

## 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 22, 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, as amended August 8, 2017, and August 11, 2017, the procedural schedule was set to assist the Commission in its review of Columbia's alternative rate plan application.

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

{¶ 8} The Staff Report was filed on July 10, 2017. Objections to the Staff Report or the application were filed by OCC and OPAЕ.

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

{¶ 10} After a conference call between the parties and the attorney examiner, by Entry issued September 7, 2017, a procedural schedule was established to assist the Commission in its review of the stipulation, including a hearing to commence on October 11, 2017.

{¶ 11} Pursuant to the procedural schedule, Columbia filed testimony in support of the stipulation on September 8, 2017. Testimony in opposition to the stipulation should be filed by September 28, 2017.

{¶ 12} On September 20, 2017, a joint motion was filed by Columbia, Staff, IEU, OCC, and OPAЕ to revise the procedural schedule. The parties request that the Commission reschedule the hearing for October 2, 2017, and, to expedite the

Commission's consideration of Columbia's application, the parties also propose an agreement to admit specified documents and testimony into the evidentiary record at hearing and to waive cross-examination of witnesses. Further, the parties also propose a post-hearing briefing schedule. However, OCC's agreement to reschedule the hearing is contingent upon the parties being afforded three weeks to file initial briefs and two weeks to file reply briefs.

{¶ 13} The attorney examiner finds that the parties' motion to reschedule the hearing to October 2, 2017, is reasonable and should be granted. Accordingly, the evidentiary hearing shall commence on October 2, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-C, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

{¶ 14} It is, therefore,

{¶ 15} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule be revised as set forth in Paragraph 13. It is, further,

{¶ 16} 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

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

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

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering the parties' motion to reschedule the hearing to October 2, 2017, be granted; and the evidentiary hearing commence on October 2, 2017, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-C, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793. Entry electronically filed by Debra Hight on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner.