

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION  
OF VECTREN ENERGY DELIVERY OF  
OHIO, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN  
ALTERNATIVE RATE PLAN.

CASE No. 18-49-GA-ALT

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION  
OF VECTREN ENERGY DELIVERY OF  
OHIO, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN  
INCREASE IN GAS RATES.

CASE No. 18-298-GA-AIR

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION  
OF VECTREN ENERGY DELIVERY OF  
OHIO, INC. FOR APPROVAL OF AN  
ALTERNATIVE RATE PLAN.

CASE No. 18-299-GA-ALT

### ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on May 24, 2018

{¶ 1} Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. (VEDO or the Company) is a natural gas company and a public utility as defined by R.C. 4905.03 and R.C. 4905.02, respectively. As such, VEDO is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission pursuant to R.C. 4905.04, 4905.05, and 4905.06.

{¶ 2} The fixation of rates for public utilities in the state of Ohio is governed by R.C. Chapter 4909. The statutory requirements for an application to increase a public utility's rates are enumerated in R.C. 4909.17, 4909.18, 4909.19, and 4909.43. Also, pursuant to R.C. 4901.13, 4909.04(C), and 4909.18, the Commission adopted Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01 and its Appendix (Standard Filing Requirements). These Standard Filing Requirements specify the format for filing all information required in an application for an increase in rates and define the information that the Commission requires pursuant to R.C. 4909.18(E).

{¶ 3} Additionally, pursuant to R.C. 4929.05(A), a natural gas company may request approval of an alternative rate plan by filing an application to establish or change a rate under R.C. 4909.18.

{¶ 4} On January 3, 2018, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-19-06, VEDO filed a notice of intent to file an application for approval of an alternative rate plan under R.C. 4929.05. The Company's notice indicates that the application will request approval for the recovery of the costs associated with VEDO's ongoing Capital Expenditure Program (CEP) and other related relief. *In the Matter of the Application of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of an Alternative Rate Plan*, Case No. 18-49-GA-ALT (CEP Rider Case).

{¶ 5} On February 21, 2018, the Company filed two additional notices of intent. First, in accordance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01, Appendix A, Chapter I(B), VEDO filed its notice of intent to file an application for an increase in rates and charges. Second, and again pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-19-06, VEDO filed notice of its intent to file an application for approval of an alternative rate plan under R.C. 4929.05. According to the notice, this application would request approval of an alternative rate plan regarding the Company's Distribution Replacement Rider, a planned multi-family housing pilot program, expansion of its straight fixed variable rate design, and proposed energy conversion factor that would adjust customers' usage each month for billing purposes to reflect the variability in the energy content of the gas they consume. *In the Matter of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of an Increase in Rates*, Case No. 18-298-GA-AIR; *In the Matter of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of an Alternative Rate Plan*, Case No. 18-299-GA-ALT (collectively, *Rate Case Proceedings*).

{¶ 6} On February 23, 2018, in the *Rate Case Proceedings*, VEDO filed a motion to establish a test year and date certain and for waiver of certain filing requirements pursuant to R.C. 4909.15(C) and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-19-02(D). By Entry issued March 14, 2018, the Commission approved the test year and date certain and granted the requested waiver of specified Standard Filing Requirements.

{¶ 7} On March 30, 2018, VEDO filed a combined application to increase rates and charges and for approval of an alternative rate plan pursuant to R.C. 4909.18 and

R.C. 4929.05 in the *Rate Case Proceedings*. Subsequently, on April 13, 2018, VEDO filed its application for approval of an alternative rate plan in the *CEP Rider Case*.

{¶ 8} Also on April 13, 2018, VEDO filed a motion to consolidate the *Rate Case Proceedings* with the *CEP Rider Case* pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-02(A)(6) and 4901-1-12. Therein, the Company states that certain issues in the *Rate Case Proceedings* and the *CEP Rider Case* are interrelated, meaning consolidation will both ease consideration of the issues and support administrative efficiency. For example, VEDO represents that one of the issues addressed in the *Rate Case Proceedings* is the recovery in base rates of accrued CEP deferrals as of December 31, 2017; in the same vein, the Company requests recovery of annual CEP deferrals on a forward basis beginning January 1, 2018, in the *CEP Rider Case*. Thus, the Company believes that determinations regarding the proper treatment or recovery of deferrals in one case could affect the treatment or recovery of deferrals in the other. VEDO also cites the voluminous amount of information and documents that would require redundant filing if the cases remain separate as an additional reason for consolidation. Finally, the Company notes that all proceedings affected by consolidation are in initial phases; thus, consolidation would not delay any proceeding or cause prejudice to any party. No party or interested person filed a memorandum contra the motion to consolidate.

{¶ 9} Upon review, the attorney examiner finds that VEDO's motion to consolidate is reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That VEDO's motion to consolidate these proceedings be granted. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Patricia Schabo

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By: Patricia A. Schabo  
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

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**Case No(s). 18-0049-GA-ALT, 18-0298-GA-AIR, 18-0299-GA-ALT**

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting VEDO's motion to consolidate proceedings - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Patricia Schabo, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio