

## 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 August 8, 2017

{¶ 1} Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia 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} 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.

{¶ 6} By Entry issued on April 6, 2017, the procedural schedule was set to assist the Commission in its review of Columbia's alternative rate plan application. Pursuant to the procedural schedule, the Staff Report was filed July 10, 2017, and objections to the Staff Report or the application are due August 9, 2017.

{¶ 7} By Entry issued on April 21, 2017, motions to intervene filed by Industrial Energy Users-Ohio (IEU), Ohio Consumers' Counsel, and Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE) were granted.

{¶ 8} On August 7, 2017, Columbia filed a motion for an extension of the due date to file objections, until August 14, 2017, and a request for expedited ruling. Columbia states that the five-day extension is required to allow the Company time to review, analyze, and prepare a response to Staff's findings and recommendations in the Staff Report. According to Columbia's motion, counsel for IEU and OPAE do not oppose the request for an extension.

{¶ 9} The attorney examiner finds that Columbia's motion for a five-day extension of time to file objections is reasonable and should be granted. Accordingly, the due date for the filing of objections to the Staff Report or to the application is August 14, 2017.

{¶ 10} As previously noted, after the Commission considers the objections filed, if any, the Commission will determine whether a hearing on Columbia's application to continue its IRP is necessary.

{¶ 11} It is, therefore,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That Columbia's motion for an extension of time to file objections to the Staff Report or the application be granted, until August 14, 2017. It is, further,

{¶ 13} 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**

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**in**

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

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering Columbia's motion for an extension of time to file objections to the Staff Report or the application be granted, until August 14, 2017. Entry electronically filed by Debra Hight on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner.