# THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF NORTHEAST OHIO NATURAL GAS CORP. FOR APPROVAL OF A REVISED BILL FORMAT.

**CASE NO. 19-364-GA-UNC** 

# FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on February 27, 2019

### I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the application of Brainard Gas Corp., Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp., Orwell Natural Gas Company, and Spelman Pipeline Holdings, LLC for a new bill format.

## II. DISCUSSION

- {¶ 2} Brainard Gas Corp. (Brainard), Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp. (NEO), and Orwell Natural Gas Company (Orwell) are natural gas companies as defined in R.C. 4905.03 and public utilities as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, are subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.
- {¶ 3} Spelman Pipeline Holdings, LLC (Spelman) is a pipeline company as defined in R.C. 4905.03 and a public utility as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.
- {¶4} Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-13-11(D) provides that a gas or natural gas company proposing a new bill format shall file its proposed bill format with the Commission for approval. If the Commission does not act upon an application for a new bill format approval within 45 days, the proposed bill format shall automatically be approved on the 46th day.

19-364-GA-UNC -2-

{¶5} On September 28, 2018, in Case No. 18-1484-GA-UNC, et al., Brainard, Orwell, Spelman, and NEO (collectively, NEO) filed a joint application seeking approval of a proposed merger of Brainard, Orwell, and Spelman into NEO. The Commission approved the joint application on January 3, 2019, subject to Staff's conditions, which included a requirement that NEO file a new bill format case within 30 days of the date of the Finding and Order. *In re Brainard Gas Corp., Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp., Orwell Natural Gas Co., and Spelman Pipeline Holdings, LLC, Case No.* 18-1484-GA-UNC, et al. (*Merger Case*), Finding and Order (Jan. 3, 2019) at ¶¶ 17, 21.

- [¶ 6] On February 1, 2019, NEO filed an application seeking approval of a new bill format that would be used for NEO's customers, including customers formerly served by Brainard and Orwell. NEO notes that, following the issuance of the Finding and Order in the *Merger Case*, NEO has worked with Staff to develop a new bill format that is consistent with the Commission's rules. NEO further notes that its proposed bill format, which incorporates all of Staff's comments, is attached to the application. NEO requests that the Commission approve the proposed bill format before March 1, 2019, in advance of the expiration of the 45-day period set forth in Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-13-11(D), as it would be difficult for NEO to switch bill formats during the middle of the month.
- $\{\P\ 7\}$  The Commission finds that NEO's application for approval of a new bill format is reasonable and should be approved.

#### III. ORDER

- $\{\P 8\}$  It is, therefore,
- {¶ 9} ORDERED, That NEO's application for approval of a new bill format be approved. It is, further,

19-364-GA-UNC -3-

 $\P$  10 $\}$  ORDERED, That a copy of this Finding and Order be served upon all interested persons and parties of record.

# THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

Asim Z. Haque, Chairman

M. Beth Trombold

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Lawrence K. Friedeman

Thomas W. Johnson

Daniel R. Conway

SJP/sc

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Tanowa M. Troupe Secretary