

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
SUBURBAN NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR
AN ADJUSTMENT TO ITS INFRASTRUCTURE
REPLACEMENT PROGRAM RIDER.

CASE NO. 18-977-GA-RDR

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on September 7, 2018

{¶ 1} 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 the Commission pursuant to R.C. 4905.04, 4905.05, and 4905.06. Suburban provides natural gas service to approximately 17,381 residential and commercial customers in Henry, Wood, Delaware, and Marion counties, Ohio. Suburban also serves a small number of transportation customers under a transportation service tariff or special arrangements approved by the Commission.

{¶ 2} In Case No. 07-689-GA-AIR, the Commission authorized Suburban, among other things, to establish an infrastructure replacement program (IRP) rider at a zero-dollar level. *In re Suburban Natural Gas Co.*, Case No. 07-689-GA-AIR (2007 Rate Case), Opinion and Order (Mar. 19, 2008).

{¶ 3} In Case No. 09-573-GA-UNC, the Commission approved Suburban's IRP. *In re Suburban Natural Gas Co.*, Case No. 09-573-GA-UNC (2009 IRP Case), Finding and Order (Sept. 15, 2009). Suburban's IRP provides for the accelerated replacement of aging pipelines and timely replacement of prone-to-fail risers, as well as Suburban's assumption of responsibilities associated with the installation, repair, and maintenance of customer service lines. The Commission directed that Suburban complete replacement of all prone-to-fail risers within four years of the date of the Finding and Order. Under the terms of the IRP, Suburban will recover 50 percent of the program's cost, with a return based on Suburban's cost of debt, on an accelerated basis, over a four-year period. The amounts subject to accelerated recovery will be accounted for as a deduction from rate

base, as adjustments to the appropriate plant-in-service accounts. The remaining 50 percent of the cost will be accounted for in the appropriate plant-in-service and expense accounts, while associated revenue, including a return based on the return on equity determined in the *2007 Rate Case*, will be recovered through the IRP rider. Pursuant to the approved IRP, Suburban must submit an application to recover the costs associated with the IRP by August 31 of each year. In addition, Suburban must file a prefiling notice by May 31 of each year.

{¶ 4} In accordance with the procedure approved by the Commission in the *2009 IRP Case*, Suburban filed its prefiling notice on May 31, 2018, in the above-captioned case.

{¶ 5} On August 30, 2018, Suburban filed its application to adjust its IRP rider, reflecting costs associated with capital investments made by Suburban during the period of July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018.

{¶ 6} In order to accomplish the review of Suburban's proposed adjustment to its IRP rider, the attorney examiner finds that the following procedural schedule should be established:

- (a) September 17, 2018—Deadline for the filing of motions to intervene.
- (b) September 24, 2018—Deadline for Staff and intervenors to file comments on the application.
- (c) September 28, 2018—Deadline for Suburban to file a statement informing the Commission whether the issues raised in the comments have been resolved.

- (d) In the event that all of the issues raised in the comments are not resolved, a hearing will be held and the deadline for the filing of all expert testimony will be October 5, 2018.
- (e) In the event all of the issues raised in the comments are not resolved or a stipulation is entered into by the parties, a hearing will commence on October 12, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-C, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

{¶ 7} In light of the time frame for this proceeding, the attorney examiner requires that, in the event any motion is made in this proceeding prior to the issuance of the Commission's order, any memorandum contra shall be filed within five business days after the service of such motion, and a reply memorandum to any memorandum contra shall be filed within three business days. Parties shall provide service of pleadings via hand delivery, facsimile, or e-mail.

{¶ 8} In addition, the attorney examiner finds that the response time for discovery shall be shortened to seven calendar days. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, discovery requests and replies shall be served by hand delivery, facsimile, or e-mail. An attorney serving a discovery request shall attempt to contact, in advance, the attorney upon whom the discovery request will be served to advise him/her that a request will be forthcoming.

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 6 be adopted. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the parties adhere to the processes established in Paragraphs 7 and 8. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

s/L. Douglas Jennings

By: L. Douglas Jennings
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/sc

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Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry setting procedural schedule and October 12, 2018 hearing - electronically filed by Sandra Coffey on behalf of L. Douglas Jennings, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio