

INITIAL CERTIFICATION FILING INSTRUCTIONS COMPETITIVE RETAIL NATURAL GAS BROKERS/AGGREGATORS

I. Where to File: Applications should be sent to: Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Docketing Division, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus Ohio 43215-3793.

II. What to File: Applicant must submit one original notarized application signed by a principal officer and three copies including all exhibits, affidavits, and other attachments. All attachments, affidavits, and exhibits should be clearly identified. For example, Exhibit C-10 should be marked “Exhibit C-10 ‘Corporate Structure.’” All pages should be numbered and attached in a sequential order.

III. Which Forms to File: Entities, other than governmental aggregators, that will aggregate customers or suppliers to provide competitive retail natural gas services must file a **“Certification Application for Retail Natural Gas Brokers/Aggregators”** form. Governmental aggregators must file a **“Certification Application for Governmental Aggregators”** form and retail natural gas suppliers must file a **“Certification Application for Retail Natural Gas Suppliers”** form. If a broker/aggregator will provide competitive retail natural gas marketer services, in addition to broker and aggregator services, it must file a **“Certification Application for Retail Natural Gas Suppliers”** form. Checkboxes are provided on the form to indicate desired status.

A summary of CRNGS definitions (from the Commission’s certification rules) is provided below to help applicants determine which application form to use. Three separate application forms are provided, one each for the following services.

- Competitive Retail Natural Gas Supplier (Marketer, Broker, Aggregator)**
- Competitive Retail Natural Gas Broker/Aggregator**
- Ohio Natural Gas Governmental Aggregator**

IV. Certified Entity Service Definitions:

Competitive Retail Natural Gas Service - any retail natural gas service that may be competitively offered to consumers in this state.

Competitive Retail Natural Gas Supplier - a person that is engaged in a for-profit or not for-profit basis in the business of supplying or arranging for the supply of a CRNGS to consumers in this state that are not mercantile customers. “Retail natural gas supplier” includes a marketer, broker, or aggregator, but excludes a natural gas company, a governmental aggregator, a billing or collection agent, and a producer or gatherer of gas that is not a natural gas company.

Competitive Retail Natural Gas Marketing Service – assuming the contractual and legal responsibility for the sale and provision of CRNGS to a retail natural gas customer in this state and having title to natural gas at some point during the transaction.

Competitive Retail Natural Gas Brokerage Service – assuming the contractual and legal responsibility for the sale and/or arrangement for the supply of CRNGS to a retail customer in this state without taking title to the natural gas.

Competitive Retail Natural Gas Broker - a person who provides retail natural gas brokerage service.

Competitive Retail Natural Gas Aggregation Service - combining the natural gas load of multiple retail residential customers or small commercial customers via an agreement with the customers for the purpose of purchasing retail natural gas service on an aggregated basis.

Competitive Retail Natural Gas Aggregator - a person who contracts with customers to combine the customers' natural gas load for the purposes of purchasing CRNGS on an aggregated basis.

Natural Gas Governmental Aggregator - The legislative authority of a municipal corporation, the board of township trustees, or a board of county commissioners acting exclusively under Section 4929.26 or 4929.27 of the Revised Code as an aggregator for the provision of CRNGS. For the purposes of this definition, "governmental aggregator" specifically excludes a municipal corporation acting exclusively under Section 4 of Article XVIII, Ohio Constitution, as an aggregator for the provision of CRNGS.

V. Application Form: The application is available on the Commission's web site, www.puco.ohio.gov or directly from the Commission at: Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, Docketing Division, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus Ohio 43215-3793.

VI. Confidentiality: An applicant may file financial statements, financial arrangements, and forecasted financial statements under seal. If these exhibits are filed under seal, they will be afforded protective treatment for a period of six years from the date of the certificate for which the information is being provided.

An applicant may file a motion for a protective order for other information not filed under seal per the previous paragraph. If the motion is filed in conformance with rule 4901:1-27-07 of the Administrative Code, it shall be automatically approved on the thirty-first day after the date of filing and the information shall be afforded protective treatment for a period of six years from the date of the certificate for which the information is being provided, unless the commission or an attorney examiner appointed by the commission rules otherwise.

At the expiration of the six-year period provided for in the previous paragraphs, the information will be automatically released into the open record. An applicant wishing to extend a protective order beyond the six-year time period must comply with paragraph (F) of rule 4901-1-24 of the Administrative Code.

VII. Commission Process for Approval: An application for certification shall be made on forms approved and supplied by the Commission. The applicant shall complete the appropriate application form in its entirety and supply all required attachments, affidavits, and evidence of capability specified by the form at the time an application is filed. The Commission certification process begins when the Commission's Docketing Division receives and time/date stamps the application. An incomplete application may be suspended or rejected. An application that has been suspended as incomplete may cause delay in certification.



The Commission may approve, suspend, or deny an application within 30 days. If the Commission does not act within 30 days, the application is deemed automatically approved on the 31st day after the official filing date. If the Commission suspends the application, the Commission shall notify the applicant of the reasons for such suspension and may direct the applicant to furnish additional information.

The Commission shall act to approve or deny a suspended application within 90 days of the date that the application was suspended. Upon Commission approval, the applicant shall receive notification of approval and a numbered certificate that specifies the service(s) for which the applicant is certified and the dates for which the certificate is valid.

Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, a competitive retail natural gas service provider's certificate is valid for a period of two years, beginning and ending on the dates specified on the certificate. The applicant may renew its certificate in accordance with Rule 4901:1-27-09 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

CRNGS(competitive retail natural gas service) providers shall inform the Commission of any material change to the information supplied in a certification application within thirty days of such material change in accordance with Rule 4901:1-27-11 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

VIII. Contractual Arrangements for Capability Standards: If the applicant is relying upon contractual arrangements with a third-party, to meet any of the certification requirements, the applicant must provide with its application all of the following:

- The legal name of any contracted entity;
- A statement that a valid contract exists between the applicant and the third-party;
- A detailed summary of the contract(s), including all services provided thereunder; and
- The documentation and evidence to demonstrate the contracting entity's capability to meet the requirements as if the contracting entity was the applicant.

IX. Questions: Questions regarding filing procedures should be directed to CRNGS@puc.state.oh.us

X. Governing Law: The certification/renewal of CRNGS suppliers is governed by Chapters 4901:1-27 and 4901:1-29 of the Ohio Administrative Code, and Section 4929.20 of the Ohio Revised Code.

A-6 Contact person for Commission Staff use in investigating customer complaints:

Name Title
Business address
Telephone No. Fax No. Email Address

A-7 Applicant's address and toll-free number for customer service and complaints

Customer service address
Toll-Free Telephone No. Fax No. Email Address

A-8 Provide "Proof of an Ohio Office and Employee," in accordance with Section 4929.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, by listing name, Ohio office address, telephone number, and Web site address of the designated Ohio Employee

Name Title
Business address
Telephone No. Fax No. Email Address

A-9 Applicant's federal employer identification number

A-10 Applicant's form of ownership: (Check one)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sole Proprietorship | <input type="checkbox"/> Partnership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Liability Company (LLC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corporation | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="text"/> |

A-11 (Check all that apply) Identify each natural gas company service area in which the applicant is currently providing service or intends to provide service, including identification of each customer class that the applicant is currently serving or intends to serve, for example: residential, small commercial, and/or large commercial/industrial (mercantile) customers. (A mercantile customer, as defined in Section 4929.01(L)(1) of the Ohio Revised Code, means a customer that consumes, other than for residential use, more than 500,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year at a single location within the state or consumes natural gas, other than for residential use, as part of an undertaking having more than three locations within or outside of this state. In accordance with Section 4929.01(L)(2) of the Ohio Revised Code, "Mercantile customer" excludes a not-for-profit customer that consumes, other than for residential use, more than 500,000 cubic feet of natural gas per year at a single location within this state or consumes natural gas, other than for residential use, as part of an undertaking having more than three locations within or outside this state that has filed the necessary declaration with the Public Utilities Commission.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	Columbia Gas of Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Commercial / Industrial
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominion East Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Commercial / Industrial
<input type="checkbox"/>	Duke Energy Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Commercial / Industrial
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio	<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Commercial / Industrial

A-12 If applicant or an affiliated interest previously participated in any of Ohio’s Natural Gas Choice Programs, for each service area and customer class, provide approximate start date(s) and/or end date(s) that the applicant began delivering and/or ended services.

Columbia Gas of Ohio

<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Commercial	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Commercial	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	

Dominion East Ohio

<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Commercial	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Commercial	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	

Duke Energy Ohio

<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Commercial	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Commercial	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	

Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio

<input type="checkbox"/>	Residential	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Small Commercial	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Large Commercial	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial	Beginning Date of Service		End Date	

A-13 If not currently participating in any of Ohio’s four Natural Gas Choice Programs, provide the approximate start date that the applicant proposes to begin delivering services:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Columbia Gas of Ohio	Intended Start Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dominion East Ohio	Intended Start Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Duke Energy Ohio	Intended Start Date	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio	Intended Start Date	

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS AND LABEL AS INDICATED.

- A-14 Exhibit A-14 "Principal Officers, Directors & Partners,"** provide the names, titles, addresses and telephone numbers of the applicant's principal officers, directors, partners, or other similar officials.
- A-15 Exhibit A-15 "Company History,"** provide a concise description of the applicant's company history and principal business interests.
- A-16 Exhibit A-16 "Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws,"** if applicable, provide the articles of incorporation filed with the state or jurisdiction in which the applicant is incorporated and any amendments thereto.
- A-17 Exhibit A-17 "Secretary of State,"** provide evidence that the applicant is currently registered with the Ohio Secretary of the State.

