

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO GAS COMPANY FOR AN INCREASE
IN GAS DISTRIBUTION RATES.

CASE No. 17-1139-GA-AIR

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO GAS COMPANY FOR TARIFF
APPROVAL.

CASE No. 17-1140-GA-ATA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF
CERTAIN ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY.

CASE No. 17-1141-GA-AAM

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on January 12, 2018

{¶ 1} R.C. 4909.18 requires, in part, that any public utility seeking to establish, modify, amend, change, increase, or reduce any rate must file an application with the Commission.

{¶ 2} Ohio Gas Company (Ohio Gas) is a natural gas company as defined by R.C. 4905.03 and a public utility as defined by R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 3} On April 28, 2017, Ohio Gas filed a notice of intent to file an application for an increase in rates.

{¶ 4} On May 31, 2017, Ohio Gas filed an application pursuant to R.C. 4909.18 to increase its rates for natural gas distribution service.

{¶ 5} Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, Staff conducted an investigation of the facts, exhibits, and matters relating to the application. On November 22, 2017, Staff filed a written report of its investigation (Staff Report).

{¶ 6} By Entry dated December 1, 2017, the attorney examiner issued a procedural schedule establishing deadlines for filing objections to the Staff Report, motions to strike any such objections, direct expert testimony, and motions to intervene. The Entry also

scheduled a prehearing conference on January 4, 2018, and an evidentiary hearing on January 18, 2018.

{¶ 7} On December 5, 2017, the attorney examiner issued an Entry to schedule a local public hearing on January 3, 2018. The Entry indicated that public testimony will also be solicited at the evidentiary hearing on January 18, 2018.

{¶ 8} On December 13, 2017, Ohio Gas filed a motion to extend the due date for testimony in support of objections to the Staff Report. By Entry dated December 14, 2017, the attorney examiner granted the motion such that testimony in support of objections to the Staff Report, as well as any other direct expert testimony, was required to be filed by the parties no later than January 5, 2018.

{¶ 9} On January 2, 2018, Ohio Gas filed a motion to vacate the due date for testimony in support of objections to the Staff Report, which both Ohio Gas and the Ohio Consumers' Counsel had filed on December 22, 2017. The motion indicated that Ohio Gas and Staff appeared to have reached a resolution of the issues in these cases and would be filing a joint stipulation and recommendation. The attorney examiner granted Ohio Gas's motion by Entry dated January 3, 2018.

{¶ 10} At the January 4, 2018 prehearing conference, the parties indicated that they were continuing to work towards a stipulated resolution but that additional time might be necessary. A new schedule was discussed, but no agreement on dates could be reached. The attorney examiner took the matter under advisement.

{¶ 11} On January 10, 2018, Ohio Gas filed a motion requesting that the evidentiary hearing be continued for a period of two weeks, or until February 1, 2018; the motion also requests expedited treatment under Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-12(C). For cause, Ohio Gas represents that the continuance will facilitate the parties' efforts toward settlement. Ohio Gas also states that, having contacted all parties, there are no objections to an expedited ruling on the motion.

{¶ 12} In light of the parties' continuous efforts to reach and file a stipulation that would resolve all or most issues in these cases, the attorney examiner finds that the motion filed by Ohio Gas is reasonable and should be granted to the extent set forth in this Entry. Specifically, the evidentiary hearing is continued to February 1, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 11-C at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

{¶ 13} The attorney examiner also finds, however, that it would be beneficial to convene as previously scheduled on January 18, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., in order to solicit any public testimony and, if necessary, to discuss the parties' progress in negotiations.

{¶ 14} It is, therefore,

{¶ 15} ORDERED, That Ohio Gas's January 10, 2018 motion for a continuance of the evidentiary hearing is granted as stated in Paragraph 12. It is, further,

{¶ 16} ORDERED, That the evidentiary hearing is rescheduled to commence on February 1, 2018, at stated in Paragraph 12. It is, further,

{¶ 17} ORDERED, That counsel appear on January 18, 2018, for the reasons stated in Paragraph 13. It is, further,

{¶ 18} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Patricia A. Schabo

By: Patricia A. Schabo
Attorney Examiner

jrj/sc

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

1/12/2018 2:30:26 PM

in

Case No(s). 17-1139-GA-AIR, 17-1140-GA-ATA, 17-1141-GA-AAM

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry rescheduling evidentiary hearing to commence on February 1, 2018, at 10:00 a.m.; electronically filed by Vesta R Miller on behalf of Patricia A. Schabo, Attorney Examienr, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio