

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Regulation of the Purchased )  
Gas Adjustment Clauses, Uncollectible Expense )  
Rider, Percentage of Income Payment Plan Rider, or )  
Long-Term Forecast Report of: )

Brainard Gas Corp., ) Case No. 15-206-GA-GCR  
Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp., ) Case No. 15-209-GA-GCR  
Ohio Cumberland Gas Company, ) Case No. 15-211-GA-GCR  
Orwell Natural Gas Company, ) Case No. 15-212-GA-GCR  
Piedmont Gas Company, ) Case No. 15-213-GA-GCR  
Suburban Natural Gas Company, ) Case No. 15-216-GA-GCR

Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp., ) Case No. 15-309-GA-UEX  
Orwell Natural Gas Company, ) Case No. 15-312-GA-UEX  
Piedmont Gas Company, ) Case No. 15-313-GA-UEX  
Suburban Natural Gas Company, ) Case No. 15-316-GA-UEX

Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp., ) Case No. 15-409-GA-PIP  
Suburban Natural Gas Company, ) Case No. 15-416-GA-PIP

Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp., ) Case No. 15-109-GA-FOR  
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc., ) Case No. 15-118-GA-FOR

And Related Matters. )

ENTRY

The Commission finds:

- (1) Brainard Gas Corp. (Brainard), Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp. (Northeast), Ohio Cumberland Gas Company (Ohio Cumberland), Orwell Natural Gas Company (Orwell), Piedmont Gas Company (Piedmont), Suburban Natural Gas Company (Suburban), and Duke Energy Ohio, Inc. (Duke) are natural gas companies as defined in R.C. 4905.03 and

public utilities under R.C. 4905.02 and, as such, are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

- (2) Initially, the Commission notes that, for purposes of administrative efficiency, the above-captioned cases have been consolidated into one Entry.
- (3) R.C. 4905.302(C) and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07 and 4901:1-14-08 require that the Commission periodically conduct audits and hold hearings related to the gas cost recovery (GCR) rates utilized by the regulated natural gas companies. Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07(A) provides that, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the GCR audits shall be conducted annually. For gas companies with less than 15,000 customers, the Commission conducts GCR audits every two years.
- (4) Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-04 requires natural gas companies to file quarterly GCR reports with the Commission and permits companies to revise the expected gas cost component of the GCR report on a monthly basis.
- (5) In late 2014 and early 2015, the Commission opened GCR dockets in Case Nos. 15-206-GA-GCR, 15-209-GA-GCR, 15-211-GA-GCR, 15-212-GA-GCR, 15-213-GA-GCR, and 15-216-GA-GCR for Brainard, Northeast, Ohio Cumberland, Orwell, Piedmont, and Suburban, respectively. While the Commission did not audit those companies' GCR in 2015, these dockets were initiated in order to receive the involved companies' quarterly and monthly GCR reports, detailing adjustments made for purchasing gas to the costs recovered from customers.
- (6) The Commission finds that the sole purpose of the cases listed in Finding (5) was for the filing of the involved companies' 2015 GCR reports. Therefore, at this time, we find that the cases listed in Finding (5) should be closed of record and the audits for those companies' 2015 GCR mechanisms should be conducted in subsequent cases during 2016.

- (7) R.C. 4929.11 authorizes the Commission to allow any automatic adjustment mechanism or device in a natural gas company's rate schedules that allows a company's rates or charges for a regulated service or goods to fluctuate automatically with changes in the specified cost or costs.
- (8) Consistent with R.C. 4929.11, the Commission authorized the recovery of uncollectible expenses (UEX) for Northeast, Orwell, Piedmont, and Suburban through riders. In approving the UEX riders for Northeast, Orwell, Piedmont, and Suburban, the Commission required that the riders be audited in the course of the GCR audits of Northeast, Orwell, Piedmont, and Suburban.
- (9) As noted above, the Commission did not initiate audits concerning the GCR rates for Northeast, Orwell, Piedmont and Suburban. Consequently, the UEX riders for Northeast, Orwell, Piedmont and Suburban also were not audited during 2015 and, therefore, Case Nos. 15-309-GA-UEX, 15-312-GA-UEX, 15-313-GA-UEX, and 15-316-GA-UEX do not need to remain open and they should be closed of record. Audits for these companies' UEX riders should be conducted in subsequent cases during 2016, in sequence with their 2016 GCR audits.
- (10) The Commission also authorized the recovery of Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) arrearages associated with providing natural gas service through a PIPP rider. *In re Recovery Method for Percentage of Income Payment Plan Arrearages*, Case No. 87-244-GE-UNC, Finding and Order (Aug. 4, 1987). These riders are to be audited in the course of the GCR audits.
- (11) The Commission did not initiate an audit concerning the PIPP rider for Northeast and Suburban. Therefore, Case Nos. 15-409-GA-PIP and 15-416-GA-PIPP do not need to remain open and should be closed of record. Audits for these companies' PIPP riders should be conducted in subsequent cases during 2016, in sequence with their 2016 GCR audits.

- (12) R.C. 4935.04(C) and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:5-1-02 require the filing of a long-term forecast report (LTFR) by each entity furnishing gas or natural gas directly to more than 15,000 customers within Ohio. Although Case Nos. 15-109-GA-FOR and 15-118-GA-FOR were reserved for filing of LTFRs by Northeast and Duke, neither of these natural gas companies was required to file such a report for 2015. Therefore, the Commission finds that no further action is needed in either docket. Case Nos. 15-109-GA-FOR and 15-118-GA-FOR do not need to remain open and should be closed of record.

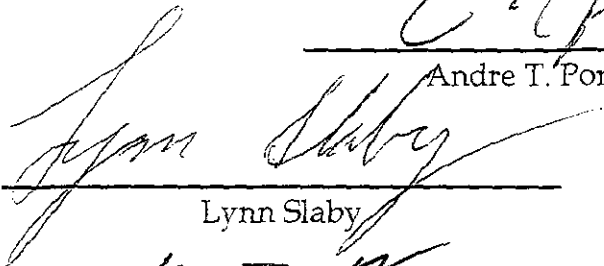
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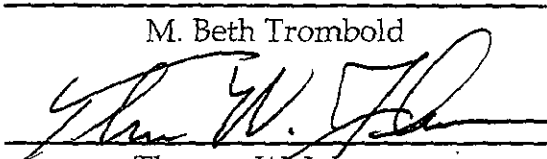
ORDERED, That Case Nos. 15-206-GA-GCR, 15-209-GA-GCR, 15-211-GA-GCR, 15-212-GA-GCR, 15-213-GA-GCR, 15-216-GA-GCR, 15-309-GA-UEX, 15-312-GA-UEX, 15-313-GA-UEX, 15-316-GA-UEX, 15-409-GA-PIP, 15-416-GA-PIP, 15-109-GA-FOR, and 15-118-GA-FOR be closed as a matter of record. It is, further,

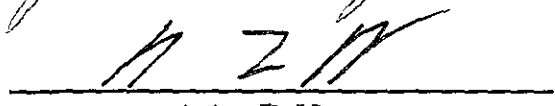
ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record in these cases.

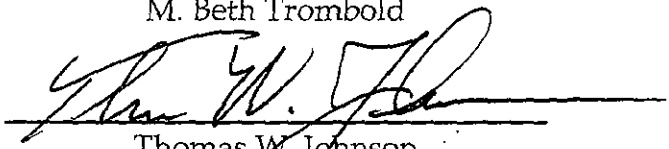
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

  
Andre T. Porter, Chairman

  
Lynn Slaby

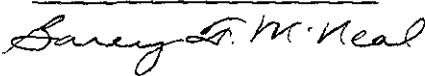
  
M. Beth Trombold

  
Asim Z. Haque

  
Thomas W. Johnson

JML/sc

Entered in the Journal **FEB 03 2016**

  
Barcy F. McNeal  
Secretary