

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of)
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval to) Case No. 12-3221-GA-UNC
Implement a Capital Expenditure Program.)

In the Matter of the Application of)
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval to) Case No. 12-3222-GA-AAM
Change Accounting Methods.)

ENTRY

The attorney examiner finds:

- (1) Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia) is a public utility as defined in Section 4905.02, Revised Code, and a natural gas company under Section 4905.03, Revised Code, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
- (2) By finding and order issued on August 29, 2012, the Commission modified and approved Columbia's application for authority to implement a capital expenditure program (CEP) for the period of October 1, 2011, through December 31, 2012, pursuant to Sections 4909.18 and 4929.111, Revised Code.¹ The Commission approved Columbia's request to modify its accounting procedures to provide for capitalization of post-in-service carrying costs on those assets of the CEP that are placed into service, but not reflected in rates as plant in service, as well as deferral of depreciation expense and property taxes directly attributable to those assets of the CEP that are placed into service, but not reflected in rates as plant in service. The Commission authorized Columbia to accrue CEP-related deferrals only up until the point where the accrued deferrals, if included in rates, would cause the rates charged to the Small General Service (SGS) class of customers to increase by more than \$1.50 per month. At that point,

¹ *In the Matter of the Application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval to Implement a Capital Expenditure Program*, Case No. 11-5351-GA-UNC, *et al.*, Finding and Order (August 29, 2012) (CEP Order).

accrual of all future CEP-related deferrals is required to cease, until such time as Columbia files to recover the existing accrued deferrals and establish a recovery mechanism under Section 4909.18, 4929.05, or 4929.11, Revised Code.

- (3) On December 24, 2012, Columbia filed an application, pursuant to Sections 4909.18 and 4929.111, Revised Code, seeking authority to continue its CEP, including deferral of the related carrying costs, depreciation expense, and property tax expense, in 2013 and succeeding years, up until the point where the accrued deferrals, if included in rates, would cause the rates charged to the SGS class of customers to increase by more than \$1.50 per month. Columbia proposes to compute and defer the cost of its CEP-related investments in accordance with the CEP Order. According to the application, a cumulative investment of \$72 million is projected for Columbia's CEP during the period from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2013. Columbia states that it is not requesting cost recovery as part of this application and that recovery of any approved deferrals will be requested in a separate proceeding. Columbia submits that approval of the application will not result in an increase in any rate or charge, and, therefore, that the application should be considered as an application not for an increase in rates under Section 4909.18, Revised Code.
- (4) In order to assist the Commission in its review of Columbia's application, the attorney examiner finds that the following procedural schedule should be established:
 - (a) July 3, 2013 – Deadline for the filing of motions to intervene.
 - (b) July 11, 2013 – Deadline for the filing of comments on the application by Staff and intervenors.
 - (c) July 25, 2013 – Deadline for all parties to file reply comments.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in finding (4) be adopted. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this entry be served upon all parties and other interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Sarah Parrot

By: Sarah J. Parrot
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

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in

Case No(s). 12-3221-GA-UNC, 12-3222-GA-AAM

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry orders a procedural schedule as set forth in finding (4). -
electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Sarah Parrot, Attorney Examiner, Public
Utilities Commission of Ohio