SECTION B - APPLICANT MANAGERIAL CAPABILITY AND EXPERIENCE

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS AND LABEL AS INDICATED

- B-1 Exhibit B-1 "Jurisdictions of Operation,"** provide a current list of all jurisdictions in which the applicant or any affiliated interest of the applicant is, at the date of filing the application, certified, licensed, registered, or otherwise authorized to provide retail natural gas service, or retail/wholesale electric services.
- B-2 Exhibit B-2 "Experience & Plans,"** provide a current description of the applicant's experience and plan for contracting with customers, providing contracted services, providing billing statements, and responding to customer inquiries and complaints in accordance with Commission rules adopted pursuant to Section 4929.22 of the Revised Code and contained in Chapter 4901:1-29 of the Ohio Administrative Code.
- B-3 Exhibit B-3 "Summary of Experience,"** provide a concise and current summary of the applicant's experience in providing the service(s) for which it is seeking to be certified to provide (e.g., number and types of customers served, utility service areas, volume of gas supplied, etc.).
- B-4 Exhibit B-4 "Disclosure of Liabilities and Investigations,"** provide a description of all existing, pending or past rulings, judgments, contingent liabilities, revocations of authority, regulatory investigations, or any other matter that could adversely impact the applicant's financial or operational

status or ability to provide the services it is seeking to be certified to provide.

- B-5 Exhibit B-5 "Disclosure of Consumer Protection Violations,"** disclose whether the applicant, affiliate, predecessor of the applicant, or any principal officer of the applicant has been convicted or held liable for fraud or for violation of any consumer protection or antitrust laws within the past five years.

No Yes

If Yes, provide a separate attachment labeled as Exhibit B-5 "Disclosure of Consumer Protection Violations," detailing such violation(s) and providing all relevant documents.

- B-6 Exhibit B-6 "Disclosure of Certification Denial, Curtailment, Suspension, or Revocation,"** disclose whether the applicant or a predecessor of the applicant has had any certification, license, or application to provide retail natural gas or retail/wholesale electric service denied, curtailed, suspended, or revoked, or whether the applicant or predecessor has been terminated from any of Ohio's Natural Gas Choice programs, or been in default for failure to deliver natural gas.

No Yes

If Yes, provide a separate attachment, labeled as Exhibit B-6 "Disclosure of Certification Denial, Curtailment, Suspension, or Revocation," detailing such action(s) and providing all relevant documents.

SECTION C - APPLICANT FINANCIAL CAPABILITY AND EXPERIENCE

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS AND LABEL AS INDICATED

- C-1 Exhibit C-1 "Annual Reports,"** provide the two most recent Annual Reports to Shareholders. If the applicant does not produce annual reports, the applicant should indicate that Exhibit C-1 is not applicable and why.
(This is generally only applicable to publicly traded companies who publish annual reports.)
- C-2 Exhibit C-2 "SEC Filings,"** provide the most recent 10-K/8-K Filings with the SEC. If applicant does not have such filings, it may submit those of its parent company. An applicant may submit a current link to the filings or provide them in paper form. If the applicant does not have such filings, then the applicant may indicate in Exhibit C-2 that the applicant is not required to file with the SEC and why.
- C-3 Exhibit C-3 "Financial Statements,"** provide copies of the applicant's two most recent years of audited financial statements (balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement). If audited financial statements are not available, provide officer certified financial statements. If the applicant has not been in business long enough to satisfy this requirement, it shall file audited or officer certified financial statements covering the life of the business. If the applicant does not have a balance sheet, income statement, and cash flow statement, the applicant may provide a copy of its two most recent years of tax returns (with social security numbers and account numbers redacted).

C-4 Exhibit C-4 “Financial Arrangements,” provide copies of the applicant's current financial arrangements to satisfy collateral requirements to conduct retail electric/gas business activity (e.g., parental or third party guarantees, contractual arrangements, credit agreements, etc.).

Renewal applicants can fulfill the requirements of Exhibit C-4 by providing a current statement from an Ohio local distribution utility (LDU) that shows that the applicant meets the LDU’s collateral requirements.

First time applicants or applicants whose certificate has expired as well as renewal applicants can meet the requirement by one of the following methods:

1. The applicant itself stating that it is investment grade rated by Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s or Fitch and provide evidence of rating from the rating agencies.
2. Have a parent company or third party that is investment grade rated by Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s or Fitch guarantee the financial obligations of the applicant to the LDU(s).
3. Have a parent company or third party that is not investment grade rated by Moody’s, Standard & Poor’s or Fitch but has substantial financial wherewithal in the opinion of the Staff reviewer to guarantee the financial obligations of the applicant to the LDU(s). The guarantor company’s financials must be included in the application if the applicant is relying on this option.
4. Posting a Letter of Credit with the LDU(s) as the beneficiary.

If the applicant is not taking title to the electricity or natural gas, enter "N/A" in Exhibit C-4. An N/A response is only applicable for applicants seeking to be certified as an aggregator or broker.

C-5 Exhibit C-5 “Forecasted Financial Statements,” provide two years of forecasted income statements for the applicant’s **NATURAL GAS related business activities in the state of Ohio Only**, along with a list of assumptions, and the name, address, email address, and telephone number of the preparer. The forecasts should be in an annualized format for the two years succeeding the Application year.

C-6 Exhibit C-6 “Credit Rating,” provide a statement disclosing the applicant’s current credit rating as reported by two of the following organizations: Duff & Phelps, Fitch IBCA, Moody’s Investors Service, Standard & Poor’s, or a similar organization. In instances where an applicant does not have its own credit ratings, it may substitute the credit ratings of a parent or an affiliate organization, provided the applicant submits a statement signed by a principal officer of the applicant’s parent or affiliate organization that guarantees the obligations of the applicant. If an applicant or its parent does not have such a credit rating, enter “N/A” in Exhibit C-6.

C-7 Exhibit C-7 “Credit Report,” provide a copy of the applicant’s current credit report from Experion, Dun and Bradstreet, or a similar organization. An applicant that provides an investment grade credit rating for Exhibit C-6 may enter “N/A” for Exhibit C-7.

- C-8 Exhibit C-8 “Bankruptcy Information,”** provide a list and description of any reorganizations, protection from creditors, or any other form of bankruptcy filings made by the applicant, a parent or affiliate organization that guarantees the obligations of the applicant or any officer of the applicant in the current year or within the two most recent years preceding the application.
- C-9 Exhibit C-9 “Merger Information,”** provide a statement describing any dissolution or merger or acquisition of the applicant within the two most recent years preceding the application.
- C-10 Exhibit C-10 “Corporate Structure,”** provide a description of the applicant’s corporate structure, not an internal organizational chart, including a graphical depiction of such structure, and a list of all affiliate and subsidiary companies that supply retail or wholesale electricity or natural gas to customers in North America. If the applicant is a stand-alone entity, then no graphical depiction is required and applicant may respond by stating that they are a stand-alone entity with no affiliate or subsidiary companies.

SECTION D – APPLICANT TECHNICAL CAPABILITY

PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING AS SEPARATE ATTACHMENTS AND LABEL AS INDICATED.

- D-1 Exhibit D-1 “Operations,”** provide a current written description of the operational nature of the applicant’s business functions.
- D-2 Exhibit D-2 “Operations Expertise,”** given the operational nature of the applicant’s business, provide evidence of the applicant’s current experience and technical expertise in performing such operations.
- D-3 Exhibit D-3 “Key Technical Personnel,”** provide the names, titles, email addresses, telephone numbers, and background of key personnel involved in the operational aspects of the applicant’s current business.

Applicant Signature and Title

Sworn and subscribed before me this day of Month Year

Signature of official administering oath

Print Name and Title



My commission expires on



The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Competitive Retail Natural Gas Service Affidavit Form (Version 1.07)

In the Matter of the Application of _____)
_____)
for a Certificate or Renewal Certificate to Provide)
Competitive Retail Natural Gas Service in Ohio.)

Case No. _____ -GA-AGG

County of _____
State of _____

_____ [Affiant], being duly sworn/affirmed, hereby states that:

- (1) The information provided within the certification or certification renewal application and supporting information is complete, true, and accurate to the best knowledge of affiant.
- (2) The applicant will timely file an annual report of its intrastate gross receipts and sales of hundred cubic feet of natural gas pursuant to Sections 4905.10(A), 4911.18(A), and 4929.23(B), Ohio Revised Code.
- (3) The applicant will timely pay any assessment made pursuant to Section 4905.10 or Section 4911.18(A), Ohio Revised Code.
- (4) Applicant will comply with all applicable rules and orders adopted by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio pursuant to Title 49, Ohio Revised Code.
- (5) Applicant will cooperate with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and its staff in the investigation of any consumer complaint regarding any service offered or provided by the applicant.
- (6) Applicant will comply with Section 4929.21, Ohio Revised Code, regarding consent to the jurisdiction of the Ohio courts and the service of process.
- (7) Applicant will inform the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio of any material change to the information supplied in the certification or certification renewal application within 30 days of such material change, including any change in contact person for regulatory or emergency purposes or contact person for Staff use in investigating customer complaints.
- (8) Affiant further sayeth naught.

Affiant Signature & Title _____

Sworn and subscribed before me this _____ day of _____ Month _____ Year

Signature of Official Administering Oath

Print Name and Title



My commission expires on _____