

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Regulation of the)
Purchased Gas Adjustment Clauses)
Contained Within the Rate Schedules of) Case No. 14-206-GA-GCR
Brainard Gas Corporation, Northeast Ohio) Case No. 14-209-GA-GCR
Natural Gas Corporation, and Orwell) Case No. 14-212-GA-GCR
Natural Gas Company and Related)
Matters.)

In the Matter of the Uncollectible Expense)
Riders of Northeast Ohio Natural Gas) Case No. 14-309-GA-UEX
Corporation and Orwell Natural Gas) Case No. 14-312-GA-UEX
Company.)

In the Matter of the Percentage of Income)
Payment Plan Rider of Northeast Ohio) Case No. 14-409-GA-PIP
Natural Gas Corporation.)

ENTRY

The attorney examiner finds:

- (1) Brainard Gas Corporation (Brainard), Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corporation (NEO), and Orwell Natural Gas Company (Orwell), (together companies) are gas or natural gas companies as defined by R.C. 4905.03 and public utilities by reason of R.C. 4905.02. As such, these companies are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission in accordance with R.C. 4905.04 and 4905.05.
- (2) R.C. 4905.302 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07 provide that the Commission shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, periodic audits of each gas or natural gas company under the Commission's jurisdiction. Such audits shall review each company's compliance with the gas cost recovery (GCR) mechanism as delineated in Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14. Furthermore, the Commission has authorized NEO and Orwell to recover uncollectible expenses (UEX) through riders. In approving the UEX riders for these companies, the Commission required that these riders would be audited in the course of each company's GCR audit. Further, the Commission authorized NEO to recover percentage of income payment plan (PIPP) arrearages through a rider that is audited in the course of NEO's GCR audit.

- (3) By Entry of February 13, 2014, the Commission directed that a hearing in the above-captioned GCR cases be held on January 20, 2015, directed Staff to initiate GCR financial audits and the UEX and PIPP audits for the companies, and file the audit reports for each company.
- (4) On January 22, 2015, Staff filed the GCR financial audits of the companies and, on January 27, 2015, Staff filed the UEX audits of Northeast and Orwell and the PIPP rider audit of NEO.
- (5) By previous entries, the hearing in these proceedings has been continued three times, most recently to June 2, 2015. In addition, since the companies have not published the requisite notice of the hearings, the publication requirement, as well as the deadline for the parties to file direct testimony were similarly continued.
- (6) On May 13, 2015, the parties filed a joint motion for extension of the procedural schedule and a continuance of the hearing until September 1, 2015. The parties indicate that they are engaged in substantive settlement discussions regarding the cases and an extension of time will allow them to continue settlement discussions. According to the parties, there are a number of interrelated complex issues involved in all of these cases and each issue requires careful consideration by the parties before any settlement is reached.
- (7) While the attorney examiner understands the parties' desire for further time to discuss settlement in these cases and will grant the request, in part, since this is the fourth request for continuance, the hearing should move forward as scheduled below and the companies should publish the requisite notice of the hearing. Accordingly, the hearing in these cases should be continued and will convene on July 28, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 11-D, on the 11th Floor, at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The companies should file legal notice of the hearing as previously set forth in the November 25, 2014 Entry in these cases. Further, the direct testimony of any witnesses testifying on behalf of each company should be filed at least 16 days prior to the hearing. All direct testimony to be presented by any other party should be filed at least seven days prior to the hearing.

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That the joint motion for continuance be granted, in part, in accordance with Finding (7). It is, further,

ORDERED, That the date for the public hearing be continued to July 28, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., in Hearing Room 11-D, on the 11th Floor, at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. It is, further,

ORDERED, That Brainard, NEO, and Orwell publish legal notice in accordance with Finding (7). It is, further,

ORDERED, That all direct testimony be filed consistent with Finding (7). It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/ Scott E. Farkas

By: Scott E. Farkas
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/dah

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in

Case No(s). 14-0206-GA-GCR, 14-0209-GA-GCR, 14-0212-GA-GCR, 14-0309-GA-UEX, 14-0312-GA-U

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry that the joint motion for continuance be granted, in part, in accordance with Finding (7); that the date for the public hearing be continued to July 28, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., in Hearing Room 11-D, on the 11th Floor, at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215; that Brainard, NEO, and Orwell publish legal notice in accordance with Finding; and that all direct testimony be filed consistent with Finding (7); electronically filed by Debra Hight on behalf of Scott E. Farkas, Attorney Examiner.