

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC. FOR
APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE FORM
OF REGULATION TO EXTEND AND
INCREASE ITS INFRASTRUCTURE
REPLACEMENT PROGRAM.

CASE NO. 16-2422-GA-ALT

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on April 21, 2017

{¶ 1} Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia) is a natural gas company, as defined in R.C. 4905.03, and a public utility, as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

{¶ 2} Under R.C. 4929.05, a natural gas company may file an application for an alternative rate plan. After an investigation, the Commission shall approve the alternative rate plan if the natural gas company demonstrates and the Commission finds the natural gas company is in compliance with R.C. 4905.35, is in substantial compliance with the policy of the state as set forth in R.C. 4929.02, and is expected to continue to be in substantial compliance with the policy of the state specified in R.C. 4929.02 after implementation of the alternative rate plan. The Commission must also find that the alternative rate plan is just and reasonable.

{¶ 3} On December 27, 2016, Columbia filed a notice of intent to file an application for approval of an alternative rate plan under R.C. 4929.05.

{¶ 4} On February 27, 2017, Columbia filed its alternative rate plan application, along with supporting exhibits and testimony, pursuant to R.C. 4929.05, 4929.051(B), 4929.11, and 4909.18. In its application, Columbia states it seeks approval to continue its Infrastructure Replacement Program (IRP) and the associated cost recovery mechanism, Rider IRP, for five years through December 31, 2022. Columbia's current IRP was approved for a five-year term to expire on December 31, 2017, in Case No. 11-5515-GA-

ALT. *In re Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 11-5515-GA-ALT, Opinion and Order (Nov. 28, 2012).

{¶ 5} On March 24, 2017, Staff filed a letter stating that Columbia's application is in compliance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-19-06.

{¶ 6} By Entry issued April 6, 2017, the procedural schedule for the review of Columbia's alternative rate plan application was established. Pursuant to the procedural schedule, motions to intervene were due by April 19, 2017. Timely motions to intervene were filed by Industrial Energy Users-Ohio (IEU), Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), and Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE).

{¶ 7} In their respective motions to intervene, IEU, OCC, and OPAE assert a direct, real, and substantial interest in the issues and matters raised in Columbia's IRP application. IEU states it is an association of commercial and industrial customers that purchase substantial amounts of natural gas and related transportation and delivery services, some of whom are Columbia customers. OCC seeks intervention to represent and advocate on behalf of the residential customers of Columbia. OPAE states it is a non-profit corporation whose purpose it is to advocate for affordable energy policies for low and moderate income Ohioans. According to OPAE's motion, OPAE's members include non-profit community action agencies that provide services and utility payment assistance to low and moderate income residential customers in Columbia's service territory. Further, IEU, OCC, and OPAE submit that the disposition of this proceeding may impair or impede their ability to protect their interests. Each movant asserts that its respective interest is not adequately represented by any other party to this proceeding and its intervention will not unduly prolong or delay this proceeding.

{¶ 8} No memoranda contra any of the motions to intervene were filed.

{¶ 9} The attorney examiner finds that the motions to intervene filed by IEU, OCC, and OPAE are reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the motions to intervene filed by IEU, OCC, and OP AE be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties and interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Greta See

By: Greta See
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/dah

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in

Case No(s). 16-2422-GA-ALT

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering the motions to intervene filed by IEU, OCC, and OPAE be granted. Entry electronically filed by Debra Hight on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner.