BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of Suburban)	
Natural Gas Company for Approval of an)	Case No. 19-1272-GA-RDR
Adjustment to the Infrastructure Replacement)	
Program Rider.)	

APPLICATION OF SUBURBAN NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF AN ADJUSTMENT TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM RIDER

Pursuant to the September 15, 2009 Finding and Order issued in Case No. 09-573-GA-UNC, Suburban Natural Gas Company (Suburban) respectfully requests that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (Commission) approve an adjustment to Suburban's Infrastructure Replacement Program (IRP) Rider reflecting costs associated with capital investments already made by Suburban relating to prone-to-fail risers, and repair and replacement of leaking customer service lines through June 30, 2015.

In support of the Application, Suburban states the following:

1. Suburban is a public utility and natural gas company within the definitions of Sections 4905.02 and 4905.03(E), Revised Code, and as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission pursuant to Sections 4905.04, 4905.05, and 4905.06, Revised Code.

In the Matter of the Application of Suburban Natural Gas Company for Approval of an Infrastructure Replacement Plan and Related Matters, Case No. 09-573-GA-UNC, Finding and Order at 5 (Sept. 15, 2009) (2009 IRP Order).

- 2. Suburban currently provides natural gas service in Ohio to approximately 17,793 residential and commercial customers in Henry, Wood, Delaware, and Marion Counties. Suburban also serves a few transportation customers under a Transportation Service tariff or special arrangements approved by the Commission.
- 3. On June 1, 2009, pursuant to the March 19, 2008 Opinion and Order in Case Nos. 07-689-GA-AIR, et al., Suburban filed an amended plan for the timely replacement of prone-to-fail risers and a plan for the assumption of responsibilities associated with the installation, repair, replacement, and maintenance of customer services lines (i.e., IRP program).
- 4. On September 15, 2009, the Commission approved Suburban's IRP program and the recovery of the costs associated with the IRP in Case No. 09-573-GA-UNC.²
- 5. At the time of the Commission's approval in that case, Suburban estimated that the IRP charge to customers would be \$0.29, \$0.58, \$0.84, \$1.10, \$0.92, \$0.75 and \$0.60 per month, per customer, in years one through seven, respectively.
- 6. The approved IRP program requires that Suburban annually file an application to update its IRP Rider by August 31 of each year. Accordingly, by this Application, Suburban requests that the Commission approve a decrease in Suburban's IRP Rider from \$0.18 per month, per customer, to \$0.17 per month, per customer.

2

² 2009 IRP Order at 5.

- 7. The 2009 IRP Order also required Suburban to submit, upon completion of its riser replacement program, an application regarding the reasonableness of accelerated replacement of unprotected mains (AMRP).³ The riser replacement program has now been completed.
- 8. In Case No. 15-1048-GA-RDR, the Commission issued an Opinion and Order on October 28, 2015 that concluded that the AMRP was no longer necessary.⁴ The Order further stated that Suburban's IRP Rider will reflect costs associated with capital investments already made by Suburban relating to prone-to-fail risers, and repair and replacement of leaking customer service lines through June 30, 2015.⁵ Finally, the 2015 IRP Order stated that the IRP Rider will be in effect through October 31, 2020.⁶
- 9. In Case Nos. 18-1205-GA-AIR, et al., Suburban filed an application to increase its rates.⁷ Through the settlement filed in that case on May 23, 2019, the Signatory Parties agreed that, with the approval of the settlement, the remaining costs associated with capital

³ 2009 IRP Order at 5 ("We also conclude that the reasonableness of accelerating the replacement of unprotected mains should be reconsidered at the conclusion of the riser replacement portion of the plan. Therefore, at that time, Suburban is directed to file an application relating to this issue.").

In the Matter of the Application of Suburban Natural Gas Company for Approval of an Adjustment to the Infrastructure Replacement Program Rider, Case No. 15-1048-GA-RDR, Opinion and Order at 6 (October 28, 2015) (2015 IRP Order).

⁵ 2015 IRP Order at 5.

