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August 31, 2009

Office of Policy and Coordination
Room 383
Bureau of Competition
Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20580

RE FTC Case/Docket: C-4058; File: 021 0040; Title: In the Matter of Conoco Inc. and Phillips Petroleum Company.

Dear Sir:

The inability of ConocoPhillips to provide propane for our company over the past two summers has created higher propane costs for our residential clients in the market. Our firm currently serves over 2700 residential customers.

During the summer of 2008 ConocoPhillips shut down for approximately 4 weeks. Currently in 2009 they have been shut down for approximately 6 weeks and are still shut down as I write this.

When ConocoPhillips is shut down over such long periods of time, we are either forced to pull propane from remote locations; which creates much greater freight costs, or to pull propane from NGL, the only other supplier in the metro St. Louis, MO area. During these situations, it is possible for a single provider to price product at a premium due to a lack of competition. By purchasing propane at premium value, we are forced to add this cost on to our consumer retail price

With ConocoPhillips inability to supply propane the during parts of the last two summers, we are asking you today to please reevaluate the Conoco / Phillips Petroleum supply agreement with NGL, as referenced in the above Case file, in regards to its impact on the retail propane market price structure in the St. Louis, MO and surrounding communities.

Sincerely,

Stanley P. Rull
President
Rull Bros Propane