

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Long-Term Forecast )  
Report of Suburban Natural Gas Company ) Case No. 09-116-GA-FOR  
and Related Matters. )

FINDING AND ORDER

The Commission finds:

- (1) Rule 4901:5-3-01(B), Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.), requires natural gas distribution companies to file annually a long-term forecast report (LTFR). On June 1, 2009, Suburban Natural Gas Company (Suburban) filed its 2009 LTFR.
- (2) On June 30, 2009, Commission staff filed a motion for hearing, detailing that Suburban's 2009 filing is its first LTFR. Section 4935.04(D)(3)(a), Revised Code, requires that the Commission hold a hearing on a company's first long-term forecast report filed after January 11, 1983.
- (3) By entry issued August 25, 2009, a public hearing was scheduled for October 20, 2009, and Suburban was directed to publish notice of the hearing in newspapers of general circulation in each county in its service territory. On October 14, 2009, Suburban filed its proofs of publication.
- (4) The hearing was held as scheduled on October 20, 2009, and no members of the public appeared at the hearing to testify. At the hearing, Suburban and staff requested that the hearing be continued until November 23, 2009, stating that they were working on a potential stipulation to resolve all of the issues in this case. The attorney examiner granted the parties' request to continue the hearing to November 23, 2009.
- (5) On November 20, 2009, Suburban and staff filed a stipulation and recommendation (stipulation), which provides that the parties have resolved all of the issues in this case. Pursuant to the stipulation, the signatory parties agree that Suburban's filing substantially complies with the requirements of Chapter 4935, Revised Code. In addition, the stipulation provides that, in subsequent full LTFR filings, Suburban agrees to include the following information: a narrative description of the data used

in preparation of the forecast, as well as the specific calculations that generated the forecast; a discussion of the major assumptions used in preparation of the forecast; the anticipated natural gas price trends; the economic and demographic trends within Suburban's service area; and a disaggregation of residential customers into heat and non-heat customers. The stipulating parties also agree that the stipulation is the product of serious bargaining among capable, knowledgeable parties; as a whole benefits ratepayers and is in the public interest; and does not violate any important regulatory principle. (Jt. Ex. 1 at 2-4.)

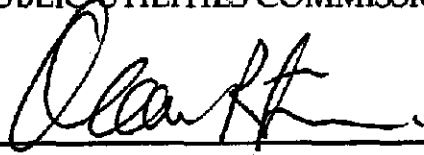
- (6) The public hearing resumed on November 23, 2009. At the hearing, Suburban and staff submitted the stipulation (Jt. Ex. 1). At the hearing, staff introduced into the record the testimony of witness Stephen Puican (Staff Ex. 1), which was filed on November 20, 2009, in support of the stipulation (Tr. at 5).
- (7) Upon consideration of the record and stipulation, the Commission concludes that the LTFR filed in this docket meets the requirements of Section 4935.04(F), Revised Code, and that the stipulation is reasonable and should be approved. We are not, by this conclusion, making any determination as to the prudence or reasonableness of Suburban's natural gas procurement policies or practices.

It is, therefore,

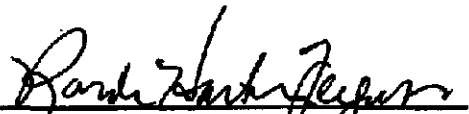
ORDERED, That the stipulation be approved. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this finding and order be served upon all parties of record.

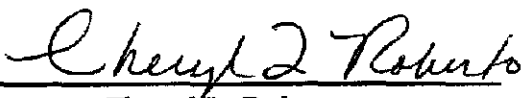
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

  
Alan R. Schriber, Chairman

  
Paul A. Centolella

  
Ronda Hartman Fergus

  
Valerie A. Lemmie

  
Cheryl L. Roberto

RLH/sc

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Renee J. Jenkins  
Secretary