

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
THE EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY D/B/A  
DOMINION ENERGY OHIO FOR  
APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF  
REGULATION TO CONTINUE ITS PIPELINE  
INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT  
PROGRAM.

CASE NO. 20-1634-GA-ALT

### ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on May 26, 2023

{¶ 1} The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a/ Dominion Energy Ohio (Dominion) is a natural gas company as defined by R.C. 4905.03 and a public utility as defined by R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 2} Under R.C. 4929.05, a natural gas company may file an application for an alternative rate plan. After an investigation, the Commission shall approve the alternative rate plan if the natural gas company demonstrates and the Commission finds the natural gas company is in compliance with R.C. 4905.35; is in substantial compliance with the policy of the state, as set forth in R.C. 4929.02; and is expected to continue to be in substantial compliance with the policy of the state specified in R.C. 4929.02 after implementation of the alternative rate plan. The Commission must also find that the alternative rate plan is just and reasonable.

{¶ 3} R.C. 4929.051(B) provides that an alternative rate plan filed by a natural gas company under R.C. 4929.05 and seeking authorization to continue a previously approved alternative rate plan shall be considered an application not for an increase in rates.

{¶ 4} On December 8, 2020, Dominion filed its application, along with supporting exhibits, pursuant to R.C. 4929.05, 4929.051(B), 4929.11, and 4909.18. In its application, Dominion stated that it seeks to continue, with several limited modifications, its pipeline infrastructure replacement (PIR) program and associated cost recovery charge last

approved by the Commission in *In re The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion East Ohio*, Case No. 15-362-GA-ALT, Opinion and Order (Sept. 14, 2016). The PIR program was previously approved in Case Nos. 08-169-GA-ALT, et al., and 11-2401-GA-ALT. Dominion asserted that its application should be considered an application not for an increase in rates.

{¶ 5} On October 12, 2021, Dominion filed a stipulation and recommendation (Stipulation), which was signed by Dominion, Staff, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy, and Industrial Energy Users-Ohio.

{¶ 6} On April 20, 2022, the Commission issued its Opinion and Order approving the Stipulation. Among the provisions of the Stipulation approved by the Commission is the requirement that Staff undertake an interim review of the PIR program, including, but not limited to, an evaluation of the program's completion date and any recommended changes thereto. Opinion and Order (Apr. 20, 2022) at ¶ 38.

{¶ 7} On November 30, 2022, the Commission directed Staff to issue a request for proposal for audit services to determine if the PIR program is effective in meeting the stated goals of the program, including safety improvements, reliability improvements, leak-rate improvements, and miles replaced targets, among other identified issues.

{¶ 8} On January 11, 2023, the Commission selected Daymark Energy Advisors (Daymark) to conduct the audit. A draft audit report is due by June 1, 2023; a factual review is due by June 15, 2023; and the final audit report is due by June 30, 2023.

{¶ 9} On May 19, 2023, Staff filed a motion for an extension of those deadlines. In its motion, Staff states that there was an administrative delay in beginning the audit, so a two-week extension of the deadlines would be appropriate. Staff requests that the draft audit report deadline be extended to June 14, 2023, at noon; the factual review deadline be extended to June 28, 2023; and the final audit report deadline be extended to July 17, 2023. Staff did not request expedited treatment for the motion, but the attorney examiner notes that expedited treatment is necessary due to the upcoming draft audit deadline.

Furthermore, the motion states that Staff contacted counsel for the other parties and did not receive any opposition to the motion but did not certify that no party has any objection, as contemplated by Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-12(C). For these reasons, the attorney examiner contacted the parties via email on May 23, 2023, and stated that any memoranda contra should be filed by noon on May 25, 2023. No memoranda contra were filed in that time period.

{¶ 10} At this time, the attorney examiner finds it appropriate to grant the motion for extension of time and sets the deadlines as follows: the draft audit report deadline is extended to noon on June 14, 2023, the factual review deadline is extended to June 28, 2023, and the final audit report deadline is extended to July 17, 2023.

{¶ 11} It is, therefore,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That the audit deadlines be extended as set forth in Paragraph 10. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Jacky Werman St. John

By: Jacky Werman St. John  
Attorney Examiner

JSA/dr

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Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**5/26/2023 12:28:49 PM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 20-1634-GA-ALT**

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that the audit deadlines be extended as follows: the draft audit report deadline be extended to June 14, 2023, at noon; the factual review deadline be extended to June 28, 2023; and the final audit report deadline be extended to July 17, 2023, electronically filed by Debbie S. Ryan on behalf of Jacky Werman St. John, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.