



**Public Utilities  
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May 17, 2018

FILE

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

RE: *In the Matter of the Application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of an  
Adjustment to its Uncollectible Expense Rider Rate, Case No. 18-321-GA-UEX*

Dear Docketing Division:

Enclosed please find the Staff's Review and Recommendations in regard to the  
application filed by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc., to update its Uncollectible Expense  
Rider, in Case No. 18-321-GA-UEX.

Tamara S. Turkenton  
Director, Regulatory Services Division  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

David Lipthrott  
Chief, Research and Policy Division  
Public Utilities Commission of Ohio

Enclosure  
Cc: Parties of Record

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**Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.**  
**Case No. 18-321-GA-UEx**

**SUMMARY:**

In Case No. 03-1127-GA-UNC, the Commission authorized the concept of an uncollectible accounts expense recovery mechanism for five natural gas companies. The mechanism approved allows for the recovery of actual uncollectible expense through a rider, rather than through base rates. Subsequently, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia or Company) was authorized in Case No. 03-2572-GA-ATA to establish a rider recovery mechanism consistent with that which was approved in Case No. 03-1127-GA-UNC. On April 7, 2004, the Commission issued its Opinion and Order in that case and authorized an initial uncollectible expense (UEX) rider rate of \$0.0493 per Mcf.

Since that time Columbia has filed annual updates to adjust its rider rate and the Commission authorized such subsequent revisions. The recent history of Columbia's rider rate is as follows:

June 2013 – May 2014	(\$0.0176) per Mcf
June 2014 – May 2015	\$0.1457 per Mcf
June 2015 – May 2016	\$0.1214 per Mcf
June 2016 – May 2017	\$0.0555 per Mcf
June 2017 – May 2018	\$0.0438 per Mcf

On April 13, 2018, and as amended May 3, 2018 and May 15, 2018, Columbia filed the pending application to increase its current uncollectible expense rider rate from \$0.0438 per Mcf to \$0.0730 per Mcf, an increase of \$0.0292 per Mcf. Staff has reviewed the application and makes its finding and recommendations in this Staff Letter.

**STAFF REVIEW:**

Staff performed a review of Columbia's annual balance of actual uncollectible accounts expense net of recoveries as of January 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018 (Attachment 1 and 2); uncollectable expense rider calculation (Attachment 3 and 4) and proposed tariff sheets (Attachment 5).

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff believes that Columbia's application appropriately calculates the rider and recommends the proposed rate of \$0.0730 per Mcf be approved. In addition, Staff

recommends that the Commission approve Columbia's proposed tariff language for the Rider UEX as shown on their amended application dated May 15, 2018 and that the UEX rider be subject to the outcome of Case No. 18-47-AU-COI.