

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 October 10, 2018

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission grants Suburban Natural Gas Company's motion for a waiver of a standard filing requirement.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Suburban Natural Gas Company (Suburban or Company) 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} R.C. 4909.17, 4909.18, 4909.19, and 4909.43 enumerate the statutory requirements for an application to increase a public utility's rates. Additionally, Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01, Appendix A, sets forth the Commission's standard filing requirements. The standard filing requirements specify the format for filing all information required in an application for an increase in rates and define the information that the Commission requires pursuant to R.C. 4909.18(E).

{¶ 4} On July 31, 2018, Suburban filed a notice of intent to file an application for an increase in rates. Concurrently, Suburban also filed a motion seeking to establish a test period and date certain, as well as requesting a waiver of a standard filing requirement.

{¶ 5} On August 23, 2018, Suburban amended its waiver request.

{¶ 6} Suburban filed its application to increase its rates on August 31, 2018.

{¶ 7} By Entry dated September 5, 2018, the Commission approved Suburban's proposed test period and date certain and granted the Company's amended waiver request.

{¶ 8} On September 19, 2018, Suburban filed a second motion for a waiver of a standard filing requirement, along with a request for an expedited ruling. Specifically, Suburban requests, to the extent necessary, that the Commission waive the requirement for a cost-of-service study. Suburban states that it does not believe that a cost-of-service study is required for small gas utilities, such as the Company, under Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01, Appendix A, Chapter III. Suburban asserts that, for small utilities, the standard filing requirements indicate that only waterworks and sewage disposal system utilities are required to provide a cost-of-service study. However, if a cost-of-service study is deemed necessary for small gas utilities by the Commission, Suburban states that good cause exists for a waiver in this case. In support of its waiver request, Suburban argues that its application provides sufficient information to review the requested rate increase. Suburban adds that requiring a cost-of-service study would increase the Company's rate case expense and compel the Company to compile information that it does not typically maintain and is not reasonably available.

{¶ 9} The Commission notes that cost-of-service studies are required for all small utilities, unless the requirement is waived by the Commission. Only one of the requirements related to cost-of-service studies for small sized utilities solely pertains to waterworks and sewage disposal system companies. However, the Commission has previously granted a waiver of the cost-of-service study requirement to a small gas utility. *See, e.g., In re Oxford*

Natural Gas Co., Case No. 06-350-GA-CMR, Entry (Mar. 15, 2006). Here, we find that Suburban has demonstrated good cause for its requested waiver and that the Company's motion should, therefore, be granted. The Commission notes that the granting of this waiver does not preclude Staff from obtaining the information waived through data requests if it is subsequently deemed necessary to complete Staff's investigation effectively and efficiently.

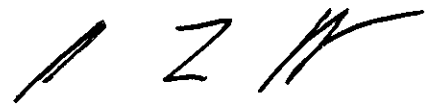
III. ORDER

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

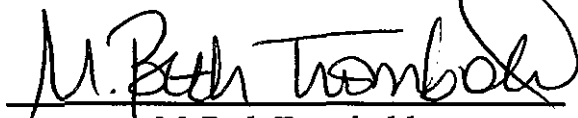
{¶ 11} ORDERED, That Suburban's motion for a waiver of a standard filing requirement be granted. It is, further,

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

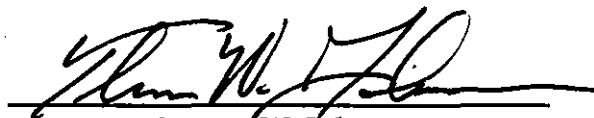
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO



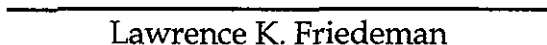
Asim Z. Haque, Chairman



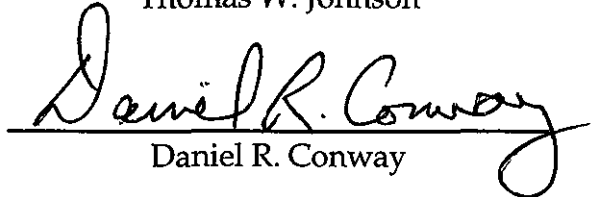
M. Beth Trombold



Thomas W. Johnson



Lawrence K. Friedeman

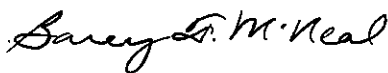


Daniel R. Conway

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OCT 10 2018



Barcy F. McNeal
Secretary