

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF OHIO GAS COMPANY FOR AN
INCREASE IN GAS DISTRIBUTION
RATES.**

CASE No. 17-1139-GA-AIR

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
OHIO GAS COMPANY FOR TARIFF
APPROVAL.**

CASE No. 17-1140-GA-ATA

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF OHIO GAS COMPANY FOR
APPROVAL OF CERTAIN ACCOUNTING
AUTHORITY.**

CASE No. 17-1141-GA-AAM

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on December 1, 2017

{¶ 1} R.C. 4909.18 requires, in part, that any public utility seeking to establish, modify, amend, change, increase, or reduce any rate must file an application with the Commission.

{¶ 2} Ohio Gas Company (Ohio Gas) is a natural gas company as defined by R.C. 4905.03 and a public utility as defined by R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 3} On April 28, 2017, Ohio Gas filed a notice of intent to file an application for an increase in rates.

{¶ 4} On May 11, 2017, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) filed a motion to intervene and memorandum in support of the motion. OCC states that its motion is filed on behalf of the residential customers of Ohio Gas. OCC asserts that such customers may be adversely affected by this proceeding. OCC adds that its intervention will significantly contribute to the full resolution of the issues presented in this case and will not unduly

prolong the proceeding. No memoranda contra OCC's motion were filed. The attorney examiner finds that OCC's motion to intervene is reasonable and should be granted.

{¶ 5} On May 31, 2017, Ohio Gas filed an application pursuant to R.C. 4909.18 to increase its rates for natural gas distribution service.

{¶ 6} Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, Staff conducted an investigation of the facts, exhibits, and matters relating to the application. On November 22, 2017, Staff filed a written report of its investigation (Staff Report). Copies of the Staff Report were mailed to Ohio Gas, mayors of municipal corporations affected by the application, and other persons that the Commission deemed to be interested in the case.

{¶ 7} Pursuant to R.C. 4909.19 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-28(B), all objections to the Staff Report must be filed within 30 days after the filing of such report, and all objections must be specific. Any objection that is not specific enough to convey what is actually being placed at issue will be struck pursuant to the above-cited rule.

{¶ 8} Direct expert testimony and motions to intervene should be filed by December 22, 2017, in accordance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-29.

{¶ 9} Motions to strike objections to the Staff Report should be filed by December 29, 2017. Memoranda contra motions to intervene, as well as memoranda contra motions to strike objections to the Staff Report, should be filed by January 5, 2018. Unless an objection is struck or withdrawn, each objection must be discussed in the initial post-hearing brief of the objecting party. If an objection is not discussed in the initial brief, the objection will, without further action, be deemed withdrawn.

{¶ 10} A prehearing conference will be held on January 4, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 11-C at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215. The purpose of the conference will be to discuss procedural

aspects of the case and to provide an opportunity for the parties to conduct settlement discussions.

{¶ 11} The evidentiary hearing will commence on January 18, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 11-C at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215. A subsequent entry will address the scheduling of the local public hearing and publication of notice of the hearing.

{¶ 12} It is, therefore,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That OCC's motion to intervene be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 14} ORDERED, That a prehearing conference be scheduled in accordance with Paragraph 10. It is, further,

{¶ 15} ORDERED, That the evidentiary hearing be scheduled to commence on January 18, 2018, in accordance with Paragraph 11. It is, further,

{¶ 16} ORDERED, That all interested persons comply with the time frames established in Paragraphs 7, 8, and 9. It is, further,

{¶ 17} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Sarah Parrot

By: Sarah J. Parrot
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

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in

Case No(s). 17-1139-GA-AIR, 17-1140-GA-ATA, 17-1141-GA-AAM

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting OCC's motion to intervene; scheduling prehearing conference in accordance with Paragraph 10, scheduling evidentiary hearing to commence on 01/18/2018 in accordance with Paragraph 11, and directing all interested persons comply with the time frames established in Paragraphs 7, 8, and 9. - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Sarah Parrot, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio