

BEFORE


THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Expansion of the)
Electronic Filing Pilot Project and Waiver of) Case No. 06-900-AU-WVR
Procedural Rules 4901-1-02 to 4901-1-04,)
Ohio Administrative Code.)

ENTRY

The Commission finds:

- (1) By entry issued July 26, 2006 in Case No. 06-900-AU-WVR (06-900), the Commission expanded its initiative to permit the electronic filing of documents via the internet (E-filing) using the Commission's Docketing Information System (DIS), pursuant to Ohio's Uniform Electronic Transactions Act, Chapter 1306, Revised Code. The entry established procedures for the voluntary participation of parties who agree to conventions for validation of filings and signatures, electronic service of documents, and waiver of certain requirements contained in Rules 4901-1-02 to 4901-1-04, Ohio Administrative Code, (O.A.C.). Under the pilot program, these rules are relaxed to the extent necessary to permit the E-filing of certain documents or in specific cases. A list of the permitted document and case types is posted under the electronic filing information link at www.puco.ohio.gov/puco/docketing/.
- (2) The Commission's staff now believes the pilot program should be expanded to include the following:
 - (a) Periodic gas cost recovery (GCR) reports by all gas utilities. Previously, E-filing has been limited to the GCR reports of the four large gas distribution companies.
 - (b) Any filings in telephone industry cases. Parties to these cases will have the option to E-file any filings in these types of proceedings but should note that by E-filing in a particular case, the participant is agreeing to be served via email notification for all subsequent filings in that case.

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- (3) In order to participate in this voluntary pilot program, individual filers who have not previously submitted a participation agreement should complete and submit, via fax or paper, the form posted under the electronic filing information link at www.puco.ohio.gov/PUCO/Docketing. Filers who have not already done so should also obtain a username and password, and submit an E-filing profile following the instructions posted at the above URL. The system does not permit any E-Filing until a participation agreement is received and the user's profile has been approved by the Commission's Docketing Division.

All filings must include one modifiable (unlocked/no password protection) portable document format (PDF) electronic file. This PDF file, which is modified upon successful upload by the insertion of a final page bearing the time, date and filing confirmation information, becomes the official filed document. This official PDF file is also automatically password protected by the system to facilitate validation in subsequent use when the file is not directly downloaded from DIS.

Only one official PDF file is permitted per filing and the file size should not exceed 5MB. Whenever possible, the official PDF file should be created directly from electronic source files (such as Microsoft Word, Excel, RTF, TXT, etc.), rather than scanned images, as such files are generally smaller and more accurately indexed. If a source document naturally produces a PDF file which exceeds 5MB, the PDF should be divided into smaller files and filed as separate documents but labeled appropriately in the document summary (e.g., "Part 1 of 2").

All filings must also include at least one source (not PDF) file. If the filer does not have access to the electronic source file (such as where the document was received via fax), the filer should create an alternative source file explaining the circumstances as to why the PDF is a scanned image or no other source files are included. A list of acceptable electronic file formats is posted at the above web site. Multiple source files can be uploaded in the same filing regardless of file size.

No hard copy of the filing should be submitted. No confidential documents should be E-filed, as all E-filings are posted to the web and become publicly accessible upon approval by the

PUCO Docketing Division. Filings submitted after 5:30 p.m. will, if accepted by Docketing, be deemed filed on the following business day. E-filers will use "/s/" followed by the signer's name to indicate a signature where applicable. E-filers are also required to comply with any other technical requirements posted on the Commission's website.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That the E-filing pilot project be expanded as set forth in Finding 2. It is, further,

ORDERED, That waiver of procedural requirements contained in Rules 4901-1-02 to 4901-1-04, O.A.C., be granted to E-filing participants in accordance with Finding 3. It is, further,

ORDERED, That all E-filing participants comply with all technical and procedural requirements as set forth above. It is, further,

ORDERED, That notice of this entry be served via all appropriate Commission electronic mail lists.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Alan R. Schriber, Chairman

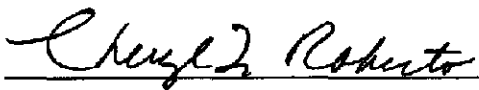


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