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June 21, 2010

**RE: AN INVESTIGATION OF NATURAL GAS RETAIL  
COMPETITION PROGRAMS  
Case No. 2010-00146**

Dear Mr. DeRouen:

Enclosed please find and accept for filing the original and ten (10) copies of Louisville Gas and Electric Company's Testimony of J. Clay Murphy and Pamela L. Jaynes, pursuant to the Order dated June 8, 2010 in the above referenced docket.

Should you have any questions please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Rick E. Lovekamp

cc: Parties of Record

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

RECEIVED

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

JUN 21 2010

PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION

In the Matter of: )  
 )  
 AN INVESTIGATION OF )  
 NATURAL GAS RETAIL )  
 COMPETITION PROGRAMS )

CASE NO: 2010-00146

TESTIMONY OF  
J. CLAY MURPHY  
DIRECTOR – GAS MANAGEMENT, PLANNING, AND SUPPLY  
LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

Filed: June 21, 2010

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. My name is J. Clay Murphy and my business address is 820 West Broadway, Louisville,  
3 Kentucky.

4 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

5 A. I am the Director – Gas Management, Planning, and Supply for Louisville Gas and  
6 Electric Company (“LG&E”).

7 **Q. What is your role as Director – Gas Management, Planning, and Supply?**

8 A. I am responsible for overseeing the procurement of natural gas supplies and pipeline  
9 transportation services for LG&E, end-use natural gas transportation services, and  
10 regulatory issues related to LG&E’s pipeline transportation service providers. I am also  
11 involved in a number of other regulatory and planning activities and initiatives related to  
12 LG&E’s natural gas business.

13 **Q. What is your educational background and work experience?**

14 A. I graduated from Bellarmine College in Louisville, Kentucky, with a B. A. degree in  
15 Accounting in 1979. I graduated from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, with  
16 an M.B.A. in 1981. I was employed by LG&E in the same year in the Rate Department,  
17 where I remained until 1986 when I transferred to the newly created Gas Supply  
18 Department. I became manager of that department in 1989 and director in 2000. A  
19 statement of my education and work experience is contained in Appendix A.

20 **Q. Have you previously testified before the Kentucky Public Service Commission**  
21 **(“Commission”)?**

22 A. Yes. I submitted written testimony in the Commission’s Administrative Case No. 346,  
23 “An Investigation of the Impact of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s Order

1 636 on Kentucky Consumers and Suppliers of Natural Gas.” I have also submitted  
2 testimony in previous rate proceedings, including Case Nos. 2000-00080, 2003-00433,  
3 and 2008-00252, as well as in other proceedings before this Commission.

4 **Q. Is anyone else providing testimony on behalf of LG&E in this proceeding?**

5 A. Yes. Pamela L. Jaynes, Gas Supply Manager, is providing testimony on relevant matters  
6 based on a review of the Energy Information Administration (“EIA”) report entitled  
7 “Status of Natural Gas Residential Choice Programs by State as of December 2009”  
8 released on May 17, 2010 (hereinafter “2009 EIA Report”). Specifically, Ms. Jaynes’  
9 testimony will describe unbundling and retail choice experiences in other jurisdictions,  
10 with a focus on customer gas cost savings and potential areas of concern.

11 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this case?**

12 A. I will begin by stating LG&E’s position as it relates to retail choice and any expansion of  
13 current natural gas transportation programs. I will continue with an overview of the  
14 regulated natural gas local distribution company (“LDC”) in its role as a seller of natural  
15 gas to retail customers; provide comments upon the elements that should be considered in  
16 expanding natural gas retail choice programs found on pages 4 and 5 and in Appendix B  
17 in the Commission’s Order of April 19, 2010, in this case; and address certain other  
18 issues related to the subject of this proceeding.

19 **Q. Please describe LG&E’s gas distribution business.**

20 A. LG&E’s gas business is committed to providing safe and reliable natural gas service,  
21 quality customer service, and reasonable rates. In particular, LG&E strives to work with  
22 its customers to resolve service and payment issues. LG&E’s gas distribution business  
23 serves approximately 317,000 gas customers in Jefferson County and 16 surrounding

1 counties. LG&E's gas distribution assets include approximately 4,200 miles of gas  
2 distribution pipe, over 380 miles of transmission pipe, and five underground gas storage  
3 fields. For the 12 months ended April 2009, LG&E's annual throughput volume was  
4 about 44 Bcf. About one quarter of LG&E's throughput was gas transported for large  
5 volume commercial and industrial customers; about half was gas sold to residential  
6 customers; and about one quarter was gas sold to commercial customers. Therefore, the  
7 bulk of LG&E's annual throughput is to high-priority, space-heating customers. LG&E  
8 is somewhat unusual among LDCs in that it owns and operates a large amount of on-  
9 system underground gas storage, which provides about half of LG&E's winter sales  
10 volumes.

11  
12 **I. LG&E's POSITION ON RETAIL CHOICE AND EXPANDED UNBUNDLING**

13  
14 **Q. What is retail choice?**

15 A. Retail choice is, generally speaking, the expansion of gas supply options to residential  
16 customers. Retail choice could also include the expansion of transportation options to  
17 smaller commercial and industrial customers. It differs from current gas transportation  
18 programs that offer these options only to large volume customers who are generally less  
19 in need of the consumer protections that must be afforded to smaller volume customers.

20 **Q. What is the position of LG&E with regard to retail choice and the expansion of**  
21 **current gas transportation programs to include those residential, commercial and**  
22 **industrial customers that do not currently have the ability to select an alternate gas**  
23 **supplier?**

1 A. LG&E believes that retail choice programs or further unbundling should not be mandated  
2 by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Such action prevents a comprehensive discussion of  
3 the many aspects of unbundling and its impact on each LDC and its customers.  
4 Furthermore, LG&E believes that the adoption of a gas retail choice program or the  
5 expansion of any current gas transportation programs should be left to the discretion of  
6 the LDC that must implement, manage, and administer the program. Because a  
7 disproportionate assignment of risk falls on the LDC in administering, managing, and  
8 operating its system under any broadened unbundling program, it should be up to the  
9 LDC to design and implement such program(s) at its discretion. This position is basically  
10 consistent with the findings of Administrative Case No. 367 initiated by the Commission  
11 in 1997.<sup>1</sup>

12 **Q. Are there any corollaries associated with this position?**

13 A. Yes. First, any retail choice program or any expansion of existing transportation  
14 programs should leave the LDC indifferent in terms of net revenue, *i.e.*, a change in  
15 customer gas supply options should not be at the expense of either the LDC or its  
16 customers. Second, any LDC that voluntarily opens its system or expands gas  
17 transportation offerings should be able to tailor its unbundling program(s) to its particular  
18 circumstances so as to maintain reliable gas service for all customers. Third, not only  
19 may LDCs need to tailor their unbundling programs, different transportation programs  
20 offered by the same LDC may have different characteristics and provisions.

21 **Q. Should utilities and utility consumers be concerned about extending choice to**  
22 **smaller customers?**

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<sup>1</sup> See Order in Administrative Case No. 367 dated July 1, 1998.

1 A. Yes, and for several reasons. Broadening the availability of natural gas transportation  
2 programs in general poses a number of concerns for LDCs and their customers. These  
3 concerns include potential exposure to higher costs and decreased reliability.  
4 Significantly, responsibility for the very product which utilities are obligated to provide  
5 to their customers is removed from their management and passed to a third party.  
6 Consequently, the natural gas component of the service provided by LDCs - and the price  
7 at which it is sold – is removed both from the purview of the LDC and the Commission.  
8 The cost of gas is the largest component of the bill, typically accounting for between 60%  
9 and 80% of a typical residential customer’s bill. Expanded unbundling offers no  
10 guaranteed reduction in gas costs for consumers yet brings with it potential exposure to  
11 risks associated with decreased reliability and increased operating costs. These could  
12 portend adverse impacts on customer satisfaction.

13 **Q. Will customers see savings with retail choice programs?**

14 A. Not necessarily. There is no guarantee that customers will save money. As Ms. Jaynes  
15 discusses in her testimony, the marketer’s offer may be higher than the LDC’s price.  
16 This should perhaps come as no surprise because both the LDC and the unregulated  
17 marketers are purchasing gas in the same marketplace – yet the LDC may recover only its  
18 actual gas supply costs while the marketer may make a profit on the gas it sells.  
19 Additionally, all customers may be required to bear the cost of expanded unbundling on  
20 the theory that choice is better – even though customers that remain with the LDC may  
21 not have caused the LDC to incur the cost of these programs. As a result of expanded  
22 unbundling initiatives such as retail choice, all customers could be exposed to stranded  
23 costs, transition costs, and “supplier of last resort” costs, as well as increased billing

1 costs, uncollectible costs, and customer-handling costs. There will also be costs  
2 associated with handling customer complaints, regulatory proceedings, and marketplace  
3 enforcement. LDCs will have decreased flexibility to manage their procurement  
4 activities in ways that now allow them to optimize system operations and provide lower  
5 gas costs to all customers. Some may wonder if unbundling could be a move away from  
6 efficiency.

7 **Q. Are there other risks associated with offering retail choice programs that the LDC**  
8 **may be required to shoulder?**

9 A. Yes. The LDC must administer the program to maintain system reliability and step into  
10 the breach if the marketer fails to deliver. The LDC could become the “supplier of last  
11 resort” if the marketer fails to follow through on its commitments. The LDC may also be  
12 required to bill customers on behalf of the marketer and assume the risk of any bad debt  
13 or uncollectibles created as a result of the marketer’s business activities. Consequently,  
14 the marketer’s business may be conducted on a playing field largely supported by the  
15 LDC. Importantly, the marketer may earn a profit on the sale of the natural gas – the  
16 same natural gas for which the LDC may only recover its costs.

17 **Q. Should the Commission be concerned about transferring the merchant function to**  
18 **unregulated marketers?**

19 A. Yes. Residential choice and the expansion of transportation options could greatly  
20 diminish the Commission’s ability to regulate prices offered to consumers, ensure that  
21 prices are fair, just and reasonable, and foster a marketplace that operates efficiently and  
22 reliably.

23 **Q. Does anyone clearly benefit from expanded unbundling?**



1 A. Yes. The marketer gains the opportunity to earn a profit on the sale of natural gas to the  
2 same customers to whom the LDC sells gas at no profit. The marketer's opportunity to  
3 benefit is greater the more it can rely upon the LDC to assume the marketer's business  
4 risks by managing the gas system, invoicing customers, and performing credit and  
5 collection functions for the marketer. The marketer's business model, particularly as  
6 described in recent legislation before the Kentucky General Assembly, relies largely upon  
7 the infrastructure created and managed by the LDC.

8 **Q. What have been the recent trends in retail choice program participation where such**  
9 **programs exist?**

10 A. Retail choice is floundering in most states, except where the LDC's merchant function  
11 has been or is being eliminated – leaving the retail customer with no effective choice  
12 except that of an unregulated marketer. The 2009 EIA Report and similar previous EIA  
13 reports indicate that residential participation in customer choice programs has been  
14 relatively flat over the last several years. Ms. Jaynes discusses this in greater detail in her  
15 testimony.

16

17 **II. STRUCTURE OF NATURAL GAS MARKETPLACE IN THE U.S. AND**  
18 **KENTUCKY**

19

20 **Q. Please describe the national marketplace for natural gas.**

21 A. The U.S. wholesale natural gas marketplace is not subject to price regulation. This has  
22 been the case since 1993 when the Natural Gas Wellhead Decontrol Act of 1989  
23 eliminated all remaining price regulation of wellhead sales and allowed the market to

1 determine the price of natural gas at the wellhead. As such, the market price of natural  
2 gas responds to perceived changes in supply and demand. Importantly, the Federal  
3 Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”) and other federal agencies do regulate the  
4 natural gas marketplace in order to foster market transparency and help ensure that prices  
5 are openly arrived at and markets are functioning well.

6 **Q. What about the interstate transportation of natural gas from the production area to**  
7 **the LDC?**

8 A. FERC regulates the rates and services offered by natural gas interstate pipeline  
9 companies. Importantly, FERC also helps ensure that the marketplace for natural gas  
10 transportation activities functions in an open and transparent manner by establishing rules  
11 and regulations that govern how parties must conduct business.

12 **Q. Has the Commission provided any guidance on how it expects LDCs in Kentucky to**  
13 **purchase the natural gas supplies that they re-sell to customers?**

14 A. Yes. That guidance is generally embodied in the orders from two administrative cases –  
15 Administrative Case No. 297 and Administrative Case No. 384.

16 **Q. What guidance was provided by the Commission in Administrative Case No. 297?**

17 A. In Administrative Case No. 297 the Commission affirmed that LDCs should “obtain gas  
18 at market clearing prices” and maintain “the reliability of supply to those customers  
19 dependent on firm supply service” indicating that LDCs should “seek to obtain the least-  
20 cost reliable supply of natural gas.”<sup>2</sup>

21 **Q. What guidance was provided by the Commission in Administrative Case No. 384?**

22 A. In Administrative Case No. 384 the Commission enhanced the earlier guidance provided  
23 in Administrative Case No. 297 by stating that “LDCs should maintain their objective of

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<sup>2</sup> See Commission Order in Administrative Case No. 297 dated May 29, 1987, at p. 28.

1       procuring wholesale natural gas supplies at market clearing prices, within the context of  
2       maintaining a balanced natural gas supply portfolio that balances the objectives of  
3       obtaining low cost gas supplies, minimizing price volatility and maintaining reliability of  
4       supply.”<sup>3</sup>

5       **Q.    Do these Commission orders apply to marketers?**

6       A.    No. The Commission cannot review a marketer’s purchasing processes or the purchase  
7       transactions that result therefrom. The Commission can neither approve nor reject the  
8       prices charged by marketers to consumers.

9       **Q.    Do these Commission orders act as a guide to LG&E as it secures the gas supplies  
10       required by its sales customers?**

11      A.    Yes. In accordance with the Order of the Commission in Administrative Case Nos. 297  
12      and 384, LG&E seeks to purchase the most economical gas supplies available consistent  
13      with maintaining reliability of supply and mitigating price volatility.

14      **Q.    Must LDCs in Kentucky integrate the Commission’s regulatory guidance into its  
15      natural gas and interstate pipeline contracting activities in order to serve its retail  
16      sales customers?**

17      A.    Yes. LDCs synthesize regulatory guidance, market conditions, and gas system  
18      requirements into an overall supply plan that addresses the many divergent concerns of  
19      customers, regulators, and the LDC itself in order to provide reliable service to customers  
20      at a reasonable price. LDCs recognize the importance of system reliability even under  
21      the most extreme conditions. They strive to achieve reliability by securing and managing  
22      appropriate levels of pipeline capacity and storage. They contract for and manage gas  
23      supplies from credit-worthy and reliable gas suppliers. Some LDCs also manage on-

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<sup>3</sup> See Commission Order in Administrative Case No. 384 dated July 17, 2001, at p. 18.

1 system storage to reliably serve their customers. As they conduct these supply  
2 management activities, LDCs recognize the need to secure gas at a price that is reflective  
3 of market conditions and in a manner that reasonably mitigates price volatility.

4 **Q. Please describe generally how LDCs in Kentucky now recover the natural gas costs**  
5 **that they incur on behalf of sales customers.**

6 A. The natural gas sales service provided by LDCs is regulated by the Commission.  
7 Typically, each LDC has some form of purchased gas adjustment (“PGA”) mechanism.  
8 This mechanism generally provides for the dollar-for-dollar recovery of all prudently  
9 incurred gas supply costs. These costs include the cost of the gas commodity itself as  
10 well as the transportation of that gas via interstate pipelines from the production area to  
11 the LDC. PGA mechanisms also provide for changes in the tariffed gas commodity rate  
12 at regular intervals and generally contain true-up mechanisms to ensure that the over- or  
13 under-collection of gas costs in one period are returned to, or collected from, sales  
14 customers in subsequent periods.

15 **Q. Is this structure generally applicable to LG&E?**

16 A. Yes. LG&E’s PGA mechanism is called a Gas Supply Clause (“GSC”) and is a part of  
17 LG&E’s tariff approved by the Commission. LG&E’s GSC recovers the costs to  
18 purchase the natural gas commodity and the pipeline capacity necessary to transport it to  
19 LG&E, as well as the cost of gas injected into or withdrawn from its storage. Pursuant to  
20 that tariff, LG&E’s GSC is filed with the Commission on a quarterly basis subject to  
21 Commission approval.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> LG&E’s GSC changes quarterly effective with service rendered on and after February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1 of each year. The Gas Cost Actual Adjustment (“GCAA”) covers over- and under-collections for the previous 12 months and remains in place for a year from the effective date. The Gas Cost Balance Adjustment (“GCBA”) aggregates any remaining over- or under-collections not resolved by the GCAA into a single

1 **Q. What are your conclusions about the current structure of the marketplace?**

2 A. The current structure provides transparency and protection to consumers. LDCs secure  
3 and manage natural gas supplies in a highly competitive marketplace. LDCs are guided  
4 by Commission orders in prudently purchasing natural gas supplies, interstate pipeline  
5 transportation, and storage on behalf of customers. LDCs have the flexibility to manage  
6 their procurement activities in ways that now allow them to optimize system operations  
7 and provide lower gas costs to all customers. LDCs are required to sell natural gas at  
8 cost. This transparent market structure benefits customers by providing them with safe  
9 and reliable natural gas service at a fair, just, and reasonable price.

10  
11 **III. RECENT LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS IN KENTUCKY**

12  
13 **Q. Have there been any recent legislative initiatives to change the current structure of  
14 the natural gas marketplace in Kentucky?**

15 A. Yes. This proceeding is being conducted as a result of the Kentucky General Assembly's  
16 request found in House Joint Resolution No. 141. That joint resolution grew out of the  
17 introduction in the General Assembly of two bills (House Bill No. 542 and Senate Bill  
18 No. 154), both of which would have mandated LDCs in the Commonwealth of Kentucky  
19 to expand current gas transportation programs. House Bill No. 542 would have mandated  
20 gas retail choice by expanding gas transportation programs down to the residential level,  
21 while Senate Bill No. 154 was more focused on small commercial and industrial  
22 customers.

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factor that remains in effect for a single quarter. The Refund Factor ("RF") credits customers with any cash refunds received from suppliers.

1 **Q. Has the Commission proposed exempting any LDCs from an expansion of**  
2 **unbundling programs?**

3 A. Yes. In Appendix B of its April 19, 2010, Order, the Commission indicated its position  
4 that not all utilities should be required to participate if legislation is approved that  
5 mandates the expansion of current LDC transportation programs:

6 *Item 18:* Only major incumbent utilities with a certain minimum number of  
7 customers should be required to participate. Smaller utilities should not be  
8 required to participate.  
9

10 Given the considerable cost, administrative burden, and risks associated with these  
11 programs, it seems reasonable to exempt smaller utilities. For some of the same reasons,  
12 it seems advisable to leave the expansion of unbundling programs to the discretion of  
13 each LDC.

14 **Q. How would the transportation programs described in recently proposed legislation**  
15 **differ from the transportation programs currently in place for large volume gas**  
16 **customers?**

17 A. They are strikingly different in costs, administrative burden, and risks.

18 **Q. Please describe the current large volume transportation programs offered by**  
19 **LG&E.**

20 A. Large volume gas transportation customers are at risk for their own gas supplies and are  
21 required to manage and acquire their own supplies within the parameters of the  
22 applicable rate schedule. Under its large volume transportation program, LG&E provides  
23 firm transportation service from the city-gate (the point where the customer delivers the  
24 gas to the LDC for the customer's account) to the customer's facility. If the customer  
25 electing service chooses not to purchase its own gas supply, or if the customer fails to

1 deliver all or any part of its requirements, LG&E has no obligation to provide natural gas  
2 supplies, storage, or pipeline transportation services (or any associated balancing  
3 services) to the customer. These large customers typically use natural gas at a higher  
4 load factor and at more predictable rates because they tend to use gas primarily for  
5 process purposes. On LG&E's system, these customers are required to have telemetry  
6 installed which allows both the customer and LG&E to monitor actual usage in order to  
7 better manage gas supplies. Because of the small number of these large volume  
8 customers, it is feasible to physically isolate these customers if they fail to deliver the  
9 appropriate volume of gas required for their facility. Due to the relatively small number  
10 of customers in these programs, administration costs such as enrolling customers, natural  
11 gas tracking, and billing are less onerous than they would be under an expanded  
12 unbundling program. Additionally, LG&E is only required to bill these large customers  
13 for charges under LG&E's tariff. LG&E is not required to bill customers on behalf of  
14 marketers so it has no obligation to collect and/or purchase the marketer's receivables.  
15 Consequently, large volume transportation programs can be considerably less  
16 burdensome in terms of cost and risk than the smaller volume transportation programs  
17 contemplated in this proceeding.

18 **Q. How do the transportation programs outlined in House Bill No. 542 and Senate Bill**  
19 **No. 154 differ from these large volume transportation programs?**

20 A. These programs would apply to high priority space-heating customers. Space-heating  
21 customers require significant hourly and daily load balancing. Space-heating customers  
22 (because their loads vary significantly with weather) put greater hourly and daily  
23 demands on the gas distribution system. Unlike large customers that secure their own gas

1 supplies, smaller customers, such as high priority residential space-heating customers,  
2 cannot make alternate arrangements if their marketer fails to deliver (like a factory  
3 closing or switching to fuel oil). Because of the large number of residential and small  
4 commercial customers, it would be infeasible to physically isolate individual customers  
5 from the gas system in the event that their gas supplies are not delivered by marketers –  
6 assuming it were even possible to ignore the basic needs of high priority space-heating  
7 customers. Due to the potential for a large number of customers to participate in the  
8 programs described in proposed legislation, the implementation and ongoing  
9 administrative costs of these programs can be expected to be significantly higher than for  
10 more limited large volume transportation programs. Additionally, other aspects of these  
11 expanded unbundling offerings such as billing requirements; purchase of receivables;  
12 capacity allocation; and “supplier of last resort” options increases the exposure of both  
13 the LDC and its customers to risks.

14  
15 **IV. ELEMENTS TO BE ADDRESSED AS A PART OF ANY RETAIL UNBUNDLING**  
16 **SCHEME**

17  
18 **Q. What items will you address in this section?**

19 A. In the event that a LDC does choose to provide gas supply options to its customers by  
20 either offering retail choice or otherwise expanding gas transportation programs, the  
21 Commission has outlined a number of items on pages 4 and 5 of its April 19 Order that  
22 should be addressed and which are similar in scope to those outlined in its July 1, 1998,  
23 Order in Administrative Case No. 367. Those items are:



1. The role of the Commission in a competitive marketplace
2. The obligation to serve
3. The supplier of last resort
4. Alternative commodity procurement procedures
5. Non-discriminatory access to services offered
6. Codes of conduct for marketers and affiliates of regulated utilities
7. Billing which should include the desirability of the purchase of receivables
8. Certification of suppliers
9. Transition costs
10. Stranded costs
11. Uncollectibles
12. Disconnections
13. Steps necessary to maintain system integrity
14. Access to pipeline storage capacity
15. Impacts of new natural gas retail competition programs on existing utility services and customers

There are some additional items that I will also address in the course of discussing these items and at the conclusion of my testimony.

#### **The role of the Commission in a competitive marketplace**

**Q. What will be the role of the Commission in the event of expanded unbundling?**

A. Clearly, the Commission will have an additional administrative burden with respect to expanded unbundling. The Commission will have increased regulatory duties with respect to the marketplace as a whole, and the Commission will have a larger number of market participants to regulate. Like FERC, the Commission will have the duty to regulate the marketplace to ensure that it is open and transparent to all participants, and that markets open to this new kind of “competition” do not disadvantage certain classes of customers. The Commission will have increased duties with respect to enforcing the marketer’s obligation to serve and will have the responsibility for ensuring that marketers are certified as physically, financially, and technically capable of serving customers. The Commission could also have more complaints to manage and resolve as the number of participants in the marketplace increases. As has happened in other jurisdictions, there

1 may be an increase in the number of proceedings as the Commission addresses  
2 unbundling programs and the potential modifications to them.

### 3 **The obligation to serve**

4 **Q. How will the obligation to serve be affected by such unbundling programs?**

5 **A.** The “obligation to serve” is a fundamental concept of the utility industry that requires a  
6 utility to provide service to all who desire it without undue discrimination. Regulated  
7 utilities have been subject to the obligation to serve in exchange for their monopoly  
8 service territory. Although retail unbundling results in both regulated and unregulated  
9 market participants, the “obligation to serve” will apply to both regulated utilities (LDCs)  
10 and unregulated entities (marketers). For regulated utilities (LDCs), the obligation to  
11 serve will remain basically unchanged, requiring the LDC to connect a customer and  
12 provide non-discriminatory service pursuant to the terms and conditions of its tariff.  
13 Under these new unbundling schemes, the obligation to serve will also be applied to  
14 unregulated entities (marketers), requiring the marketer to provide service on a non-  
15 discriminatory basis. These obligations to serve for both the LDC and the marketer are  
16 the foundation for providing service in a partially deregulated environment, and it is in  
17 the public interest that fair, just and reasonable rates be available to all customers.

### 18 **The supplier of last resort**

19 **Q. What is meant by the “supplier of last resort”?**

20 **A.** The “supplier of last resort” is generally the LDC that must stand in readiness with  
21 adequate pipeline capacity, storage, and gas supplies to serve customers in the event that  
22 the marketer fails to deliver natural gas. Such definition is consistent with Appendix B of

1 the Commission’s April 19, 2010, Order, where it references the following item with  
2 respect to the “supplier of last resort”:

3 *Item 13:* The utility must be statutorily designated as the supplier of last resort.

4  
5 Essentially, the utility is by default the “supplier of last resort” because of the unique  
6 position in which it stands as operator of the gas system.

7 **Q. Are there costs and risks associated with acting as “supplier of last resort”?**

8 A. Yes. Acting as the “supplier of last resort” will require the LDC to have gas supplies,  
9 pipeline capacity, and storage on hand that could create duplicative costs (that would not  
10 otherwise be incurred) in order to ensure reliable service to all customers.

11 In Appendix B of its April 19, 2010, Order, the Commission references the following  
12 item with respect to the “supplier of last resort”:

13 *Item 20:* The statute should state that costs incurred by the utilities relating to  
14 being the supplier of last resort (capacity assignment, for example) should be  
15 charged to marketers as appropriate.

16  
17 The costs associated with being the “supplier of last resort” should be recoverable  
18 because, absent any expansion of unbundling, the “supplier of last resort” costs would not  
19 have been incurred by the LDC. Recovery of these costs from marketers makes sense  
20 because they will be the only clear beneficiary of expanded unbundling initiatives and are  
21 the origin of the risk that must be managed by the LDC in its new role as “supplier of last  
22 resort.” These “supplier of last resort” costs will be incurred and should be recoverable  
23 through the term of the unbundling program.

24 **Alternative commodity procurement procedures**

25 **Q. Are there alternative commodity procurement procedures that LDCs should**  
26 **consider with respect to further unbundling?**

1 A. Not necessarily. As discussed above, current commodity procurement procedures used  
2 by LDCs are the product of Commission guidance. Current regulatory processes ensure  
3 that the Commission is able to review LDC procurement activities in order to ensure that  
4 the prices charged to customers are fair, just, and reasonable. The ability of the  
5 Commission to review not only the price but the underlying process also provides  
6 transparency.

7 **Q. Are you aware of any alternate commodity procurement procedures being used in**  
8 **connection with unbundling programs?**

9 A. Yes. For example, in Ohio where some LDCs have chosen to exit the merchant function,  
10 some LDCs may utilize a Standard Service Offer (“SSO”). The purpose of the SSO  
11 mechanism is to serve the residual portion of the LDCs customers that have hitherto  
12 declined to select a marketer. Although LDCs may use this supply procurement  
13 methodology as a transition to exiting the merchant function, the scheme ultimately  
14 excludes more traditional natural gas suppliers in favor of retail choice marketers only.  
15 Ms. Jaynes discusses the SSO more fully in her testimony.

16 **Q. Does LG&E offer any alternate commodity procurement procedures?**

17 A. LG&E believes that current procurement methods result in low cost gas supplies for  
18 customers. However, this proceeding seems more focused on how gas is sold, rather than  
19 how it is procured. Currently, regulation favors a single uniform gas commodity rate  
20 applicable to all customers determined in the PGA mechanism. LDCs may want to  
21 propose offering natural gas supplies to customers at different rates rather than a single  
22 average rate embodied in the LDC’s PGA mechanism.<sup>5</sup> Approving proposals by LDCs to

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<sup>5</sup> For example, the LDC may want to offer different gas commodity rates based on the customer’s load factor; alternatively, the LDC may want to offer gas to interested customers at a fixed price over a given term.

1 offer more than a single rate for gas supplies could allow the LDC to offer more options  
2 to customers.

3 **Non-discriminatory access to services offered**

4 **Q. How will the Commission ensure non-discriminatory access to services offered by**  
5 **the LDC?**

6 A. Any new services offered by the LDC will need to be the subject of detailed tariffs and  
7 agreements filed with and approved by the Commission. As it has done traditionally, the  
8 LDC will provide service on a non-discriminatory basis to its customers (including any  
9 marketers who may be customers for some of these new services) within the terms and  
10 conditions of the approved tariffs.

11 **Codes of conduct for marketers and affiliates of regulated utilities**

12 **Q. How will the Commission ensure non-discriminatory access to services offered by**  
13 **the marketer?**

14 A. The Commission must ensure the obligation to serve by imposing codes of conduct on all  
15 marketers and enforcing them through a certification process. Such codes should be  
16 designed to prevent misleading and harmful conduct by marketers. Appropriate codes of  
17 conduct combined with a marketer certification process should be designed to help ensure  
18 that services are offered by marketers on a non-discriminatory basis.

19 In Appendix B of its April 19, 2010, Order, the Commission references the following  
20 items with respect to a marketer code of conduct in order to provide consumer protection  
21 and maintain reliability:

22 ***Item 4:*** The marketer must be subject to the consumer complaint process.  
23

1            *Item 7:* The marketer should be required to file a code of conduct in a filed tariff  
2 or follow a code of conduct established and approved by the Commission and set  
3 forth in the utility's tariff.  
4

5            *Item 9:* The marketer must be prohibited from unreasonably discriminating  
6 against customers as set forth in KRS 278.170.  
7

8            *Item 11:* The marketer must be prohibited from transferring customers without  
9 customer approval.  
10

11           *Item 19:* Marketers should be required to clearly list and advertise all price  
12 offerings. The specifics and parameters of all offers should be easily understood.  
13 Perhaps the format of offers should be set forth.  
14

15           While not a comprehensive list, each of the above items is worthy of inclusion in a code  
16 of conduct. Significant customer confusion will inevitably loom in the wake of increased  
17 gas transportation options for smaller customers. Moreover, some marketers operating in  
18 retail choice markets have been found guilty of taking advantage of customers by  
19 "slamming" them or misleading them through deceptive or misleading marketing  
20 practices. Ms. Jaynes discusses some of these deceptive marketing practices in her  
21 testimony. Codes of conduct should be constructed to clearly describe activities that are  
22 forbidden and not tolerated and to provide for financial or other penalties if infractions  
23 occur.

24 **Q. Are additional rules required to govern the relationship between an LDC and its**  
25 **affiliated marketer?**

26 A. The Commission's Order in Administrative Case No. 369, dated February 18, 2000,  
27 governs the relationship between the LDC and its affiliate(s), and the affiliate rules and  
28 regulations put in place as a result of that case are adequate in their application to utilities  
29 and their affiliates. The rules established therein do not apply to marketers unless they  
30 are affiliated with a Kentucky LDC.

1                    **Billing which should include the desirability of the purchase of receivables**

2    **Q.    How should customers be billed if transportation programs are approved for**  
3            **smaller customers?**

4    A.    First, let me explain how billings and receivables are handled for LG&E's transportation  
5            program offered under Rate Schedule FT. LG&E is responsible for metering customer  
6            use and billing the customer all of the charges under its tariff. These charges include the  
7            administrative charge, the distribution charge, and any other charges assessed pursuant to  
8            the tariff. The marketer bills the customer directly pursuant to any agreement between  
9            the marketer and the end-use customer. LG&E does not have access to, and does not  
10           need to have access to, these charges by the marketer. LG&E collects its own charges  
11           from the customer pursuant to its tariff, and the marketer is responsible for collecting its  
12           own charges. As such, LG&E does not assume the responsibility for either collecting the  
13           charges of the marketer or the risk for any bad debt that may arise from a failure to  
14           collect by the marketer. LG&E only has risk and responsibility related to its own  
15           charges.

16           In Appendix B of its April 19, 2010, Order, the Commission references the following  
17           item with respect to billing, which seems to encompass the preferences of the marketer  
18           and the unbundling scenario contemplated by House Bill No. 542:

19                    *Item 17:* The utility should be required to include the gas cost charged by the  
20                    marketer in its regular customer bills. The marketer will pay a reasonable cost to  
21                    the utility for this service.

22  
23            LDCs should not automatically be required to provide billing services for the marketer.

24            It should be at the option of the LDC to provide billing services for the marketer, to bill  
25            only the LDC's charges, or some combination of both. Details regarding billing

1 processes should be included in any LDC proposal to unbundle its services. However, all  
2 prudently incurred billing costs must be recoverable by the LDC. Recovery of these  
3 costs from marketers makes sense because they will be the only clear beneficiary of  
4 expanded unbundling initiatives and are the origin of the risk that must be managed by  
5 the LDC. It is important to note that the level of these costs may vary substantially by  
6 LDC. Additionally, each LDC should be allowed to continue billing large volume  
7 customers pursuant to current billing processes.

8 **Q. How does a purchase of receivables (“POR”) mechanism work and what does it**  
9 **accomplish?**

10 A. My understanding is that the LDC remits to the marketer all or some portion of the  
11 marketer’s charges irrespective of the amount collected from the customer. The POR  
12 mechanism isolates the marketer from credit and collection functions. The marketer’s  
13 risk of collection is transferred to the LDC. Importantly, the LDC takes on that risk (and  
14 may be exposed to incremental risk) even though it did not establish the price paid by the  
15 customer in the first place. Other alternatives could include having either the marketer  
16 bill the customer directly for the marketer’s charges or developing allocation procedures  
17 that allocate partial payments by customers between the marketer and LDC in the event  
18 that the LDC bills the charges for both parties.

19 **Q. Did you say that the LDC pays the marketer “all or some portion” of the amount**  
20 **charged by the marketer to the customer?**

21 A. Yes. In some POR programs, the LDC “discounts” the amount that the LDC remits to  
22 the marketer by a percentage that presumably reflects the actual uncollectible or bad debt  
23 level and other associated costs of the LDC.



1 **Q. Why do marketers favor billing by the LDC combined with a POR mechanism?**

2 A. Marketers likely favor such a combination because they do not have to develop a costly  
3 billing infrastructure themselves. The combination of the two alleviates the need for the  
4 marketer to develop credit and collection infrastructure or to assume billing and  
5 collection responsibility. Having the LDC bill the customer and having the LDC use a  
6 POR program significantly mitigates the costs that the marketer might otherwise assume  
7 in its business operations.

8 **Q. Will combined billing necessarily benefit customers?**

9 A. Combined billing could be confusing to customers by making it difficult for them to  
10 distinguish the charges of the marketer from those of the LDC. Customers electing an  
11 alternate supplier might expect to see a clear reduction in their LDC bill that would  
12 indicate that they are no longer purchasing gas from the LDC.

13 **Q. Will there be added costs to modify existing billing systems and credit and collection  
14 procedures?**

15 A. If the LDC is required to provide billing services to the marketer, I am certain there will  
16 be costs to modify existing billing and related systems. In addition, such billing  
17 modifications, like the other aspects of broadened unbundling, will take time to properly  
18 implement. Such costs will presumably be treated as a transition cost as discussed  
19 elsewhere in my testimony.

20 **Q. How might the cost of billing system modifications be mitigated?**

21 A. Limiting the information that must be included related to the marketer's charges and  
22 limiting the types of prices and number of programs offered by the marketer may help  
23 mitigate billing costs. Similarly, imposing limits on the timing and frequency of the

1 customer's switch either from the LDC to a marketer or from one marketer to another  
2 may also help mitigate costs, for example, by imposing an annual sign-up date effective  
3 with the customer's meter reading date

4 **Q. Has the Commission suggested any other market safeguards that would impact**  
5 **LDC billing?**

6 A. Yes. In Appendix B of its April 19, 2010, Order, the Commission references the  
7 following item with respect to billing:

8 *Item 21:* The Actual Cost Adjustment (the over- or under-recovery of the utility's  
9 Expected Gas Cost) should continue for choice customers for 12 months after the  
10 switch to a marketer.

11  
12 This means that the over- and under-collection that occurred when the customer was  
13 purchasing natural gas from the LDC under a sales rate schedule will either be credited or  
14 charged to the customer for some period after the customer has chosen to purchase  
15 natural gas from a marketer. While this requirement seems equitable, it will necessitate  
16 billing system modifications that could add to transition costs. This guideline appears to  
17 assume that the customer does not switch back and forth between the LDC and one or  
18 more marketers in less than a year's time. Details would need to be resolved on how to  
19 bill customers moving back and forth from the LDC to the marketer.

#### 20 **Certification of suppliers**

21 **Q. Will marketers need to be certified?**

22 A. Yes. In the same way that an LDC scrutinizes the capabilities of its suppliers, the  
23 Commission will have to scrutinize the abilities of marketers because individual  
24 transportation customers will likely not have that ability. Periodic review and re-  
25 determination of the marketer's certification by the Commission may also be advisable.

1 Properly certifying marketers may be one way in which to mitigate the number of  
2 disputes between marketers and customers with which the Commission may need to deal.  
3 Properly certifying marketers may mitigate the LDC's risks associated with being the  
4 "supplier of last resort."

5 **Q. What guidelines should apply to marketer certification?**

6 A. In Appendix B of its April 19, 2010, Order, the Commission references the following  
7 item with respect to supplier certification:

8 *Item 1:* The Commission should have some regulatory oversight over the  
9 marketer and must be able to certify the marketers upon a finding of financial,  
10 technical and managerial expertise.

11  
12 *Item 2:* The marketers must be required to renew their certificates to operate in  
13 Kentucky every two years.

14  
15 *Item 3:* The marketer must maintain official corporate information on file with the  
16 Commission and should file a tariff setting forth the terms and conditions of  
17 service.

18  
19 *Item 5:* The Commission must be allowed to assess penalties against the marketer  
20 if the marketer fails to: (a) abide by contractual terms with the customer or the  
21 utility; or (b) follow any rules established by the Commission, whether for safety,  
22 billing, reporting, general practices, etc.

23  
24 *Item 6:* The potential penalty should include the authority to revoke, suspend,  
25 modify, limit, or condition the certification and should include the authority to  
26 assess a monetary penalty payable to the General Fund as with penalties assessed  
27 against regulated utilities.

28  
29 *Item 8:* The marketer should be subject to KRS 278.130, KRS 278.140, and KRS  
30 278.150, which provide for annual reports and payment of annual assessments.

31  
32 *Item 10:* The marketer must be prohibited from transferring certificates to operate  
33 as marketer without Commission approval.

34  
35 *Item 12:* The marketer must be prohibited from abandoning or terminating  
36 contracts with a utility without providing at least 60 days' notice to the  
37 Commission, and the Commission must grant approval of such termination.  
38

1                    **Item 16:** The marketer must be required to file monthly rates with the  
2                    Commission and the rates must be made available to customers.

3  
4                    Clearly, the level of detail and consideration given to these nine items shows that the  
5                    Commission is aware of and concerned with some of the potential repercussions of  
6                    opening Kentucky's retail markets to unregulated marketers and retail gas choice  
7                    schemes.

8                    **Q.    Why is marketer certification important?**

9                    A.    With the Commission certifying and approving marketers, the Commission will control  
10                    the process for scrutinizing marketers to ensure credit-worthiness, reliability, capabilities,  
11                    and overall fitness to act as a natural gas provider. This is important because the  
12                    suppliers that the LDC selects are currently a key element in ensuring the overall  
13                    reliability of the system. Even a customer not selecting a marketer could be adversely  
14                    impacted as a result of the actions of these retail choice marketers – *e.g.*, if one of these  
15                    marketers fails to deliver appropriate quantities of natural gas to the LDCs system. If the  
16                    LDC must cover the marketer's failure to deliver, withdrawing the marketer's certificate  
17                    may not be an adequate remedy for a failure to perform. Costs incurred as the result of  
18                    such a failure must be recoverable. Therefore, the goal should be to create a system for  
19                    marketer certification that will result in a selection of suppliers that have financial and  
20                    other characteristics that will help to prevent degraded system reliability. Subsequent to  
21                    marketer certification by the Commission, the marketer should also be required to  
22                    register with the LDC in whose territory the marketer wishes to operate in order to  
23                    establish contractual, surety, and other relationships.

24                    **Q.    Are there other conditions that the Commission may want to consider with respect**  
25                    **to marketers operating in Kentucky?**

1 A. The Commission may want to consider marketer reciprocity rules which could require  
2 that a marketer affiliated with an LDC should not be able to participate in expanded  
3 unbundling programs in Kentucky unless its affiliated LDC is also unbundled to the same  
4 degree as that of the Kentucky LDC whose customers it wishes to serve.

5 **Transition costs**

6 **Q. Will there be transition costs associated with expansion of gas transportation**  
7 **options and how will these costs be recovered?**

8 A. For the purpose of this testimony, “transition costs” are those costs that are incurred by  
9 the utility as it implements changes designed to facilitate retail unbundling or otherwise  
10 expand unbundled transportation options in its service territory. Transition costs will  
11 inevitably arise if an LDC expands gas transportation options to smaller customers in its  
12 service territory.

13 **Q. What kinds of costs could arise as changes are implemented?**

14 A. It is impossible to foresee and estimate all of the transition costs that will arise. However,  
15 certain categories of costs appear common in other states that have unbundled.  
16 Educational costs will surely arise as consumer information materials and educational  
17 processes are developed to address the various aspects of retail choice programs. These  
18 educational efforts are necessary because customers are unfamiliar with, and have never  
19 had the responsibility for, choosing a gas supplier. Similarly, LDC employees will need  
20 to be adequately trained to explain this new option to eligible customers. LDC  
21 employees will also need to be able to answer billing and other questions that customers  
22 might have about the gas transportation service they have chosen in lieu of sales service.  
23 These activities will create incremental training and other administrative costs for LDCs.

1 The Commission will likely want to review and approve these educational materials. In  
2 Appendix B of its April 19, 2010, Order, the Commission references the following item  
3 with respect to educational materials:

4 *Item 15:* Customers must be provided educational materials from the utility and  
5 the marketer.  
6

7 Clearly, educational materials and processes are necessary to reduce customer confusion  
8 and are costs that the LDC would not have incurred in the absence of expanding gas  
9 transportation options.

10 Other significant transition costs will likely be incurred to modify billing systems and  
11 related reporting processes, to create new gas tracking systems and electronic bulletin  
12 boards, as well as to establish new credit, collection, and payment procedures. None of  
13 these costs would have been incurred by the LDC absent the expansion of unbundling  
14 options. At this juncture, it is not possible to estimate the level and duration over which  
15 such costs might be incurred.

16 **Q. Will these transition costs gradually be eliminated?**

17 A. Certain kinds of transition costs may eventually be eliminated. Such costs might include  
18 those incurred to modify LDC billing systems to accommodate marketer billing (if that is  
19 the option chosen) or the costs of educational programs. However, it is possible that, as a  
20 result of an unbundling initiative, some costs will be on-going and will result in a  
21 permanently higher level of costs. These higher costs could result from the increased  
22 burdens placed on the LDC by further unbundling, such as on-going billing costs and  
23 credit and collections efforts. These costs could also include additional personnel, new  
24 operating systems, or internet website costs to facilitate nomination and other data  
25 interchange. These kinds of incremental costs should be considered for inclusion in any

1 billing charge imposed by the LDC for these kinds of services to be performed for the  
2 marketer.

3 **Q. Should the LDC be able to recover these transition costs?**

4 A. Yes. To the extent that the utility incurs any transition costs they should be recoverable.

#### 5 **Stranded costs**

6 **Q. What are stranded costs and how might they arise?**

7 A. “Stranded costs” are those costs arising from contracts or items included in rate base and  
8 incurred by the LDC on behalf of customers but which might no longer be required in the  
9 wake of retail choice or expanded unbundling options for customers. These costs arise as  
10 a result of consumers electing to purchase natural gas from a marketer and not the LDC.  
11 These costs could include interstate pipeline capacity (including storage), on-system  
12 storage assets, and gas supply agreements. Pipeline capacity costs are probably the  
13 largest potential stranded costs – depending on the design of the unbundling program.

14 **Q. Are there ways to mitigate potential stranded costs?**

15 A. One way in which to mitigate potential stranded costs and to promote supply reliability  
16 may be the mandatory assignment of the LDC’s interstate pipeline capacity on a  
17 recallable basis. I have discussed mandatory capacity assignment elsewhere in my  
18 testimony.

19 **Q. Should the LDC be able to recover these stranded costs?**

20 A. Yes. Like transition costs, stranded costs should be recoverable.

21 Importantly, both transition costs and stranded costs could be the source of significant  
22 “hidden costs” associated with the expansion of gas transportation programs. These

1 “hidden costs” could increase the rates of all customers in order to provide customers  
2 with the ability to choose – whether or not they actually choose to choose.

3 Stranded costs, like transition costs, should be recoverable from the beneficiaries of any  
4 unbundling program. It seems unreasonable to make customers pay for the ability to  
5 choose – whether or not they choose a marketer. Assigning cost responsibility to all  
6 customers because of the action of a few would seem to be at odds with the cost  
7 causation principles of utility rate making. Recovery of these costs from marketers  
8 makes sense because they will be the only clear beneficiary of expanded unbundling  
9 initiatives and are the origin of the risk that must be managed by the LDC.

#### 10 **Uncollectibles**

11 **Q. How will uncollectibles be managed?**

12 A. Today, some level of the LDC’s uncollectible amounts is either reflected in the LDC’s  
13 base rates or recovered elsewhere by the LDC. If an unbundling plan is adopted,  
14 uncollectibles will be managed based on the billing and collection procedures adopted  
15 under the LDC’s unbundling plan.

16 Today, for customers served under Rate Schedules FT and TS, LG&E is responsible for  
17 collecting only utility charges from customers. The marketer is responsible for collecting  
18 its charges. If the billing scenario outlined by the Commission in Item 17 – suggesting  
19 the billing of marketer charges by the LDC – is combined with a POR program, it will be  
20 up to the LDC to manage any uncollectibles arising from its charges and the charges of  
21 the marketer.

#### 22 **Disconnections**

23 **Q. How will disconnections be managed?**



1 A. Today, for customers served under Rate Schedule FT, if LG&E is unable to collect its  
2 utility charges from customers, the utility can disconnect service. If the marketer is  
3 unable to collect, it may cease delivering gas to the LDC for the customer's account  
4 without asking any permission of the LDC.

5 If, however, under a retail choice program, LDCs bill and collect revenues for marketers,  
6 the LDC will likely remain responsible for physical disconnection and reconnection of  
7 customers for non-payment. The LDC may also require the authority to disconnect a  
8 customer for non-payment of the marketer's charges.

9 **Steps necessary to maintain system integrity**

10 **Q. What actions will need to be taken to maintain system integrity?**

11 A. Maintaining reliability is one of the key concerns of LDCs with regard to the institution  
12 of customer choice programs. Most customers do not even think about reliability when  
13 thinking about their LDC. Homeowners and businesses alike presume that the right  
14 amount of gas will be there on the right hour of the right day. Few customers, if any,  
15 realize the considerable efforts undertaken by LDCs in order to ensure that they are  
16 delivering a safe and reliable product for the customer to use. In the event of further  
17 unbundling, the LDC needs to be able to continue to procure and manage interstate  
18 pipeline capacity in order to reliably meet system loads under design conditions.

19 In order to maintain system integrity, the LDC will need to be able to retain operational  
20 control. As a part of maintaining system reliability, an LDC may propose to release its  
21 pipeline capacity to participating marketers on a mandatory and recallable basis.  
22 Marketers must be required to accept any capacity released by the LDC under such a  
23 program. The LDC may also need to specify the amount that the marketer must deliver

1 on a given day given the load profile of the customers it is serving. Even then, it may not  
2 be possible to ensure reliability to the same degree as is presently the case. In any case,  
3 the LDC will need to retain the management of storage injections and withdrawals and  
4 other storage activity.

5 Lastly, marketer certification by the Commission will be essential in ensuring that only  
6 responsible entities will be participating in any expanded unbundling programs.

7 **Q. Should the LDC be able to secure some form of surety from marketers similar to the**  
8 **surety that the LDC secures from its own suppliers as well as from other customers?**

9 A. Yes. LDCs should also be able to obtain acceptable surety from marketers participating  
10 in any extension of gas transportation options. LDCs typically require surety from their  
11 gas suppliers, and this case should be no different. In fact, the Commission recognized  
12 this need in Appendix B of its April 19, 2010, Order, when it referenced the following:

13 *Item 14:* The utility should be allowed to require the marketer to post a  
14 performance bond or other evidence of financial security in the event of  
15 abandonment. The method for calculating the amount of the bond should be set  
16 forth by statute or regulation.

17  
18 However, a pledge of the marketer's receivables under a POR program is not adequate  
19 surety. For example, a marketer's receivables may not be large enough or of an adequate  
20 quality to cover potential costs in the event a marketer abandons its customers or fails to  
21 deliver natural gas to the LDC on behalf of customers. Surety of credit-worthiness by  
22 marketers is an important means of ensuring gas system reliability as is continued control  
23 by the LDC over capacity planning and contracting; gas storage operations; and general  
24 gas system operations.

#### 25 Access to pipeline storage capacity

26 **Q. How will access to pipeline capacity (including storage) be handled?**

1 A. The development of new tariffs designed to implement the unbundling programs  
2 proposed by each LDC will likely provide their own complexities. Under some  
3 unbundling scenarios it may be necessary to establish complicated formulae to determine  
4 how much storage and pipeline capacity will be allocated to each marketer based on the  
5 level and type of customers subscribing to that marketer's offerings. These formulae-  
6 driven allocations may need to reflect system load factors, complex storage ratchets and  
7 operating parameters, as well as contractual rights and obligations of the LDC.  
8 Maintaining access to adequate pipeline capacities and services combined with properly  
9 operating storage assets within defined parameters is essential to maintaining overall  
10 system integrity. Carving up storage and creating entitlements among numerous entities  
11 is fraught with complexities and uncertainties. The daily deliveries of marketers  
12 participating in an unbundling program likely will be much more complex to manage  
13 than simply dividing annual customer consumption by 365 days and then scheduling  
14 uniform daily pipeline deliveries – leaving the LDC to balance all the daily and hourly  
15 swings. Diminishing the ability to operate storage on an integrated basis could be an  
16 essay in sub-optimization and expose all parties to higher costs and diminished reliability.

17 **Q. Are there federal regulatory guidelines established by FERC regarding the release**  
18 **of pipeline capacity?**

19 A. Yes. All capacity releases (including those associated with a retail choice program) must  
20 be performed in conjunction with all applicable FERC regulations governing capacity  
21 release, including those embodied in FERC Orders 712 and 712-A. Absent compliance  
22 with FERC Orders and other requirements, it will be necessary to obtain the necessary  
23 FERC waivers of its requirements in this regard.

1                                   **Impacts of new natural gas retail competition programs**  
2                                   **on existing utility services and customers**

3  
4   **Q.    Can expanded unbundling or retail choice programs be expected to impact existing**  
5           **utility services and customers?**

6   A.    Yes. In order to accommodate any new programs, existing programs will likely need to  
7           change. Currently, LG&E offers two transportation services, one pursuant to Rate  
8           Schedule FT and the other pursuant to Rate Schedule TS.<sup>6</sup> Under Rate Schedule TS,  
9           LG&E provides qualifying large volume customers who wish to purchase their own gas  
10          supplies with standby sales service. By contrast, under Rate Schedule FT, LG&E  
11          provides qualifying customers with gas transportation service. LG&E has no obligation  
12          to provide customers served under Rate Schedule FT with standby sales service. LG&E  
13          does not secure interstate pipeline capacity, gas supplies, or storage capacity for  
14          customers served under Rate Schedule FT. Consequently, LG&E has no obligation to  
15          provide these customers with natural gas and does not act as the “supplier of last resort.”  
16          Large volume customers are generally more equipped to handle decisions and risks  
17          associated with procuring their own gas supplies and interstate pipeline capacity.  
18          Customers served under Rate Schedule FT are subject to daily balancing requirements  
19          enforced through Operational Flow Orders (“OFOs”)<sup>7</sup>, must have daily telemetry  
20          capabilities, and are subject to a cash-out mechanism for over- and under-deliveries.

21   **Q.    Why may changes to current transportation services be required?**

---

<sup>6</sup> Currently, almost all of LG&E’s transportation customers are served pursuant to Rate Schedule FT.

<sup>7</sup> When an Operational Flow Order (“OFO”) is issued to customers served under Rate Schedule FT, the daily balancing tolerance is reduced from +/- 10% and, depending on the kind of OFO issued the customer either (1) may not use more gas than it is delivering to LG&E for its facility, or (2) may not use less than it is delivering to LG&E for its facility. In the first case, takes by the customer greater than the customer’s deliveries to LG&E is subject to a charge equal to \$15.00 plus a daily market price of gas for each Mcf greater than the volume it delivered to LG&E. In the second case, takes by the customer less than the customer’s deliveries to LG&E is subject to a charge equal to \$15.00 plus a daily market price of gas for each Mcf less than the volumes it delivered to LG&E.

1 A. Expanded unbundling options could decrease the flexibility that the LDC uses to operate  
2 its system. Flexibility currently available to existing transportation customers may be  
3 needed by other customers with higher service priorities, thus requiring tariff changes.

4 **Q. What kinds of changes might be required?**

5 A. The requirements for qualifying for service under Rate Schedule FT would not change.  
6 However, it may be necessary to reduce daily balancing tolerances; add the concept of  
7 critical notices in addition to OFOs; or, without changing the rate schedule, to increase  
8 the frequency and/or duration of OFOs. It may also be necessary to define the manner in  
9 which gas must be delivered to LG&E, such as by requiring that customers match hourly  
10 deliveries to LG&E with their hourly use or to use a specific pipeline for the delivery of  
11 gas. Although some elements of LG&E's tariffs may need to be changed to  
12 accommodate expanded unbundling, LG&E does not see Rate Schedule FT being subject  
13 to changes in the billing or collection procedures discussed above.

14 Without a doubt, LG&E's current curtailment rules would need to be significantly  
15 overhauled, for example, in order to accommodate new tariffed services and customer  
16 service priorities. Rate Schedules TS and AAGS (an interruptible sales rate schedule)  
17 may need to be eliminated, significantly modified, or frozen.

18  
19 **V. OTHER ELEMENTS TO BE ADDRESSED AS A PART OF ANY RETAIL**  
20 **UNBUNDLING SCHEME**

1 **Q. Are there other issues that the Commission may want to consider as it reviews the**  
2 **implication of expanding natural gas unbundling or offering retail choice in**  
3 **Kentucky?**

4 A. Yes. In this section, I propose to discuss those issues which include: franchise fees and  
5 school taxes; and effective competition.

6 **Q. Are there concerns about the impact of further unbundling on the collection of**  
7 **franchise fees and school taxes?**

8 A. Yes. There may be concerns by local communities that rely upon franchise fees paid by  
9 LDCs and school tax revenues collected by LDCs. Franchise agreements typically  
10 contain language that calculates the franchise fee based on a set “percent of gross receipts  
11 per year from the Company’s sale of natural gas to all entities inside the City’s corporate  
12 limits that are served under the Company’s residential and commercial revenue  
13 classifications....” Even if an LDC collects the marketer’s charges on the LDC’s regular  
14 invoice, there are two potential concerns. First, such revenue collected to cover the  
15 marketer’s charges would not be “from the Company’s sale of natural gas.” Second,  
16 service rendered by marketers may not be considered service “under the Company’s  
17 residential and commercial revenue classifications” as specified in the franchise  
18 agreements. Both of those issues would seem to call into question, and perhaps preclude,  
19 the LDC from charging a franchise fee based on the marketer’s sale of natural gas, even  
20 though the LDC collected the money. The impact on school tax revenues is a bit more  
21 uncertain. School taxes are authorized by state statute. It is unclear whether or not a  
22 retail choice and expanded gas transportation options program would have a negative

1 impact on school tax revenues. The Commission may want to obtain an opinion from the  
2 Attorney General’s Office to gain more clarity on the matter.

3 **Q. What is “effective competition” and how can the Commission be assured that the**  
4 **markets behind the various LDCs that have expanded gas transportation options**  
5 **will have effective competition?**

6 A. The definition of “effective competition” can be elusive. In some respects, it may be  
7 defined as the presence of several marketers in a given marketplace. However, effective  
8 competition cannot necessarily be linked to specific levels of participation in a given  
9 unbundling program. Low participation levels might be explained by a general lack of  
10 customer interest or the absence of customer savings. Modifying the marketplace with  
11 the purpose of promoting participation rates should not be the focus. Creating a “level  
12 playing field” is not about “out-sourcing” the marketer’s business functions to the LDC  
13 in the name of “effective competition.”

14 **Q. Should LDCs be required to exit the merchant function in order to foster effective**  
15 **competition?**

16 A. No. Removing the regulated alternative removes the performance benchmark and the  
17 competition in one step. Once there is no regulated benchmark, there can be no  
18 determination of savings. Maintaining a viable regulated merchant function can be one  
19 of the safeguards to maintaining effective competition.

20  
21 **VI. CONCLUSION**  
22

1 **Q. What are your overall conclusions regarding expansion of natural gas**  
2 **transportation programs in Kentucky?**

3 A. Ultimately, the purpose of this proceeding is to address a theoretical – the ability to  
4 choose in and of itself. Is giving customers the ability to choose for the sake of choice a  
5 purpose of regulatory change – particularly with no certainty of benefits and with the  
6 potential for exposure to increased costs and risks?

7 LG&E is concerned that a further expansion of unbundling will expose customers to  
8 increased costs and risks that may not be commensurate with the benefits – if any.  
9 Because so many of the risks to implement such programs fall on the LDC, it is LG&E’s  
10 position that the implementation of retail choice programs should be at the discretion of  
11 each LDC.

12 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

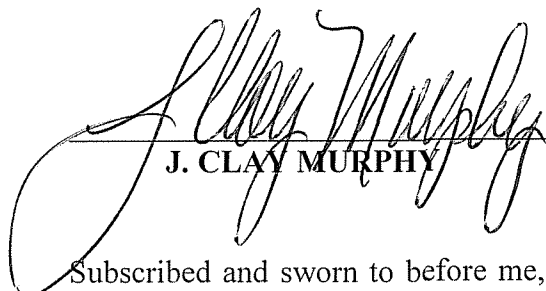
13 A. Yes, it does.



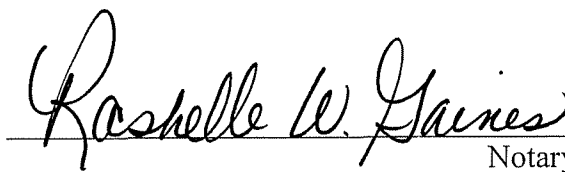
VERIFICATION

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY )  
  ) SS:  
COUNTY OF JEFFERSON                     )

The undersigned, J. Clay Murphy, being duly sworn, deposes and says he is the Director – Gas Management, Planning, and Supply for Louisville Gas and Electric Company, that he has personal knowledge of the matters set forth in the foregoing testimony, and the answers contained therein are true and correct to the best of his information, knowledge and belief.

  
\_\_\_\_\_ )  
J. CLAY MURPHY

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and before said County and State, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2010.

 (SEAL)  
Notary Public

My Commission Expires:  
Feb. 28, 2010

## APPENDIX A

### **J. CLAY MURPHY**

Director – Gas Management, Planning, and Supply  
Louisville Gas and Electric Company  
820 West Broadway  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

### **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

#### *LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY*

Director – Gas Management, Planning and Supply (7/00 – Present)  
Manager – Gas Supply (12/89 – 7/00)  
Gas Supply Coordinator (10/86 – 12/89)  
Rate Analyst (10/81 – 10/86)

### **EDUCATION:**

#### *INDIANA UNIVERSITY*

Bloomington, Indiana (8/79 – 5/81)  
Master of Business Administration

#### *BELLARMINE COLLEGE*

Louisville, Kentucky (8/75 - 5/79)  
Bachelor of Arts with Major in Accounting

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**In the Matter of:**

**AN INVESTIGATION OF  
NATURAL GAS RETAIL  
COMPETITION PROGRAMS**

)  
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)  
)

**CASE NO: 2010-00146**

**TESTIMONY OF  
PAMELA L. JAYNES  
GAS SUPPLY MANAGER  
LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY**

**Filed: June 21, 2010**

1 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

2 A. My name is Pamela L. Jaynes and my business address is 820 West Broadway,  
3 Louisville, Kentucky.

4 **Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?**

5 A. I am the Gas Supply Manager for Louisville Gas and Electric Company (“LG&E”).

6 **Q. What is your role as Gas Supply Manager?**

7 A. I am responsible for the development of LG&E’s natural gas supply plans. Among other  
8 activities, I am responsible for the determination of supply and interstate pipeline  
9 transportation requirements, bid parameters and contract specifications, as well as  
10 monitoring regulatory and market developments.

11 **Q. What is your educational background and experience?**

12 A. I graduated from Indiana University Southeast in New Albany, Indiana, with a B.S.  
13 degree in Business in 1987. In 1988, I was employed by LG&E in the Rate Department,  
14 where I remained until 1991 when I transferred to the Gas Supply Department. I became  
15 Gas Supply Manager in 2002. A statement of my education and work experience is  
16 contained in Appendix A.

17 **Q. Are you the only witness for LG&E sponsoring testimony in this proceeding?**

18 A. No. J. Clay Murphy, Director – Gas Management, Planning, and Supply, will also be  
19 providing information covering LG&E’s position on retail choice and expanded  
20 unbundling, industry structure overview, recent legislative proposals in Kentucky, and  
21 elements related to retail unbundling that need to be addressed.

1 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this case?**

2 A. The purpose of my testimony is to describe recent trends related to natural gas retail  
3 choice programs, including information indicating the status of these programs in terms  
4 of the number of states with programs, customer participation, marketer participation,  
5 customer benefits (*i.e.*, savings), and customer concerns regarding marketer behavior.  
6 Much of the information presented herein is drawn from a report found on the website of  
7 the Energy Information Administration (“EIA”) entitled “Status of Natural Gas  
8 Residential Choice Programs by State as of December 2009” released May 17, 2010,  
9 hereinafter “2009 EIA Report.”<sup>1</sup> The facts and trends associated with retail choice  
10 programs do not present a compelling case for further natural gas unbundling in  
11 Kentucky.

12  
13 **I. CUSTOMER RETAIL CHOICE PARTICIPATION LEVELS**

14  
15 **Q. Are residential customers actively participating in retail choice programs?**

16 A. According to information found in the 2009 EIA Report, participation by customers in  
17 retail choice programs can vary widely from state to state. Participation in retail choice  
18 programs can also vary widely by local distribution company (“LDC”) within each state.  
19 While participation in these programs across the U.S. grew from 13.5% of eligible  
20 participants in 2008 to 14.7% of eligible participants in 2009, the majority of this growth  
21 is the result of increased participation levels in Ohio and New York. In general,

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<sup>1</sup> See [http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil\\_gas/natural\\_gas/restructure/historical/2009/restructure.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/natural_gas/restructure/historical/2009/restructure.html).

1 participation by customers in retail choice programs in the other 19 states and the District  
2 of Columbia has floundered.

3 **Q. How many customers in the U.S. are participating in retail choice programs?**

4 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, about 5.1 million (15%) of the approximately 35  
5 million residential customers that have access to retail choice programs are participating  
6 in these programs. This means that about 29.9 million, or 85% of eligible customers,  
7 have elected not to participate in these programs. Both the number of residential  
8 customers eligible and the percent participating have remained relatively stagnant over  
9 the last few years.

10 **Q. Is participation in retail choice programs growing?**

11 A. While the total number of residential customers enrolled in choice programs has grown  
12 over the last few years, it has grown in relatively small increments. For example, about  
13 445,000 more residential customers were participating in retail choice programs in 2009  
14 than in 2008. As a result, participation in retail choice programs increased from 13.5% in  
15 2008 to 14.7% in 2009. Importantly, 85% of the year-over-year growth of 445,000  
16 customers occurred in only two states: Ohio (278,968 customers) and New York (98,576  
17 customers). Interestingly, choice is growing in the two states where the LDCs appear to  
18 be exiting the merchant function, thus eliminating the LDC as a choice for customers.

19 **Q. How many states have retail choice programs?**

1 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, twenty-two states (about 40%) including the District  
2 of Columbia have residential retail choice programs. This means that twenty-nine states  
3 (about 60%) do not have retail choice programs.<sup>2</sup>

4 **Q. What states have the highest participation levels in retail choice programs?**

5 A. Georgia and Ohio accounted for more than 60% of customers enrolled in residential retail  
6 choice programs at the end of 2009.<sup>3</sup> This may not be surprising considering that  
7 customers in Georgia can no longer choose Atlanta Gas Light (“AGL”) as their natural  
8 gas supplier and instead must choose a third-party marketer. Additionally, most retail  
9 customers in Ohio can no longer choose to purchase gas pursuant to a regulated Gas Cost  
10 Recovery (“GCR”) price offered by the LDC as a regulated merchant. Instead, the  
11 customers of three Ohio LDCs<sup>4</sup> that have chosen to exit the merchant function must  
12 choose between an alternative marketer’s price and a Standard Service Offer (“SSO”) or  
13 similar price offering. The SSO price is the product of an auction process whereby  
14 marketers participating in a specific LDC’s program can bid to be an SSO supplier. I  
15 discuss some of the details of the SSO later in my testimony.

16

## 17 **II. MARKETER RETAIL CHOICE PARTICIPATION LEVELS**

18

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<sup>2</sup> Two of these 29 states had pilot programs but discontinued those programs. According to the EIA 2009 Report’s website, both Delmarva Power (Delaware) and Wisconsin Gas Company discontinued their pilot programs in 2001 because of declining customer and marketer participation.

<sup>3</sup> This percentage can be calculated as follows: (1,461,748 customers in Georgia + 1,665,256 customers in Ohio) / 5,140,706 total customers enrolled in retail choice).

<sup>4</sup> The three Ohio LDCs are Dominion East Ohio, Columbia Gas of Ohio, and Vectren Energy Delivery.

1 **Q. What does EIA data suggest about marketer participation in retail choice**  
2 **programs?**

3 A. EIA data indicates that there are many marketers licensed in the U.S. to serve residential  
4 customers. However, actual participation by marketers varies greatly by state and by  
5 LDC program within in each state. There may be several marketers to choose from in  
6 some residential retail choice programs, but little or no choice of marketers in other retail  
7 choice programs. According to the 2009 EIA Report, as of December 2009, the U.S. had  
8 110 marketers licensed and actively serving residential customers. However, these 110  
9 marketers are not licensed and active in each state that has natural gas retail choice  
10 programs. In fact, very few marketers are active in more than one state. According to the  
11 2009 EIA Report, about 80% of marketers are active in only one state and about 90% of  
12 marketers are active in only one or two states.<sup>5</sup>

13 **Q. What is the participation level of marketers in retail choice programs by state and**  
14 **by LDC?**

15 A. Participation by marketers in residential retail choice programs varies greatly by state.  
16 For example according to the 2009 EIA Report<sup>6</sup>, of the 22 states (including the District of  
17 Columbia) that have retail choice programs, four states have ten or more residential  
18 marketers, seven states have between five and nine residential marketers, nine states  
19 (including the District of Columbia) have fewer than five residential marketers, and two  
20 states have no residential marketers. The only states with ten or more marketers are

---

<sup>5</sup> According to EIA data, of the 110 active marketers in the U.S., 46 of those marketers (40%) are active only in the state of New York.

<sup>6</sup> See [http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil\\_gas/natural\\_gas/restructure/historical/2009/marketers.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/natural_gas/restructure/historical/2009/marketers.html).



1 Illinois, Michigan, New York, and Ohio. Participation by marketers in retail choice  
2 programs can also vary by LDC within each state. For example, according to the 2009  
3 EIA Report, as of December 2009, there are ten residential marketers in the state of  
4 Michigan but not all ten marketers are active in each of the state's retail choice  
5 programs.<sup>7</sup>

6 **Q. What are some of the factors that may be influencing customer participation levels**  
7 **in retail choice programs based upon your review of the 2009 EIA Report?**

8 A. Many factors may contribute to state retail choice participation levels, such as whether or  
9 not the LDC effectively remains in the merchant function; the extent to which programs  
10 are subsidized by LDCs or customers; savings realized by customers; and customer  
11 satisfaction with marketers. In order to better understand what may be impacting  
12 participation levels in some states, it is necessary to take a closer look at what is going on  
13 in those states. According to the 2009 EIA Report, some of the states that appear to be  
14 more "active" in terms of participation levels and regulatory initiatives to foster retail  
15 choice programs include Georgia, New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio. Following is  
16 some more detailed information for each of these states.

17  
18 **III. RETAIL CHOICE IN GEORGIA**

19  
20 **Q. What percentage of Georgia customers are participating in retail choice programs?**

---

<sup>7</sup> According to the 2009 EIA Report, Consumers Energy has ten marketers serving residential customers, DTE Energy has nine, SEMCO has three, and Michigan Gas Utilities has only one.

1 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, about 81% of residential and commercial customers  
2 are participating in retail choice in Georgia. These participants are located in AGL's  
3 service area. The other investor-owned utility in the state, Atmos Energy (formerly  
4 United Cities Gas), has chosen not to unbundle its gas services at the residential level.

5 **Q. According to the 2009 EIA Report, what events may have impacted retail choice**  
6 **program participation in Georgia?**

7 A. Georgia was the leader in promoting retail choice programs. According to the 2009 EIA  
8 Report, since October 1999, all residential gas customers in AGL's service area have had  
9 access to retail choice. Perhaps the biggest factor influencing consumer participation in  
10 Georgia retail choice programs was AGL's decision to leave the merchant function  
11 effective October 1, 1999. As a result, all residential natural gas customers  
12 (approximately 1.5 million) and all commercial customers (approximately 94,000) in  
13 AGL's service territory can no longer choose to purchase gas from the LDC. These  
14 customers must purchase their natural gas supply directly from a marketer. Given that  
15 over 80% of natural gas customers in Georgia are located in AGL's service area, AGL's  
16 decision to leave the merchant function significantly impacts customer participation  
17 levels in Georgia and contributes to the current residential and commercial combined  
18 participation level of 81% in that state.

19 **Q. Did AGL Resources make any announcements related to retail choice programs**  
20 **prior to the time that AGL exited the merchant function?**

21 A. On July 15, 1998, AGL Resources (AGL's parent) announced that it had entered into a  
22 joint venture with Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. and Dynegy, Inc. to provide

1 competitive services to the Southeast market under the name SouthStar Energy.<sup>8</sup> In that  
2 announcement, AGL stated that

3 SouthStar Energy will initially market energy products and  
4 services to targeted industrial and commercial customers  
5 throughout the Southeast and will offer residential and small  
6 business energy services to customers within Georgia as that  
7 market opens to competition in November, 1998.

8  
9 SouthStar currently does business as an unregulated marketer in Georgia under the brand  
10 name “Georgia Natural Gas.”<sup>9</sup> As an unregulated marketer, Georgia Natural Gas can  
11 mark-up the natural gas it sells to customers, something AGL could not do in the  
12 regulated merchant function.<sup>10</sup>

13 **Q. Has retail choice in Georgia faced challenges?**

14 A. Yes, retail choice in Georgia has faced challenges over the years. For example,  
15 according to the 2009 EIA Report, concerns about the billing practices of some marketers  
16 and the high prices to residential customers in the winter of 2000-2001 led to passage of  
17 the Natural Gas Consumers’ Relief Act in April 2002. This legislation includes a  
18 consumer bill of rights and gives the Georgia Public Service Commission (“GAPSC”) the  
19 authority to issue emergency orders, such as price regulations, if it determines that market  
20 conditions are no longer competitive. According to the 2009 EIA report, another  
21 challenge to Georgia’s retail choice programs occurred in January 2006 when legislation  
22 was proposed to re-regulate the retail gas market (Georgia House Bill 1108 and Georgia

---

<sup>8</sup> See [http://www.aglresources.com/pressroom/news\\_details.aspx?releaseID=5587&earn=1](http://www.aglresources.com/pressroom/news_details.aspx?releaseID=5587&earn=1).

<sup>9</sup> See <http://www.atlantagaslight.com/Home/EstablishServiceChooseAMarketer/MarterContactInformation>.

<sup>10</sup> Additionally, AGL Resources owns Sequent Energy Management which serves the needs of utilities, marketers, retail aggregators, municipalities, and large industrial customers. (See <http://www.aglresources.com/about/wholesale.aspx>). Sequent has been acting as the asset manager for AGL since 2003. (See <http://atlantagaslight.com/Universal/Pressroom/2006.aspx>.)

1 Senate Bill 448). Proposed legislation would have prohibited marketers from renewing  
2 contracts and returned customers to AGL, who would again have served as the regulated  
3 supplier and transporter. (According to the 2009 EIA Report, similar bills were rejected  
4 in 2000, 2001, and 2002.)  
5

6 **IV. RETAIL CHOICE IN NEW YORK**  
7

8 **Q. What percentage of New York customers are participating in retail choice**  
9 **programs?**

10 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, with the exception of a few small utility companies,  
11 retail choice is offered statewide in New York. About 17% of residential and commercial  
12 customers in that state are participating in retail choice programs. The remaining 83% of  
13 these customers continue to choose to purchase natural gas from their LDC.

14 **Q. According to the 2009 EIA Report, what events may have impacted retail choice**  
15 **program participation in New York?**

16 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, in 1998, the New York Public Service Commission  
17 (“NYPSC”) ordered LDCs to exit the merchant function over a transition period of three  
18 to seven years. At that time, LDCs were directed to cooperate with marketers to  
19 encourage competition. Despite the original intention of the NYPSC that all LDCs exit  
20 the merchant function, all New York LDCs remain in the merchant function.

21 **Q. What challenges have retail choice programs in New York faced?**

1 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, retail choice programs in New York have faced  
2 challenges over the years, particularly with respect to low participation levels. According  
3 to the 2009 EIA Report, a preliminary report was issued by the NYPSC in July 2001.  
4 That report concluded that the transition to a competitive retail market would take much  
5 longer than expected. The report recommended that utilities eventually be forced to exit  
6 the retail market but acknowledged that the market was not sufficiently competitive to  
7 support this change.

8 **Q. What are some of the actions taken by the NYPSC to encourage retail choice**  
9 **participation?**

10 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, the NYPSC issued policy statements in 2004 that  
11 outlined strategies to boost participation in competitive markets. Among these strategies  
12 were continuing the option to have utilities handle billing for marketers and encouraging  
13 the utility to purchase a marketer's accounts receivable without recourse. According to  
14 the NYPSC's Order in Case 07-M-0458,

15 Additional measures promoting retail markets were implemented  
16 through utility rate plans and included outreach and education  
17 efforts intended to inform consumers about retail competition,  
18 promotion of retail access advertising and customer migration,  
19 market expos, energy fairs, market match programs, and the  
20 designation of an ombudsman by each utility to respond to  
21 marketer concerns. Utilities also tracked the progress of efforts to  
22 promote retail access by surveying customers' awareness of  
23 competitive alternatives and marketers' satisfaction with utility  
24 performance. Some utilities were awarded a customer migration  
25 incentive, allowing them to earn monetary rewards based on their  
26 success in promoting retail competition, often measured by the  
27 number of their customers that migrated to marketers or success in

1 achieving customer awareness metrics scored by performance on  
2 customer surveys.<sup>11</sup>

3  
4 According to the 2009 EIA Report, several LDCs also began offering supplier referral  
5 programs in 2006 to encourage customer participation in retail choice programs.

6 **Q. What is a “Supplier Referral Program?”**

7 A. In New York, Supplier Referral Programs are programs whereby the LDC enrolls a  
8 residential or small non-residential customer in its retail choice program and if the  
9 customer has not selected a specific marketer, the LDC assigns the customer to a  
10 marketer. The marketer chosen by (or assigned to) the customer provides the customer  
11 with an introductory discount, typically for a two month period.<sup>12</sup>

12 **Q. Does the New York LDC absorb the costs for these programs and the other  
13 measures it must take to promote retail choice?**

14 A. Until recently, the NYPSC’s policy was for customers to pay the costs incurred by LDCs  
15 to operate Supplier Referral Programs and other retail choice promotional programs. In  
16 2008, the NYPSC determined that the retail market was well enough established that  
17 customers should no longer pay the costs of most retail choice promotional programs. As  
18 a result, most of these costs are now borne by marketers. In support of this decision, the  
19 NYPSC stated that “[m]oreover, subsidization is inconsistent with competitive market  
20 operations as subsidies distort the functioning of competitive markets. Eliminating

---

<sup>11</sup> State of New York Public Service Commission Case 07-M-0458 “Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Review Policies and Practices Intended to Foster the Development of Competitive Retail Energy Markets”, Order dated October 27, 2008, pp. 6-7, referring to previous actions taken to promote competition.

<sup>12</sup> See [http://www.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/home/energychoice/3\\_newchoices.asp](http://www.nationalgridus.com/niagaramohawk/home/energychoice/3_newchoices.asp).

1 subsidies will leave a market where competitors can be judged on the merits of their offers  
2 and the quality of their products, without assistance from utilities or ratepayers.”<sup>13</sup>  
3

4 **V. RETAIL CHOICE IN PENNSYLVANIA**  
5

6 **Q. What percentage of Pennsylvania customers are participating in retail choice**  
7 **programs?**

8 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, all customers in the state of Pennsylvania are eligible  
9 to participate in retail choice programs. About 7% of all residential and commercial  
10 customers combined in Pennsylvania are participating in retail choice programs.  
11 Conversely, about 93% of residential and commercial customers combined are not  
12 participating in these programs.

13 **Q. According to the 2009 EIA Report, what challenges have retail choice programs**  
14 **faced in Pennsylvania?**

15 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, competition for natural gas supply has been allowed  
16 state-wide in Pennsylvania since the enactment of the Natural Gas Choice and  
17 Competition Act in 1999. Despite efforts to increase participation in retail choice  
18 programs, these programs continue to face challenges, particularly with respect to low  
19 participation levels. As of December 2009, the 2009 EIA Report indicates that only

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<sup>13</sup> State of New York Public Service Commission Case 07-M-0458 “Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Review Policies and Practices Intended to Foster the Development of Competitive Retail Energy Markets”, Order dated October 27, 2008, p. 6.

1 about 7% of residential customers and 10% of commercial customers are participating in  
2 retail choice programs.

3 **Q. What actions have been taken by the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission**  
4 **(“PAPUC”) in an effort to increase participation in retail choice programs?**

5 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, in 2004, the PAPUC began an investigation to  
6 evaluate the competitiveness of natural gas supply services in the state. In 2008, the  
7 PAPUC approved a two-year action plan to encourage marketer participation in choice  
8 programs. The first phase of the plan created an Office of Competitive Oversight within  
9 the PAPUC, development of legislative changes dealing with capacity assignment and  
10 release, and expansion of the purchase of receivables program. The second phase is in  
11 progress and will include rulemakings to address the concerns of LDCs and marketers  
12 regarding retail choice programs. The PAPUC also committed to undertake a review in  
13 five years to evaluate the success of its initiatives.<sup>14</sup>

14  
15 **VI. RETAIL CHOICE IN OHIO**

16  
17 **Q. What percentage of Ohio customers are participating in retail choice programs?**

18 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, about 88% of customers in Ohio have access to retail  
19 choice. About 58% of all eligible residential and commercial customers combined in  
20 Ohio are participating in retail choice programs.

---

<sup>14</sup> See [http://www.puc.state.pa.us/General/press\\_releases/Press\\_Releases.aspx?ShowPR=2061](http://www.puc.state.pa.us/General/press_releases/Press_Releases.aspx?ShowPR=2061).



1 **Q. According to the 2009 EIA Report, what events may be impacting retail choice**  
2 **participation in Ohio?**

3 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, competition for natural gas supply began in Ohio in  
4 1997 when three LDCs began offering retail choice programs. Legislation to further  
5 promote these retail choice programs was enacted in 2001. Among other things, that  
6 legislation allows communities to purchase natural gas through aggregation programs.  
7 Local governments may choose an “opt-in” or “opt-out” form of aggregation. These  
8 aggregation programs may be one factor contributing to participation levels in this state.

9 **Q. Which type of government aggregation program is commonly found in Ohio?**

10 A. It appears that many governmental aggregation programs are “opt-out” programs.<sup>15</sup>  
11 These programs must be approved through a voter referendum by the citizens of a local  
12 government. Under “opt-out” programs, any resident in a local government jurisdiction  
13 with an approved “opt-out” program must purchase natural gas from the marketer  
14 selected by the local government, unless (1) the resident has already selected another  
15 marketer, or (2) the resident takes action to “opt-out” of the program so that they can  
16 either select another marketer or remain with the LDC. As an example, customers who  
17 want to “opt-out” must return a post card to the marketer; otherwise they are considered  
18 to have “opted-in.” This type of program might be considered by some as a legalized  
19 “slamming” program operated by the local government whereby customers are switched  
20 from their LDC to a marketer without the customer’s affirmative choice. (I discuss  
21 “slamming” later in my testimony.)

---

<sup>15</sup> See <http://www.cantonohio.gov/?pg=368>.

1 **Q. Are there any benefits to these “opt-out” programs?**

2 Marketers likely find these programs beneficial because they may significantly reduce the  
3 marketing cost that would otherwise be required to attract a large number of customers.  
4 These programs do not guarantee any benefit in terms of savings for customers.  
5 However, according to one Ohio local government’s website “Opt-Out programs are the  
6 most common types of aggregation programs because they lead to higher participation  
7 that usually results in lower rates.”<sup>16</sup> Importantly, if customers are automatically enrolled  
8 unless they take some action, then participation rates will rise. The local government  
9 may be able to get a lower price from the selected marketer if it has higher participation  
10 levels and therefore more volume to purchase. However, if this stands to reason, then it  
11 would also indicate that further unbundling may not be efficient, as the LDC should be  
12 able to get an even better price purchasing natural gas for its entire service area.

13 **Q. What other events may be impacting retail choice participation in Ohio?**

14 A. Participation in Dominion East Ohio’s (“Dominion”), Columbia Gas of Ohio’s and  
15 Vectren Energy Delivery’s service areas may be impacted by the decision of each LDC to  
16 exit the merchant function. As a result, if a customer does not choose a marketer, then  
17 the customer must purchase natural gas pursuant to the LDC’s Standard Service Offer  
18 (“SSO”) or Standard Choice Offer (“SCO”) as applicable.<sup>17</sup> Therefore, the SSO or SCO  
19 replaces the LDC’s GCR rate on non-choice customer bills.

20 **Q. What is a SSO, and how is it different from a SCO?**

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<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> The use of the term SSO and SCO may vary by LDC and the LDC’s current phase of exiting the merchant function.

1 A. According to Dominion’s website, the gas cost rates pursuant to the SSO and the SCO are  
2 currently the same per Mcf; however, these offers apply to customers based on certain  
3 customer characteristics.<sup>18</sup> SSO customers are not assigned to a marketer, while SCO  
4 customers are assigned to a specific marketer, but pay the same monthly variable SCO  
5 rate regardless of the assigned marketer. Both the SSO and SCO rates change monthly  
6 and are calculated by adding the NYMEX<sup>19</sup> close for the prompt month to the Retail  
7 Price Adjustment.

8 **Q. How are SSO/SCO marketers, as well as the Retail Price Adjustment, determined?**

9 As referenced in Mr. Murphy’s testimony, the process used to purchase gas sold pursuant  
10 to the SSO/SCO is considerably different than the process that is currently used by LDCs  
11 to purchase natural gas sold pursuant to their GCR mechanisms. My understanding is  
12 that the SSO/SCO is determined through an “auction” process that is performed by an  
13 “independent auction manager.” The only suppliers that can participate in the auction are  
14 alternative natural gas marketers that are certified marketers in the LDC’s retail choice  
15 program. The certified marketer’s bid must be in the form of NYMEX plus a Retail Price  
16 Adjustment stated in dollars per Mcf. The results of the auction are filed with the Public  
17 Utility Commission of Ohio (“PUCO”).

18 **Q. What is the purpose of the Retail Price Adjustment?**

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<sup>18</sup> See <http://www.dom.com/dominion-east-ohio/customer-service/rates-and-tariffs/standard-service-offer.jsp>  
and <http://www.dom.com/dominion-east-ohio/customer-service/energy-choice/standard-choice-offer.jsp>.

<sup>19</sup> The price of natural gas traded on the New York Mercantile Exchange (“NYMEX”) can be used as an  
index for pricing natural gas.

1 The “Retail Price Adjustment” compensates marketers for all of their costs of providing  
2 service for the entire term of the SSO/SCO. Such costs may include, but are not limited  
3 to, all pipeline demand and variable costs and gas commodity costs incurred by the  
4 marketer to meet the needs of the SSO/SCO customers; LDC system balancing, lost and  
5 unaccounted for percentage retention (including company use); annual standard Btu  
6 values; hedging costs, if any; and all other aspects of cost and risk relating to the  
7 provision of SSO/SCO service. The Retail Price Adjustment also includes the marketer’s  
8 profit margin.

9 **Q. Do any of the LDCs in Ohio that have decided to leave the merchant function have**  
10 **unregulated marketing affiliates that are participating in the LDCs’ retail choice**  
11 **programs?**

12 A. Yes. In Ohio, marketer Vectren Source operates in the service area of Vectren, as well as  
13 Columbia Gas of Ohio, Dominion East Ohio, and Duke Energy.<sup>20</sup> In Ohio, marketer  
14 Dominion East Ohio Energy operates as an unregulated marketer in the service areas of  
15 Dominion East Ohio, as well as Columbia Gas of Ohio. Both Vectren Source and  
16 Dominion East Ohio Energy can earn a profit on the sale of natural gas; their respective  
17 LDCs cannot. Having an affiliated marketing company may have provided an incentive  
18 for these two LDCs to exit the merchant function.

19 **Q. You have provided some information related to events that have occurred in four**  
20 **states with higher retail choice participation rates. What is going on in the other 18**  
21 **states or districts that offer residential retail choice programs?**

---

<sup>20</sup> See <http://www.pickocc.org/gas/factsheets-gas.shtml> (See “Comparing Your Energy Choices.”).

1 A. Some of these states have pilot retail choice programs and others have permanent  
2 programs. In a few of these states, regulatory actions have been taken to spur marketer  
3 and customer interest in these programs. Nevertheless, there has been very little (if any)  
4 growth in retail choice participation in most of these states. For example, from the 2008  
5 EIA report to the 2009 EIA report, participation in these 18 states combined grew by only  
6 about 70,000 customers. Most of that growth between 2008 and 2009 (about 43,000  
7 customers) occurred in Michigan as participation levels reached about 11% returning to  
8 earlier 2002 levels.<sup>21</sup>

9 **Q. Does the EIA report provide any insight into why choice may be floundering in**  
10 **some of states?**

11 A. Yes, potential reasons for low residential participation are included in the 2009 EIA  
12 report for some states. For example, the 2009 EIA report indicates that low customer  
13 participation in California (less than 1%) may be due to low marketer participation  
14 potentially caused by “high transaction costs and the difficulty in offering competitive  
15 rates to core customers.”<sup>22</sup> In New Mexico where combined residential and commercial  
16 participation is less than 1%, customers continue to purchase natural gas from their LDC  
17 “in large part because marketers have been unable to compete with the LDCs’ prices.”<sup>23</sup>  
18

19 **VII. OTHER FACTORS INFLUENCING CUSTOMER PARTICIPATION**  
20

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<sup>21</sup> “*Gas Daily*” dated December 7, 2009, p. 9.

<sup>22</sup> See 2009 EIA Report – California.

<sup>23</sup> See 2009 EIA Report – New Mexico.

1 **Q. Will customers save money by participating in a retail choice program?**

2 A. As described by the Illinois Citizens Utility Board (“CUB”) on its website, when  
3 choosing an unregulated marketer,

4           You’re simply gambling that the unregulated supplier will do a  
5           better job buying gas than the utility. Sadly, you would need a  
6           crystal ball to determine whether any of these plans are big  
7           winners.<sup>24</sup>

8  
9 While customers may experience savings from time to time, retail choice does not  
10 guarantee customer savings, and can result in customers paying higher costs for natural  
11 gas over time as illustrated by experiences in Kentucky and Illinois.

12 **Q. Have customers in Kentucky experienced savings as a result of retail choice?**

13 A. Columbia Gas of Kentucky (“CGK”) has had a pilot retail choice program since 2000.  
14 CGK’s 2009 “Customer Choice Program Annual Report” filed on June 1, 2009, with the  
15 Kentucky Public Service Commission (“KYPSC”) in Case No. 2008-00195 indicates that  
16 customers participating in CGK’s retail choice program have lost (not saved) money over  
17 the lifetime of the program. CGK’s estimates that as of March 2009, choice customers  
18 combined have paid about \$3.8 million more than they would have paid if they had  
19 stayed with the LDC. The loss experienced by customers participating in the CGK retail  
20 choice program increased by \$13.5 million in the course of a single year, from \$3.8  
21 million in the 2009 report to \$17.3 in the 2010 report. Given that about 32,400 customers  
22 participate in the program, the average loss per customer was \$417 for a single year.

23 **Q. Have customers in Illinois experienced savings as a result of retail choice?**

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<sup>24</sup> See <http://www.citizensutilityboard.org/GasMarketMonitor.php>.

1 A. According to the 2009 EIA Report, retail choice programs are being offered by three  
2 LDCs in the state of Illinois providing over 75% of residential and commercial customers  
3 in that state with access to choice. The Illinois Citizens Utility Board (“CUB”) estimates  
4 the benefits of marketer offers as a service to consumers.<sup>25</sup> The CUB’s “Gas Market  
5 Monitor”, an online service, tracks offers in the retail choice programs in Illinois, and has  
6 found that “most of the offers peddled by unregulated natural gas suppliers in northern  
7 Illinois to date are bad deals compared with utility rates.”<sup>26</sup> The “Gas Market Monitor”  
8 provides a monthly snapshot of how hundreds of plans have fared in Illinois since 2003.<sup>27</sup>  
9 As of May 12, 2010, the CUB estimates that 92% of about 3,600 plans offered would  
10 have produced higher costs when compared to LDC offerings rather than savings for  
11 customers. On average, these plans would have produced higher costs of about \$661 per  
12 plan. The findings by the CUB may partially explain why participation in choice  
13 programs is low in Illinois despite the fact that three LDCs in that state have had retail  
14 choice programs since 2002. According to the 2009 EIA Report, as of December 31,  
15 2009, only about 10% of eligible residential and commercial customers combined are  
16 participating in these programs.

17 **Q. Can EIA data be used to determine if residential customers are saving money**  
18 **through retail choice programs?**

---

<sup>25</sup> According to the website of the CUB, the CUB was created by the Illinois General Assembly in 1983. The CUB is a non-profit, non-partisan organization whose mission is to represent the interests of residential utility customers across the state of Illinois.

<sup>26</sup> See [http://www.citizensutilityboard.org/ciNaturalGas\\_FactsAboutNaturalGasPrices.html](http://www.citizensutilityboard.org/ciNaturalGas_FactsAboutNaturalGasPrices.html).

<sup>27</sup> See <http://www.citizensutilityboard.org/GasMarketMonitor.php>.

1 A. A report prepared by EIA may provide some insight into whether or not residential  
2 customers are saving money in retail choice programs. Table 24 of the EIA’s “Natural  
3 Gas Annual 2008” (published March 2010) sets forth the “Average Price of Natural Gas  
4 Delivered to Residential and Commercial Sector Consumers by Local Distribution and  
5 Marketers in Selected States, 2007-2008” (“EIA Table 24”).<sup>28</sup> That table sets forth  
6 average residential price data for the following eight states: Florida, Georgia, Maryland,  
7 New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia, and indicates that for 2008, on  
8 average, the price charged by marketers to residential customers was higher than the price  
9 charged by LDCs. Specifically, based on a simple average of the prices charged in these  
10 eight states, the average marketer price of \$17.76 per Mcf was higher compared to the  
11 average LDC price of \$16.44 per Mcf.

12 **Q. What other factors may be influencing customer satisfaction levels and therefore**  
13 **participation in retail choice programs?**

14 A. The activities of marketers can lead to customer dissatisfaction and influence the level of  
15 customer participation in retail choice programs. Some of those activities include  
16 deceptive marketing practices; “slamming;” failure to honor contractual terms; and  
17 failure to deliver. These types of activities have occurred from time to time in various  
18 states since the inception of retail choice programs in the late 1990s and are still  
19 occurring in some programs today despite continued efforts by state legislatures and

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<sup>28</sup> See “2009 EIA Report”, “Other Resources”, “Average Price of Natural Gas Delivered to Residential and Commercial Sector Consumers by Local Distribution and Marketers in Selected States, 2007-2008.”



1 commissions to put consumer protection legislation and marketer codes of conduct in  
2 place.

3 **Q. Can you provide an example of a state where these activities may be occurring?**

4 A. Yes, Georgia provides such an example. In response to consumer requests for  
5 information indicating marketer performance, the GAPSC posts the monthly “Gas  
6 Marketer Scorecard” which reflects the number of complaints and general questions  
7 about marketers received by the GAPSC during each month in the categories of  
8 “Billing,” “Service,” and “Deceptive Marketing Practices.”<sup>29</sup>

9 **Q. What are some examples of deceptive marketing practices associated with retail  
10 choice programs?**

11 A. One example of deceptive marketing practices occurred recently in Illinois. According to  
12 its website,<sup>30</sup> the CUB has received complaints of misleading marketing practices by  
13 marketers. In March 2008, the CUB, American Association of Retired Persons  
14 (“AARP”) Illinois, and Citizen Action Illinois filed a complaint with the Illinois  
15 Commerce Commission (“ICC”) alleging that U.S. Energy sent employees door-to-door  
16 circulating “bogus petitions” to lower their natural gas bills. In addition, the complaint  
17 claims that these U.S. Energy employees told gas customers that they worked either for  
18 regulated utilities or the government. These advocacy groups requested the ICC to ban  
19 U.S. Energy’s alleged tactics, eliminate illegally high “exit” fees, fine the company up to  
20 \$10,000 for each violation of the Illinois Alternative Gas Supplier Law, and consider

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<sup>29</sup> See [http://www.psc.state.ga.us/consumer\\_corner/cc\\_gas/scorecard.asp](http://www.psc.state.ga.us/consumer_corner/cc_gas/scorecard.asp).

<sup>30</sup> See <http://www.citizensutilityboard.org/ciTips.html>.

1           revoking the firm’s certification in the State. In April 2010, the ICC fined U.S. Energy  
2           (now doing business in Illinois as “Just Energy”) for violations of the Alternative Gas  
3           Supplier Law. The ICC also directed this marketer to take other actions intended to  
4           reduce customer complaints such as improving independent third-party sales verification  
5           procedures; ensuring marketing materials are completely accurate and distortion free; and  
6           refraining from offering employee commissions based in any way on an act or omission  
7           that violates any law, regulation or order of the ICC.<sup>31</sup>

8   **Q.    What action has been taken by the Illinois General Assembly to recognize that**  
9   **misleading marketing has been a problem in that state’s retail choice programs?**

10          According to the 2009 EIA Report, in 2009, the Illinois General Assembly enacted the  
11          Amended Alternative Gas Supplier Law (Illinois Senate Bill 171) in response to a  
12          growing number of constituent complaints regarding misleading marketing strategies by  
13          alternate gas marketers. This amendment requires clear disclosure of prices, terms, and  
14          conditions of all products and services in marketers’ sale solicitations. In addition, the  
15          legislation prohibits marketers from misrepresenting their affiliation with a gas utility,  
16          governmental body, or consumer group, and provides consumers the right to cancel ten  
17          days after the gas utility notifies them of a switch to a marketer and ten days after the date  
18          of the first bill if customers find that the marketer’s service is not as promised.

19   **Q.    Can you provide an example of an action taken by a state commission to address**  
20   **misleading marketing practices by retail choice marketers?**

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<sup>31</sup> See <http://www.keyframe5.com/just-energy-fine-by-illinois-commerce-commission-icc/>.

1 A. Yes. In October 2008, the NYPS&C adopted new standards for gas marketers that require,  
2 among other things, a “Consumer Disclosure Statement” on the first page of every sales  
3 agreement, which will include the most important terms of the marketer’s agreement.  
4 The statement will contain the contract’s term and termination fee provisions; training of  
5 marketing representatives; protocols for in-person and telephone contacts with customers;  
6 added measures for protecting non-English speaking customers; and processes for  
7 handling customer complaints and resolving disputes arising from marketing activities.<sup>32</sup>  
8 This action was taken in response to customer complaints about misrepresentations by  
9 marketers that they were affiliated with local utilities as well as what actual savings  
10 customers could expect.<sup>33</sup>

11 **Q. Can you provide another example of misleading marketing practices by retail choice**  
12 **marketers?**

13 A. Yes, another example of misleading marketing practices occurred recently in Michigan.  
14 In 2008, the Michigan Public Service Commission (“MIPSC”) filed a formal complaint  
15 against the marketer Universal Gas and Electric Corporation (“UGE”) in response to  
16 escalating complaints from customers regarding its marketing practices. Some of the  
17 complaints were that UGE used misleading or false representations to secure residential  
18 customer authorization to switch to UGE; made misrepresentations regarding the amount  
19 of savings a customer would initially realize by switching to UGE; failed to clearly  
20 inform customers that contracts were for five years; and failed to inform customers of

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<sup>32</sup> “*Gas Daily*” dated October 20, 2008, p. 8.

<sup>33</sup> “*Gas Daily*” dated March 31, 2008, p. 8.

1 their right to cancel the contract within 30 days and of the \$250 early termination fee for  
2 cancellation after 30 days.<sup>34</sup> According to the 2009 EIA Report, the MIPSC reached an  
3 agreement with UGE in April 2009 requiring among other actions that UGE offer to  
4 either terminate contracts with certain customers without charge or give a \$50 credit to  
5 customers who choose to remain with UGE. UGE must limit its gas supply contracts to  
6 one- and two-year terms and limit its cancellation fees. UGE must also submit its  
7 marketing materials to the PSC for approval and revise its contract terms as set forth by  
8 the Michigan PSC.

9 **Q. Can you provide an example of “slamming” by a marketer?**

10 A. Since the inception of retail choice programs, the “slamming” of customers by some  
11 marketers has been a problem in various states. The term “slamming” is used when a  
12 customer is transferred to a retail marketer without that customer’s consent. According to  
13 the 2009 EIA Report, one example of slamming occurred recently in Georgia. In May  
14 2009, the GAPSC penalized Stream Energy for “slamming.” Stream Energy did not  
15 admit wrongdoing but agreed to pay penalties to resolve customer allegations that their  
16 service had been switched to Stream Energy without their consent.

17 **Q. Can you provide an example of a marketer defaulting on its contracts?**

18 A. One example of a marketer defaulting on its contracts occurred in Illinois. According to  
19 the 2009 EIA Report, in 2005, Santanna Energy Services (“Santanna”) defaulted on all of  
20 its fixed-rate plans with customers in Illinois and transferred customers to its variable rate

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<sup>34</sup> Michigan Public Service Commission Order dated February 22, 2008 in Case No. U-15509 and Case No. U-14732, p.2.

1 plan, saying it had become commercially impracticable to continue those plans.<sup>35</sup> The  
2 Illinois Attorney General filed a lawsuit against Santanna in October 2005 charging the  
3 marketer with violations of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business  
4 Practices Act for allegedly misrepresenting its fixed price rate offer when soliciting  
5 customers. An agreement was reached between the parties in November 2006. This  
6 agreement, valued at just over \$8 million, includes \$3.3 million in restitution payments to  
7 Illinois consumers.<sup>36</sup>

8 **Q. Can you provide an example of a marketer failing to deliver?**

9 A. Yes, according to the 2009 EIA Report, the sharp increase in natural gas prices during  
10 2005 made it uneconomic for at least one marketer in New Jersey to honor its contracts  
11 with consumers. At that time, South Jersey Energy, an affiliate and major marketer in  
12 South Jersey Gas Company's service area, returned its customers to regulated utility sales  
13 service. Additionally, several retail marketers failed to deliver natural gas during 2000  
14 and 2001 when a sharp increase in natural gas prices occurred. For example, according  
15 to *Gas Daily*, beginning in August 2000, Energy Max failed to deliver gas for customers  
16 in Ohio and Perry Gas failed to deliver gas for customers in Georgia. Beginning in  
17 October 2000, Iroquois Energy Management failed to deliver gas for customers in New  
18 York and Mountain Energy failed to deliver gas for customers in Kansas and Missouri.  
19 Beginning in December 2000, Nicole Energy Services failed to deliver gas for customers  
20 in Kentucky and Ohio and Kentucky Natural Gas failed to deliver gas for customers in

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<sup>35</sup> See <http://www.citizensutilityboard.org/utilityprofiles.php>. Select "Santanna Energy Services" as "Gas Utility."

<sup>36</sup> See [http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2006\\_11/20061101b.html](http://www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/pressroom/2006_11/20061101b.html).

1 Kentucky. Also beginning in December 2000, Summit Natural Gas failed to deliver gas  
2 for customers in Ohio and United Energy failed to deliver gas for customers in Virginia.  
3 Beginning in January 2001, North American Energy failed to deliver gas for customers in  
4 New York.<sup>37</sup>

5 **Q. In addition to impacting customers, does a marketer's failure to deliver supply on**  
6 **behalf of customers also impact the customer's LDC?**

7 A. Yes. In a retail choice program environment, marketers certified by state commissions  
8 are selected by customers to replace the LDC's traditional suppliers. When a marketer  
9 defaults, this is particularly concerning to the impacted LDC who is by necessity and  
10 circumstance the supplier of last resort. The LDC must maintain the reliability of its  
11 system despite the marketer's failure to deliver natural gas.

12  
13 **VIII. CONCLUSION**

14  
15 **Q. Based on your review of the 2009 EIA Report and other sources, do you see a**  
16 **compelling case to require further unbundling in Kentucky based on the**  
17 **experiences of other states?**

18 A. No. I have reviewed the state-by-state 2009 EIA Report with a particular focus on the  
19 retail choice programs in states where regulatory or other actions have been taken to  
20 encourage higher participation levels. A closer look at some of those states indicates that  
21 participation levels have been increased as a result of the LDC exiting the merchant

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<sup>37</sup> "Gas Daily" dated January 22, 2001, pp. 3-4.

1 function. In states where LDCs have remained in the merchant function, participation in  
2 these programs tends to be low suggesting that customers have selected the LDC as their  
3 natural gas supplier. Additionally, retail choice programs have produced a variety of  
4 customer complaints while they do not guarantee savings for customers. Given the  
5 likelihood of low participation based on the experience of most states, and the significant  
6 costs, as well as risks that may be incurred to implement further unbundling, requiring  
7 and creating retail choice programs does not appear to be a meaningful, efficient, or  
8 effective use of the customer's, the LDC's, or the Commission's resources.

9 **Q. Are you suggesting that LDCs should be prevented from further unbundling?**

10 No. As indicated in Mr. Murphy's testimony, each LDC should be allowed to make its  
11 own decision on further unbundling, as well as to design any new transportation service  
12 based on the particular characteristics of the LDC.

13 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

14 A. Yes, it does.

**VERIFICATION**

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY** )  
 ) **SS:**  
**COUNTY OF JEFFERSON** )

The undersigned, Pamela L. Jaynes, being duly sworn, deposes and says she is the Gas Supply Manager for Louisville Gas and Electric Company, that she has personal knowledge of the matters set forth in the foregoing testimony, and the answers contained therein are true and correct to the best of her information, knowledge and belief.

*Pamela Jaynes*  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PAMELA L. JAYNES**

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a Notary Public in and before said County and State, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2010.

*Rashelle W. Gains* (SEAL)  
\_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

Feb. 28, 2014



**APPENDIX A**

**PAMELA L. JAYNES**

Gas Supply Manager  
Louisville Gas and Electric Company  
820 West Broadway  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

*LOUISVILLE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY*

Gas Supply Manager (12/02 – present)  
Lead Gas Supply Specialist (04/97 – 12/02)  
Gas Supply Coordinator (08/94 – 04/97)  
Senior Gas Supply Analyst (02/91 – 08/94)  
Rate Analyst (02/88 – 02/91)

**EDUCATION:**

*INDIANA UNIVERSITY*

New Albany, Indiana (08/81 – 05/87)  
Bachelor of Science in Business