

# **Northwest Ohio** **Aggregation Coalition**



## **Cities**

*Maumee*

*Northwood*

*Oregon*

*Perrysburg*

*Rossford*

*Sylvania*

*Toledo*

*Waterville*

## **Villages**

*Delta*

*Holland*

*Ottawa Hills*

*Walbridge*

## **Townships**

*Lake*

*Perrysburg*

## **Counties**

*Lucas*

## **Natural Gas Aggregation Program Information**

**Q. When does the current aggregation program end?**

**Ans.** The current aggregation program ends when Columbia Gas reads your meter for the May 2024 billing period.

**Q. When is the May 2024 billing period for my home?**

**Ans.** Columbia is reading meters every business day so it will vary based on your billing cycle but according to Columbia meter reading schedule the earliest it could be is April 30<sup>th</sup>. The latest is May 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Q. Why is the current program ending?**

**Ans.** Your community's natural gas aggregation program works with surrounding communities. It was not able to secure a pricing offer from a supplier that was lower than what Columbia Gas would charge you. The communities have consistently held that if they can get a price offer below Columbia then it would move forward with a program. If it could not it would wait until it could.

**Q. What price will Columbia be charging?**

**Ans.** Columbia's Standard Choice Offer (SCO) pricing is the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) settlement price on the last day of trading for the applicable billing month plus an "Adder" of \$0.166 per Ccf (hundred cubic feet). If you remain with Columbia's SCO that pricing would start for your June 2024 billing period and end with your March 2025 billing period.

**Q. Should I shop for a different natural gas supplier?**

**Ans.** As a NOAC participant your natural gas prices have varied monthly. That would continue with Columbia's SCO pricing. A variable price has typically been the lowest overall pricing most of the time.

**Q. How can I avoid my costs fluctuating?**

**Ans.** One way to avoid most fluctuations is to join Columbia's budget program. The budget program sets a specific monthly payment based on your gas use and pricing levels. There are periodic true ups if Columbia over or under collects but you generally pay the same monthly amount.

If you are uncomfortable with a variable price right now there are many fixed price offers available that you can evaluate. The place to go is

<https://www.energychoice.ohio.gov/ApplestoApples.aspx>

Select natural gas as your utility. You will be able to select the type of customer (e.g. residential) and your utility distribution supplier. Columbia Gas of Ohio is your gas utility distribution provider. From there you can review lots of different offers.

**Q. I get offers in the mail all the time. Should I sign up?**

**Ans.** We cannot comment on the competitiveness of any particular offer. However, our experience shows that mailed offers are rarely the best price available in the market. Again, if you want to shop for a fixed natural gas price, we recommend looking at offers from the following website: <https://www.energychoice.ohio.gov/ApplesttoApples.aspx>

**Q. Is there anything that I should avoid when reviewing the offers on Apples to Apples?**

**Ans.** You need to carefully evaluate your specific needs to determine the best decision for your home. However, there are a few items to consider before choosing to enroll.

First, many offers charge a termination fee if you leave contract early. Some do not.

Second, make sure you know how long the fixed price lasts. Some supplier offers have a low 3- or 6-month introductory price. After that introductory period the price varies. Frequently, the agreement does not specify how the supplier determines their variable price and can be dramatically higher than what you would pay under Columbia's SCO.

Third, some supplier offers are a combination of a fixed price plus a flat monthly fee. If you are considering such an offer, we strongly recommend you do the math on what impact the monthly fee has on your price. For example, if you use 1,000 ccf per year and the offer is a fixed price of \$0.50 per ccf plus a monthly fee of \$10 per month, you are going to pay \$0.620 per ccf (e.g. \$0.50 per ccf + \$120 divided by 1,000 ccf).

**Q. What is a ccf?**

**Ans.** ccf stands for 100 cubic feet of natural gas. That is how Columbia measures your use.

**Q. Who do I call if I have a problem with my natural gas service?**

**Ans.** To report service problems, a gas leak and for billing questions, contact your local utility company.

**Q. Will my community offer a natural gas aggregation program in the future?**

**Ans.** Yes, if the community can get pricing lower than Columbia SCO. The communities have paused the program in the past and restarted when the opportunity to save you money is available again.