

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Suburban)
Natural Gas Company for an Increase in Gas) Case No. 18-1205-GA-AIR
Distribution Rates)
In the Matter of the Application of Suburban) Case No. 18-1206-GA-ATA
Natural Gas Company for Tariff Approval)
In the Matter of the Application of Suburban)
Natural Gas Company for Approval of Certain) Case No. 18-1207-GA-AAM
Accounting Authority)

**MOTION OF SUBURBAN NATURAL GAS COMPANY
FOR A WAIVER OF A STANDARD FILING REQUIREMENT**

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September 19, 2018

**Attorneys for Suburban Natural
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**BEFORE
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

**MOTION OF SUBURBAN NATURAL GAS COMPANY
FOR A WAIVER OF A STANDARD FILING REQUIREMENT**

Pursuant to Rules 4901-1-12, 4901-1-12(C) and 4901-7-01, Appendix A, of the Ohio Administrative Code (O.A.C.), Suburban Natural Gas Company (Suburban) hereby requests a waiver of the standard filing requirement under which a public utility that files an Application for an Increase in Rates must submit a cost of service study as part of its application. Although Suburban does not believe that, as a small natural gas utility, it is required to submit a cost-of-service study, Suburban, out of an abundance of caution, hereby moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission) to waive any such requirement to the extent it may be required.

Good cause exists to grant the requested waiver as set forth in the accompanying Memorandum in Support. Additionally, Suburban requests an expedited ruling on this motion, pursuant to Rule 4901-1-12(C), O.A.C.¹

Respectfully submitted,

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¹ Suburban cannot certify that the parties that have filed motions to intervene in this matter do not object to the issuance of an expedited ruling.

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Natural Gas Company for Approval of Certain) Case No. 18-1207-GA-AAM
Accounting Authority)

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

I. INTRODUCTION

Suburban filed its Application in this proceeding on August 31, 2018.² At the time the Application was filed, Suburban had requested a waiver of the Standard Filing Requirement, established under Rule 4901-7-01, O.A.C., that Suburban must provide actual valuation data and operating income statements that include no less than three months of actual data.³ The Commission subsequently granted that request.⁴ In that motion, Suburban did not include a request for waiver of the cost-of-service study and Suburban did not include such a study in its Application because the Standard Filing Requirements do not appear to require small natural gas utilities to

² See Application of Suburban Natural Gas Company for an Increase in Rates and Charges, for Tariff Approval, and for Approval of Certain Accounting Authority (August 31, 2018).

³ See Amended Motion of Suburban Natural Gas Company for a Waiver of a Standard Filing Requirement (August 23, 2018); Motion of Suburban Natural Gas Company to Establish a Test Period and Date Certain and for a Waiver of a Standard Filing Requirement (July 31, 2018).

⁴ Entry at ¶ 11 (September 5, 2018).

file such.⁵ Nonetheless, out of an abundance of caution and to the extent it is deemed necessary, Suburban hereby requests that the Commission grant Suburban a waiver of such a requirement.

II. DISCUSSION

The Standard Filing Requirements establish different requirements for utilities based on both the number of customers that a utility serves and type of service that a utility provides. Typically, larger utilities are required to provide some additional information that smaller utilities are not required to provide. This is the case with cost-of-service studies. All large utilities⁶ must file at least one cost-of-service study as part of any application to increase rates.⁷ Conversely, for small utilities, the Standard Filing Requirements only require small waterworks and sewage disposal utilities to provide a cost-of-service study and make no mention of any similar requirement for small electric or gas utilities. As a natural gas company that serves approximately 17,381 customers, Suburban is classified as a small gas utility.⁸ Thus, the Standard Filing Requirements did not appear to require Suburban to include a cost-of-service study with its August 31, 2018 Application or require Suburban to seek a waiver of such requirement if not providing it with its Application.

However, in order to address the possibility that the Commission deems it necessary under the Standard Filing Requirements for small gas utilities to include a cost-of-service study or to request a waiver of such requirement, Suburban respectfully requests a waiver of the requirement

⁵ See Rule 4901-7-01, O.A.C., Appendix A at 150-51 (Standard Filing Requirements).

⁶ Large utilities include all electric utilities and gas utilities, waterworks utilities, and sewage disposal system utilities that serve 30,000 or more customers. See Standard Filing Requirements at 8.

⁷ Standard Filing Requirements at 118.

⁸ Standard Filing Requirements at 132.

to provide a cost-of-service study. The Standard Filing Requirements allow the Commission to waive any of its provisions for good cause shown. To determine good cause, Rule 4901-7-1, O.A.C., requires the Commission to consider (1) whether the information which the utility would provide if the waiver is granted is sufficient so that the Commission Staff can effectively and efficiently review the rate application; (2) whether the information that is the subject of the waiver request is normally maintained by the utility or reasonably available to it; and (3) the expense to the utility of providing the information.⁹ Based on these factors, good cause exists for the Commission to waive the requirement that Suburban, a small natural gas utility, must include a cost-of-service study as part of its Application for an increase in rates.

Suburban's Application included sufficient information for the Commission Staff to effectively review the Application and issue a report regarding the rate increase requested by Suburban. The Application as filed contains schedules and information that will allow Commission Staff to make an assessment of Suburban's request and act accordingly. Requiring Suburban to include a cost-of-service study in addition to the already-provided information would only serve to increase Suburban's rate case expenses. Furthermore, providing a cost-of-service study would require Suburban to compile information that, as a small utility, Suburban does not typically maintain and is not reasonably available to Suburban.

Accordingly, given that Suburban's August 31, 2018 Application provides sufficient information to evaluate Suburban's request without the inclusion of a cost-of-service study, a cost-of-service study is not maintained or available to Suburban, and that the creation of such study would cause Suburban to incur additional expense, Suburban respectfully submits that good cause exists to waive such a requirement.

⁹ See Standard Filing Requirements at 9.

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed herein and to the extent necessary, Suburban Natural Gas Company requests that the Commission grant its waiver request as set forth herein. Suburban further requests that the Commission issue an expedited ruling on this motion.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a true and accurate copy of the foregoing document was served on September 19, 2018 by electronic mail upon the parties listed below.

/s/ Kimberly W. Bojko
Kimberly W. Bojko

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Case No(s). 18-1205-GA-AIR, 18-1206-GA-ATA, 18-1207-GA-AAM

Summary: Motion of Suburban Natural Gas Company for a Waiver of a Standard Filing Requirement electronically filed by Mr. Brian W Dressel on behalf of Suburban Natural Gas Company