

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
SUBURBAN NATURAL GAS COMPANY FOR  
AN ADJUSTMENT TO ITS INFRASTRUCTURE  
REPLACEMENT PROGRAM RIDER.

CASE NO. 19-1272-GA-RDR

### ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on September 4, 2019

{¶ 1} Suburban Natural Gas Company (Suburban) 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 the Commission pursuant to R.C. 4905.04, 4905.05, and 4905.06. Suburban provides natural gas service to approximately 17,793 residential and commercial customers in Henry, Wood, Delaware, and Marion counties, Ohio. Suburban also serves a small number of transportation customers under a transportation service tariff or special arrangements approved by the Commission.

{¶ 2} In Case No. 07-689-GA-AIR, the Commission authorized Suburban, among other things, to establish an infrastructure replacement program (IRP) rider at a zero-dollar level. *In re Suburban Natural Gas Co.*, Case No. 07-689-GA-AIR (2007 Rate Case), Opinion and Order (Mar. 19, 2008).

{¶ 3} In Case No. 09-573-GA-UNC, the Commission approved Suburban's IRP. *In re Suburban Natural Gas Co.*, Case No. 09-573-GA-UNC (2009 IRP Case), Finding and Order (Sept. 15, 2009). Suburban's IRP provides for the accelerated replacement of aging pipelines and timely replacement of prone-to-fail risers, as well as Suburban's assumption of responsibilities associated with the installation, repair, and maintenance of customer service lines. The Commission directed that Suburban complete replacement of all prone-to-fail risers within four years of the date of the Finding and Order. Under the terms of the IRP, Suburban will recover 50 percent of the program's cost, with a return based on Suburban's cost of debt, on an accelerated basis, over a four-year period. The amounts subject to accelerated recovery will be accounted for as a deduction from rate base, as adjustments to

the appropriate plant-in-service accounts. The remaining 50 percent of the cost will be accounted for in the appropriate plant-in-service and expense accounts, while associated revenue, including a return based on the return on equity determined in the *2007 Rate Case*, will be recovered through the IRP rider. Pursuant to the approved IRP, Suburban must submit an application to recover the costs associated with the IRP by August 31 of each year. In addition, Suburban must file a prefiling notice by May 31 of each year.

{¶ 4} In accordance with the procedure approved by the Commission in the *2009 IRP Case*, Suburban filed its prefiling notice on May 31, 2019, in the above-captioned case.

{¶ 5} On August 30, 2019, Suburban filed its application to adjust its IRP rider, reflecting costs associated with capital investments made by Suburban during the period of July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019.

{¶ 6} In order to accomplish the review of Suburban's proposed adjustment to its IRP rider, the attorney examiner finds that the following procedural schedule should be established:

- (a) September 12, 2019—Deadline for the filing of motions to intervene.
- (b) September 19, 2019—Deadline for Staff and intervenors to file comments on the application.
- (c) September 23, 2019—Deadline for Suburban to file a statement informing the Commission whether the issues raised in the comments have been resolved.
- (d) In the event that all of the issues raised in the comments are not resolved, a hearing will be held and the deadline for the filing of all expert testimony will be October 7, 2019.

- (e) In the event all of the issues raised in the comments are not resolved or a stipulation is entered into by the parties, a hearing will commence on October 15, 2019, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-C, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

{¶ 7} In light of the time frame for this proceeding, the attorney examiner requires that, in the event any motion is made in this proceeding prior to the issuance of the Commission's order, any memorandum contra shall be filed within five business days after the service of such motion, and a reply memorandum to any memorandum contra shall be filed within three business days. Parties shall provide service of pleadings via hand delivery, facsimile, or e-mail.

{¶ 8} In addition, the attorney examiner finds that the response time for discovery shall be shortened to seven calendar days. Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, discovery requests and replies shall be served by hand delivery, facsimile, or e-mail. An attorney serving a discovery request shall attempt to contact, in advance, the attorney upon whom the discovery request will be served to advise him/her that a request will be forthcoming.

{¶ 9} Finally, the attorney examiner acknowledges that Suburban has a currently pending application to increase its rates in Case Nos. 18-1205-GA-AIR, et al. A stipulation was filed in that case on May 23, 2019, and if it is approved, the remaining costs associated with IRP investments already made by Suburban would be folded into and recovered through base distribution rates. Consequently, the IRP rider at issue in this matter would be eliminated and the charge would be reduced to \$0.00.

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule set forth in Paragraph 6 be adopted.  
It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That the parties adhere to the processes established in Paragraphs 7 and 8. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties and interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/Anna Sanyal

By: Anna Sanyal  
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/hac

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

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

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry setting forth procedural schedule and ordering processes set forth be adhered to electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Anna Sanyal, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission