

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Commission's)
Review of its Rules for Competitive Retail)
Natural Gas Service Contained in) Case No. 12-925-GA-ORD
Chapters 4901:1-27 Through 4901:1-34 of)
the Ohio Administrative Code.)

In the Matter of the Commission's)
Review of its Rules for Competitive Retail)
Electric Service Contained in Chapters) Case No. 12-1924-EL-ORD
4901:1-21 and 4901:1-24 of the Ohio)
Administrative Code.)

ENTRY

The Commission finds:

- (1) Section 119.032, Revised Code, requires all state agencies to conduct a review, every five years, of their rules and to determine whether to continue their rules without change, amend their rules, or rescind their rules. At this time, the Commission is reviewing the competitive retail natural gas service rules contained in Chapters 4901:1-27 through 4901:1-34, of the Ohio Administrative Code. (O.A.C.).
- (2) Section 119.032(C), Revised Code, requires that the Commission determine:
 - (a) Whether the rules should be continued without amendment, be amended, or be rescinded, taking into consideration the purpose, scope, and intent of the statute under which the rules were adopted;
 - (b) Whether the rules need amendment or rescission to give more flexibility at the local level;
 - (c) Whether the rules need amendment to eliminate unnecessary paperwork; and
 - (d) Whether the rules duplicate, overlap with, or conflict with other rules.

- (3) In addition, on January 10, 2011, the governor of the state of Ohio issued Executive Order 2011-01K, entitled "Establishing the Common Sense Initiative," which sets forth several factors to be considered in the promulgation of rules and the review of existing rules. Among other things, the Commission must review its rules to determine the impact that a rule has on small businesses; attempt to balance the critical objectives of regulation and the cost of compliance by the regulated parties; and amend or rescind rules that are unnecessary, ineffective, contradictory, redundant, inefficient, or needlessly burdensome, or that have had negative, unintended consequences, or unnecessarily impede business growth.
- (4) Additionally, in accordance with Section 121.82, Revised Code, in the course of developing draft rules, the Commission must evaluate the rules against the business impact analysis. If there will be an adverse impact on businesses, as defined in Section 107.52, Revised Code, the agency is to incorporate features into the draft rules to eliminate or adequately reduce any adverse impact. Furthermore, the Commission is required, pursuant to Section 121.82, Revised Code, to provide the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) office the draft rules and the business impact analysis. The Commission is to consider any recommendations made by CSI with regard to the draft rules and provide CSI with a memorandum explaining either how CSI's recommendations were incorporated into the rules or why the recommendations were not incorporated into the rules.
- (5) The Commission has considered the current rule review procedures and revised them to incorporate the new CSI process. As part of our new procedure, the Commission finds that, prior to issuing Staff's proposed revisions to the rules for comment, it is appropriate to require Staff to hold a workshop with interested stakeholders. At the workshop Staff should elicit feedback on any proposed revisions to the rules which Staff may have and may permit stakeholders to propose their own revisions to the rules for Staff's consideration. Interested stakeholders should come to the workshop prepared with necessary technical experts to provide appropriate feedback. An attorney examiner from the Commission's legal department will serve as a moderator for the workshop. After Staff has an opportunity to consider the feedback received at the workshop, proposed rule amendments will be issued for comments and reply comments by interested parties.

- (6) Accordingly, the Commission finds that, at this time, a workshop should be scheduled for be held on August 6, 2012, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Hearing Room 11-B, Columbus, Ohio. To allow broader access to the workshop, it will be webcast. Persons wishing to view the technical conference via the web should access the Commission's web site at www.puco.ohio.gov and click on Webcasts.

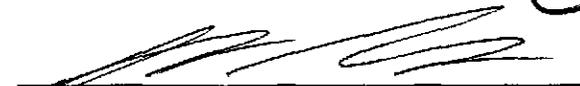
It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That a workshop be scheduled for August 6, 2012. It is, further,

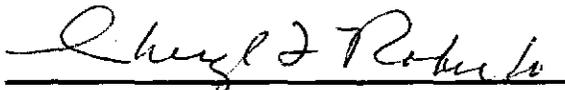
ORDERED, That a copy of this entry be served upon all regulated gas, natural service gas and electric companies, all competitive retail gas suppliers and electric service suppliers, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, the Ohio Gas Association, and the Ohio Oil and Gas Association.

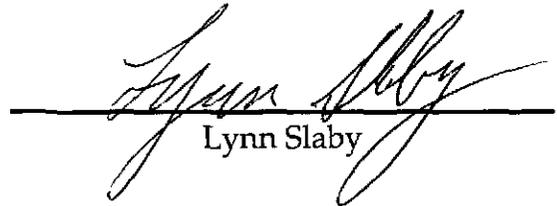
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO


Todd A. Snitchler, Chairman


Steven D. Lesser

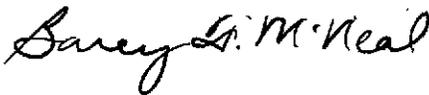

André T. Porter


Cheryl L. Roberto


Lynn Slaby

KLS/MLW/dah

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Barcy F. McNeal
Secretary