

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGULATION OF
THE PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT
CLAUSE CONTAINED WITHIN THE RATE
SCHEDULES OF NORTHEAST OHIO
NATURAL GAS CORPORATION AND
RELATED MATTERS.

CASE NO. 20-209-GA-GCR

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNCOLLECTIBLE
EXPENSE RIDER OF NORTHEAST OHIO
NATURAL GAS COMPANY AND RELATED
MATTERS.

CASE NO. 20-309-GA-UEx

IN THE MATTER OF THE PERCENTAGE OF
INCOME PAYMENT PLAN RIDER OF
NORTHEAST OHIO NATURAL GAS
CORPORATION AND RELATED MATTERS.

CASE NO. 20-409-GA-PIP

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on November 3, 2020

{¶ 1} Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corporation (Northeast or the Company) is a natural gas company as defined in R.C. 4905.03 and a public utility as defined in R.C. 4905.02. As such, the Company is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 2} R.C. 4905.302 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07 require that the Commission conduct, or cause to be conducted, periodic financial audits of each gas or natural gas company under the Commission' jurisdiction. The audits shall review each company's compliance with the gas cost recovery (GCR) mechanism as delineated in Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-14. Under Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07(C), each audit shall culminate in the filing of an audit report. And, Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08(A) provides that the Commission shall hold a public hearing at least 60 days after the filing of the required GCR audit report.

{¶ 3} By Entry dated January 29, 2020, the Commission initiated the Company's GCR financial audit for the period July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2020, as well as audits of Northeast's uncollectible expense (UEX) rider and percentage of income payment plan

(PIPP) rider. The January 29, 2020 Entry further directed the Company to publish required legal notices, established a deadline for filing testimony, and set the evidentiary hearing for January 21, 2021. Thus, pursuant to the timeline dictated by Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08, the GCR audit report must be filed no later than November 20, 2020, with the UEX and PIPP audit reports to be filed concurrently.

{¶ 4} On March 9, 2020, the governor signed Executive Order 2020-01D (Executive Order), declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. As described in the Executive Order, state agencies are required to implement procedures consistent with recommendations from the Ohio Department of Health to prevent or alleviate the public health threat associated with COVID-19. Additionally, all citizens are urged to heed the advice of the Department of Health regarding this public health emergency in order to protect their health and safety. The Executive Order was effective immediately and will remain in effect until the COVID-19 emergency no longer exists. The Ohio Department of Health is making COVID-19 information, including information on preventative measures, available via the internet at coronavirus.ohio.gov/.

{¶ 5} On November 2, 2020, Staff filed an unopposed motion for an extension of time in which to file the audit reports and for expedited consideration of its request. More specifically, Staff moves for a 30-day extension of time to file the reports. For cause, Staff states that the Company's final GCR report is not expected until early December, which falls after the current deadline. Staff also requests expedited consideration of its motion. Staff states that it contacted counsel for Northeast and that the Company does not object to the extension.

{¶ 6} The attorney examiner finds that Staff's motion for an extension is reasonable and should be granted. Accordingly, the date by which Staff must file the ordered audit reports should be extended to December 21, 2020.

{¶ 7} Further, to comply with the dictates of Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08, the attorney examiner finds that the evidentiary hearing currently scheduled for January 21, 2021, must be rescheduled. Due to the continued state of emergency, the rescheduled hearing will be conducted using remote access technology. The new hearing date, along with additional details and instructions regarding remote access to the hearing (including how to participate by telephone or live video) will be established by future entry. The anticipated entry will also direct Northeast to issue public notice of the rescheduled hearing.

{¶ 8} Meanwhile, the attorney examiner directs counsel for the parties to participate in a prehearing conference via remote access technology on January 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. Instructions for participation in the prehearing conference will be sent to counsel at his or her email address of record. The purpose of the prehearing conference will be to discuss likely hearing dates, identify potential witnesses, and outline the procedure for the identification and exchange of hearing exhibits.

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That Staff's motion for an extension of time be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the ordered audit reports be filed by December 21, 2020. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That the hearing be continued to a date established by future entry in accordance with Paragraph 7. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That a prehearing conference be conducted by remote access technology on January 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., as stated in Paragraph 8. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/*Patricia A. Schabo*

By: Patricia A. Schabo
Attorney Examiner

GAP/hac

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Case No(s). 20-0209-GA-GCR, 20-0309-GA-UEX, 20-0409-GA-PIP

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that Staff's motion for an extension of time be granted; that the ordered audit reports be filed by December 21, 2020; that the hearing be continued to a date established by future entry; and, that a prehearing conference be conducted by remote access technology on January 27, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Patricia Schabo, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission