DATE OF SERVICE 7-16-99

PERSONS SERVED  
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PARTIES OF RECORD

ATTORNEYS

APPLICANT

CINCINNATI GAS & ELECTRIC CO.  
139 EAST FOURTH STREET  
P.O. BOX 960  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201

NONE

BILL TUCKER  
CINERGY CORP.  
139 EAST FOURTH STREET  
P.O. BOX 960  
CINCINNATI, OH 43201-0960

WILLIAM A. GINN  
CINCINNATI GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY  
139 E. FOURTH STREET  
P.O. BOX 960  
CINCINNATI, OH 45202

JAMES B. GAINER  
CINERGY CORPORATION  
139 EAST FOURTH ST.  
P.O. BOX 960  
CINCINNATI, OH 45201-0960

INTERVENOR

COLUMBIA ENERGY SERVICES CORP.

SALLY W. BLOOMFIELD  
BRICKER & ECKLER  
100 SOUTH THIRD STREET  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215

INTERVENOR

DAYTON POWER & LIGHT COMPANY  
P.O. BOX 8825  
DAYTON, OH 45401

RICHARD D. REID  
DAYTON POWER & LIGHT COMPANY  
P.O. BOX 8825  
DAYTON, OH 45401

INTERVENOR

EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY  
T. D. NEWLAND, PRESIDENT  
1717 E. NINTH ST., P.O. BOX 5759  
CLEVELAND, OH 44141-0759

HELEN L. LIEBMAN  
JONES DAY, REAVIS & POGUE  
1900 HUNTINGTON CENTER  
41 S. HIGH ST.  
COLUMBUS, OH 43215

INTERVENOR

ENRON GAS SERVICES GROUP  
MR. DAVID LAIPPLE  
400 METRO PLACE, NORTH  
DUBLIN, OH 43017

M. HOWARD PETRICOFF  
VORYS, SATER, SEYMOUR & PEASE  
52 EAST GAY STREET  
P.O. BOX 1008  
COLUMBUS, OH 43216-1008

INTERVENOR

ENSERCH ENERGY SERVICES, INC.  
MR. WAYNE ROBERTS  
680 ANDERSEN DRIVE SUITE 200  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15220-2700

THOMAS W. POUNDS  
VICE PRESIDENT, LEGAL SERVICES  
ENSERCH ENERGY SERVICES, INC.  
1301 FANNIN ST. SUITE 2300  
HOUSTON, TX 77002

INTERVENOR

STAND ENERGY CORPORATION  
ROBERT P. ROBISON, PRESIDENT  
1077 CELESTIAL ST. ROCKWOOD BLDG.  
CINCINNATI, OH 45202

WILLIAM F. PETERS, GENERAL MANAGER  
STAND ENERGY CORPORATION  
1077 CELESTIAL ST. ROCKWOOD BLDG.  
CINCINNATI, OH 45202

Judith A. Phillips  
Stand Energy Corporation  
1077 Celestial Street, Suite # 110  
Cincinnati, OH 45202

INTERVENOR

OFFICE OF CONSUMERS' COUNSEL  
77 S. HIGH ST  
15TH FLOOR  
COLUMBUS, OH 43266-0550

ERIC B. STEPHENS  
OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL  
77 S. HIGH STREET, 15TH FL.  
COLUMBUS, OH 43266-0550

----- INTERESTED PARTIES -----

UNITED GAS MANAGEMENT, INC.  
A. C. (Tony) LEWIS, VICE PRESIDENT  
TWO GATEWAY CTR., STE. 5 NORTH  
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222

NONE