

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AUDIT OF THE
UNCOLLECTIBLE EXPENSE RIDER OF
VECTREN ENERGY DELIVERY OF OHIO,
INC.

CASE NO. 19-320-GA-UEX

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on July 31, 2019

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the application of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. to increase its uncollectible expense rider rate.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. (VEDO) 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 VEDO, to recover uncollectible expenses (UEX) through riders. *In re Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 03-1127-GA-UNC, Finding and Order (Dec. 17, 2003). VEDO 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, VEDO was permitted to request an adjustment to the UEX rider.

{¶ 4} On August 8, 2018, the Commission approved VEDO's current UEX rider rate of \$0.0569 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf). *In re Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 18-320-GA-UEX, Finding and Order (Aug. 8, 2018). The Commission also approved VEDO's proposed changes to its tariff language.

{¶ 5} On May 31, 2019, in the above-captioned case, VEDO filed an application to increase its UEX rider rate to \$0.0703 per Mcf, as summarized below:

Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Proposed Increase
\$0.0569 per Mcf	\$0.0703 per Mcf	\$0.0134 per Mcf

The proposed rate is comprised of two components: the balance of deferred uncollectible accounts expense net of recoveries as of April 30, 2019, and an estimate of net uncollectible accounts expense and recoveries for the 12 months ending April 30, 2020. VEDO also proposes to modify the reconciliation language in the UEX rider tariff.

{¶ 6} On June 24, 2019, Staff filed its review and recommendations on VEDO's application, recommending approval of the proposed UEX rider rate.

{¶ 7} The Commission has reviewed the application, as well as Staff's review and recommendations, and finds that the proposed adjustment to VEDO's UEX rider is reasonable and in the public interest, and should be approved. Accordingly, the Commission finds that VEDO should be authorized to include the revised UEX rider rate in its tariff, which contains the terms, conditions, and rates VEDO applies to the gas service it provides to customers. Further, we find that VEDO's proposed tariff language should be modified. Because there are no capital expenditures in the UEX rider, the tax reform language is not necessary. Therefore, the modified tariff language should state: "The Uncollectible Expense Rider is subject to reconciliation or adjustment annually, including but not limited to, increases or refunds. Such reconciliation or adjustment shall be limited to the twelve-month period of expenditures upon which the rates were calculated, if determined to be unlawful, unreasonable, or imprudent by the Commission in the docket those rates were approved or the Supreme Court of Ohio."

III. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That VEDO's application be approved and VEDO be authorized to increase the rate for its UEX rider to \$0.0703 per Mcf. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That VEDO is authorized to file tariffs, in final form, consistent with this Finding and Order. VEDO 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,

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

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

Sam Randazzo, Chairman

Lawrence K. Friedeman

Daniel R. Conway

JML/hac

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Case No(s). 19-0320-GA-UEx

Summary: Finding & Order that the Commission approves the application of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. to increase its uncollectible expense rider rate. electronically filed by Docketing Staff on behalf of Docketing