

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF OHIO VALLEY GAS CORPORATION
AND OHIO VALLEY GAS, INC. FOR
APPROVAL OF AN AMENDED GAS
SERVICE TARIFF.

CASE No. 16-489-GA-ATA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF OHIO VALLEY GAS CORPORATION
AND OHIO VALLEY GAS, INC. FOR
APPROVAL OF A WAIVER ASSOCIATED
WITH OHIO ADM.CODE 4901:1-13-
11(B)(8)(E).

CASE No. 16-544-GA-WVR

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on May 25, 2016

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} In Case No. 16-489-GA-ATA, the Commission approves the application of Ohio Valley Gas Corporation and Ohio Valley Gas, Inc. for a tariff amendment and, in Case No. 16-544-GA-WVR, approves the application for a waiver of Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-13-11(B)(8)(e).

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Ohio Valley Gas Corporation and Ohio Valley Gas, Inc. (collectively, Ohio Valley) are public utilities and natural gas companies as defined in R.C. 4905.02 and 4905.03, respectively. Therefore, Ohio Valley is subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

{¶ 3} R.C. 4909.18 provides, in part, that a public utility may file an application to establish any rate, charge, regulation, or practice. If the Commission determines that the application is not for an increase in any rate and does not appear to be unjust or unreasonable, the Commission may approve the application without the need for a hearing.

{¶ 4} On March 11, 2016, Ohio Valley filed an application in Case No. 16-489-GA-ATA seeking approval to amend its gas service tariff effective December 10, 2012. Ohio Valley provides service to approximately 650 Ohio customers and 28,000 Indiana customers. Ohio Valley proposes to modify its current tariff to reflect identical charges for customers in both states.

{¶ 5} Staff filed its review and recommendation on April 14, 2016. Staff determined that the proposed amendment would have no impact on Ohio customers' bills, because Ohio Valley's proposal would increase the small volume firm gas service customer service charge from \$13.00 to \$14.50 per meter per month, while lowering the volumetric charge from \$0.8201 to \$0.3645 per therm. In addition, a normal temperature adjustment charge would be added to the overall rate. Staff concludes, based on its bill analysis, that there would be no net change in rates for small volume firm gas service customers. Staff finds the proposed tariff amendment to be reasonable and recommends its approval.

{¶ 6} Upon review of Ohio Valley's application and the record in this proceeding, the Commission adopts Staff's recommendations regarding the application for a tariff amendment. We find the application is not for an increase in rates and does not appear to be unjust or unreasonable and should, therefore, be approved. Consistent with R.C. 4909.18, the Commission finds that no hearing is required in this case.

{¶ 7} Also on March 11, 2016, in Case No. 16-544-GA-WVR, Ohio Valley filed an application for a waiver from Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-13-11(B)(8)(e), which requires the display of certain information on customer bills, including the fixed monthly customer charge. Ohio Valley notes that the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission does not have a similar requirement to display the fixed monthly customer charge. Ohio Valley contends that significant reprogramming of its billing system would be needed to

conform with Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-13-11(B)(8)(e), and seeks an exemption from the requirement.

{¶ 8} Staff filed its review and recommendation on April 14, 2016. Staff observes that, because most of Ohio Valley's customers are in Indiana, the reprogramming cost for the small number of Ohio customers is uneconomical. Staff concludes that the application is reasonable and should be approved.

{¶ 9} Given the systems reprogramming that would be needed to comply with Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-13-11(B)(8)(e), we find that Ohio Valley has shown good cause for a waiver from this rule. Therefore, the application for a waiver from Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-13-11(B)(8)(e), regarding the display of the fixed monthly customer charge on customer bills, is approved.

III. ORDER

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That Ohio Valley's application for a tariff amendment be approved. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That Ohio Valley is authorized to file its tariff, in final form, consistent with this Finding and Order. Ohio Valley shall file one copy in Case No. 16-489-GA-ATA and one copy in its TRF docket. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That Ohio Valley's application for waiver from Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-13-11(B)(8)(e) be granted. It is further,

{¶ 14} ORDERED, That nothing in this Finding and Order shall be binding upon this Commission in any future proceeding or investigation involving the justness or reasonableness of any rate, charge, rule, or regulation. It is further,

{¶ 15} ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all parties of record.

Commissioners Voting: Asim Z. Haque, Chairman; Lynn Slaby; M. Beth Trombold; Thomas W. Johnson.

JML/sc