

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of the Application :Case No.
of Vectren Energy Delivery of :18-0049-GA-ALT
Ohio, Inc., for Approval of an :
Alternative Rate Plan. :

In the Matter of the Application :Case No.
of Vectren Energy Delivery of :18-0298-GA-AIR
Ohio, Inc., for Approval of an :
Increase in Gas Rates. :

In the Matter of the Application :Case No.
of Vectren Energy Delivery of :18-0299-GA-ALT
Ohio, Inc., for Approval of an :
Alternative Rate Plan. :

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PROCEEDINGS

Before Patricia A. Schabo, Attorney Examiner,
and Commissioner Larry Friedeman, held at the
Sidney Municipal Building Council Chambers, 201
West Poplar Street, Sidney, Ohio, on Wednesday,
November 28, 2018, at 6:00 P.M.

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Armstrong & Okey, Inc.
222 East Town Street, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481

- - -

APPEARANCES:

Mr. Jason Stephenson
General Counsel
One Vectren Square
Evansville, Indiana 47708

On behalf of Vectren Energy
Delivery of Ohio, Inc.

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Wednesday Evening,
November 28, 2018.

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ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Good evening,
and welcome. The Public Utilities Commission of
Ohio has assigned for public hearing at this
time and place Case Nos. 18-298-GA-AIR,
18-299-GA-ALT and 18-49-GA-ALT, being in the
matter of the application of Vectren Energy
Delivery of Ohio, Inc. for approval of an
increase In gas rates, combined with two
applications for approval of an alternative rate
plan.

My name is Trish Schabo, I am one of
the Attorney Examiners assigned by
the Commission to preside over this hearing.

Commissioner Larry Friedeman is with
us tonight. Commissioner, would you like to
make any comments?

COMMISSIONER FRIEDEMANN: I just
wanted to welcome the members of the public, and
thank you for agreeing to participate in the
process. I look forward to hearing your
comments.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you very

much. There are also several members of the Commission's staff here tonight. Andrew Shaffer, Rachael Mains, Commissioner Friedeman, Jill Kocher is here from the Commission's Office of Public Affairs.

And Samantha Boerstler is here with the Service Monitoring and Enforcement Department.

PUCO Staff members are available to you if you have any questions regarding general utility matters.

At this time I would like to take appearances beginning with the Company.

MR. STEPHENSON: Thank you, Your Honor. Here on behalf of Vectren Energy Delivery is Jason Stephenson, with Vectren Corporation, One Vectren Square, Evansville, Indiana 47708.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Numerous other parties have intervened. I do not see any counsel, but I will open the floor. Seeing none, we will move on.

The subject of today's public hearing is Vectren Energy Delivered of Ohio, Inc.'s application to increase it's natural gas

1 distribution rates, which has been consolidated
2 with two separate applications to implement an
3 alternative rate plan.

4 Vectren filed its application to
5 increase rates on March 30th, 2018. Vectren is
6 requesting to increase its distribution rates by
7 \$30 million. The Staff filed its Report and
8 Recommendation on October 1st, 2018. In its
9 report the Staff recommends lowering the
10 increase to a range between 12 and \$16 million.

11 Staff's report is a recommendation
12 only and the final decision will ultimately be
13 made by the Commission.

14 The local public hearing scheduled
15 in this matter is only one aspect of the
16 process. In addition to this evening public
17 hearings were held in Dayton on November 15th
18 and one was held in Washington Court House this
19 past Monday.

20 An evidentiary hearing is currently
21 scheduled to occur in the Commission's offices
22 in Columbus on December 4th, 2018.

23 The purpose of tonight is to receive
24 comments from the public regarding Vectren's
25 applications. This evening is not a question

1 and answer session. All the representatives
2 from the Company, Ohio Consumers' Counsel and
3 Staff may be able to speak to any concerns after
4 the hearing ends.

5 Tonight's hearing is being
6 transcribed by a court reporter and any
7 testimony given will be incorporated into the
8 official record of the case and it will be
9 reviewed and considered by the Commission in
10 making their final decision on the application.

11 If you do plan to testify please
12 speak clearly so that the court reporter can
13 accurately reflect your comments on the record.

14 If you decide you do not wish to
15 testify you may submit written comments under
16 case No. 18-298-GA-AIR on the Public Utilities
17 Commission of Ohio's website or by mail.

18 In just a minute here I will go to
19 the list of the people who have signed up to
20 testify. Before you give your comments I will
21 ask you to state your name and address, then I
22 will swear you in.

23 After you testify you can have a
24 seat, you can leave, you should feel free to
25 leave whenever you are ready.

Should you decide you do not want to
testify when I call your name you can merely
pass to the next witness.

The Commission appreciates your
presentation tonight at this hearing. And at
this time we will begin.

So John Laws.

