THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF ROYAL GAS & OIL COMPANY, INC., NOTICE OF APPARENT VIOLATION AND INTENT TO ASSESS FORFEITURE.

CASE NO. 18-799-TR-CVF (OH3238012422C)

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on June 18, 2018

- $\{\P 1\}$ A prehearing conference was held in this case on June 13, 2018, but the parties were unable to resolve the matter.
- {¶ 2} This case should now be scheduled for hearing on August 9, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. in the offices of the Commission, in Conference Room 1247, 12th Floor, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.
- {¶ 3} Ohio Adm.Code 4901:2-7-14(E) provides that a respondent who has requested an administrative hearing and fails to appear for the hearing shall be in default. The rule additionally states that a respondent in default shall be deemed to have admitted the occurrence of the violation and waived all further right to contest liability for the forfeiture proposed in the notice of preliminary determination.
- {¶ 4} At the hearing, following the presentation of evidence by Staff, it shall be the responsibility of the Respondent, Royal Gas & Oil Company, Inc., to present evidence in support of its contentions regarding the alleged violations in this matter.
- {¶ 5} Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-08 requires that all corporations must be represented in Commission proceedings by an attorney-at-law authorized to practice in Ohio. Therefore, the attorney examiner gives Royal Gas & Oil Company, Inc. notice that it must secure legal counsel in order to proceed and fully participate in the hearing process before the Commission.
- {¶ 6} Nevertheless, pursuant to R.C. 4901.14, a regular salaried employee of a directly concerned corporation may appear before the Commission in the determination of

18-799-TR-CVF -2-

transportation matters involving questions of fact only. However, such an employee cannot act as an attorney. More specifically, such an employee cannot examine witnesses, make motions, or file legal briefs.

- $\{\P 7\}$ It is, therefore,
- $\{\P 8\}$ ORDERED, That a hearing in this case be scheduled in accordance with paragraph 2. It is, further,
 - **§** 9 ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon each party of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Kerry K. Sheets

By: Kerry K. Sheets

Attorney Examiner

JRJ/mef

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

6/18/2018 4:26:39 PM

in

Case No(s). 18-0799-TR-CVF

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry setting a hearing on 8/9/18 at 10am. electronically filed by Ms. Mary E Fischer on behalf of Kerry K. Sheets, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio