THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AUDIT OF THE UNCOLLECTIBLE EXPENSE RIDER OF THE EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY D/B/A DOMINION ENERGY OHIO.

CASE NO. 18-319-GA-UEX

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on September 26, 2018

I. SUMMARY

 $\{\P 1\}$ The Commission approves the application of The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio to decrease its uncollectible expense rider rate.

II. DISCUSSION

- {¶ 2} The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio (DEO) 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 this Commission.
- {¶ 3} On December 17, 2003, the Commission approved the application of five natural gas companies, including DEO, to recover uncollectible expenses (UEX) through riders. *In re The East Ohio Gas Company d.b.a Dominion East Ohio*, Case No. 03-1127-GA-UNC, Finding and Order (Dec. 17, 2003). DEO was required to file annually with the Commission a report identifying the amounts recovered, deferred, and, as applicable, amortized under the UEX rider. In addition, DEO was permitted to request an adjustment to the UEX rider.
- {¶ 4} On September 13, 2017, the Commission approved DEO's current UEX rider rate of \$0.0634 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf). *In re The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio*, Case No. 17-319-GA-UEX, Finding and Order (Sept. 13, 2017).

18-319-GA-UEX -2-

{¶ 5} On May 24, 2018, in the above-captioned case, DEO filed an application to decrease its UEX rider rate to \$0.0326 per Mcf, as summarized below:

| Current Rate | Proposed Rate | Proposed Decrease |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| \$0.0634 per Mcf | \$0.0326 per Mcf | \$0.0308 per Mcf |

The proposed rate is comprised of two components: the balance of deferred uncollectible accounts expense net of rider and customer recoveries and late-payment charges as of March 31, 2018, and the estimate of uncollectible accounts expense net of customer recoveries and late-payment charges for the 12 months ending March 31, 2019. DEO also proposes to add the following language in its UEX rider tariff: "This Rider is subject to reconciliation or adjustment, including, but not limited to, increases or refunds. Such reconciliation or adjustment shall be limited to the twelve-month period of expenditures subjected to annual review and audit by the Commission, if determined to be unlawful, unreasonable, or imprudent by the Commission in such docket or by the Supreme Court of Ohio."

- {¶ 6} On September 4, 2018, Staff filed its review and recommendations on DEO's application, recommending approval of the proposed UEX rider rate and proposed tariff language.
- {¶ 7} The Commission has reviewed the application, as well as Staff's review and recommendations, and finds that the proposed adjustment to DEO's UEX rider is reasonable and in the public interest, and should be approved. Accordingly, the Commission finds that DEO should be authorized to include the revised UEX rider rate in its tariff, which contains the terms, conditions, and rates DEO applies to the gas service it provides to customers. Further, we find that DEO's proposed tariff language should be approved.

18-319-GA-UEX -3-

III. ORDER

- $\{\P 8\}$ It is, therefore,
- {¶ 9} ORDERED, That DEO's application be approved and DEO be authorized to decrease the rate for its UEX rider to \$0.0326 per Mcf. It is, further,
- **{¶ 10}** ORDERED, That DEO is authorized to file tariffs, in final form, consistent with this Finding and Order. DEO shall file one copy in this case docket and one copy in its TRF docket. It is, further,
- {¶ 11} ORDERED, That the effective date of the new tariffs shall be a date not earlier than the date upon which the final tariff pages are filed with the Commission. It is, further,
- {¶ 12} ORDERED, That nothing in this Finding and Order shall be binding upon this Commission in any future proceeding or investigation involving the justness or reasonableness of any rate, charge, rule, or regulation. It is, further,

18-319-GA-UEX -4-

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Asim Z. Haque, Chairman

M. Beth Trombold

Lawrence K. Friedeman

Thomas W. Johnson

Daniel R. Conway

JML/hac

Entered in the Journal

SEP 2 6 2018

Barcy F. McNeal

Secretary