



# PUCO Apples to Apples Natural Gas Rate Comparison Chart

## Dominion East Ohio

Updated February 16, 2006 – Next Update, February 23, 2006

The PUCO produces the *Apples to Apples* charts to provide consumers with a snapshot comparison of current natural gas supplier price options and contract terms. The PUCO updates the charts on a regular basis and verifies each supplier offer to ensure accuracy. The chart below lists only the certified suppliers that are actively enrolling new customers. As with all contracts, consumers should carefully read and understand all terms and conditions before signing any forms or agreeing to enroll with a supplier for natural gas service.

The PUCO provides the tools you need to calculate your estimated cost. The self-calculation worksheet following the chart below walks you through the steps needed to manually calculate your own estimated cost. You can also visit [www.PUCO.ohio.gov](http://www.PUCO.ohio.gov) and click on the *Apples to Apples* link to access our interactive calculator and automatically calculate your estimated costs.

### Dominion East Ohio's Rate

Dominion East Ohio's current total rate is \$15.3294 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf), effective from February 7, 2006 to March 7, 2006. This includes a Gas Cost Recovery (GCR) rate of \$12.5040 per Mcf, a gross receipts tax of \$0.6122 per Mcf, and transportation costs of \$2.2132 per Mcf. Dominion East Ohio's GCR rate varies each month and provides a dollar-for-dollar recovery of costs incurred by the local utility to purchase and deliver natural gas. The GCR rate allows the local utility to correct any over or under collections of natural gas costs from previous periods if the actual cost is different than the estimate. Contact information for Dominion East Ohio: 1201 East 55<sup>th</sup> St., Cleveland, OH 44103-1028, (800) 362-7557, [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com).

### Supplier Rate Offers

The chart below reflects the current offers provided by suppliers that are actively soliciting customers.

**Published price offers and contract terms are subject to change without prior notice and exclude applicable state and county sales tax.** Supplier prices are not subject to any after-the-fact adjustments like those made to the local utility's GCR rate. **Consumers should check with suppliers to verify offers before signing a contract.**

Supplier Name	Current Offer per Mcf	Contract Term	Total Rate per Mcf*
<b>Commerce Energy</b> (877) 226-5371 <a href="http://www.commerceenergy.com">www.commerceenergy.com</a>	a) Fixed Rate Plan - \$12.9505 b) Monthly Variable Rate Plan - \$13.500	a) One-Year b) Monthly	a) \$16.1294 b) \$16.6789
<b>Direct Energy</b> (888) 467-9988 <a href="http://www.directenergy.com">www.directenergy.com</a>	Fixed Rate Plan - \$12.9900	Two-Year	\$16.1689
<b>Dominion East Ohio Energy</b> (800) 990-4090 <a href="http://www.dom.com/about/companies/retail/choice_eoe.jsp">www.dom.com/about/companies/retail/choice_eoe.jsp</a>	Fixed Rate Plan - \$12.9500	Through Jan. 2007	\$16.1289
<b>Energy Cooperative of Ohio via SOAR Energy</b> (877) 439-3706 <a href="http://www.soarenergy.org">www.soarenergy.org</a>	Monthly Variable Rate Plan - \$12.1500	Monthly	\$15.3289



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Supplier Name	Current Offer per Mcf	Contract Term	Total Rate per Mcf*
<b>Interstate Gas Supply</b> (877) 444-7427 <a href="http://www.igsenergy.com">www.igsenergy.com</a>	a) Fixed Rate Plan - \$13.4900 b) Fixed Rate Plan - \$12.8900	a) Through Mar. 2007 b) Through Mar. 2008	a) \$16.6689 b) \$16.0689
<b>MxEnergy</b> (800) 785-4373 <a href="http://www.mxenergy.com">www.mxenergy.com</a>	a) Fixed Rate Plan - \$12.9900 b) Fixed Rate Plan - \$13.9900 c) Monthly Variable Rate Plan - \$13.3800 d) Monthly Variable Capped-Rate Plan - \$13.3800 <b>[Capped rate not to exceed \$21.50/Mcf through 4/06; monthly variable rate thereafter.]</b>	a) One-Year b) Three-Year c) Monthly d) One-Year	a) \$16.1689 b) \$17.1689 c) \$16.5589 d) \$16.5589
<b>Shell Energy Services</b> (877) 557-4355 <a href="http://www.shellenergy.com">www.shellenergy.com</a>	a) Fixed Rate Plan - \$13.2000 b) Fixed Rate Plan - \$10.9500 c) Monthly Variable Rate Plan - \$11.5000	a) One-Year b) Six-Month c) One-Year	a) \$16.3789 b) \$14.1289 c) \$14.6789
<b>Vectren Source</b> (800) 516-6753 <a href="http://www.vectrensource.com">www.vectrensource.com</a>	a) Fixed Rate Plan - \$14.3500 b) Monthly Variable Rate Plan - \$11.8100	a) One-Year b) Monthly	a) \$17.5289 b) \$14.9889
<b>WPS Energy Services, Inc.</b> (866) 470-5448 <a href="http://www.wpsenergy.com">www.wpsenergy.com</a>	a) Monthly Variable Rate Plan - \$11.3500 b) Monthly Variable Capped-Rate Plan - \$11.3500 <b>[Rate not to exceed \$14.99/Mcf through contract term - effective through 3/07; monthly variable rate, thereafter.]</b> c) Quarterly Variable Rate Plan - \$11.3500 <b>[Effective Quarter 4/06-6/06]</b>	All Plans: One-Year	a) \$14.5289 b) \$14.5289 c) \$14.5289

\* Includes transportation rate charge

## Chart Definitions

**Contract Term:** The length or duration of the contract (i.e. monthly, yearly, multiple-year).

### Competitive Retail Natural Gas Service Surcredit Rider:

An adjustment used to reimburse customers for charges attributable to natural gas commodity sales service for customers that no longer purchase their natural gas from the local utility. The surcredit rider will remain in effect until the local utility establishes new base rates and recalculates the surcredit rider for CHOICE customers, who no longer purchase natural gas from their local utility.

**County Sales Tax:** When natural gas is purchased from a supplier, the natural gas is subject to Ohio sales or use tax. Because county sales tax rates vary throughout Ohio, the county sales tax is not included in the supplier's total rate. Use the attached map to determine your county's sales tax rate.

## Questions to ask Suppliers

- Are there any deposit requirements?
- Do you charge any early termination fees? If so, how much?
- Do you charge any switching, membership, or other fees?
- Are you certified by the PUCO?
- Is your rate fixed, or does it change?
- If it is a variable rate, how does it change?
- Is there a customer incentive for signing up?
- Are there any built-in price increases or decreases?
- Are there any special add-on services?
- How long is the contract for this offer?
- Does your service cover all months of the year?
- What happens when my contract expires?
- Will I receive one or two bills a month?



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**Current Offer:** Comprised of suppliers' current commodity options and base rates, exclusive of sales tax, the local utility transportation charge, and customer service charges. Commodity options may be a fixed, variable, or stable rate plan.

**Expected Gas Cost (EGC):** A component of the GCR, the EGC is the price the local utility expects to pay for natural gas in the upcoming GCR rate period. For example, if the GCR rate is filed on a monthly basis, the local utility will calculate the EGC for the following month. Gas costs recoverable through the EGC include the cost of *purchasing* the gas itself as well as the cost of transporting the gas from the producing region to the local utility's service territory through the interstate pipeline system.

**Fixed Rate Plan:** A constant rate for the contracted period.

**Gas Cost Recovery (GCR) Rate:** A mechanism that provides a dollar-for-dollar recovery of costs incurred by a local utility to purchase and deliver natural gas to its system. The GCR mechanism enables the local utility to correct any over or under collections of natural gas costs in previous periods.

**Gross Receipts Tax:** When natural gas is purchased from a local utility, it is not subject to Ohio sales or use tax. The local utility must pay a gross receipts excise tax which is included in the GCR rate charged for the natural gas based on the volume of gas consumed (per Mcf).

**Mcf:** One thousand cubic feet; a unit used to measure natural gas usage.

**Migration Rider:** Comprised of energy choice program costs, unrecovered gas costs, and an operational balancing capacity cost.

**Stable Rate Plan:** A variable rate for a fixed period of time.

**Supplier Name:** PUCO-certified suppliers that are actively enrolling new customers.

**Surcredit Rider:** An adjustment used to reimburse customers for charges attributable to natural gas commodity sales service for customers that no longer purchase their natural gas from the local utility. The surcredit rider remains in effect until the local utility establishes new base rates and recalculates the surcredit rider for CHOICE customers, who no longer purchase natural gas from their local utility.

**Total Rate:** Comprised of the supplier's natural gas commodity prices, plus the transportation rate charge.

**Transportation Rate Charge:** The transportation rate charge, which can fluctuate quarterly, is comprised of a base rate, Percentage of Income Payment Plan rider, uncollectible expense rider, competitive retail natural gas service surcredit rider, and a migration rider that includes unrecovered gas costs and an operational balancing capacity cost.

**Unrecovered Gas Costs:** A component of the migration rider, the unrecovered gas costs are used to reimburse or charge customers for any over or under recovery of previous year's gas cost charges. Although all customers are assessed unrecovered gas costs, following 12 month's participation as a CHOICE customer, the charge is eliminated from the customer bills. Because the unrecovered gas costs only impact the transportation charges of CHOICE customers of less than 12 month's participation, the total rate on the *Apples to Apples* chart is calculated with these customers in mind.

**Variable Rate Plan:** A fluctuating rate within the contracted period.



## Self-Calculation Worksheet

This self-calculation worksheet will provide you with an estimate of your monthly natural gas costs, based on your average monthly gas usage, current supplier price, transportation and service charges, and local sales tax. You may also wish to visit [www.PUCO.ohio.gov](http://www.PUCO.ohio.gov) to access our interactive *Apples to Apples* calculator.

	Example	Your Calculation
<b>Step 1: Supplier Offer</b> Insert the supplier's current offer.	<b>Supplier Offer: \$14.00/Mcf</b>	<b>Supplier Offer: \$ _____/Mcf</b>
<b>Step 2: Figure your Average Monthly Usage</b> Divide your annual gas usage in Mcf (provided on your monthly bill) by 12.	(annual gas usage)      112 ÷ 12 <hr/> <b>Average Monthly Usage: 9.3 Mcf</b>	(annual gas usage)      _____ ÷ 12 <hr/> <b>Average Monthly Usage: _____ Mcf</b>
<b>Step 3: Supplier Charge</b> Multiply the supplier offer by your monthly gas usage.	(supplier offer) <b>\$14.00</b> (average monthly usage)      x 9.3 <hr/> <b>Supplier Charge: \$130.20</b>	(supplier offer)      \$ _____ (average monthly usage)      x _____ <hr/> <b>Supplier Charge: \$ _____</b>
<b>Step 4: Tax on Supplier Charge</b> Multiply the supplier charge by your county sales tax rate (to obtain this rate, use the map on the next page).	(supplier charge) <b>\$130.20</b> (county sales tax rate)      x 0.07 <hr/> <b>Tax on Supplier Charge: \$9.11</b>	(supplier charge)      \$ _____ (county sales tax rate)      x 0._____ <hr/> <b>Tax on Supplier Charge: \$ _____</b>
<b>Step 5: Delivery Rate</b> Insert your delivery service rate.	<b>Select \$3.1789/Mcf</b> if you have been a CHOICE customer for <b>less than 12 mos.</b> or <b>Select \$2.2969/Mcf</b> if you have been a CHOICE customer for <b>more than 12 mos.</b>	<b>\$ _____/Mcf</b>
<b>Step 6: Delivery Charge</b> Multiply the delivery rate by your average monthly usage.	(delivery rate) <b>\$3.1789</b> (average monthly usage)      x 9.3 <hr/> <b>Delivery Charge: \$29.56</b>	(delivery rate)      \$ _____ (average monthly usage)      x _____ <hr/> <b>Delivery Charge: \$ _____</b>
<b>Step 7: Supplier Estimated Monthly Cost</b> Add the supplier charge, the tax on supplier charge, the delivery charge, and a monthly customer charge of \$5.70.	(supplier charge) <b>\$130.20</b> (tax on supplier charge) <b>9.11</b> (delivery charge) <b>29.56</b> (monthly customer charge)      + <b>5.70</b> <hr/> <b>Estimated Monthly Cost: \$174.57</b>	(supplier charge)      \$ _____ (tax on supplier charge)      _____ (delivery charge)      _____ (monthly customer charge)      + 5.70 <hr/> <b>Estimated Monthly Cost: \$ _____</b>
<b>Step 8: Dominion East Ohio's Estimated Monthly Cost</b> Multiply Dominion East Ohio's current total rate by your average monthly usage, then add the monthly customer charge.	(current total rate) <b>\$15.3294</b> (average monthly usage)      x 9.3 <hr/> (subtotal) <b>\$142.56</b> (monthly customer charge)      + 5.70 <hr/> <b>Estimated Monthly Cost: \$148.26</b>	(current total rate)      \$ _____ (average monthly usage)      x _____ <hr/> (subtotal)      \$ _____ (monthly customer charge)      + 5.70 <hr/> <b>Estimated Monthly Cost: \$ _____</b>
<b>Step 9: Compare</b> Compare the supplier's estimated monthly cost to that of Dominion East Ohio.	<b>Supplier: \$174.57/month</b> <b>Dominion East Ohio: \$148.26/month</b>	<b>Supplier: \$ _____/month</b> <b>Dominion East Ohio: \$ _____/month</b>



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