²⁰¹⁵ IRP Order at 6: "Suburban will continue to use the IRP rider through October 31, 2020. The IRP rider will be employed in two ways. First, it will be used to collect the remaining balance of the 50 percent portion of the capital investment by the Company associated with previously completed riser replacement and replacement of leaky customer service lines, which was excluded from plant accounts and subject to accelerated recovery, including cost of debt, and will be amortized over four years. Second, Suburban will use the IRP rider to collect revenues associated with the expense incurred for the 50 percent portion of the capital investment, including return at the rate approved in the 2007 Rate Case, associated with previously completed replacement of prone-to-fail risers and leaking customer service lines, which was included in the appropriate plant accounts and not eligible for accelerated recovery."

In the Matter for the Application of Suburban Natural Gas Company for an Increase in Gas Distribution Rates, Case Nos. 18-1205-GA-AIR, et al., Application (August 31, 2018).

investments already made by Suburban relating to the IRP program (prone-to-fail risers, and repair and replacement of leaking customer service lines through June 30, 2015) will be folded into and recovered through base distribution rates. If the remaining IRP program costs are recovered through base distribution rates, there will no longer be a need to continue the IRP Rider for the final year of the IRP Program. Therefore, upon approval of the settlement and base distribution rate increase and subject to final reconciliation, the IRP Rider will be eliminated and the charge will be reduced to \$0.00.

- 10. The direct testimony of Nichole M. Clement, CPA, is provided on behalf of Suburban to support the cost-calculation exhibits for the proposed IRP Rider adjustment, as well as its future elimination.
- 11. In addition to the direct testimony of Ms. Clement, Suburban hereby submits the following schedules and exhibits supporting its request to adjust its IRP Rider:
 - a. Schedules A-1, A-2, and A-3 supporting Suburban's IRP Rider rate calculation; and
 - b. Schedules B-1 and B-2, demonstrating the proposed changes to Suburban's IRP Rider tariff sheet, and Suburban's proposed IRP Rider tariff sheet with the changes accepted.

Respectfully Submitted,

<u>/s/ Kimberly W. Bojko</u>

Kimberly W. Bojko (0069402) (Counsel of Record)

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Paul@carpenterlipps.com

(willing to accept service by email)

Counsel for Suburban Natural Gas Company

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Application of Suburban Natural Gas Company for Approval of an Adjustment to the Infrastructure Replacement Program Rider was served upon the following via electronic mail on August 30, 2019.

/s/ Kimberly W. Bojko Kimberly W. Bojko

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Thomas Lindgren
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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Application of)	
Suburban Natural Gas Company for an)	Case No. 19-1272-GA-RDR
Adjustment to the Infrastructure)	
Replacement Program Rider)	

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF NICHOLE M. CLEMENT

On Behalf of

THE SUBURBAN NATURAL GAS COMPANY

1 I. INTRODUCTION

- 2 Q. Please state your name and business address.
- 3 A. Nichole M. Clement, 551 Lake Cascades Parkway, Findlay, Ohio 45840.
- 4 Q. By whom are you employed and in what capacity?
- 5 A. Gilmore Jasion Mahler, Ltd. ("GJM"), Certified Public Accountant.
- 6 Q. How long have you been associated with GJM?
- A. Approximately six years. Prior to GJM, I was associated with Pry Professional Group ("Pry")
- 8 for over 18 years. GJM acquired Pry.
- 9 Q. On whose behalf are you offering testimony in this proceeding?
- 10 A. I have been authorized to appear and testify on behalf of Suburban Natural Gas Company, the
- 11 applicant in this case.
- 12 Q. Please outline your educational background and business experience.
- 13 A. I graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1994 with a degree in Business
- Administration with a specialization in accounting. I received my Certified Public Accountant
- designation in 1998. I have worked with public utility companies at Pry and GJM for the past
- 16 24 years.
- 17 Q. Do you have any experience testifying at the Commission?
- A. Yes. On August 17, 2007, I submitted testimony at the Commission on behalf of Suburban in
- 19 Case Nos. 07-689-GA-AIR, et al., on September 14, 2010 in Case No. 10-763-GA-RDR, on
- 20 August 30, 2011 in Case No. 11- 3234-GA-RDR, on August 30, 2012 in Case No. 12-1698-
- 21 GA-RDR, on August 30, 2013 in Case No. 13-1231-GA-RDR, on August 28, 2014 in Case
- 22 No. 14-1006-GA-RDR, on August 28, 2015 in Case No. 15-1048-GA-RDR, on August 31,

- 1 2016 in Case No. 16-1212-GA-RDR, on April 25, 2017 in Case No. 17-594-GA-ALT, on
- 2 August 24, 2017 in Case No. 17-1371-GA-RDR, on August 30, 2018 in Case 18-0977-GA-
- RDR and on September 14, 2018 in Case Nos. 18-1205-GA-AIR, et al. Also, I am generally
- familiar with the ratemaking process and the accounting practices of public utilities.

