

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE ANNUAL REPORT
OF COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC. FOR
APPROVAL OF AN ADJUSTMENT TO ITS
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT RIDER
RATE.

CASE No. 17-521-GA-IDR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on May 30, 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} R.C. 4929.161 permits a natural gas company to file an application with the Commission for approval of an infrastructure development rider to recover prudently incurred infrastructure development costs of one or more approved economic development projects.

{¶ 3} On October 21, 2016, Columbia filed an application proposing to incorporate a new rider known as the Infrastructure Development Rider (Rider IDR) into its tariff. *In re Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 16-2067-GA-ATA, et al. (*Rider IDR Approval Case*).¹ According to Columbia, Rider IDR is a mechanism created pursuant to R.C. 4929.161 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-43-04. In that application, Columbia claimed the purpose of Rider IDR is to recover infrastructure development costs, as defined in R.C. 4929.16, associated with economic development projects approved under R.C. 4929.163 and R.C. 4929.164. Columbia stated that, initially, Rider IDR would be set at a

¹ On April 20, 2017, Columbia filed a supplemental application with amended tariff sheets to reflect the statutory changes enacted by Sub. H.B. 26, which included the repeal of R.C. 4929.164, removal of the separate statutory rate for certified site projects, and an increase in the potential Rider IDR cost recovery for economic development projects to \$1.50 per month per customer.

rate of zero and, beginning in 2017, Columbia would seek approval to adjust the rider on an annual basis.

{¶ 4} On May 24, 2017, the Commission approved Columbia's application to incorporate Rider IDR into its tariff, setting the rider at an initial rate of zero. *Rider IDR Approval Case, Finding and Order* (May 24, 2017).

{¶ 5} Upon the Commission's approval of an infrastructure development rider, R.C. 4929.165 provides that a natural gas company shall file an annual report with the Commission, which details the infrastructure development costs related to the project or projects and sets forth the rider rate for the 12-month period following the annual report.

{¶ 6} Pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-43-04(D), the annual report shall be filed not less than 75 days prior to the proposed effective date of an updated infrastructure development rider rate. Additionally, a proposed infrastructure development rider rate will become effective on the 76th day after the filing of the annual report, unless suspended by the Commission for good cause shown.

{¶ 7} On March 15, 2017, in the above-captioned case, Columbia filed its first annual adjustment for Rider IDR, proposing that the rider be set at \$0.14 per month per customer for a 12-month period. Columbia proposes an effective date of May 31, 2017, which is not less than 75 days after the filing of its annual report.

{¶ 8} On May 19, 2017, Staff filed its Review and Recommendation in regards to Columbia's application. Based upon its review, Staff concludes that Columbia's annual report and rider adjustment are consistent with the Commission's rules governing the infrastructure development rider annual report and rider adjustment process. Accordingly, Staff recommends that the Commission accept Columbia's annual report and approve the proposed adjustment amount of \$0.14 by operation of the automatic approval process established by Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-43-04(D).

{¶ 9} Motions to intervene were filed by Interstate Gas Supply, Inc. (IGS) and the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) on April 13, 2017, and May 1, 2017, respectively. OCC and IGS both contend that they meet the intervention criteria set forth in R.C. 4903.221 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-11, and, thus, should be granted intervention in this proceeding.

{¶ 10} The attorney examiner finds that the motions to intervene filed by OCC and IGS comply with the requirements set forth in R.C. 4903.221, Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-11, and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-43-04(E), and should, therefore, be granted.

{¶ 11} Furthermore, unless the application is suspended by the Commission for good cause shown, the attorney examiner notes that the effective date of the Rider IDR adjustment will be May 31, 2017, as requested by Columbia and consistent with the automatic approval process set forth in Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-43-04(D).

{¶ 12} It is, therefore,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That OCC's and IGS' motions to intervene in this proceeding be granted. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Megan Addison

By: Megan J. Addison
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

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Case No(s). 17-0521-GA-IDR

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting OCC's and IGS' motion to intervene in this proceeding. - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Megan Addison, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio