

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of Columbia Gas)
of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of an Adjustment to) Case No. 09-372-GA-UEX
its Uncollectible Expense Rider Rate.)

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 brought jointly by five natural gas companies, including Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia), that proposed to alter the method by which the five recover uncollectible accounts expense. The Order also provided discussion on several tangential issues and guidance as to implementation and reporting.
- (2) Columbia's current uncollectible expense rider rate was approved on June 25, 2008 in Case No. 08-564-GA-UEX. That rider rate was \$0.2265/Mcf, inclusive of the Gross Receipts Tax. The Commission subsequently reduced that rate to \$0.2157/Mcf in its Opinion and Order dated December 3, 2008 in that same docket, due to the removal of the Gross Receipts Tax from the previously approved uncollectible rate. Thus, the current rider rate is \$0.2157 per Mcf, exclusive of the Gross Receipts Tax.
- (3) On April 30, 2009, Columbia filed the instant application to revise its existing uncollectible expense rider rate. The proposed rate decreases to \$0.1866 per Mcf. Staff reviewed the application and, on June 2, 2009, filed its comments recommending approval.
- (4) The Commission has reviewed the application and Staff's filed comments and finds that the application of Columbia is reasonable and in the public interest and should be approved.
- (5) Staff also recommends that, in the next gas cost recovery financial audit for Columbia, Columbia's independent financial auditor should examine the monthly uncollectible expense balances and write-offs and recoveries for 2008 and that any required

adjustments or corrections be considered in the next UEX rider application. Additionally, Staff recommends that the auditor randomly sample customers whose balances have been written off to determine if the write-offs were timely and how subsequent payments were accounted for. The Commission finds that these recommendations are reasonable and should be adopted.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That Columbia be authorized to decrease the rate for its uncollectible expense rider to \$0.1866 per Mcf. It is, further,

ORDERED, That Columbia be authorized to file complete copies of tariffs in final form consistent with this Entry. Columbia shall file one copy in its TRF docket (or may make such filing electronically as directed in Case No. 06-900-AU-WVR), and one copy in this case docket. It is, further,

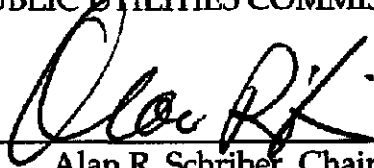
ORDERED, That the effective date of the new tariffs shall be a date not earlier than both the date of this Entry and the date upon which final tariffs are filed with the Commission. The new tariffs shall be effective for bills rendered on or after such effective date. It is, further,

ORDERED, That, in Columbia's next gas cost recovery audit and next uncollectible expense rider application, Columbia's independent financial auditor shall perform the reviews described in this Entry. It is, further,

ORDERED, That nothing in this Entry shall be binding upon this Commission in any further proceeding or investigation involving the justness or reasonableness of any rate, charge, rule, or regulation. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record in these proceedings.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO


Alan R. Schriber, Chairman


Paul A. Centolella

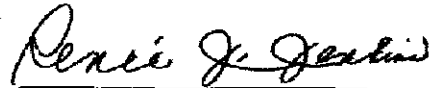

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Entered in the Journal

JUL 6 2009


Renee J. Jenkins
Secretary