

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of)
Eureka Hunter Pipeline, LLC for) Case No. 13-1893-GA-ABN
Authority to Abandon Service.)

ENTRY

The attorney examiner finds:

- (1) On August 30, 2013, Eureka Hunter Pipeline, LLC (Eureka Hunter) filed an application seeking to abandon natural gas service to 26 premises.
- (2) Eureka Hunter is a natural gas company and a public utility within the meaning of Sections 4905.02 and 4905.03(E), Revised Code¹, and is, therefore, subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
- (3) In support of its abandonment application, Eureka Hunter submits that it acquired the Beverly Bell Pipeline, along with 26 house gas customers, through its acquisition of the Triad Energy Corporation (Triad Energy) in February 2010. Eureka Hunter maintains that its sole purpose in the acquisition of Triad Energy was to utilize any existing right-of-ways for gathering lines, but notes that the Beverly Bell Pipeline has provided natural gas to 26 customers for over 20 years. Eureka Hunter states that the Beverly Bell Pipeline needs significant capital expenditures to ensure safe and reliable service for the 26 natural gas customers. In light of these expenditures, Eureka Hunter claims that it is necessary to abandon natural gas service along its right-of-way, as such service is unreliable, hazardous, and not economically feasible. Eureka Hunter believes that the abandonment of natural gas service is reasonable and meets the criteria set forth in Sections 4905.20 and 4905.21, Revised Code. Eureka Hunter requests that the Commission authorize the abandonment of natural gas service to the 26 customers prior to October 31, 2013.

¹ Pursuant to Amended Substitute Senate Bill 315, effective September 10, 2012, a natural gas company is defined pursuant to Section 4905.03(A)(5), Revised Code.

- (4) Initially, the attorney examiner notes that, while Eureka Hunter provides that it has notified all 26 customers that it will assist in the transition to an alternative energy source or locate an alternate natural gas supplier, the application does not provide the status of these transitions nor does it indicate which customers have installed alternative energy sources or switched to an alternate energy supplier. Therefore, the attorney examiner finds that this matter should be scheduled for a prehearing conference, in which customers at all 26 premises are invited to discuss this application with representatives from Eureka Hunter. An attorney examiner from the Commission's Legal Department will facilitate this prehearing conference.
- (5) Accordingly, a prehearing conference shall be scheduled for October 24, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-A, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.
- (6) Representatives from Eureka Hunter and customers from the 26 premises should be prepared to discuss the arrangements proposed in the application, including the installation of an alternative energy source or the possibility of receiving natural gas service from an alternate natural gas supplier. Further, all individuals should be prepared to discuss ways in which these issues may be resolved, as well as tentative hearing dates in the event no resolution is reached.
- (7) The attorney examiner notes that nothing precludes either Eureka Hunter or any of the 26 customers from discussing potential arrangements proposed in the application prior to the prehearing conference in Columbus, Ohio. In fact, the attorney examiner encourages Eureka Hunter to reach out to the 26 customers to explore means of resolving this matter prior to the prehearing conference. The attorney examiner notes that, while all customers are invited attend the prehearing conference, in the event a customer is unable attend, the customer should, prior to October 18, 2013, contact the undersigned attorney examiner in the Commission's Legal Department at 614-728-2516, and reference Case No. 13-1893-GA-ABN.

- (8) In the interim, Eureka Hunter should not disconnect natural gas service to the 26 customers during the pendency of this proceeding or until the Commission orders otherwise. However, nothing in this entry excuses any customer from making payments for natural gas service.
- (9) Furthermore, in accordance with Sections 4905.20 and 4905.21, Revised Code, the time and place of the public hearing, and publication of the notice required, will be established by subsequent entry after the prehearing conference is conducted.

ORDERED, That a prehearing conference be scheduled for October 24, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-A, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793. It is, further,

ORDERED, That Eureka Hunter comply with finding (8). It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this entry be served by certified mail and regular mail to each of the 26 customers whose names are listed in section number 8 of the application. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this entry be served by regular mail on the applicant and all parties of record in this case.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Jonathan Tauber

By: Jonathan J. Tauber
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

9/25/2013 3:33:50 PM

in

Case No(s). 13-1893-GA-ABN

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordered a prehearing conference for 10/24/2013 in accordance with Finding (5) and ordered Eureka Hunter to comply with Finding (8). - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Jonathan Tauber, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio