

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION TO
MODIFY THE PERCENTAGE OF INCOME
PAYMENT PLAN RIDER OF EASTERN
NATURAL GAS COMPANY.

CASE No. 18-407-GA-PIP

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on October 10, 2018

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the proposed percentage of income payment plan rider tariff sheet filed by Eastern Natural Gas Company on August 8, 2018.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Eastern Natural Gas Company (Eastern 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 this Commission.

{¶ 3} The Commission has authorized Eastern to recover percentage of income payment plan (PIPP) arrearages associated with providing natural gas service through its PIPP rider. *In re Establishment of Recovery Method for Percentage of Income Payment Plan*, Case No. 87-244-GE-UNC, Finding and Order (Aug. 4, 1987). Approval of proposed PIPP rider rate adjustments are subject to a 45-day review process.¹ Absent Commission action, such adjustments are approved on the 46th day after filing. *In re Review of the Interim Emergency and Temporary PIP Plan Riders Contained in the Approved Rate Schedules of Electric and Gas Companies*, Case No. 88-1115-GE-PIP, et al., Finding and Order (Dec. 2, 1993).

{¶ 4} In Case No. 17-207-GA-GCR, et al., the Commission directed Eastern to file an application to adjust its PIPP rider no later than 30 days from the date of the

¹ Specifically, the procedure is set forth in Staff's direct testimony in Case No. 88-1115-GE-PIP, et al.

Commission's Opinion and Order. *In re Pike Natural Gas Co.*, Case No. 17-207-GA-GCR, et al., Opinion and Order (July 25, 2018).

{¶ 5} On July 26, 2018, Eastern filed an application to adjust its PIPP rider. On August 8, 2018, Eastern amended its application to add the following language to the PIPP rider tariff: "The PIPP Rider is updated annually. The Company's actual PIPP expense for the applicable Rate Schedules, including carrying charges, shall be reconciled annually, with any over or under collection being reflected as a charge or credit in a subsequent update of the Rider Rate. The charge or credit may include Customer refunds if the Commission or Supreme Court of Ohio determines, as a result of an audit of the audit period in which the Rider Rate was in effect, that the Company's charge was unlawful or unreasonable or included imprudent amounts."

{¶ 6} On September 6, 2018, Staff filed its review and recommendations on Eastern's application, recommending approval of the proposed PIPP rider tariff language as filed on August 8, 2018.

{¶ 7} The Commission finds that Eastern's proposed PIPP rider tariff, as filed on August 8, 2018, is reasonable and in the public interest. The Commission has previously directed that the PIPP rider be subject to audit, with the rider subject to reconciliation as a result of the audit. Eastern's proposed tariff is consistent with the Commission's prior directives and makes clear that the PIPP rider is subject to reconciliation and adjustment. We, therefore, find that Eastern's PIPP rider tariff should be approved. We further find that no hearing is necessary with respect to Eastern's proposed tariff.

III. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That Eastern's proposed PIPP rider tariff, as filed on August 8, 2018, be approved. It is, further,


{¶ 10} ORDERED, That Eastern is authorized to file tariffs, in final form, consistent with this Finding and Order. Eastern 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 tariff shall be a date not earlier than the date upon which the final tariff page is filed with the Commission. It is, further,


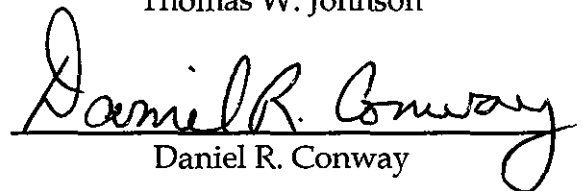
{¶ 12} ORDERED, That nothing in this Finding and Order shall be binding upon this Commission in any future proceeding or investigation involving the justness or reasonableness of any rate, charge, rule, or regulation. It is, further,

{¶ 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



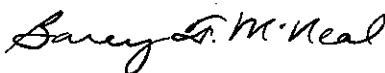
Asim Z. Haque, Chairman


M. Beth Trombold
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Lawrence K. Friedeman
Daniel R. Conway

LDJ/sc

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OCT 10 2018


Barcy F. McNeal
Secretary