

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
PIKE NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR  
APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE RATE PLAN  
PROPOSING A REVENUE DECOUPLING  
MECHANISM.

CASE NO. 08-941-GA-ALT

### ENTRY

Entered in the Journal August 23, 2018

{¶ 1} Eastern Natural Gas Company (Eastern) and Pike Natural Gas Company (Pike) (collectively, Companies) are natural gas companies, as defined in R.C. 4905.03, and public utilities, as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, are subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 2} On June 16, 2010, pursuant to a joint stipulation and recommendation, the Commission modified and approved the Companies' applications, under R.C. 4929.05, 4929.051, and 4909.18, to advance their respective rates toward a straight-fixed variable rate design and to implement an alternative rate plan to include revenue decoupling mechanisms with the adoption of demand-side management (DSM) programs and associated riders. *In re Eastern Natural Gas Co. and Pike Natural Gas Co.*, Case No. 08-940-GA-ALT, et al., Opinion and Order (June 16, 2010).

{¶ 3} On May 31, 2017, the Companies filed a motion to suspend the collection of the DSM riders because, in recent years, expenditures for the weatherization programs had not kept pace with the revenues collected by the Companies through the DSM riders.

{¶ 4} By Entry issued July 26, 2017, the Commission granted the Companies' motion to suspend collection of the DSM riders but directed that Eastern and Pike continue to provide DSM weatherization programs until the Commission specifically orders otherwise. The Entry further directed the parties to discuss and evaluate the DSM

programs and established a procedural schedule for the filing of comments and reply comments to assist the Commission with its review of the Companies' DSM programs.

{¶ 5} On September 14, 2017, one day before comments were due per the July 26, 2017 procedural schedule, the Companies filed a motion to indefinitely suspend the procedural schedule and committed to continuing to work with the parties to reach a consensus on a proposal for the DSM programs.

{¶ 6} By Entry issued September 15, 2017, the Companies' motion to indefinitely suspend the procedural schedule was granted and the parties were directed to notify the attorney examiner if they reached a consensus recommendation or an impasse; otherwise, the parties were to inform the attorney examiner of their progress on December 1, 2017, and on the first of every month (or subsequent business day) thereafter. The Companies filed four updates between December 8, 2017, and June 1, 2018, each time advising the Commission that "negotiations may not be completed until sometime in 2018."

{¶ 7} Prompted by a March 1, 2018 application filed jointly by Eastern and the Village Energy Cooperative Association, Inc. (VECA) to transfer the assets and customers of Eastern to VECA, the Commission issued an Entry on August 1, 2018, noting the lack of progress in negotiations with regard to the Companies' DSM programs. The August 1, 2018 Entry directed Eastern to file a plan to equitably and efficiently refund its accrued DSM funds for the Commission's consideration and approval.<sup>1</sup> The Commission also reinstituted a procedural schedule to assist in the review of Pike's DSM program. Pursuant to that schedule, comments were due August 22, 2018, and reply comments are due September 5, 2018.

{¶ 8} On August 22, 2018, Pike and the Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy (OPAE) filed a joint motion for an extension of the procedural schedule. Pike and OPAE

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<sup>1</sup> In accordance with the filing deadline established by the Commission in its August 1, 2018 Entry, Eastern filed its proposed plan on August 16, 2018, in Case No. 08-940-GA-ALT.

represent that they have recently had discussions regarding both entities' comments and would appreciate additional time to further discuss those comments prior to their filing. Pike and OP&E further state that a one-week extension should be sufficient, which would result in comments and reply comments being due August 29, 2018, and September 12, 2018, respectively. Finally, given the timing of the motion, Pike and OP&E request an expedited ruling in accordance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-12(C) and explain that counsel for Staff does not object to the requested extension or expedited ruling.

{¶ 9} The attorney examiner finds that expedited treatment is warranted and that the requested extension is reasonable and supported by good cause. Accordingly, the motion should be granted. Comments shall be filed on or before August 29, 2018, and reply comments shall be filed by September 12, 2018.

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the joint motion for extension of time be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That comments and reply comments be filed by August 29, 2018, and September 12, 2018, respectively, as stated in Paragraph 9. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/Patricia Schabo

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By: Patricia A. Schabo  
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

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

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**Case No(s). 08-0941-GA-ALT**

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting joint motion for an extension of time directing that comments and reply comments be filed by 08/29/2018 and 09/12/2018 respectively - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of Patricia Schabo, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio