THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE FISCAL ASSESSMENT OF ALL REGULATED ENTITIES FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2015.

CASE NO. 16-01-AU-RPT

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on October 12, 2016

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission rescinds the operating authority of those regulated entities who failed to file a 2015 annual report for fiscal assessment by August 29, 2016, and directs that any forfeiture amounts be certified to the Attorney General for collection 31 days after issuance of this Finding and Order.

II. DISCUSSION

- {¶ 2} R.C. 4905.10 requires each railroad and public utility to pay an annual assessment based upon their intrastate gross earnings for the purpose of maintaining the operations of this Commission and the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC).¹ In order to calculate such assessment, R.C. 4905.14 requires each public utility to file an annual report with the Commission. R.C. 4905.10(A) sets a minimum assessment of \$100 per company, regardless of their intrastate gross revenues in the reporting year.
- {¶ 3} R.C. 4905.54 empowers the Commission to assess a forfeiture of not more than \$10,000 per day for each violation or failure of a public utility or railroad, or an officer of a public utility or railroad, to comply with an order, direction, or requirement of the Commission made under authority of R.C. Chapter 4905.

R.C. 4905.03(A) defines public utility companies to include telephone companies, electric light companies (except regional transmission organizations), heating or cooling companies, natural gas distribution companies, pipeline companies, and water-works and sewage disposal system companies. Railroad, bridge, and water transportation companies are included in the annual reporting requirement under R.C. 4907.02 and 4907.20. All certified retail electric and natural gas suppliers and aggregators are also subject to this reporting requirement under R.C. 4928.06 and 4929.23; while R.C. 4905.10(D) provides that, for the purpose of annual assessment, "public utility" includes electric and gas suppliers and aggregators subject to certification under R.C. 4928.08 and 4929.20, respectively.

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{¶ 4} On January 20, 2016, the Commission issued an Entry directing each reporting company subject to fiscal assessment for the 2015 calendar year to submit its annual report using the Commission's on-line system by May 2, 2016, or contact the Commission's Docketing Division for special accommodations. All reporting companies were reminded that a \$1,000 civil forfeiture might be assessed, pursuant to R.C. 4905.54, against any company failing to comply, absent good cause shown.

- {¶ 5} On August 17, 2016, the Commission issued an Entry directing those companies listed on the attachment to the Entry to submit a 2015 annual report for the corresponding certificate or operating authority shown on the attachment. Each listed company was directed to submit a 2015 annual report for the listed certificate or operating authority, or file a response in this docket showing cause why the listed certificate or operating authority should not be rescinded and/or a civil forfeiture assessed against the listed company, by August 29, 2016.
- {¶ 6} The Commission's records reflect that the companies listed on the attachment to this Finding and Order have failed to submit a 2015 annual report for the corresponding certificates. As each of the companies listed on the attachment have failed to submit a 2015 annual report or file a response to the August 17, 2016 Entry, these certificates should now be rescinded and a civil forfeiture of \$1,000 should be assessed pursuant to R.C. 4905.54. Each listed company must now immediately cease providing regulated service in the state of Ohio under the listed certificate, and immediately notify any Ohio jurisdictional customers still being served thereunder that the company is no longer permitted to operate under such authority. Any company that continues to provide regulated service under a cancelled certificate may be subject to a forfeiture up to \$10,000 per day under R.C. 4905.54. The Docketing Division is directed to notify each listed company of the rescission of its certificate via certified mail in addition to any other means of service, cancel all applicable tariffs, and remove each listed certificate from the Commission's regulated company list. Further, the Fiscal Division is directed to certify

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any forfeiture amounts owed to the Commission by the listed company to the Attorney General for collection.

{¶ 7} The effective date of this Finding and Order shall be delayed 30 days to afford the companies listed on the attachment an opportunity to file an application for rehearing pursuant to R.C. 4903.10.

III. ORDER

- $\{\P 8\}$ It is, therefore,
- $\{\P\ 9\}$ ORDERED, That each certificate listed in the attachment to this Finding and Order be rescinded. It is, further,
- {¶ 10} ORDERED, That each company listed in the attachment to this Finding and Order immediately cease providing regulated service in the state of Ohio under the rescinded certificate, and immediately notify any Ohio jurisdictional customers still being served thereunder that the company is no longer permitted to operate under such authority. It is, further,
- {¶ 11} ORDERED, That the Docketing Division cancel all applicable tariffs, and remove each certificate listed in the attachment from the Commission's regulated company list. It is, further,
- {¶ 12} ORDERED, That the Commission's Fiscal Division assign to the Attorney General for collection any forfeiture amounts owed to the Commission by any company listed in the attachment. It is, further,
- {¶ 13} ORDERED, That the effective date of this Finding and Order be delayed 30 days in accordance with paragraph 7. It is, further,
- {¶ 14} ORDERED, That notice of this Finding and Order be served via the Electric-Energy, Gas-Pipeline, Railroad, Telephone, and Water industry listserves, and a copy of

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this Finding and Order be served upon each company listed on the attachment, by both regular and certified mail, and upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Asim Z. Haque, Chairman

[\] M. Beth Trombold

Thomas W. Johnson

M. Howard Petricoff

JRJ/vrm

Entered in the Journal OCT 12 Journal

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Secretary

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