

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of The       )  
East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion       )       17-1088-GA-ATA  
East Ohio for Approval of Changes in       )  
Rules and Regulations                        )

**\* \* \* EXPEDITED TREATMENT REQUESTED \* \* \***

**1. APPLICANT RESPECTFULLY PROPOSES:**

\_\_\_\_\_ New Service                                  X   Change in Rule or Regulation  
\_\_\_\_\_ New Classification                                   Reduction in Rates  
\_\_\_\_\_ Change in Classification                           Correction of Error  
  X   Other, Not Involving Increase in Rates  
\_\_\_\_\_ Various Related and Unrelated Textual Revisions Without Change in Intent

**2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:**

The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion East Ohio (DEO or the Company) seeks approval to add certain provisions to its rules and regulations necessary to conform to regulations recently enacted by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA). The new provisions address eligibility for and installation of excess flow valves (EFV), as well as cost responsibility.

DEO also proposes updating tariff provisions regarding bill due dates, to reflect recent amendments to the Ohio Adm. Code increasing the time to pay from 14 to 17 days.

For reasons discussed below, DEO requests expedited treatment of this application.

**3. TARIFFS AFFECTED:**

- Rules and Regulations, Sheet Nos. K4 & K9.

**4. Attached hereto and made a part hereof are:**

  X   **Exhibit A** – Existing schedule sheets (to be superseded) if applicable.  
  X   **Exhibit B** – Proposed schedule sheets.  
\_\_\_\_\_ **Exhibit C-1**

- a. If new service is proposed, describe;
- b. If new equipment is involved, describe (preferably with a picture, brochure, etc.) and, where appropriate, provide a statement distinguishing proposed service from existing services;
- c. If proposed service results from customers request, so state giving, if available, the number of customers requesting proposed service.

  X   **Exhibit C-2** – If a change of classification, rule or regulation is proposed, a statement explaining reason for change.

       **Exhibit C-3** – Statement explaining reason for any proposal not covered in exhibits C-1 or C-2.

5. This application will not result in an increase in any rate, joint rate, toll, classification, charge or rental.

Dated: April 19, 2017

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Andrew J. Campbell

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ATTORNEYS FOR THE EAST OHIO GAS  
COMPANY D/B/A DOMINION EAST OHIO

**EXHIBIT A**  
**Existing Schedules to be Superseded**

## **SECTION II – METERING & BILLING**

10. **Pressure Regulators, Gas Meters and Tampering.** The gas meter and any pressure regulator to be installed on a service line and connected with East Ohio's distribution system will be furnished by East Ohio and will remain its property, and the Company shall have the right to replace them as the Company may deem necessary. When a customer is served from the Company's field or gathering lines, the customer shall install and maintain, at his expense, a suitable regulator or regulators for reducing the pressure. The regulator or regulators shall be installed in the manner required by the Company. If any meter or regulator, or the pipes, fittings or connections used in supplying gas to such meter or regulator, is tampered with by a customer, his agent or employee, East Ohio may remove such meter or regulator and may discontinue the supply of gas to such customer until payment has been made for all unregistered gas, in an amount estimated by East Ohio, and for all damage to East Ohio's property, or, at East Ohio's option, it may discontinue gas service permanently to such customer.
11. **Meter Location.** The Company shall determine the location of the meter. When changes in a building or arrangements therein render the meter inaccessible or exposed to hazards, the Company may require the customer, at the customer's expense, to relocate the meter setting together with any portion of the customer's service line necessary to accomplish such relocation.
12. **Meter Connections.** The owner or customer shall not permit anyone who is not an authorized agent of the Company to connect or disconnect the Company's meters, regulators or gauges or in any way alter or interfere with the Company's meters, regulators or gauges.
13. **Bill Due Date.** The due date for each bill for gas shall be no earlier than fourteen (14) days after the date of its mailing or electronic delivery to the customer.
14. **Charge on Delinquent Bills.** Each monthly bill shall be due and payable within fourteen (14) days from the date of its mailing or electronic delivery. If not paid in full by the time the next bill is generated, a late payment charge of 1 1/2% may be imposed at the next bill date on all past due balances on the customer's account.

