

BEFORE

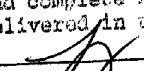
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of)
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for) Case No. 03-2572-GA-ATA
Approval of Proposed Tariff Revisions)
to Recover Uncollectible Expenses.)

ENTRY

The Commission finds:

- (1) By Finding and Order dated December 17, 2003, in Case No. 03-1127-GA-UNC (Order), the Commission approved in concept an application propounded jointly by five natural gas companies (The East Ohio Gas Company d.b.a. Dominion East Ohio, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc., Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp., and Oxford Natural Gas Company) that proposed to alter the method by which the five recover uncollectible accounts expense. The Order provided discussion on several tangential issues and guidance as to implementation and reporting.
- (2) Specifically, the Order authorized the five to defer incremental uncollectible accounts expense, including carrying costs, and to amortize receivables deferred as a result of the 2001 disconnection moratorium. The Order further required that proposed riders specify a parameter at which an adjustment in the rate would be mandated, and that companies annually file a report identifying amounts recovered, deferred and amortized.
- (3) On December 31, 2003, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia) filed its initial application to implement the alternative recovery mechanism. Columbia's application proposes a base rate reduction to eliminate uncollectible accounts expense, and a corresponding, new rider to recover uncollectible accounts expense. The proposed base rate reduction and the rider are both \$.0493 per Mcf. Staff reviewed the tariff revisions for consistency with the Order and, on March 9, 2004, filed its report and recommendations.
- (4) Appended to the Staff report as Attachment A is a proposed form for the required annual reporting for those companies with an approved rider. We agree that the Staff's proposed form provides a vehicle by which incremental balances may easily be reconciled. We direct Columbia to follow the filing form provided on Attachment A to the Staff Report in its annual informational filing. Should that informational filing not be contained within an application to adjust the rider rate which should be filed in future cases as an "UEX" application, it should be filed within Columbia's last filed uncollectible accounts expense rider application docket.

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- (5) The Order requires that a written description of Columbia's credit and collection policies and procedures is to be provided to the Staff and the Ohio Consumers' Counsel within 60 days of rider approval. As this Entry approves Columbia's application for an uncollectible accounts expense rider, we direct Columbia to file the required submission within this docket.
- (6) The Commission finds Columbia's application to be reasonable, that it comports with the Finding and Order in Case No. 03-1127-GA-UNC, that it does not result in an increase in any rate or toll, that it does not appear unjust or unreasonable, and that it should be approved as herein discussed.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That the application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. to implement an uncollectible accounts expense recovery mechanism through a base rate reduction and a corresponding uncollectible account expense rider in the amount of \$.0493 per Mcf, is approved. It is, further,

ORDERED, That Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. is authorized to file in final form, three complete printed copies of its final tariffs consistent with this Entry. One copy shall be filed with this case docket, one copy shall be filed with Columbia's TRF docket, and one copy shall be designated for distribution to the Gas, Water & Steam Division of the Utilities Department. It is, further,

ORDERED, That the effective date of the new tariffs shall be a date not earlier than both the date of this Entry and the date upon which three complete printed copies of final tariffs are filed with the Commission. It is, further,

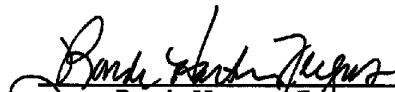
ORDERED, That Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. follow the form provided as Attachment A to the Staff Summary, Comments and Recommendation for submitting its annual uncollectible accounts expense recovery mechanism report. It is, further,


ORDERED, That Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. file a written description of its credit and collection policies and procedures in this case docket within sixty days and provide such to the staff and the Ohio Consumers' Counsel. It is, further,

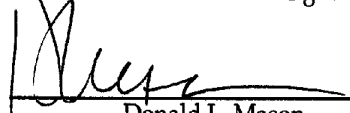
ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served on Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, and any other interested party.

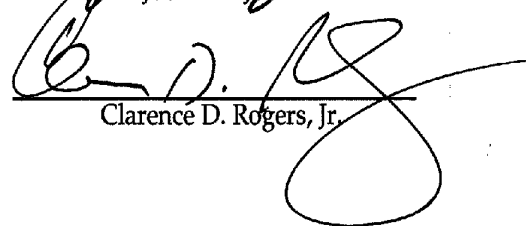
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO


Alan R. Schriber, Chairman


Ronda Hartman Fergus



Judith A. Jones


Donald L. Mason


Clarence D. Rogers, Jr.

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Entered in the Journal

APR 7 2004


Renee J. Jenkins
Secretary