

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC. FOR
APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE FORM
OF REGULATION TO EXTEND AND
INCREASE ITS INFRASTRUCTURE
REPLACEMENT PROGRAM.

CASE NO. 16-2422-GA-ALT

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on April 6, 2017

{¶ 1} Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia) is a natural gas company, as defined in R.C. 4905.03, and a public utility, as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

{¶ 2} Under R.C. 4929.05, a natural gas company may file an application for an alternative rate plan. After an investigation, the Commission shall approve the alternative rate plan if the natural gas company demonstrates and the Commission finds the natural gas company is in compliance with R.C. 4905.35, is in substantial compliance with the policy of the state as set forth in R.C. 4929.02, and is expected to continue to be in substantial compliance with the policy of the state specified in R.C. 4929.02 after implementation of the alternative rate plan. The Commission must also find that the alternative rate plan is just and reasonable.

{¶ 3} On December 27, 2016, Columbia filed a notice of intent to file an application for approval of an alternative rate plan under R.C. 4929.05.

{¶ 4} On February 27, 2017, Columbia filed its alternative rate plan application, along with supporting exhibits and testimony, pursuant to R.C. 4929.05, 4929.051(B), 4929.11, and 4909.18. In its application, Columbia states it seeks approval to continue its Infrastructure Replacement Program (IRP) and the associated cost recovery mechanism, Rider IRP, for five years through December 31, 2022. Columbia's current IRP was approved for a five-year term to expire on December 31, 2017, in Case No. 11-5515-GA-

ALT. *In re Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 11-5515-GA-ALT (*IRP Case*), Opinion and Order (Nov. 28, 2012).

{¶ 5} On March 24, 2017, Staff filed a letter stating that Columbia's application is in compliance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-19-06. Accordingly, the application shall be deemed to have been filed as of February 27, 2017.

{¶ 6} To assist the Commission in its review of Columbia's alternative rate plan application, the attorney examiner finds that the following procedural schedule should be established:

- (a) April 19, 2017 – Deadline for the filing of motions to intervene.
- (b) July 10, 2017 – Deadline for the filing of the Staff Report.
- (c) August 9, 2017 – Deadline for the filing of objections to the Staff Report or objections to the application.

{¶ 7} After the Commission considers the objections filed to the Staff Report or to the application, the Commission will determine whether a hearing on Columbia's application to continue its IRP is necessary.

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in paragraph 6 be observed. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties and interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Greta See

By: Greta See
Attorney Examiner

SEF/dah

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

4/6/2017 11:14:04 AM

in

Case No(s). 16-2422-GA-ALT

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering the procedural schedule set forth be observed: (a) April 19, 2017 – Deadline for the filing of motions to intervene; (b) July 10, 2017 – Deadline for the filing of the Staff Report; and (c) August 9, 2017 – Deadline for the filing of objections to the Staff Report or objections to the application. Entry electronically filed by Debra Hight on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner.