

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 11, 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, 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 were due August 9, 2017.

{¶ 7} By Entry issued on April 21, 2017, Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, Ohio Consumers' Counsel, and Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy were granted intervention.

{¶ 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.

{¶ 9} By Entry issued on August 8, 2017, Columbia's motion for an extension to file objections was granted.

{¶ 10} On August 11, 2017, Columbia filed a second motion for an extension of the due date to file objections, until August 18, 2017, and a request for expedited ruling. Columbia states that the parties are engaged in settlement negotiations that may make the filing of objections unnecessary and, therefore, the Company requests a brief extension of the due date. According to Columbia, the Company has not received any objections to the filing of the motion for an extension.

{¶ 11} The attorney examiner finds that Columbia's motion for an extension of time to file objections, until August 18, 2017, is reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 12} It is, therefore,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That Columbia's motion for an extension of time to file objections to the Staff Report or the application be granted, until August 18, 2017. It is, further,

{¶ 14} 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

SJP/dah

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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 18, 2017. Entry electronically filed by Debra Hight on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner.