



# Public Utilities Commission

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May 1, 2020

Docketing Division  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

RE: *In the Matter of the Application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of an Adjustment to its Uncollectible Expense Rider Rate, Case No. 20-321-GA-UEX.*

Enclosed please find the Staff's Review and Recommendation in regard to the application filed by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., to update its Uncollectible Expense Rider, in Case No. 20-321-GA-UEX.

Respectfully submitted,

Tamara S. Turkenton  
Director, Rates and Analysis Department  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

David Lipthratt  
Chief, Accounting and Electric Division  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Enclosure  
cc: Parties of Record

**Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.**  
**Case No. 20-321-GA-UEx**

**SUMMARY:**

In Case No. 03-1127-GA-UNC, the Commission authorized the concept of an uncollectible accounts expense recovery mechanism for five natural gas companies. The mechanism approved allows for the recovery of actual uncollectible accounts expense through a rider, rather than through base rates. Subsequently, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia or Company) was authorized in Case No. 03-2572-GA-ATA to establish a rider recovery mechanism consistent with the mechanism approved in Case No. 03-1127-GA-UNC. On April 7, 2004, the Commission issued its Opinion and Order in that case and authorized an initial uncollectible expense rider (UEX Rider) rate of \$0.0493 per Mcf.

Since that time Columbia has filed annual updates to adjust its UEX Rider rate and the Commission has authorized such subsequent revisions. The most recent history of Columbia's rider rates is as follows:

June 2014 – May 2015	\$0.1457 per Mcf
June 2015 – May 2016	\$0.1214 per Mcf
June 2016 – May 2017	\$0.0555 per Mcf
June 2017 – May 2018	\$0.0438 per Mcf
June 2018 – May 2019	\$0.0730 per Mcf
June 2019 – Current	\$0.0833 per Mcf

On April 10, 2020, Columbia filed an application, Case No. 20-321-GA-UEx, to decrease its current UEX Rider rate of \$0.0833 per Mcf to \$0.0644 per Mcf, a decrease of \$0.0189 per Mcf. Staff has reviewed the application and makes its finding and recommendation in this Staff Letter.

**STAFF REVIEW:**

Staff reviewed Columbia's actual annual balance of UEX Rider expenses and recoveries as of January 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 (Attachments 1 and 2); the Company's UEX Rider calculations (Attachments 3 and 4) and the Company's proposed tariff sheets (Attachment 5).

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff believes that Columbia calculated the UEX Rider rate correctly in its application and recommends that the proposed rate of \$0.0644 per Mcf be approved.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**5/1/2020 9:35:00 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 20-0321-GA-UEX**

Summary: Staff Review and Recommendation in regard to the application filed by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., to update its Uncollectible Expense Rider electronically filed by Zee Molter on behalf of PUCO Staff