

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
SUBURBAN NATURAL GAS COMPANY
FOR APPROVAL TO ADJUST ITS ENERGY
EFFICIENCY PROGRAM RIDER RATE.

CASE NO. 20-353-GA-RDR

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on April 22, 2020

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the application of Suburban Natural Gas Company to adjust its Rider Energy Efficiency Program rate.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Suburban Natural Gas Company (Suburban or Company) is a natural gas 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.

{¶ 3} On November 1, 2017, in Case No. 17-594-GA-ALT, pursuant to R.C. 4929.05, 4929.051, and 4909.18, the Commission approved Suburban's alternative rate plan application, subject to certain modifications, to implement a revenue decoupling mechanism with a straight fixed variable rate design, to be phased in over a two-year period, including a commitment by Suburban to file, in a new docket, an Energy Efficiency Program (EEP) pilot application to weatherize the residences of Suburban's high-usage Percentage of Income Payment Plan-Plus customers and the associated cost recovery mechanism. The rider, Rider EEP, was initially set at a rate of zero. *In re Suburban Natural Gas Co.*, Case No. 17-594-GA-ALT, Finding and Order (Nov. 1, 2017).

{¶ 4} On March 16, 2018, in Case No. 18-376-GA-RDR, Suburban filed its application for an EEP pilot and Rider EEP mechanism. On November 7, 2018, the Commission approved Suburban's application to establish the EEP pilot and set the Rider EEP rate at \$0.3431 per month applicable to the Company's Small General Service rate schedule

accounts. *In re Suburban Natural Gas Co.*, Case No. 18-376-GA-RDR (*EEP Case*), Finding and Order (Nov. 7, 2018).

{¶ 5} On February 3, 2020, in the above-captioned case, Suburban filed an application to adjust the Rider EEP rate. In the application, Suburban acknowledges that, in accordance with the Commission's order in the *EEP Case*, the EEP rider is subject to annual reconciliation, including, but not limited to, increases or refunds based on the results of audits ordered by the Commission. *EEP Case* at ¶ 15. Suburban proposes a reconciliation adjustment, decreasing its Rider EEP from \$0.3431 to \$0.0574 per month applicable to Small General Service rate schedule accounts. Suburban notes that, although the projected annual EEP pilot costs were estimated to be \$70,000 for the first year, total expenditures were \$13,445. Total Rider EEP collections from customers for the first year were \$71,258, resulting in an over-collection of \$57,813. Suburban expects the second year EEP pilot program costs to be \$70,000 and calculates the Rider EEP rate, net of the over-collection, to be \$0.0574 per month applicable to Small General Service rate schedule accounts. Suburban states that one EEP weatherization project was completed in the first year of the EEP pilot, which included a furnace replacement. In addition to the EEP funding, the Home Weatherization Assistance Program (HWAP) contributed to the cost of the project, which reduced the overall cost incurred by the EEP pilot.

{¶ 6} On March 11, 2020, Staff filed its review and recommendations. Staff reviewed Suburban's EEP application, attached exhibits, proposed tariff language, and rate calculations. Staff confirmed that Suburban's Rider EEP rate calculations were accurate. Based on Staff's review, Staff recommends that Suburban's application to adjust the Rider EEP rate to \$0.0574 per bill each month be approved.

{¶ 7} After reviewing the application and Staff's review and recommendations, the Commission finds that the reconciliation of Suburban's Rider EEP is reasonable and should be approved. Further, the Commission finds that no hearing is required in this case.

III. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That Suburban's application to adjust the Rider EEP rate to \$0.0574 per month applicable to Small General Service rate schedule accounts be approved. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That Suburban be authorized to file tariffs, in final form, consistent with this Finding and Order. Suburban shall file one copy in this case docket and one copy in its TRF docket. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the effective date of the new tariffs shall be a date not earlier than the date upon which the final tariff pages are filed with the Commission. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That Suburban shall notify all affected customers via a bill message or bill insert within 30 days of the effective date of the tariffs. A copy of the customer notice shall be submitted to the Commission's Service Monitoring and Enforcement Department, Reliability and Service Analysis Division, at least ten days prior to its distribution to customers. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That nothing in this Finding and Order shall be binding upon the Commission in any future proceeding or investigation involving the justness or reasonableness of any rate, charge, rule, or regulation. It is, further,

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

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

Sam Randazzo, Chairman

M. Beth Trombold

Lawrence K. Friedeman

Daniel R. Conway

Dennis P. Deters

GNS/hac

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Case No(s). 20-0353-GA-RDR

Summary: Finding & Order approving the application of Suburban Natural Gas Company to adjust its Rider Energy Efficiency Program rate electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio