



**Public Utilities
Commission**

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Commissioners

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2017 MAY 25 PM 1:29

PUCO

May 25, 2017

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

RE: 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, Case No. 17-1088-GA-ATA

Dear Docketing Division:

Enclosed please find Staff's review and recommendation regarding The East Ohio Gas Company
d/b/a Dominion East Ohio application to amend its tariffs in Case No. 17-1088-GA-ATA.

Barbara Bossart
Chief, Reliability and Service Analysis Division
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

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East Ohio Gas Company The d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio f/k/a Dominion East Ohio

Case No. 17-1088-GA-ATA

BACKGROUND

In order to comply with regulations enacted by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion East Ohio (DEO) filed an application for authority to revise its tariff on April 13, 2017 so as to make provisions for the installation of excess flow valves (EFV) on natural gas service lines. Further, DEO is requesting approval of tariff provisions that will bring its billing practices into compliance with rule 4901:1-13-11(C).

PHMSA recently promulgated new rules pertaining to the installation of EFVs, which took effect on April 14, 2017.¹ 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. In the instant matter the new regulations require that operators such as DEO install EFVs on certain customer service lines identified in the regulations upon request of a customer. The new regulations require that, beginning on April 14, 2017, operators must send notices to customers of their right to request that an EFV be installed.

On November 12, 2014 The Commission updated the Minimum Gas Service Standards in Chapter 4901:1-13 Ohio Administrative Code. In relevant part to the immediate filing, the Commission ordered that all bills that were printed and sent from outside the state of Ohio must give residential customers 17 days to pay the bill.²

APPLICATION

DEO's application states that beginning April 14, 2017, the Company will commence sending notices to applicable customers of their right to request installation of an EFV and establishes the terms and conditions of associated with such installations. DEO is proposing to bill the actual cost associated with the installation of the EFV to the customer.

DEO is also requesting to update its tariff to comply with the changes made to rule 4901:1-13-11(C), O.A.C.. The proposed changes would allow customers 17 days to pay a residential bill issued from outside the state of Ohio.

STAFF REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATION

Staff has reviewed DEO's application and PHMSA's new regulations. In Staff's opinion, the proposed tariff language contained in DEO's application conforms to PHMSA's regulations as well as the Commission's tariff requirements.

¹ See Docket No. PHMSA-2011-0009; Amdt. No 192-121.

² *In re Commission Review of Chapter 4901:1-13, Ohio Adm. Code*, Case No. 13-2225-GA-ORD, Second Entry on Rehearing (November 12, 2014) at paragraph 13, Page 7.

Staff also reviewed the change made to Rule 13-11 and finds DEO's language changes to be consistent with the rule. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission approve DEO's proposed tariff language as set forth in its application.