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## **Office of Consumer Advocate Alleges Choice Gas Program Supplier Used Misleading Advertisements**

CHEYENNE, WYOMING – Today, the Office of Consumer Advocate (OCA) filed a formal complaint with the Wyoming Public Service Commission against Choice Gas program supplier Kinder Morgan Retail Energy Services, Inc. (KMRES). The OCA's complaint alleges that KMRES engaged in a pattern of unlawful, deceptive, and misleading advertising during the current Choice Gas selection period.

The complaint focuses on advertisements that recently appeared in major newspapers in Kinder Morgan, Inc.'s Choice Gas program area. The KMRES ads claimed that "The undisputed evidence on record with the Wyoming Public Service Commission is that supplier rates were equal to or better than Pass-On (Regulated) rates in five of six years studied." Denise Parrish, Deputy OCA Administrator, stated: "This claim is simply untrue. There has been a great deal of dispute on this issue in the various Choice Gas contested case proceedings that have been brought before the PSC, and there is ample evidence of record that contradicts KMRES on this issue." "These ads were clearly misleading," she added.

The Complaint also accuses KMRES of having conducted a prize promotion in violation of Wyoming law when it advertised a prize drawing that offered customers a chance to win televisions without disclosing the odds of winning or the value of the televisions.

The OCA complaint requests that the Public Service Commission invalidate all selections of KMRES offerings and require advance approval of future KMRES advertising material. "While the prize notice violations were ultimately remedied by KMRES, the pattern of inappropriate advertisements may have improperly influenced customers, and we believe corrective action is necessary," Parrish concluded.