(WITNESS SWORN)

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JOHN LAWS

called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
testified as follows:

MR. LAWS: My name is John Laws.
I live at 1000 Norwood Drive, Sidney, Ohio.
Life-long resident of Sidney, Ohio.

ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you, sir.
Proceed.

MR. LAWS: Yes. After reading the
article in the Dayton Daily News with a \$35
minimum charge, I assumed that's the monthly
charge that it is going to be.

I got all my bills out and I looked
through them. And that is a pretty hefty
increase in a monthly minimum. I realize
Vectren has done a good job for the community,

1 put a lot of new lines in and I give the Company
2 credit. You have done well.

3 But, my rate, I have stuck with
4 Vectren all the time. I think through the city
5 on their bidding process and going with the
6 City, I stayed with the City of Sidney. I guess
7 it's because of the volume which helps maybe
8 adjust the price.

9 But, I look at this monthly charge.
10 I am looking at one right now. It was \$18.37,
11 the most recent one I paid, the monthly charge.

12 Now, if that is going to \$35, that
13 is an increase of what, \$16.63. That is a
14 pretty hefty increase.

15 I realize you have to have somewhere
16 to collect more money to pay your bills, but we
17 as -- I am an 87 year old resident of this
18 community, and we are on fixed incomes, a lot of
19 us are.

20 And I feel, a just increase I have
21 no problem with, but I feel this is too much of
22 an increase when you put that on a monthly
23 statement. I don't know how many of your other
24 service charges are going to change because
25 there is three or four on each sheet I get

1 monthly.

2 But, if that is the minimum monthly
3 charge, \$35 is a lot more than \$18.36. And I
4 looked on my bills, I think it averages out to
5 about \$28. I did the whole year analysis.

6 And that being the case, it's still
7 a \$7 increase. So, that is a percentage too, a
8 pretty hefty increased percentage.

9 That is what I am all about. And
10 willing to let anybody see my bills and welcome
11 to let Vectren or anyone see them. But my
12 complaint is I think it's too much of an
13 increase at one time. Thank you.

14 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

15 Mike Barhorst.

16 (WITNESS SWORN)

17 - - -

18 MIKE BARHORST

19 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
20 testified as follows:

21 MR. BARHORST: First of all welcome
22 to Sidney. I am Mike Barhorst, Mayor of
23 the City. And the address for City Hall is 201
24 West Poplar Street, Sidney, Ohio 45365.

25 I will mirror some of what John has

1 just said. My concern I think is the 22 percent
2 increase.

3 I know again I am pleased with what
4 Vectren has done in the community, what they
5 will do in the future. I know their top
6 leadership and I trust them.

7 My concern is for those who are on
8 fixed incomes, those who have or are at the
9 margins of society who I know struggle to pay
10 the current bills. And a 22 percent increase is
11 one that is going to really hurt some of them
12 tremendously.

13 I don't know how you accomplish what
14 you need to accomplish and what Vectren needs to
15 accomplish without the funds that you need, but
16 I would hope there would be something less than
17 that that we can settle on that would not be
18 such a tremendous increase at one time.

19 I don't know if there is a way to do
20 it staggered. I suspect knowing the little I
21 know about the Public Utilities Commission that
22 you couldn't do 5 percent this year and 5
23 percent next year and 5 percent the next year.

24 But, I think if there was some way
25 to do that it could certainly ease it in for

1 folks.

2 I don't see most pensions increasing
3 at all. I know some widows who are on pensions
4 that are less than a couple thousand dollars a
5 month.

6 And, again, while \$7.16 isn't going
7 to bother me, it will certainly bother others
8 who are on fixed incomes.

9 So, that is my statement.

10 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER FRIEDEMANN: Thank you.

12 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: That is the end
13 of the list of those who have signed up ahead of
14 time. I don't see any other additional members
15 of the public, but if anybody would like to make
16 a statement.

17 Seeing no one, I will thank
18 everybody for coming out tonight. And
19 the Commission will consider everything that was
20 said this evening.

21 If you wish to submit further
22 comments you may do so online or by mail.
23 Again, be sure to reference the Case No.
24 18-298-GA-AIR.

25 We are adjourned. Everyone have a

1 good evening. Thank you.

2 (At 6:15 P.M. the hearing was
3 concluded)

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6 CERTIFICATE

7 I do hereby certify that the foregoing
8 is a true and correct transcript of the
9 proceedings taken by me in this matter on
November 28, 2018, and carefully compared with
my original stenographic notes.

10 Michael O. Spencer
11 Michael O. Spencer,
12 Registered Professional
13 Reporter.

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This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 18-0049-GA-ALT, 18-0298-GA-AIR, 18-0299-GA-ALT

Summary: Transcript In the Matter of the Application of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc., for Approval of an Alternative Rate Plan; In the Matter of the Application of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc., for Approval of an Increase in Gas Rates and In the Matter of Application of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc., for Approval of an Alternative Rate Plan, hearing held on November 28th, 2018. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Spencer, Michael O. Mr.