

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of the :  
 Regulation of the :  
 Purchased Gas Adjustment :  
 Clause Contained within : Case No. 14-211-GA-GCR  
 the Rate Schedules of :  
 Ohio Cumberland Gas :  
 Company and Related :  
 Matters. :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

before Douglas Jennings, Hearing Examiner, at the  
 Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad  
 Street, Room 11-D, Columbus, Ohio, called at 10:00  
 a.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2014.

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APPEARANCES:

Mike DeWine, Ohio Attorney General  
By Mr. Werner Margard  
Assistant Attorney General  
Public Utilities  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

On behalf of the Staff.

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WITNESS

PAGE

JAMES RIPKE

Direct Examination by Mr. Margard

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- - -

COMPANY EXHIBIT

IDFD ADMTD

1 - Proofs of Publication

10 10

- - -

JOINT EXHIBIT

IDFD ADMTD

1 - Stipulation and Recommendation

8 10

- - -

COMMISSION-ORDERED EXHIBIT

IDFD ADMTD

1 - Staff Report

6 10

- - -

1 Tuesday Morning Session,  
2 May 13, 2014.

3 - - -

4 EXAMINER JENNINGS: Let's go on the  
5 record.

6 The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
7 has scheduled for this date and time a hearing in the  
8 matter of the Regulation of the Purchased Gas  
9 Adjustment Clause Contained Within the Rate Schedules  
10 of the Ohio Cumberland Gas Company and Related  
11 Matters.

12 My name is Doug Jennings, I'm an attorney  
13 examiner and I've been assigned to reside over the  
14 hearing.

15 At this point in the proceeding I'll ask  
16 the parties to enter an appearance on the record.

17 MR. MARGARD: Thank you, your Honor. On  
18 behalf of the staff of the Public Utilities  
19 Commission of Ohio, Mike DeWine, Ohio Attorney  
20 General, William Wright, Section Chief, Public  
21 Utilities Section, by Werner Margard, Assistant  
22 Attorney General, 180 East Broad Street, 6th floor,  
23 Columbus, Ohio, 43215.

24 And, your Honor, I have been in regular  
25 communication with the company who will not be making

1 an appearance this morning.

2 EXAMINER JENNINGS: Okay, thank you.

3 Let the record also reflect that there's  
4 no one from the general public here in attendance.

5 It's my understanding that the parties  
6 have entered into a stipulation?

7 MR. MARGARD: We have, your Honor. And I  
8 will be offering that stipulation through staff's  
9 witness this morning. And to that end, I would like  
10 to call Mr. James Ripke to the stand.

11 (Witness sworn.)

12 EXAMINER JENNINGS: Please be seated.

13 - - -

14 JAMES RIPKE

15 being first duly sworn, as prescribed by law, was  
16 examined and testified as follows.

17 DIRECT EXAMINATION

18 By Mr. Margard:

19 Q. Please state your name.

20 A. My name is James Ripke, R-i-p-k-e.

21 Q. And by whom are you employed?

22 A. I'm employed with the Public Utilities  
23 Commission of Ohio.

24 Q. And in what capacity, please?

25 A. I'm a utility specialist.

1           Q.    Can you give us your background, your  
2           educational and work background briefly, please?

3           A.    My background, I have a bachelor's degree  
4           from The Ohio State University in political science  
5           and a bachelor's degree in accounting from Franklin  
6           University.

7           Q.    And how long have you been employed with  
8           the Commission?

9           A.    I have been employed with the Commission  
10          for roughly 15 years.

11          Q.    In the course of your employment did you  
12          have opportunity to participate in the audit of the  
13          GCR mechanism of the Ohio Cumberland Gas Company in  
14          this case?

15          A.    Yes, I have.

16          MR. MARGARD:  Your Honor, I would ask  
17          that Staff Exhibit -- or, Commission-Ordered  
18          Exhibit No. 1 be marked for purposes of  
19          identification, that being the audit, financial audit  
20          of the gas cost recovery mechanism of the Ohio  
21          Cumberland Gas Company in this proceeding.

22          EXAMINER JENNINGS:  It shall be so  
23          marked.

24          (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

25          Q.    Have you seen that document before?

1 A. I have.

2 Q. And you're familiar with its contents?

3 A. I am.

4 Q. And did you have any role or  
5 responsibility in either preparing the audit that was  
6 in that document or the preparation of that document  
7 itself?

8 A. I have. I conducted the GCR audit of  
9 Ohio Cumberland Gas and I prepared the Staff Report  
10 on the GCR mechanisms.