5 Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

- 6 A. The purpose of my testimony is to support Suburban's Infrastructure Replacement Plan
- 7 ("IRP") Rider. I will describe how Suburban calculated the cost of such efforts as set forth in
- 8 Schedules A-1, A-2, and A-3.

9 Q. Are you sponsoring any part of the Application?

10 A. Yes. I am sponsoring Schedules A-1, A-2, and A-3.

11 II. SUBURBAN'S INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PLAN

12 Q. What are the costs Suburban is recovering through Rider IRP?

- 13 A. In Case No. 09-573-GA-UNC, the Commission approved Suburban's plan for timely
- replacement of prone-to-fail risers and a plan for the assumption of the responsibilities
- associated with installation, repair, replacement, and maintenance of customer service lines
- through the IRP program. In that case, the Commission also approved the recovery of costs
- associated with the IRP through the IRP Rider. When the IRP was approved, Suburban
- estimated that the incremental costs of the IRP would be approximately \$252,000 per year.

Q. Has Suburban completed implementing the IRP?

19

- 20 A. Yes, in October 2009, Suburban began replacing aging service lines at various locations
- 21 throughout its service territory and replacing prone-to-fail customer risers. As noted in the
- Commission's October 28, 2015, Opinion and Order in Case No. 15-1048-GA-RDR, Suburban

- 1 completed the program for replacement of prone-to-fail risers and no additional costs
- 2 associated with the program remain to be added to Suburban's IRP Rider. Moving forward,
- 3 the IRP Rider reflects costs associated with capital investments already made by Suburban
- 4 relating to prone-to-fail risers, and repair and replacement of leaking customer service lines
- 5 through June 30, 2015. The Order further stated that the IRP Rider will be in effect through
- 6 October 31, 2020.

7 Q. What is the current rate that customers are being charged under the IRP Rider?

- 8 A. Customers are now charged \$0.18 per customer per month for the IRP Rider.
- 9 Q. What is the new rate you are proposing for IRP Rider?
- 10 A. \$0.17 per customer per month.
- Q. How was the \$0.17 customer charge calculated for the tenth year of the IRP Rider?
- 12 A. The calculation was based on actual data for July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019 and estimated
- data for July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. The basis of the calculation is that approved in
- 14 Case No. 09-573-GA-UNC.
- 15 Q. In your opinion is a \$0.17 customer charge reasonable?
- 16 A. Yes. As you can see from Schedules A-1, A-2, and A-3 of the Application, \$0.17 is a
- 17 reasonable charge for year ten of the IRP Rider and thus should be approved by the
- 18 Commission.
- 19 Q. Will Suburban's pending rate case affect the IRP Rider and charge to customers?
- A. Yes. Upon approval of the pending rate case settlement and subject to final reconciliation, the
- 21 IRP Rider will be eliminated and the customer charge will be reduced to \$0.00 as the remaining
- costs associated with capital investments already made by Suburban relating to prone-to-fail

Direct Testimony of Nichole M. Clement Case No. 19-1272-GA-RDR

- risers, and repair and replacement of leaking customer service lines through June 30, 2015 will
- 2 be folded into and recovered through base distribution rates.
- 3 Q. Does this conclude your testimony?
- 4 A. Yes, it does.

Suburban Natural Gas Company
Indrastructure Replacement Program and Ridor
Replacement of Service Lines and Risors - Combined Effect
For the period July 2018 to June 2019 (12 months actual)

38070	38060	Account
IRP Risers	IRP Service Lines	Account Description

Total

50% of Replacement Cost Financed (taken out of rate base)
{recovered over 4 years (cost 50% / 4 years)
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Fourth Month Expenditure

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Schedule A-1 Page 2 of 3

Page 3 of	Schedule A-
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Projected Revised Rate	Estimated Number of Custamers	Revised Amount to Be Recovered through Rider	Year 11 Total Amount to Be Recovered through Rider	Net Over/Under recovered for Twelve Months Ended 6/30/19	Net OverlUnder recovered at 6/30/18	Total Amount that Was Billed Ihrough Rider to Customers	Total Amount to Be Recovered through Rider	Return on Equity (based upon approved 8,97% from rate case)	Account Account Description Forty-Seventh Month Expanditure Forty-Eighth Month Expanditure Forty-Lighth Month Expanditure Frity-Frist Month Expanditure Frity-Frith Month Expanditure Frity-Frith Month Expanditure Frity-Frith Month Expanditure Frity-Frith Month Expanditure Frity-Frist Month Expanditure Frity-Frist Month Expanditure Frity-Frist Month Expanditure Frity-Frith Month Expanditure	
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\$ 0.17	17,793	\$ 35,634.19	\$ 32,666,43	S 150.90	\$ 2,816.85					

Suburban Natural Gas Company Infrastructure Replacement Program and Rider Cost of Debt Calculation For the period July 2018 to June 2019 (12 months actual)

Interest to be Recoverer	Cost of Debt Per LOC	Ending Balance	Amount Repaid (collected through rider - 1 mo. lag)	Amount Borrowed	Beginning Balance
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0.47	2669%	125.92	29.72	,	Actual Actual Nov 2018 Dec 2018 Month 110 Month 11: \$ 155.64 \$ 125.92
€9	4.07	€9	€	↔	∯ Mor
0.39	6531%	101.41	24.51	ı	ctual c 2018 nth 111 125.92
↔	4.6	↔	છ	લ્સ	چ Mor A ai A
0.32	3694%	82.97	18.44	1	Actual Jan 2019 Month 112 \$ 101.41
↔	4.7		€9	↔	Feb S
0.26	6113%	64.53	18.44	•	Actual eb 2019 onth 113 82.97
\$	4.7	↔	€	(A	Mar Mon
0.18	6688%	46.09	18.44	ı	Actual Mar 2019 Month 114 \$ 64.53
↔	4.7	€9	€9	4	Apr.
0.26 \$ 0.18 \$ 0.11 \$ 0.04 \$ (0.00	1.76113% 4.76688% 4.74275% 4.72163% 4.71275%	64.53 \$ 46.09 \$ 27.66 \$ 9.22 \$ (0.00)	18.44 \$ 18.44 \$ 18.44 \$ 18.44 \$ 9.22	1	Actual Actual Actual Actual Actual Feb 2019 Mar 2019 April 2019 May 2019 June 2019 Month 113 Month 114 Month 115 Month 116 Month 117 \$ 82.97 \$ 64.53 \$ 46.09 \$ 27.66 \$ 9.22
43	4.7	G	€9	ક્ક	May Mon
0.04	2163%	9.22	18.44	•	Actual May 2019 Month 116 \$ 27.66
↔	4.7	69	€9	↔	Actual June 20 Month 1 \$ 9.2
(0.00)	1275%	(0.00)	9.22	ı	ctual e 2019 th 117 9.22

Suburban Natural Gas Company Infrastructure Replacement Program and Rider Rate of Return For the period July 2018 to June 2019 (12 months actual)

	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
	July 2018 Month 106	July 2018 Aug 2018 Month 106 Month 107	Sept 2018 Oct 2018 Month 108 Month 109	Oct 2018 Month 109	Nov 2018 Month 110	Dec 2018 Jan 2019 Month 111 Month 112		Feb 2019 Month 113	Mar 2019 Month 114	April 2019 Month 115	May 2019 Month 116	June 2019 Month 117
Beginning Balance	\$ 287,801.84	\$287,801.84 \$287,174.70 \$286,547.57 \$285,920.43 \$285,293.29 \$284,666.15 \$284,039.01 \$283,411.87 \$282,784.74 \$282,157.60 \$281,530.46 \$280,903.32	\$ 286,547.57	\$ 285,920,43	\$ 285,293.29	\$ 284,666,15	\$ 284,039,01	\$283,411.87	\$ 282 784 74	\$ 282,157.60	\$ 281,530,46	\$280,903.32
Amount Expended	69	€9	\$	S	S	↔	ω	<i>ι</i>	€7 !	s I	ς» ,	↔
Amount Repaid (collected through rider - 1 yr. tag)	\$ 627.14	627.14 \$ 627.14 \$ 627.14 \$ 627.14 \$ 627.14 \$ 627.14 \$ 627.1	\$ 627.14	\$ 627.14	S 627.14	\$ 627,14	\$ 627.14	\$ 627.14	4 \$ 627.14	627.14 \$ 627.14 \$ 627.14 \$ 627.14	\$ 627.14	\$ 627.14
Ending Balance	\$287,174.70	\$287,174.70 \$286,547.57 \$285,920.43 \$285,293.29 \$284,666.15 \$284,039.01 \$283,411.87 \$282,784.74	\$ 285,920.43	\$ 285,293.29	\$ 284,666.15	\$284,039.01	\$283,411.87		\$282,157.60	\$282,157.60 \$281,530.46 \$280,903.32 \$280,276.11	\$280,903.32	\$280,276.18
Allowable Rate of Return	8.970%	% 8.970%	8.970%	8.970%	8.970%	8.970%	8.970%	8,970%	8.970%	8.970%	8,970%	8.970%
Return on Equity	\$ 2,146.63	\$ 2,146.63 \$ 2,141.94 \$ 2,137.26 \$ 2,132.57 \$ 2,127.88 \$ 2,123.19 \$ 2,118.50 \$ 2,113.82 \$ 2,109.13 \$ 2,104.44 \$ 2,099.75 \$ 2,095.01	\$ 2,137.26	S 2,132.57	\$ 2,127.88	\$ 2,123.19	\$ 2,118,50	\$ 2,113.82	\$ 2,109.13	\$ 2,104.44	S 2,099.75	\$ 2,095.06

