

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 February 3, 2021

{¶ 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 moved for a 30-day extension of time to file the reports. For cause, Staff stated that the Company's final GCR report is not expected until early December, which fell after the current deadline. Staff also requested expedited consideration of its motion. Staff stated that it contacted counsel for Northeast and that the Company does not object to the extension.

{¶ 6} By Entry dated November 3, 2020, the attorney examiner granted the unopposed motion and ordered Staff to file the required audit reports on or before December 21, 2020. In order to allow compliance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08, the attorney examiner also rescheduled the January 21, 2021 hearing to a date to be determined

by future entry, which entry would also require Northeast to issue public notice of the new hearing. Additionally, the Entry scheduled a remote-access prehearing conference for January 27, 2021, during which details of the anticipated hearing would be discussed.

{¶ 7} On December 21, 2020, Staff filed the GCR audit, the UEX audit, and the PIPP audit in the appropriate case dockets.

{¶ 8} The prehearing conference was held as scheduled on January 27, 2021.

{¶ 9} At this time, the attorney examiner finds that the evidentiary hearing in these matters should commence March 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. EST. Due to the continued state of emergency, the hearing will be held using remote-access technology, as follows:

- (a) The hearing will be held on March 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. EST, and will be conducted through Webex, which will enable the parties and interested persons to participate by telephone and/or video via the internet.
- (b) Access information for the hearing will be provided to the parties at counsels' electronic mail address of record.
- (c) Interested members of the public who wish to provide testimony must register with the Commission before 12:00 p.m. on March 8, 2021, at <https://puco.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/puco/events/case-no-20-209-EVH> or by calling the Commission at 1-800-686-7826. Interested individuals will be required to provide their full name, home address, telephone number, and electronic mail address, if available; state that they wish to register for the hearing in Case No. 20-209-GA-GCR; specify whether they plan to join the Webex event by internet or by telephone; and indicate whether they intend to offer testimony. Individuals who plan to attend the Webex event through internet access must have a computer or smart device with a microphone and speakers, an electronic mail address, and reliable internet service. Interested individuals who wish to attend the public hearing remotely and not offer

testimony can do so by registering and indicating they do not intend to provide testimony or by calling 1-408-418-9388 and entering access code 179 205 5082.

- (d) On the day of the hearing, individuals who have registered to testify will be asked to speak beginning shortly after 10:00 a.m., so all those who have registered to testify should be prepared to speak at that time. For individuals who are speaking by telephone, the Commission's staff will contact those individuals by telephone when it is time for their testimony and connect them to the hearing. If access or other issues are experienced during the hearing, individuals should immediately use the chat function within Webex or contact the Commission's legal department at 614-466-6843 for assistance.
- (e) If individuals wish to supplement their testimony with an exhibit for the Commission's consideration, a copy of the document, along with a reference to the case number, must be provided to the Commission by March 8, 2021, by electronic mail to ContactPUCO@puco.ohio.gov or by mail to the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.
- (f) Public comments can be provided in writing on the Commission's website at <https://puco.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/puco/help-center/contact-us>, by electronic mail to ContactPUCO@puco.ohio.gov, or by mail to Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Written comments should reference the case number for these matters.

{¶ 10} Finally, consistent with the Commission's previous entries and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08(C), the Company should publish notice of the GCR hearing at least 15 days and not more than 30 days prior to the scheduled hearing date. The notice may be provided by publication of a display ad in a newspaper (in a section other than the legal notice section), bill message, bill insert, or direct mailing to customers. The notice should be in substantially the following form.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has set for public hearing Case No. 20-209-GA-GCR to review the gas cost recovery rate of Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corporation and the operation of its purchased gas adjustment clauses, and related matters. This hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. on March 9, 2021, using remote access technology that facilitates participation by telephone or live video on the internet. Interested members of the public that wish to provide testimony must register with the Commission before 12:00 p.m. on March 8, 2021, at <https://puco.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/puco/events/case-no-20-209-EVH> or by calling the Commission at 1-800-686-7826. Interested individuals who wish to attend the public hearing remotely and not offer testimony can do so by registering and indicating they do not intend to provide testimony or by calling 1-408-418-9388 and entering access code 179 205 5082. Further information may be obtained by viewing the Commission's web page at www.puco.ohio.gov or contacting the Commission at 1-800-686-7826 or, for speech and hearing impaired customers, 7-1-1.

{¶ 11} It is, therefore,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That the evidentiary hearing be scheduled to commence on March 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., as stated in Paragraph 9. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That interested members of the public who wish to provide testimony register with the Commission as stated in Paragraph 9. It is, further,

{¶ 14} ORDERED, That the Company publish legal notice in accordance with Paragraph 10. It is, further,

{¶ 15} 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

NJW/hac

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

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

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that the evidentiary hearing be scheduled to commence on March 9, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., as stated in Paragraph 9; ordering that interested members of the public who wish to provide testimony register with the Commission as stated in Paragraph 9; and, ordering that the Company publish legal notice in accordance with Paragraph 10 electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Patricia Schabo, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission