

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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In the matter of the application of	)	
<b>ARDENT NATURAL GAS, LLC,</b>	)	Case No. U-16910
for a license as an alternative gas supplier.	)	
_____	)	

At the March 8, 2012 meeting of the Michigan Public Service Commission in Lansing,  
Michigan.

PRESENT: Hon. John D. Quackenbush, Chairman  
Hon. Orjiakor N. Isiogu, Commissioner  
Hon. Greg R. White, Commissioner

**ORDER**

On October 31, 2011, Ardent Natural Gas, LLC (ANG) applied for a license to operate as an alternative gas supplier (AGS) within Michigan pursuant to 2002 PA 634, MCL 460.9 *et seq.* (Act 634). As part of its application, ANG provided information to demonstrate compliance with the AGS license requirements under Act 634 and under the Commission's March 12, 2003 order in Case No. U-13694 (March 12 order). That order established the AGS licensing procedure.

Act 634 requires an AGS to have the necessary financial, managerial, and technical capabilities to serve customers within the state of Michigan. The act also requires an AGS to maintain an office within the state. Under the March 12 order, the Commission Staff (Staff) must review the application for conformance with the act and with the Commission's orders. The Staff then must recommend appropriate action regarding that application to the Commission.

The Staff reviewed the license application and the additional information submitted by ANG and has recommended this company be granted a license to operate as an AGS.

The application shows that ANG is a start-up retail energy entity organized and headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. ANG has not provided any energy services to retail customers. ANG is a privately held, foreign limited liability company registered on October 25, 2011, ID # D9229D.

The Staff reviewed ANG's personnel descriptions and histories and observes that the company's key personnel have sufficient years of experience in the energy industry and business management, including overseeing operations to marketing, sales, and customer service. ANG will grow its staff as it continues to grow in Michigan. Based on its review, the Staff has determined that ANG is well qualified, with sufficient experience and expertise to serve customers in Michigan's gas customer choice market.

Based on the information provided by ANG and the recommendation of the Staff, the Commission finds that ANG possesses the appropriate managerial and technical capabilities to serve customers within the state of Michigan.

ANG has provided the Staff with a letter of credit in the amount of \$100,000. Based on its review of the confidential financial documents and the satisfied bond requirement, the Staff determined that ANG's financial capabilities and availability meet Act 634 requirements. The Commission agrees.

Act 634 requires ANG to maintain an office within the state of Michigan. ANG has a Michigan office in Lansing, but does not have a toll-free number. ANG will establish a toll-free number upon Commission approval of its application. ANG understands that it cannot engage in any customer marketing until this requirement is fulfilled. ANG will provide this information to

the Staff once it has been acquired. The Staff determined that ANG has complied with the office requirement for licensing. The Commission agrees.

Based upon the submissions by ANG and the Staff's review, the Commission finds that ANG's request to be licensed as an AGS is reasonable and in the public interest, and that it should be approved. However, the grant of the license is conditioned upon compliance with all of the applicable provisions of Act 634, the Commission's orders and administrative rules, and each of the delivering natural gas utilities' tariffs. Failure to comply with any of these provisions may result in revocation of the license or other penalties.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

- A. Ardent Natural Gas, LLC, is granted a license as an alternative gas supplier.
- B. Ardent Natural Gas, LLC, shall comply with the regulatory requirements specified in 2002 PA 634, MCL 460.9 *et seq.*; the Commission's orders and administrative rules approved by the Commission; and each of the delivering natural gas utilities' tariffs.

The Commission reserves jurisdiction and may issue further orders as necessary.

Any party desiring to appeal this order must do so in the appropriate court within 30 days after issuance and notice of this order, under MCL 462.26.

MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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John D. Quackenbush, Chairman

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Orjiakor N. Isiogu, Commissioner

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Greg R. White, Commissioner

By its action of March 8, 2012.

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Mary Jo Kunkle, Executive Secretary

# P R O O F O F S E R V I C E

STATE OF MICHIGAN )

Case No. U-16910

County of Ingham )

Mignon Middlebrook being duly sworn, deposes and says that on March 8, 2012 A.D. she served a copy of the attached Commission Order by first class mail, postage prepaid, or by inter-departmental mail, to the persons as shown on the attached service list.

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Mignon Middlebrook

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
This 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2012

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Gloria Pearl Jones  
Notary Public, Ingham County, MI  
My commission expires June 5, 2016  
Acting in Eaton County

Service List U-16910

Ardent Natural Gas, LLP  
120 North Washington Square  
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Lansing MI 48933

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