11 Q. And to the best of your knowledge is the  
12 information contained in Commission-Ordered  
13 Exhibit No. 1 true and accurate?

14 A. It is.

15 Q. Are you aware of any changes or  
16 modifications that needs to be made to that report at  
17 this time?

18 A. I am not.

19 Q. Are you also aware of discussions engaged  
20 in between the company and the staff with respect to  
21 the resolution of this case?

22 A. I am.

23 Q. And are you aware that a stipulation has  
24 been entered into by those parties?

25 A. I am.

1 MR. MARGARD: Your Honor, I'd ask to be  
2 marked for purposes of identification as Joint  
3 Exhibit No. 1 the stipulation and recommendation  
4 filed in this case.

5 EXAMINER JENNINGS: It shall be so  
6 marked.

7 (EXHIBIT MARKED FOR IDENTIFICATION.)

8 Q. Mr. Ripke, are you familiar with Joint  
9 Exhibit No. 1?

10 A. I am.

11 Q. And are you familiar with its contents  
12 and does it reflect to your understanding the  
13 agreement of the parties in this case?

14 A. I am familiar with the stipulation and  
15 the recommendations put into the stipulation and  
16 recommendation.

17 Q. And you're aware that the company has  
18 been engaged in the practice of or the business of  
19 providing natural gas service for some time in the  
20 state of Ohio.

21 A. Yes, I am.

22 Q. Very familiar with the Commission's  
23 practices and procedures.

24 A. Yes, they are.

25 Q. And participated in a number of gas cost



1 recovery proceedings in the past.

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. And is certainly knowledgeable and  
4 capable with respect to the resolution of this case.

5 A. Yes, they are.

6 Q. Are you aware, sir, whether this  
7 stipulation helps to promote any public interest? Is  
8 there any benefit that results from entering into the  
9 stipulation?

10 A. It does. The stipulation and  
11 recommendation sets forth adjustments to the  
12 company's GCR filings and with regards to their  
13 actual adjustment, balance adjustment to ensure that  
14 customers are paying for the lowest cost of gas and  
15 the company is recovering on a dollar-for-dollar  
16 basis of what they purchased from gas suppliers.

17 Q. Are you aware of any public policy or any  
18 Commission rule or regulation that is violated by  
19 this stipulation? Is this consistent with Commission  
20 practice?

21 A. It is consistent with Commission  
22 practice.

23 Q. And in your opinion this is a reasonable  
24 stipulation and reasonable resolution to this case?

25 A. It is. It does benefit all parties.

1 MR. MARGARD: Your Honor, I have no  
2 further questions for this witness and would  
3 respectfully move for the admission of  
4 Commission-Ordered Exhibit 1 and Joint Exhibit 1.

5 EXAMINER JENNINGS: The documents shall  
6 be admitted into the record.

7 (EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)

8 MR. MARGARD: Your Honor, I have no  
9 further witnesses, but on behalf of the company, I  
10 have received and have marked for purposes of  
11 identification as Company Exhibit No. 1 the proofs of  
12 publication and the tear sheets in this case and  
13 would offer those and ask that those be admitted at  
14 this time.

15 EXAMINER JENNINGS: They shall be marked  
16 accordingly and admitted into the record.

17 (EXHIBITS MARKED/ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE.)

18 EXAMINER JENNINGS: It's my understanding  
19 there will also be a late-filed exhibit?

20 MR. MARGARD: No, your Honor, we were  
21 hoping to have this in time for the hearing. We  
22 weren't certain whether we would. So we had made  
23 provision for it to be filed as a late-filed exhibit.  
24 I did, however, receive it this morning and  
25 consequently will be filing this today in lieu of the

1 late-filed exhibits. So this concludes all of the  
2 evidence in this case.

3 EXAMINER JENNINGS: Okay. Thank you.

4 MR. MARGARD: And I have nothing further.

5 EXAMINER JENNINGS: There being nothing  
6 further, the hearing is adjourned. Thank you.

7 (Hearing adjourned at 10:08 a.m.)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the proceedings taken by me in this matter on Tuesday, May 13, 2014, and carefully compared with my original stenographic notes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Julieanna Hennebert, Registered Professional Reporter and RMR and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio.

My commission expires February 19, 2018.

(75557JUL)

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**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

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**in**

**Case No(s). 14-0211-GA-GCR**

Summary: Transcript Transcript from hearing held May 13, 2014 electronically filed by Mrs. Jennifer Duffer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Hennebert, Julieanna Mrs.