

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AUDIT OF THE
PERCENTAGE OF INCOME PAYMENT PLAN
RIDER OF COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

CASE NO. 18-421-GA-PIP

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on June 20, 2018

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the proposed percentage of income payment plan rider tariffs filed by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. on May 29, 2018.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} 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 this Commission.

{¶ 3} The Commission has authorized Columbia to recover percentage of income payment plan (PIPP) arrearages associated with providing natural gas service through its PIPP rider. *In re Establishment of Recovery Method for Percentage of Income Payment Plan*, Case No. 87-244-GE-UNC, Finding and Order (Aug. 4, 1987). Approval of proposed PIPP rider rate adjustments are subject to a 45-day review process.¹ Absent Commission action, such adjustments are approved on the 46th day after filing. *In re Review of the Interim Emergency and Temporary PIP Plan Riders Contained in the Approved Rate Schedules of Electric and Gas Companies*, Case No. 88-1115-GE-PIP, et al., Finding and Order (Dec. 2, 1993).

{¶ 4} By Entry dated March 28, 2018, the Commission initiated, in the above-captioned case, the annual audit of Columbia's PIPP rider.

¹ Specifically, the procedure is set forth in Staff's direct testimony in Case No. 88-1115-GE-PIP, et al.

{¶ 5} On April 13, 2018, as amended on May 29, 2018, Columbia filed an application to adjust its PIPP rider rate. In its amended application, Columbia also proposes to add the following language to the PIPP rider tariff: “This Rider is subject to reconciliation or adjustment, including but not limited to, increases or refunds. Such reconciliation or adjustment shall be limited to the twelve-month period of PIP Plan expense upon which the rate was calculated, if determined to be unlawful, unreasonable, or imprudent by the Commission in the docket those rates were approved or the Supreme Court of Ohio.”

{¶ 6} On May 30, 2018, Columbia filed revised tariff pages to implement its proposed PIPP rider rate, following the conclusion of the 45-day review period.

{¶ 7} On June 1, 2018, Staff filed its review and recommendations on Columbia’s application, as amended, recommending approval of the proposed PIPP rider tariff language.

{¶ 8} The Commission finds that Columbia’s proposed PIPP rider tariffs, as filed on May 29, 2018, are reasonable and in the public interest. The Commission has previously directed that the PIPP rider be audited on an annual basis, with the rider subject to reconciliation as a result of the annual audits. *See, e.g.,* March 28, 2018 Entry. Columbia’s proposed tariffs are consistent with the Commission’s prior directives and make clear that the PIPP rider is subject to reconciliation and adjustment. We, therefore, find that Columbia’s PIPP rider tariffs should be approved. We further find that no hearing is necessary with respect to Columbia’s proposed tariffs.

III. ORDER

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That Columbia’s proposed PIPP rider tariffs, as filed on May 29, 2018, be approved. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That Columbia is authorized to file tariffs, in final form, consistent with this Finding and Order. Columbia shall file one copy in this case docket and one copy in its TRF docket. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That the effective date of the new tariffs shall be a date not earlier than the date upon which the final tariff pages are filed with the Commission. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That nothing in this Finding and Order shall be binding upon this Commission in any future proceeding or investigation involving the justness or reasonableness of any rate, charge, rule, or regulation. It is, further,

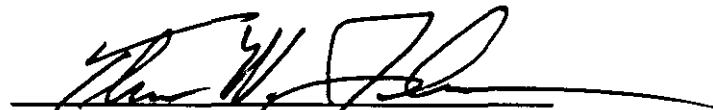
{¶ 14} ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all parties and interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

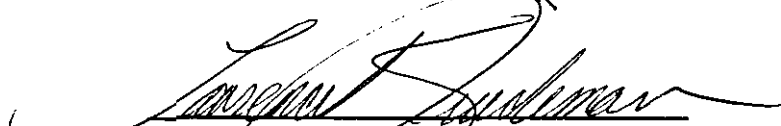
Asim Z. Haque, Chairman



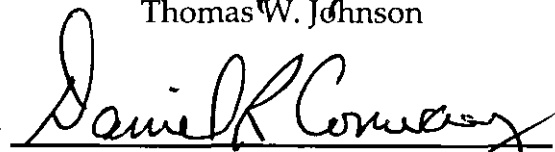
M. Beth Trombold



Thomas W. Johnson



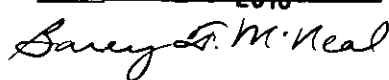
Lawrence K. Friedeman



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JUN 20 2018


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Secretary