

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of the :  
Application of Northeast :Case No.  
Ohio Natural Gas Corp. for an :18-1720-GA-AIR  
Increase in Gas Distribution :  
Rates. :

In the Matter of the :  
Application of Northeast :Case No.  
Ohio Natural Gas Corp. for :18-1721-GA-ATA  
Tariff Approval. :

In the Matter of the :  
Application of Northeast :Case No.  
Ohio Natural Gas Corp. for :18-1722-GA-ALT  
Approval of an Alternative :  
Rate Plan. :

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PROCEEDINGS

Before Lauren Augostini, Attorney Examiner, and  
Dennis Deters, Commissioner, at the Fairfield  
County District Main Library, 219 North Broad  
Street, Lancaster, Ohio, on Monday, August 12,  
2019, at 6:00 P.M.

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Armstrong & Okey, Inc.  
222 East Town Street, 2nd Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215  
(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481

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1 APPEARANCES:

2 Calfee, Halter & Griswold  
3 By Mr. Trevor Alexander  
4 21 East State Street, Suite 1100  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

5 On behalf of the Applicant.

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7 Mr. Christopher Healey  
Associate Consumers' Counsel  
8 65 East State Street, 7th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

9 On behalf of the Residential  
10 Consumers of Northeast Ohio  
11 Natural Gas Corporation.

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1 Monday Evening,  
2 August 12, 2019.

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4 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Good evening,  
5 welcome. The Public Utilities Commission of  
6 Ohio has assigned for public hearing at this  
7 time and place Case Nos. 18-1720-GA-AIR,  
8 18-1721-GA-ATA, 18-1722-GA-ALT being in the  
9 Matter of the Application of Northeast Ohio  
10 Natural Gas Corp. for approval of an increase in  
11 gas distribution rates, combined with an  
12 application for tariff approval and for approval  
13 of an alternative rate plan.

14 My name is Lauren Augostini, and I  
15 am one of the Attorney Examiners assigned by the  
16 Commission to preside over this local public  
17 hearing.

18 Also with me is a new Attorney  
19 Examiner, Mike Williams. And then we also have  
20 Commissioner Deters. Commissioner, do you have  
21 any comments?

22 COMMISSIONER DETERS: I would just  
23 like to say I appreciate everyone being here  
24 tonight. This is officially my first public  
25 hearing as a Public Utilities Commissioner in

1 the State. I was hoping for maybe a little more  
2 fireworks tonight, but it doesn't seem like that  
3 is going to happen.

4 But regardless, on behalf of the  
5 Commission I think the Staff are doing as always  
6 a great job, our Examiners and Public Affairs  
7 team, exceptional job putting this together.  
8 And interested parties that came that wouldn't  
9 testify tonight, thank you for being here  
10 tonight.

11 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you very  
12 much. There are also several members of the  
13 Commission's Staff here tonight. We have  
14 Brittany Waughaman and Anna Perry from Public  
15 Affairs.

16 And then outside we have Kelly Mabra  
17 from the Service Monitoring and Enforcement  
18 Department. PUCO members are available if you  
19 have any questions.

20 At this time I would like to take  
21 appearances beginning with Company.

22 MR. ALEXANDER: Good evening, your  
23 Honor. Trevor Alexander, from Calfee, Halter  
24 here representing the Company. Also with me is  
25 Jason Massey.

1 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. OCC.

2 MR. HEALEY: Good evening.

3 Christopher Healey, on behalf of the Consumers'  
4 Counsel. Also Ambrosia Logsdon and Andrew  
5 Tinkham from our Public Affairs Department.

6 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. The  
7 subject of today's public hearing is Northeast  
8 Ohio Natural Gas Corp. which I will refer to as  
9 NEO, application to increase its natural gas  
10 distribution rates which has been consolidated  
11 with an application for tariff approval and for  
12 an application approval for an alternative rate  
13 plan.

14 On September 28th, 2018 NEO filed an  
15 application to merge Brainard Gas Corp., Orwell  
16 Natural Gas Co. and Spelman Pipeline Holdings,  
17 LLC and Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corporation  
18 into NEO as a sole, surviving entity. The  
19 Commission approved that application on January  
20 3rd, 2018.

21 On December 28th, 2018 NEO filed a  
22 combined application for an increase in rates  
23 and for an application for approval of an  
24 alternative rate plan. NEO is requesting to  
25 increase it's annual revenues by \$3.5 million.

The Staff filed its Report and Recommendation on June 25th, 2019. In its report Staff recommends lowering the increase to a range between \$500,052 and with the higher bound being \$877,542. Staff's report is a recommendation only, and the final decision will ultimately be made by the Commission.

The local public hearing scheduled in this matter is only one aspect of the process. In addition to this evening additional public hearings will be held in Canton on August 13th and Bucyrus on August 14th.

An evidentiary hearing is currently scheduled to convene at the Commission's offices in Columbus on August 20th, 2019.

The purpose of tonight's hearing is to receive comments from the public regarding NEO's applications. This evening is not a question and answer session. Representatives from the company and Staff may be able to speak to any concerns after the hearing ends.

Tonight's hearing is being transcribed by a court reporter and any testimony will be incorporated into the official

1 record of this case and it will be reviewed  
2 and considered by the Commission in making their  
3 final decision on the applications.

4 The Commission appreciates your  
5 participation tonight at this hearing. And at  
6 this time I will begin calling witnesses.

7 Let's go off the record.

8 (RECESS TAKEN)

9 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Does anybody  
10 want to testify?

11 Let the record reflect that there is  
12 no one present who wishes to testify in this  
13 proceeding. Therefore, this public hearing is  
14 concluded, and we are adjourned. Thank you.

15 (At 6:20 P.M. the hearing was  
16 concluded)

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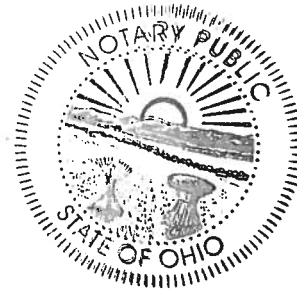
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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing  
is a true and correct transcript of the  
proceedings taken by me in this matter on August  
12, 2019, and carefully compared with my  
original stenographic notes.

Michael O. Spencer  
Michael O. Spencer,  
Registered Professional  
Reporter.

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

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**in**

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

Summary: Transcript In the Matter of the Application of Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp. for an Increase in Gas Distribution Rates, In the Matter of the Application of Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp. for Tariff Approval and In the Matter of the Application of Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp. for Approval of an Alternative Rate Plan, hearing held on August 12th, 2019. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Spencer, Michael O. Mr.