

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 September 7, 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 on April 6, 2017, the procedural schedule was set to assist the Commission in its review of Columbia's alternative rate plan application. Pursuant to the procedural schedule, the Staff Report was filed July 10, 2017, and objections to the Staff Report or the application were due August 9, 2017.

{¶ 7} By Entry issued on April 21, 2017, Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), and Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAЕ) were granted intervention.

{¶ 8} Subsequently, the procedural schedule was revised and objections were due on August 18, 2017. Objections to the Staff Report or the application were timely filed by OCC and OPAЕ.

{¶ 9} On August 18, 2017, a joint stipulation and recommendation (stipulation) was filed by Columbia, Staff, and OPAЕ.

{¶ 10} To assist the Commission in its review of the stipulation, the attorney examiner finds that the following procedural schedule should be established:

- (a) Testimony in support of the stipulation should be filed by September 8, 2017.
- (b) Testimony in opposition to the stipulation should be filed by September 28, 2017.

- (c) The evidentiary hearing shall commence on October 11, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-D, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

{¶ 11} Further, the attorney examiner finds that, for all discovery requests served after the issuance of this Entry, responses should be provided no later than seven calendar days after service of the requests. Discovery requests and replies shall be served by hand delivery, e-mail, or facsimile (unless otherwise agreed by the parties). An attorney serving a discovery request shall attempt to contact the attorney upon whom the discovery request will be served in advance to advise him/her that a request will be forthcoming (unless otherwise agreed by the parties). To the extent that a party has difficulty responding to a particular discovery request, counsel for the parties should discuss the problem and work out a mutually satisfactory solution.

{¶ 12} It is, therefore,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule as set forth in Paragraph 10 be observed. 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/Greta See

By: Greta See
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

9/7/2017 1:15:59 PM

in

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

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry setting forth a procedural schedule in accordance with Paragraph 10. - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio