

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
SUBURBAN NATURAL GAS COMPANY  
FOR AN INCREASE IN GAS DISTRIBUTION  
RATES.

CASE NO. 18-1205-GA-AIR

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
SUBURBAN NATURAL GAS COMPANY  
FOR TARIFF APPROVAL.

CASE NO. 18-1206-GA-ATA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
SUBURBAN NATURAL GAS COMPANY  
FOR APPROVAL OF CERTAIN  
ACCOUNTING AUTHORITY.

CASE NO. 18-1207-GA-AAM

### ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on September 5, 2018

#### I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission finds that Suburban Natural Gas Company's motion to establish a test period and date certain and its amended motion for a waiver of a standard filing requirement should be granted.

#### II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Suburban Natural Gas Company (Suburban) 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 pursuant to R.C. 4905.04, 4905.05, and 4905.06.

{¶ 3} An application for an increase in rates is governed by and must meet the requirements of R.C. 4909.17 to 4909.19, and 4909.42. In applying for a rate increase, R.C. 4909.15(C)(1) and (2) provide that a utility may propose a test period for determining the revenues and expenses that is any 12-month period beginning not more than six months prior to the date the application is filed and ending not more than nine months subsequent to the date the application is filed. Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the test period shall be what is proposed by the utility. It is also required that the date certain be no

later than the date of filing, except that it shall be, for a natural gas, water-works, or sewage disposal system company, not later than the end of the test period.

{¶ 4} On July 31, 2018, Suburban filed a notice of intent to file an application for an increase in rates, pursuant to R.C. 4909.43(B), and in compliance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01, Appendix A, Chapter I of the Commission's Standard Filing Requirements. Concurrently, Suburban also filed a motion to establish a test period and date certain, and for a waiver of a certain filing requirement. Suburban states that it intends to file its application on or about August 31, 2018. It proposes to use the 12 months beginning March 1, 2018, and ending February 28, 2019, as the test year for the filing, and February 28, 2019, as the date certain for determining the rate base. The Commission finds that the proposed test period and date certain should be approved.

{¶ 5} In its motion, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-1, Appendix A, Chapter II(A)(4)(d), Suburban also requests a waiver of the standard filing requirement under which a natural gas company that elects to use a date certain that is beyond the application filing date must provide, within 30 days after the date certain, actual valuation data and operating income statements that include no less than three months of data. Suburban explains that the abbreviated time period of 30 days coincides with its end-of-year accounting period during the first quarter of the year. It further explains that it is a small company with limited staffing resources and it would be extremely difficult for Suburban to provide the required information within 30 days of the date certain at the same time it is completing its end-of-year financials. Consequently, Suburban is requesting the Commission to grant it a 60-day waiver period and allow it to file the actual valuation data and operating income statements within 90 days of the date certain, or May 29, 2019.

{¶ 6} On August 23, 2018, Suburban filed an amended motion for a waiver of a standard filing requirement. In the motion, Suburban explains that it is amending its original request for a 60-day waiver period to provide the actual valuation data and operating income statements to a 30-day waiver period. As such, Suburban now seeks to

file the actual valuation data and operating income statements within 60 days of the date certain, or no later than April 29, 2019. Suburban further states that, if the 30-day waiver is granted, it will not seek to place its proposed increased rates into effect per R.C. 4909.42 for at least 120 days after the expiration of the requisite 275 days, or not before September 30, 2019.

{¶ 7} Based on Suburban's reasons that it is a small utility with limited resources and that it will be completing its end-of-year financials during the end of March, the Commission finds that this particular waiver request, as amended, is reasonable and should be granted.

### III. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

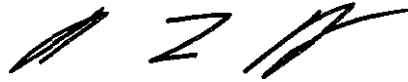
{¶ 9} ORDERED, That the test period for Suburban shall be the 12 months beginning March 1, 2018, and ending February 28, 2019, and the date certain shall be February 28, 2019. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That the appropriate method for making any changes to the date certain or test period shall be the filing of a new notice of intent to file an application for an increase in rates and withdrawal of the pending application. It is, further,

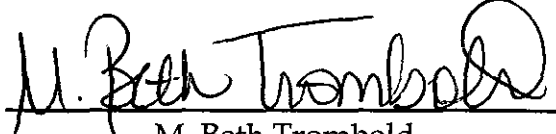
{¶ 11} ORDERED, That Suburban's amended request for waiver of a certain filing requirement be granted as set forth in this Entry. It is, further,

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

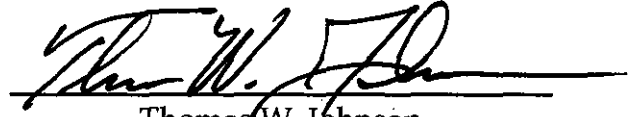
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO



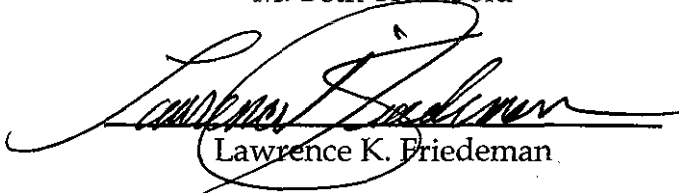
Asim Z. Haque, Chairman



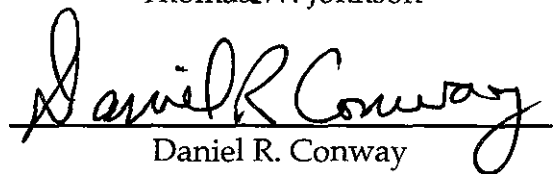
M. Beth Trombold



Thomas W. Johnson



Lawrence K. Friedeman

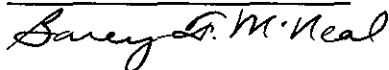


Daniel R. Conway

AS/mef

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SEP 05 2018



Barcy F. McNeal  
Secretary