

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
EASTERN NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR
APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE RATE PLAN
PROPOSING A REVENUE DECOUPLING
MECHANISM.

CASE NO. 08-940-GA-ALT

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
PIKE NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR
APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE RATE PLAN
PROPOSING A REVENUE DECOUPLING
MECHANISM.

CASE NO. 08-941-GA-ALT

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on September 15, 2017

{¶ 1} Eastern Natural Gas Company (Eastern) and Pike Natural Gas Company (Pike) (collectively, Companies) are natural gas companies, as defined in R.C. 4905.03, and public utilities, as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, are subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 2} On June 16, 2010, the Commission modified and approved the Companies' applications, pursuant to R.C. 4929.05, 4929.051, and 4909.18, to implement alternative rate plans to include revenue decoupling mechanisms with the adoption of demand-side management (DSM) programs and associated DSM riders, pursuant to a joint stipulation and recommendation. *In re Eastern Natural Gas Co. and Pike Natural Gas Co.*, Case No. 08-940-GA-ALT, et al., Opinion and Order (June 16, 2010).

{¶ 3} On May 31, 2017, the Companies filed a motion to suspend the collection of the DSM riders, reasoning that, over the last several years, expenditures for the weatherization programs have not kept pace with the revenues collected by the Companies through the DSM riders.

{¶ 4} By Entry issued July 26, 2017, the Commission granted the Companies' motion to suspend collection of the DSM riders but directed that Eastern and Pike continue to provide DSM weatherization programs, until the Commission specifically

orders otherwise. Further, the Entry directed the parties to discuss and evaluate the DSM programs and established a procedural schedule for the filing of comments and reply comments to assist the Commission with its review of the Companies' DSM programs. Pursuant to the July 26, 2017 Entry, comments are due September 15, 2017, and reply comments are due September 29, 2017.

{¶ 5} On September 14, 2017, the Companies filed a motion to indefinitely suspend the procedural schedule for the filing of comments. Counsel for the Companies states that the Companies, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE), and Staff have engaged in informative discussions and are attempting to reach a consensus on a recommendation for the Commission's consideration. Eastern and Pike commit to continuing to work with the parties and to keep the Commission informed of the status of the negotiations to reach a consensus. Further, the Companies represent that OPAE and Staff do not object to the motion.

{¶ 6} The attorney examiner finds that the Companies' motion to indefinitely suspend the procedural schedule is reasonable and should be granted. Further, the parties shall notify the attorney examiner if they reach a consensus recommendation or an impasse, otherwise, the parties shall inform the attorney examiner of their progress on December 1, 2017, and on the first of every month, or the subsequent business day, thereafter.

{¶ 7} It is, therefore,

{¶ 8} ORDERED, That the Companies' motion for an indefinite suspension of the procedural schedule be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That the parties inform the attorney examiner of the status of their negotiations of a consensus recommendation as directed in Paragraph 6. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Greta See

By: Greta See
Attorney Examiner

GAP/dah

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in

Case No(s). 08-0940-GA-ALT, 08-0941-GA-ALT

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering the Companies' motion for an indefinite suspension of the procedural schedule be granted. Entry electronically filed by Debra Hight on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner.