

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
SUBURBAN NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR
APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF REGULATION TO INITIATE A REVENUE
DECOUPLING MECHANISM. CASE No. 17-594-GA-ALT

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on May 23, 2017

{¶ 1} Suburban Natural Gas Company (Suburban or Company) 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} R.C. 4929.051 provides that an alternative rate plan filed by a natural gas company under R.C. 4929.05 and proposing to initiate or continue a revenue decoupling mechanism shall be considered an application not for an increase in rates if the rates are based upon the billing determinants and revenue requirement authorized by the Commission in the company's most recent rate case proceeding and the plan also establishes, continues, or expands an energy efficiency or energy conservation program.

{¶ 4} On April 25, 2017, Suburban filed an alternative rate plan application, along with supporting exhibits and testimony, pursuant to R.C. 4929.05, 4929.051, and 4909.18. In its application, Suburban states it seeks approval to initiate a revenue

decoupling mechanism to facilitate a straight fixed variable rate design, not as an application for an increase in rates, to be phased in over a two-year period. Suburban proposes the rate design be based on the billing determinants from the Company's last rate case, updated for the number of customers, sales, and revenue levels for calendar year 2013. *In re Suburban Natural Gas Co.*, Case No. 07-689-GA-AIR, Opinion and Order (Mar. 19, 2008). As part of the application, Suburban also requests approval to initiate an Energy Efficiency Program (EEP) pilot, in order to weatherize the residences of Suburban's high-usage Percentage of Income Payment Plan-Plus customers, and approval to establish an associated cost recovery mechanism, Rider EEP. The Rider EEP rate would initially be set at zero. The EEP pilot would be designed, including identification of the Rider EEP charge, with the input of Staff and other interested stakeholders. Suburban proposes to submit the Rider EEP charge for Commission approval within four months after approval of the application in this proceeding.

{¶ 5} According to the application, on February 28, 2017, Suburban sent to Staff a notice of intent to file an application for approval of an alternative rate plan (Exhibit I), pursuant to R.C. 4929.05 and 4929.051.

{¶ 6} On May 15, 2017, Suburban filed supplemental proposed tariff sheets.

{¶ 7} On May 19, 2017, Staff filed a letter stating that Suburban's application, as supplemented, is in compliance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-19-06. Accordingly, the application shall be deemed to have been filed as of April 25, 2017.

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

- (a) June 6, 2017 – Deadline for the filing of motions to intervene.
- (b) July 31, 2017 – Deadline for the filing of the Staff Report.

- (c) August 31, 2017 – Deadline for the filing of objections to the Staff Report or objections to the application.

{¶ 9} After the Commission considers the objections filed to the Staff Report or to the application, the Commission will determine whether a hearing on Suburban's alternative rate plan application to initiate a revenue decoupling mechanism is necessary.

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in paragraph 8 be observed. It is, further,

{¶ 12} 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

JRJ/dah

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

5/23/2017 11:28:02 AM

in

Case No(s). 17-0594-GA-ALT

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry finding that the following procedural schedule be established: (a) June 6, 2017 – Deadline for the filing of motions to intervene; (b) July 31, 2017 – Deadline for the filing of the Staff Report; and (c) August 31, 2017 – Deadline for the filing of objections to the Staff Report or objections to the application. Entry