

## BEFORE

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Investigation into Long- )  
 Term Solutions Concerning Disconnection ) Case No. 83-303-GE-COI  
 of Gas and Electric Service in Winter ) (Phase I)  
 Emergencies. )

ENTRY

The Commission finds:

- (1) On October 18, 2000, the Commission issued an entry in this case directing that, pursuant to authority provided by Section 4909.16, Revised Code, the gas and natural gas companies and the electric distribution utilities under our jurisdiction reconnect, forthwith, the service of those who have had their service disconnected for nonpayment or maintain the service of those who have received a notice that their service is to be disconnected for nonpayment, provided that the person seeking to have service restored or maintained meets certain conditions set forth in the entry. At that time, we did not impose a general moratorium on the disconnection of gas, natural gas, or electric service for nonpayment of bills.
- (2) Since the issuance of the Commission's October 18, 2000 entry, there has been a sharp increase in the cost of natural gas and one of the coldest winters on record in Ohio. Governor Taft in his January 24, 2001 State of the State Address expressed concern that many customers of gas, natural gas, and electric service will not be able to pay their increased winter heating bills. The Commission shares this view. In the opinion of the Commission, the current situation constitutes an emergency within the meaning of Section 4909.16, Revised Code, and immediate action is necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public.
- (3) The Commission finds that each gas, natural gas, or electric distribution utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction should be prohibited from disconnecting residential gas or electric service for nonpayment of bills for a 60-day period, commencing with the issuance of this entry, as long as the customer is at the time of this entry on an extended payment plan with the utility, or the customer agrees to enroll in the percentage of income payment (PIP) plan set out in Rule 4901:1-18-04(B), Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.), if eligible, or, other Commission ordered payment plans. We also expect gas, natural gas, and electric distribution utilities under our jurisdiction to assist customers in every way possible to maintain their service. We expect these utilities to advertise as

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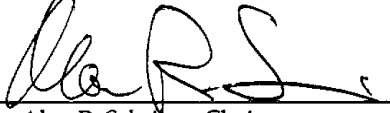
much as practicable the availability of the PIP plan as well as the other standard plans provided by the Commission's rule.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That, each gas, natural gas, or electric distribution utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction is hereby prohibited from disconnecting residential gas or electric service for non-payment of bills for a 60-day period, commencing with the issuance of this entry, as long as the customer is at the time of this entry on an extended payment plan with the utility, or the customer agrees to enroll in the percentage of income payment plan set out in Rule 4901:1-18-04(B), O.A.C., if eligible, or, another extended payment plan offered by the utility. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon each party served with a copy of our October 18, 2000 entry in this matter.

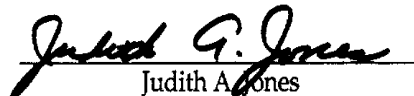
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO



Alan R. Schriber, Chairman



Ronda Hartman Fergus



Judith A. Jones

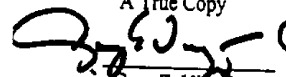
Donald L. Mason

RRG:geb

Entered in the Journal

JAN 25 2001

A True Copy



Gary E. Vigorito  
Secretary