

**RESOLUTION R95-9 CMS**

**A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A FULL REFUND OF MONEY COLLECTED BY COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO THROUGH ITS WINTER BILLING EXPERIMENT KNOWN AS WEATHER NORMALIZATION ADJUSTMENT AND EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO FUTURE USE OF WEATHER ADJUSTED BILLING**

WHEREAS, Columbia Gas of Ohio implemented an experimental winter billing formula known as weather normalization adjustment for December 1994 through April 1995 that resulted in higher natural gas bills when temperatures were above average; and,

WHEREAS, the decision to implement the weather normalization billing plan was reached during negotiations with selected parties (staff from the Public Utilities Commission, Consumer's Counsel, etc.), without public input or debate that can occur during regular utility rate cases in Ohio; and,

WHEREAS, the unseasonably warm temperatures in December and January resulted in unexpectedly high bills for local customers; and,

WHEREAS, under considerable public pressure, Columbia suspended the collection of warm weather overcharges as of February 8, 1995; and,

WHEREAS, on May 25, 1995, Columbia Gas and the other parties announced that weather normalization billing would not be in effect for the upcoming heating season but did not agree to permanently abandon the billing method; and,

WHEREAS, on May 25, 1995, Columbia Gas and the other parties further decided that there would be no refund of the overcharges collected by Columbia Gas during December and January; and,

WHEREAS, the members of Oberlin City Council believe that weather normalization billing is not in the best interest of local ratepayers and that customers are entitled to a full refund of overcharges collected while it was in effect.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Oberlin, County of Lorain, State of Ohio, a majority of all members elected thereto concurring:

SECTION 1. That the members of Oberlin City Council hereby declare opposition to any future use of weather adjusted billing by Columbia Gas of Ohio and call for the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio to order Columbia Gas to issue full refunds to customers for all overcharges that occurred during December of 1994 and January of 1995.

SECTION 2. The members of Oberlin City Council urge the PUCO to immediately end all closed discussions of Columbia Gas of Ohio's weather normalization billing and all other regulated utility matters and require all regulated utilities to deal with rate and service changes in a manner that allows full public scrutiny and input.

SECTION 3. The Clerk of Council is hereby directed to send a Certified copy of this resolution to Columbia Gas of Ohio, PUCO Chairman Craig Glazer, Office of the Consumers' Counsel, Governor George Voinovich, and area state legislators.

SECTION 4. It is hereby found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning or relating to the adoption of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of the Council and that all deliberations of this Council and of any of its committees that resulted in such formal action, were in meetings open to the public in compliance with all legal requirements, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

SECTION 5. That this resolution shall take effect at the earliest date allowed by law.

APPROVED: 1st Reading - September 19, 1995  
2nd Reading -  
3rd Reading -

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

POSTED: September 22, 1995

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 19, 1995