Case No. 2024-00346

Thank you for your comments on the application of Delta Natural Gas Company, Inc. Your comments in the above-referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2024-00346 in any further correspondence. The documents in this case are available at <u>View Case Filings for: 2024-00346 (ky.gov)</u>.

Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: KY Public Service Commission Public Comments <psc.comment@ky.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 11:18 PM
To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>
Subject: Public Comments for Case: 2024-00346 - Delta Natural Gas Company, Inc.

Public Comments for Case 2024-00346 submitted by **Comments for Case 2024-00346** on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 11:17 PM

Name: Andrew Roaden Address: City: Corbin State: ky Zip Code: 40701 Phone number where you can be reached: Home phone: Comments: I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed rate hike by Delta Natural Gas. As a Kentucky resident and customer, I urge the Kentucky Public Service Commission to deny this increase. Many families are already struggling with inflation and rising costs of living, and this rate

hike would disproportionately affect low- and fixed-income households.

From:	PSC Public Comment
То:	
Subject:	RE: Case 2024-00346
Date:	Friday, December 20, 2024 10:58:00 AM
Attachments:	image001.png
	image002.png
	image003.png

Case No. 2024-00346

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From: Rick Baker Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 2:46 PM To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov> Subject: Case 2024-00346

Please find attached public comments for the Delta Natural Gas Rate Case, 2024-00346.

Thank you.

Ricky Baker, MBA, CCAP

Executive Director

Community Action Kentucky



Community Action Kentucky 101 Burch Court | Frankfort KY 40601 502.875.5863 capky.org

December 13, 2024

Kentucky Public Service Commission P.O. Box 615 211 Sower Boulevard Frankfort KY 40601

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Delta Natural Rate Increase, Case Number 2024-00346

Dear Kentucky Public Service Commission,

I am writing on behalf of Community Action Kentucky (CAK), an organization committed to improving the lives of Kentucky residents by addressing the challenges of poverty. We wish to express our opposition to the proposed Delta Natural Rate increase, as outlined in the public notice 2024-00346.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2019, 16.3% of Kentucky residents live in poverty, a rate that is significantly higher than the national average of 10.5%. For these individuals and families, any increase in natural gas rates could have a significant impact on their already strained budgets.

Energy affordability is a critical issue in Kentucky. A study by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy found that low-income households in Kentucky spend an average of 9.8% of their income on energy bills, nearly three times more than higher-income households. The proposed rate increase would exacerbate this issue, placing an even greater burden on our most vulnerable citizens.

We urge the Public Service Commission to consider the broader economic impact this increase will have on these vulnerable households and to explore alternatives to mitigate the burden on low-income consumers. Specifically, we recommend expanding or enhancing existing low-income energy assistance programs, such as Home Energy Assistance Program (HEA), and ensuring that any rate increases are accompanied by protective measures that shield those most at risk of energy poverty.

In conclusion, we respectfully ask that the Public Service Commission reject the proposed rate increase or, at the very least, incorporate stronger protections for low-income consumers. The economic realities faced by Kentucky's most vulnerable residents must be considered in any decision that impacts utility rates.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We trust that you will take into account the disproportionate hardship this rate increase would place on low-income Kentuckians before making a final determination.

Sincerely,

in Catrena Bowman (Dec 16, 2024 14:31 EST)

Catrena Bowman Board Chair



Community Action Kentucky 101 Burch Court | Frankfort KY 40601 502.875.5863 capky.org

December 13, 2024

Kentucky Public Service Commission P.O. Box 615 211 Sower Boulevard Frankfort KY 40601

Subject: Opposition to Proposed Delta Natural Rate Increase, Case Number 2024-00346

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Sincerely,

in Catrena Bowman (Dec 16, 2024 14:31 EST)

Catrena Bowman Board Chair

101 Burch Court

Frankfort KY 40601



Case No. 2024-00346

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Thank you for your interest in this matter.

From: KY Public Service Commission Public Comments <psc.comment@ky.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 16, 2024 3:39 PM
To: PSC Public Comment <PSC.Comment@ky.gov>
Subject: Public Comments for Case: 2024-00346 - Delta Natural Gas Company, Inc.

Public Comments for Case 2024-00346 submitted byon Monday, December16, 2024 at 3:38 PM0

Name: Wanda Thacker Address: City: Paintsville State: KY Zip Code: 41240 Phone number where you can be reached: City Home phone:

Comments: Dear Sir/Madam, I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed rate adjustments submitted by Delta Natural Gas Company, Inc. (Delta), in Case No. 2024-00346. As the Executive Director of Big Sandy Area Community Action Program (BSACAP), I represent a significant portion of the low-income households in Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin and Pike Counties, which will be disproportionately impacted by these increases. As outlined in the proposed rate changes, both residential and farm tap monthly customer charges are set to increase by 40%. While the consumption charges rate for farm taps is to decrease, the consumption charges rate for residential will rise by 25.70%. For our most vulnerable populations, these increases represent a substantial burden. Our agency serves low-income individuals and families, many of whom rely on Delta as their primary heat source, and we are deeply concerned about the affordability of gas service for these households. In fiscal year 2023-2024, BSACAP assisted 60 households in Floyd, Johnson, Magoffin, Martin and Pike Counties meeting the federal poverty guidelines of 150% of poverty. Of these, a total of \$7,949.63 was paid directly to Delta on behalf of these clients. The poverty rate stands at 40.2% in Floyd County, 38.6% in Johnson County, 51.2% in Magoffin County, 41.7% in Martin County, and 36.4% in Pike County. Many of these individuals will face an even more difficult financial strain if

the proposed rate increases are enacted. The increase in gas rates will undoubtedly further hinder our ability to assist clients in need and will exacerbate the financial instability of already struggling households. We urge the Kentucky Public Service Commission to consider the adverse effects these rate increases will have on low-income households in our service area and to reconsider the proposed increases. We strongly request that these increases be stopped or at the very least, significantly reduced, to ensure that gas services remain affordable for our most vulnerable populations. As a representative of Big Sandy Area Community Action Program, I respectfully request that this letter be included in the record of Case No. 2024-00346 as a formal comment on behalf of the low-income households we serve. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your consideration of our concerns and look forward to your response. Sincerely, Wanda Thacker Executive Director

*Angela M Goad Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate 700 Capitol Avenue Suite 20 Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204

*Delta Natural Gas Company, Inc. 3617 Lexington Road Winchester, KY 40391

*Emily S. Childress STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC 300 West Vine Street Suite 2100 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507-1801

*John B Brown Chief Financial Officer Delta Natural Gas Company, Inc. 3617 Lexington Road Winchester, KY 40391

*Lawrence W Cook Assistant Attorney General Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate 700 Capitol Avenue Suite 20 Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204

*Mary Ellen Wimberly STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC 300 West Vine Street Suite 2100 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507-1801

*Michael West Office of the Attorney General Office of Rate 700 Capitol Avenue Suite 20 Frankfort, KENTUCKY 40601-8204

*Monica Braun STOLL KEENON OGDEN PLLC 300 West Vine Street Suite 2100 Lexington, KENTUCKY 40507-1801