CASE NO. 2011-00017



January 7, 2011

Jeff R. Derouen, Executive Director Public Service Commission 211 Sower Boulevard P.O. Box 615 Frankfort, Kentucky 40602 JAN 1 1 2011 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Re: Request for Waiver of Odorization Testing

Dear Mr. Derouen,

Under Kentucky PSC regulations rules 807KAR 5022, Section 13(17), every gas utility is required to maintain odorization of gas so that it is detectable at 1/5 of LEL.

The section requires the utility to sample gases in each separately odorized system at the approximate furthest point from injection of the odorant. These rules are similar to US DOT regulations in 49 CFR Part 192. Kentucky specifies testing intervals of roughly every Quarter for 10 or fewer customers at (g)(3), and every week for systems with more than 10 customers (g)(4).

Kentucky Frontier Gas has acquired numerous tiny gas companies in eastern Kentucky starting in December 2008. Some of those systems had complied with weekly odorization testing, but most has not. Frontier has attempted to strictly comply, using an Odorator-type air mixing device to verify 1/5 LEL. With many tiny systems, we find this to be heavily time consuming with negligible safety benefit.

Frontier currently operates 14 separate gas distribution systems with about 2500 customers, mostly in Floyd and Pike counties. All but a couple of these have more than 10 customers. Frontier also operates about 1000 farm tap customers off several producers' pipelines not subject to this regulation.

All of these systems are supplied with locally produced gas, which is dehydrated but mostly unprocessed to remove hydrocarbons. The gas distinctly "smells like gas", and all of our Odorator tests confirm that the odor falls within Kentucky requirements. The gas characteristics are stable over time, since many of the producing wells have flowed for decades. The test show little variation from week to week or year to year.

Kentucky Frontier Gas, LLC

We are familiar with supplemental odorization since we operate odorizers on other gas utilities outside of Kentucky; but we haven't found that any of our systems really need additional odor.

The PSC apparently recognizes these characteristics of local eastern Kentucky gas, since it has granted waivers of Weekly testing to various utilities (for example, Case 97-265 for Jefferson Gas). Cow Creek Gas submitted a petition for waiver in Case 2009-00031, but later withdrew that petition for some reason.

Frontier respectfully requests a waiver of the weekly odorization tests and suggests the following testing regimen:

475 meters
480 meters
600 meters
250 meters
250 meters
100 meters
12 meters
50 meters
10 meters
40 meters
50 meters
60 meters
50 meters

In support of this request, we offer our odorization testing records for the various systems at our offices in Prestonsburg.

Sincerely, Rich, Managing Member Ny J. Cc: Robert Oxford

People's Gas at Phelps

Steve Shute

Kentucky Frontier Gas, LLC

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80 meters