

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Five-Year Review of)
Natural Gas Company Uncollectible Riders.) Case No. 08-1229-GA-COI

ENTRY

The Commission finds:

- (1) Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. (VEDO), The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion East Ohio (Dominion), Duke Energy of Ohio, Inc. (Duke) and Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia) (jointly referred to as the companies), are gas or natural gas companies as defined by Sections 4905.02, Revised Code. As such, each company is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission in accordance with Sections 4905.04 and 4905.05, Revised Code.
- (2) On August 19, 2009, the Commission issued its finding and order in this case, which concluded, *inter alia*, that a consultant should be selected in order to assist the Commission in the evaluation of the collection policies, practices, and performance of VEDO, Dominion, Duke, and Columbia. Therefore, in that order, the Commission issued a request for proposal (RFP), No. S 09-CC-1, for consulting services. In addition, the Commission directed that all costs associated with the credit and collection audit be borne by VEDO, Dominion, Duke, and Columbia and that each company's share of the cost of the consulting service be proportionate to the number of customers served by the company in the state of Ohio.¹
- (3) Staff has evaluated the proposals received in response to the RFP, and after consideration of these proposals, the Commission selects NorthStar Consulting Group (NorthStar) to conduct the audit. The Commission finds that NorthStar has the necessary experience to complete the required work under the RFP.

¹ The Commission notes that, through an inadvertent error, the RFP provided that the costs of the consultant would be divided evenly among the companies; however, as stated in our August 19, 2009, order, the Commission determined that each company's share of the costs shall be proportionate to the number of customers served by the company in the state of Ohio.

- (4) The Commission directs that the companies shall enter into a contract with NorthStar, the designated auditor, to perform the work required to conduct the credit and collection review pursuant to RFP No. S 09-CC-1 and the findings of this entry.
- (5) The total cost of the audit shall not exceed \$172,920. This amount does not include expenses and the costs associated with preparation and presentation of expert testimony before the Commission.
- (6) The credit and collections auditor shall submit invoices for services completed as required by contract consistent with the terms of RFP No. S-09-CC-1, Section IV (B) or as agreed by contract with the companies. All invoices must be submitted to the Commission's project coordinator for approval and, subject to approval, will be forwarded to the companies for payment to the auditor within 30 days of the companies receipt of the invoices.
- (7) The companies shall provide the auditor full and complete cooperation throughout the term of the audit, and shall endeavor to provide any data, information, and assistance in support of the audit project.
- (8) The consultant shall perform its duties as an independent contractor. Neither the Commission nor Staff shall be liable for any acts committed by the consultant in the performance of its duties.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That NorthStar is hereby selected to perform the auditing activities in accordance with the provisions of RFP No. S 09-CC-1 and the findings of this entry. It is, further,

ORDERED, That the credit and collections review of the companies be conducted in accordance with the provisions of RFP No. S 09-CC-1 and the findings of this entry. It is, further,

ORDERED, That the companies enter into a contract with the auditor to perform the work required to conduct the credit and collections review pursuant to the RFP No. S 09-CC-1 and the findings of this entry. It is, further,

ORDERED, That the cost of this audit be paid by the companies pursuant to the findings of this entry. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this entry be served upon the companies and all other parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Alan R. Schriber, Chairman

Paul A. Centolella

Ronda Hartman Fergus
Ronda Hartman Fergus

Valerie A. Lemmie
Valerie A. Lemmie

Cheryl L. Roberto
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BJB:sm

Entered in the Journal

SEP 30 2008

Renee J. Jenkins

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Secretary