

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
NORTHEAST OHIO NATURAL GAS CORP.
FOR AN INCREASE IN GAS DISTRIBUTION
RATES.

CASE No. 18-1720-GA-AIR

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
NORTHEAST OHIO NATURAL GAS CORP.
FOR TARIFF APPROVAL.

CASE No. 18-1721-GA-ATA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
NORTHEAST OHIO NATURAL GAS CORP.
FOR APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE
RATE PLAN.

CASE No. 18-1722-GA-ALT

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on August 6, 2019

{¶ 1} Brainard Gas Corp. (Brainard), Orwell Natural Gas Company (Orwell), Spelman Pipeline Holdings, LLC (Spelman), and Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp. (NEO) (collectively, NEO)¹ are natural gas companies or pipeline companies as defined by R.C. 4905.03 and public utilities as defined by R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, are subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 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).

¹ On September 28, 2018, in Case No. 18-1484-GA-UNC, et al., Brainard, Orwell, Spelman, and NEO filed a joint application seeking approval of a proposed merger of Brainard, Orwell, and Spelman into NEO. The Commission approved the joint application on January 3, 2019.

{¶ 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 December 28, 2018, NEO filed a combined application for an increase in rates and application for approval of an alternative rate plan pursuant to R.C. 4909.18 and R.C. 4929.05, respectively.

{¶ 5} Staff conducted an investigation of the facts, exhibits, and matters relating to NEO's applications. On June 25, 2019, Staff filed a comprehensive written report of its investigation (Staff Report) in the above-captioned case dockets.

{¶ 6} By Entry dated June 28, 2019, the attorney examiner issued a procedural schedule and directed interested persons to file motions to intervene in NEO's rate case, if not previously filed, by July 25, 2019.

{¶ 7} On December 21, 2018, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene in this proceeding. Additionally, on January 3, 2019, the Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE) filed a motion to intervene in this proceeding. No memoranda contra OCC's and OPAE's motions to intervene were filed. The attorney examiner finds that the motions to intervene filed by OCC and OPAE comply with the requirements set forth in R.C. 4903.221 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-11, and should, therefore, be granted.

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That OCC's and OPAE's motions to intervene be granted. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/Lauren L. Augostini

By: Lauren L. Augostini
Attorney Examiner

MJA/hac

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Case No(s). 18-1720-GA-AIR, 18-1721-GA-ATA, 18-1722-GA-ALT

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting motions to intervene electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Lauren L. Augostini, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio