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May 10, 2016 PUCO

Docketing Division  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio  
180 East Broad Street  
Columbus OH 43215

RE: *In the Matter of the Uncollectible Expense Rider of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., Case No. 16-321-GA-UEx*

Dear Docketing Division:

Enclosed please find the Staff's Review and Recommendations in regard to the application filed by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., to update its Uncollectible Expense Rider, in Case No. 16-321-GA-UEx.

  
Tamara S. Turkenton  
Chief, Regulatory Services Division  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

  
David Lipthrott  
Chief, Research and Policy Division  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Enclosure  
Cc: Parties of Record

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**Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.**  
**Case No. 16-321-GA-UEx**

**SUMMARY:**

In Case No. 03-1127-GA-UNC, the Commission authorized the concept of an uncollectible accounts expense recovery mechanism for five natural gas companies. The mechanism approved allows for the recovery of actual uncollectible expense through a rider, rather than through base rates. Subsequently, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia or Company) was authorized in Case No. 03-2572-GA-ATA to establish a rider recovery mechanism consistent with that which was approved in Case No. 03-1127-GA-UNC. On April 7, 2004 the Commission issued its Opinion and Order in that case and authorized an initial uncollectible rider rate of \$0.0493 per Mcf.

Since that time Columbia has filed annual updates to adjust its rider rate and the Commission authorized such subsequent revisions. The recent history of Columbia's rider rate is as follows:

June 2010-June 2011	\$0.1512 per Mcf
July 2011-May 2012	(\$0.0064) per Mcf
June 2012-May 2013	\$0.0781 per Mcf
June 2013-May 2014	(\$0.0176) per Mcf
June 2014-May 2015	\$0.1457 per Mcf
June 2015-May 2016	\$0.1214 per Mcf

Columbia's application filed on April 14, 2016, would decrease the existing rider rate of \$0.1214 per Mcf to \$0.0555 per Mcf, an adjustment of (\$0.0659). Staff has reviewed the application and makes its findings and recommendations in this Staff letter.

**STAFF REVIEW:**

Staff performed a review of Columbia's uncollectible expense rider reports covering January 1, 2015, through March 31, 2016 (Attachments 1 and 2); uncollectible expense rider calculation (Attachments 3 and 4); and proposed tariffs (Attachment 5).

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff believes that Columbia's application appropriately calculates the rider and recommends the proposed rate of \$0.0555 per Mcf be approved.