

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of )  
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., for Approval )  
of a General Exemption of Certain Natural ) Case No. 08-1344-GA-EXM  
Gas Commodity Sales Services or Ancillary )  
Services. )

ENTRY

The Commission finds:

- (1) Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia), is a natural gas company as defined by Section 4905.03(A)(5), Revised Code, and a public utility as defined by Section 4905.02, Revised Code, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- (2) By opinion and order issued December 2, 2009, the Commission approved the terms of a stipulation and recommendation (stipulation) entered into by the parties in this proceeding on October 7, 2009. The stipulation provided, *inter alia*, that Columbia would hold an auction to secure natural gas supplies, initially through a standard service offer (SSO) structure, and subsequently through a standard choice offer (SCO) structure. Under the SSO mechanism, the winning auction bidders are awarded the right to provide natural gas to Columbia on a wholesale basis for redelivery by Columbia to end-use customers. Under the SCO mechanism, auction participants are bidding on the right to serve specific end-use customers. Unlike with SSO suppliers, under the SCO, winning bidders would have a direct retail relationship with these customers. The initial SSO rate was to be in effect for the period April 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011. A second auction-based SSO would be in effect from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012. The initial SCO period would be for the 12-month period beginning April 1, 2012.
- (3) The stipulation, further, provided that the implementation of the Program Outline, which was attached to the application in this case and described how the company planned to implement the SSO and SCO auctions, may be amended by the

parties, without subsequent Commission approval, so long as the amendments are nonsubstantive.

- (4) In addition, the stipulation provided that, prior to the SCO auction date, any party may petition the Commission to suspend the SCO auction in favor of another SSO auction. In the event a party files an objection to an SCO auction, the parties supporting the SCO auction agreed to present evidence intended to demonstrate the anticipated benefits from an SCO auction.
- (5) On April 15, 2011, Columbia filed a Revised Program Outline, which the company explains reflects the changes necessary to implement the initial SCO auction in February 2012. Columbia states that Columbia's stakeholder group met on several occasions to discuss the Revised Program Outline and there is at least one issue to which some stakeholders object, i.e., the form of security to be collected from successful bidders. In addition, Columbia notes that at least two parties to the stipulation are considering a challenge to Columbia's approved transition from an SSO auction to an SCO auction. Columbia asserts that, in order for the company to complete the programming of its information technology systems and implement the SCO auction in February 2012, a Commission order approving the Revised Program Outline is necessary by September 1, 2011.
- (6) In light of the time frame necessary for our review of the Revised Program Outline and our consideration of any potential petition/objection filed by a party requesting that the Commission suspend the SCO auction in favor of another SSO auction, the Commission finds it necessary to establish a comment period and a deadline for the filing of any petitions/objections to the SCO auction, as provided for in the stipulation approved on December 2, 2009. Accordingly, the Commission concludes that comments on the Revised Program Outline and any petitions/objections requesting that the SCO auction be suspended must be filed by May 9, 2011.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That comments on the Revised Program Outline and any petitions/objections requesting that the SCO auction be suspended must be filed by May 9, 2011. It is, further,

ORDERED, That copies of the entry be served upon all parties of record in this case.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

  
Todd A. Snitchler, Chairman

  
Paul A. Centolella

  
Steven D. Lesser

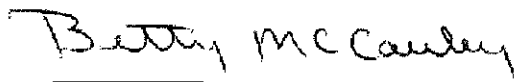
  
Andre T. Porter

  
Cheryl L. Roberto

CMTP/vrm

Entered in the Journal

**APR 27 2011**

  
Betty McCauley  
Secretary