Original Sheet No. 9 Page 2 of 7

P.U.C.O. NO. 4 (Cancels P.U.C.O. No. 3) Tariff for Natural Gas Service

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF **NATURAL GAS**

Infrastructure Replacement Program Rider

Applicability:

Applicable to all Customers. Customers served under all rate schedules.

Description:

An additional charge per month per account, regardless of gas consumed, to recover costs associated with Suburban's Customer notification and education and the repair or replacement of service lines as specified in the Company's IRP Plan filed with the PUCO. This Rider shall be calculated annually pursuant to a notice filed no later than May 31 of each year based on nine months of actual data and three months of estimated data for the reporting year. The filing shall be updated no later than August 31 of the same year to reflect the use of actual reporting year data. Such adjustments to the Rider will become effective with bills rendered on November 1 of each year.

This Rider is subject to reconciliation or adjustment, including but not limited to, increases or refunds. Such reconciliation or adjustment shall be limited to the twelve-month period of expenditures upon which the rates were calculated, if determined to be unlawful, unreasonable, or imprudent by the Commission in the docket those rates were approved or the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Rate:

\$0.1817 per Month

Issued: 10/24/2018XX/XX/2019 Effective: 10/24/2019XX/XX/2019

> In accordance with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Opinion and Order and subsequent authority

Order Dated: 10/24/2018 XX/XX/2019 Case Nos. 19-127218-977-GA-RDR

P.U.C.O. NO. 4 (Cancels P.U.C.O. No. 3) Tariff for Natural Gas Service

RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF **NATURAL GAS**

Infrastructure Replacement Program Rider

Applicability:

Applicable to Customers served under all rate schedules.

Description:

An additional charge per month per account, regardless of gas consumed, to recover costs associated with Suburban's Customer notification and education and the repair or replacement of service lines as specified in the Company's IRP Plan filed with the PUCO. This Rider shall be calculated annually pursuant to a notice filed no later than May 31 of each year based on nine months of actual data and three months of estimated data for the reporting year. The filing shall be updated no later than August 31 of the same year to reflect the use of actual reporting year data. Such adjustments to the Rider will become effective with bills rendered on November 1 of each year.

This Rider is subject to reconciliation or adjustment, including but not limited to, increases or refunds. Such reconciliation or adjustment shall be limited to the twelve-month period of expenditures upon which the rates were calculated, if determined to be unlawful, unreasonable, or imprudent by the Commission in the docket those rates were approved or the Supreme Court of Ohio.

Rate:

\$0.17 per Month

Issued: XX/XX/2019

Effective: XX/XX/2019

In accordance with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Opinion and Order and subsequent authority

Order Dated: XX/XX/2019

Case Nos. 19-1272-GA-RDR

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

8/30/2019 11:56:43 AM

in

Case No(s). 19-1272-GA-RDR

Summary: Application of Suburban Natural Gas Co. for Approval of an Adjustment to the Infrastructure Replacement Program Rider electronically filed by Mrs. Kimberly W. Bojko on behalf of Suburban Natural Gas Co.