Late payment charges will not be assessed to customers participating in the PIPP Plus program, which replaces the former Percentage Income Payment Plan ("PIPP"), or the Graduate PIPP Plus program, which replaces the former PIPP arrearage crediting program. Late payment charges will not be assessed to customers participating in a short-term payment plan or the budget billing plan provided they make the minimum payment required under the plan by the bill due date. If the required payment under a short-term payment plan or budget billing plan is paid late, the late payment charge will be applied only to amounts due but not paid under the payment plan.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit East Ohio from making longer free extensions than herein prescribed provided like free extensions are made to other applicants under similar conditions.

31. **Right of Removal.** No person or entity shall erect any structure within a Company easement or change the existing grade over a Company gas line without the express permission of East Ohio. East Ohio shall have the right to remove any such structure or grade change at the expense of the customer or responsible party.
32. **Discontinuance of Supply on Notice of Defect in Customer's Property.** If, at any time, in the opinion of East Ohio the property owner's service line, other gas lines, fittings, connections, gas appliances or equipment on a customer's premises are defective or in such condition as to constitute a hazard, East Ohio, upon notice to it of such defect or condition, may discontinue the supply of gas to such appliances or equipment or to such service line or such other gas lines until such defect or condition has been rectified by the property owner or customer in a manner satisfactory to East Ohio.

#### **SECTION IV – MISCELLANEOUS**

33. **Tariff Disclosure.** A full and complete copy of East Ohio's current tariff covering rates and charges for service and terms and conditions of service will be available on [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com) or will be provided upon request within five business days. East Ohio shall comply with the tariff disclosure requirements established by The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and set forth in Section 4901:1-1-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code, as amended from time to time.
34. **PUCO Orders.** These Rules and Regulations are subject to and include as part thereof all orders, rules and regulations applicable to East Ohio from time to time issued or established by the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio under its emergency powers.
35. **Right to Modify.** East Ohio reserves the right to modify, alter or amend the foregoing Rules and Regulations and to make such further and other rules and regulations as experience may suggest and as East Ohio may deem necessary or convenient in the conduct of its business.

**EXHIBIT B**  
**Proposed Schedule Sheets**

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## **SECTION II – METERING & BILLING**

- 10. Pressure Regulators, Gas Meters and Tampering.** The gas meter and any pressure regulator to be installed on a service line and connected with East Ohio's distribution system will be furnished by East Ohio and will remain its property, and the Company shall have the right to replace them as the Company may deem necessary. When a customer is served from the Company's field or gathering lines, the customer shall install and maintain, at his expense, a suitable regulator or regulators for reducing the pressure. The regulator or regulators shall be installed in the manner required by the Company. If any meter or regulator, or the pipes, fittings or connections used in supplying gas to such meter or regulator, is tampered with by a customer, his agent or employee, East Ohio may remove such meter or regulator and may discontinue the supply of gas to such customer until payment has been made for all unregistered gas, in an amount estimated by East Ohio, and for all damage to East Ohio's property, or, at East Ohio's option, it may discontinue gas service permanently to such customer.
- 11. Meter Location.** The Company shall determine the location of the meter. When changes in a building or arrangements therein render the meter inaccessible or exposed to hazards, the Company may require the customer, at the customer's expense, to relocate the meter setting together with any portion of the customer's service line necessary to accomplish such relocation.
- 12. Meter Connections.** The owner or customer shall not permit anyone who is not an authorized agent of the Company to connect or disconnect the Company's meters, regulators or gauges or in any way alter or interfere with the Company's meters, regulators or gauges.
- 13. Bill Due Date.** The due date for each bill for gas shall be no earlier than [seventeen](#) (17) days after the date of its mailing or electronic delivery to the customer.
- 14. Charge on Delinquent Bills.** Each monthly bill shall be due and payable within [seventeen](#) (17) days from the date of its mailing or electronic delivery. If not paid in full by the time the next bill is generated, a late payment charge of 1 1/2% may be imposed at the next bill date on all past due balances on the customer's account.

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Late payment charges will not be assessed to customers participating in the PIPP Plus program, which replaces the former Percentage Income Payment Plan ("PIPP"), or the Graduate PIPP Plus program, which replaces the former PIPP arrearage crediting program. Late payment charges will not be assessed to customers participating in a short-term payment plan or the budget billing plan provided they make the minimum payment required under the plan by the bill due date. If the required payment under a short-term payment plan or budget billing plan is paid late, the late payment charge will be applied only to amounts due but not paid under the payment plan.

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Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit East Ohio from making longer free extensions than herein prescribed provided like free extensions are made to other applicants under similar conditions.

31. **Right of Removal.** No person or entity shall erect any structure within a Company easement or change the existing grade over a Company gas line without the express permission of East Ohio. East Ohio shall have the right to remove any such structure or grade change at the expense of the customer or responsible party.
32. **Discontinuance of Supply on Notice of Defect in Customer's Property.** If, at any time, in the opinion of East Ohio the property owner's service line, other gas lines, fittings, connections, gas appliances or equipment on a customer's premises are defective or in such condition as to constitute a hazard, East Ohio, upon notice to it of such defect or condition, may discontinue the supply of gas to such appliances or equipment or to such service line or such other gas lines until such defect or condition has been rectified by the property owner or customer in a manner satisfactory to East Ohio.
33. **Excess Flow Valves.** A customer may request the installation of an excess flow valve ("EFV") on an existing service line that qualifies for installation under federal pipeline safety regulations. Customers requesting installation of an EFV shall be responsible for the actual costs associated with installation, which shall be billable to the customer. East Ohio reserves the right not to install an EFV under conditions specified under federal pipeline safety regulations.

#### SECTION IV – MISCELLANEOUS

34. **Tariff Disclosure.** A full and complete copy of East Ohio's current tariff covering rates and charges for service and terms and conditions of service will be available on [www.dom.com](http://www.dom.com) or will be provided upon request within five business days. East Ohio shall comply with the tariff disclosure requirements established by The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and set forth in Section 4901:1-1-03 of the Ohio Administrative Code, as amended from time to time.
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Filed under authority of The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio in Case No. [17-1088-GA-ATA](#)[Jeffrey A. Murphy](#), Vice President and General Manager



## **EXHIBIT C-2**

### **Statement of Reasons for Proposed Changes**

#### **Excess Flow Valves**

PHMSA recently promulgated new rules pertaining to the installation of EFVs, which took effect on April 14, 2017. *See* Docket No. PHMSA–2011–0009; Amdt. No 192–121. EFVs are safety devices installed on natural gas distribution pipelines to reduce the risk of accidents. PHMSA rules require their installation on new or replaced services lines serving single-family residences.

Among other things, the new rules require operators to install EFVs for certain requesting customers as follows:

(d) *Customer's right to request an EFV.* Existing service line customers who desire an EFV on service lines not exceeding 1,000 SCFH [standard cubic feet per hour] and who do not qualify for one of the exceptions in [49 C.F.R. 192.383(c)] may request an EFV to be installed on their service lines. If an eligible service line customer requests an EFV installation, an operator must install the EFV at a mutually agreeable date. The operator's rate-setter determines how and to whom the costs of the requested EFVs are distributed.

Based on consultation with Staff, DEO is proposing tariff revisions under which the customer requesting installation of an EFV on an existing service line should be directly responsible for the costs associated with installation.

#### **Billing Due Date**

DEO also proposes updating the rules and regulations to reflect recent amendments to Ohio Adm. Code 4901:1-13-11(C) that increased the time to pay from 14 to 17 days for residential bills issued from outside the state of Ohio.

#### **Request for Expedited Treatment**

As noted, the new PHMSA rules became effective April 14, 2017. On that date, as also required by rule, DEO began providing notice to customers of their right to request the installation of an EFV. Given the need to secure Commission approval of these tariff changes, however, DEO does not intend to commence the installation of EFVs until an order is issued approving the necessary tariff changes.

DEO would also note that, to the extent the authorization to recover actual costs as proposed under the tariff revisions constitutes a "rate" or "charge" under R.C. 4909.18, it would represent a "first filed" charge under Ohio law and thus an application *not* for an increase in rates. As such, this application may be approved without a hearing.

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

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**in**

**Case No(s). 17-1088-GA-ATA**

Summary: Text In the Matter of the Application of The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion East Ohio for Approval of Changes in Rules and Regulations electronically filed by Ms. Rebekah J. Glover on behalf of The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion East Ohio