

A CMS Energy Company

William E. Garrity
Senior Vice President

May 9, 2006

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Part of
Public RecordHonorable Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W., Room 711
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: Ex Parte No. 661, Rail Fuel Surcharges

Dear Secretary Williams:

Consumers Energy is a gas and electric utility that is authorized to provide electric service in 60 of the 68 counties of Michigan's Lower Peninsula. Principal cities served include Battle Creek, Flint, Grand Rapids, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Midland, Muskegon and Saginaw. Consumers Energy's electric utility customer base includes a mix of residential, commercial and diversified industrial customers, the largest segment of which is the automotive industry.

The largest share of Consumers Energy's electricity requirements is satisfied by five coal-fired generating plants: the J.H.Campbell Plant near West Olive, MI; the D.E.Karn and J.C.Weaddock Plants near Essexville, MI; the B.C.Cobb Plant at Muskegon; and the J.R.Whiting Plant near Toledo, OH. Together, these facilities have a capacity of 2,837 megawatts and produce approximately 19.7 million megawatt hours of electricity each year through the combustion of over 9.9 million tons of coal. These plants comprise over 75 percent of Consumers Energy's baseload system capacity.

Consumers Energy submits this statement to express its view on the subject of fuel surcharges being collected by railroads.

Consumers Energy fully supports the comments and position of the Western Coal Traffic League (WCTL) which were submitted to you on April 27, 2006. Although the comments of the WCTL were limited to western coal, Consumers Energy believes that they are equally applicable to all coal shipments.

We are enclosing twenty copies of this letter for filing in the referenced docket. We realize that it is too late to request time for an oral presentation in the referenced docket, but request that this statement be made a part of the written record.

Sincerely,

William E. Garrity
Senior Vice President
Electric and Gas Supply

cc: All parties of record