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July 29, 2002

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Mr. William F. Stephens, Director Division of Energy Regulation State Corporation Commission P.O. Box 1197 Richmond, VA 23218-1197

Dear Mr. Stephens:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your request for comments regarding Senate Bill 684.

It appears that item 1(D) is the only provision that applies directly to local gas distribution companies. Consequently, I will confine my remarks to that item only.

Paragraph 1(D) addressess specifically curtailment of gas supply. Generally speaking Columbia Gas of Virginia defines curtailment as discontinuing delivery service to firm customers. These curtailments if implemented at all, are implemented to maintain system wide integrity. There were no curtailments to Columbia's firm customers between 1996 and 2001.

If curtailment is more broadly defined to include interruptible customers however, Columbia would be happy to provide the same type of information for interruptible customers.

Mark Tubbs on my staff was at the meeting on July 10 and will participate in this project in the future. Should you need additional information regarding this matter, please call him at (804) 323-5369.

Sincerely

Mark Tubbs cc: