

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
CROWN ENERGY SERVICES, INC. FOR  
CERTIFICATION AS A COMPETITIVE  
RETAIL NATURAL GAS MARKETER IN  
OHIO.

CASE No. 20-645-GA-CRS

### ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on June 29, 2020

{¶ 1} R.C. 4929.20 provides that competitive retail natural gas service (CRNGS) providers must be certified by the Commission. Pursuant to R.C. 4929.20, and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-27-10, an application for certification shall be deemed approved 30 days after the filing of the application, unless the Commission suspends such approval. If the application is suspended, R.C. 4929.20 provides that the Commission shall act to approve or deny the application within 90 days after the date of suspension.

{¶ 2} On March 23, 2020, Crown Energy Services, Inc. (CES) filed an application as a CRNGS marketer in Ohio.

{¶ 3} On March 9, 2020, the governor signed Executive Order 2020-01D (Executive Order), declaring a state of emergency in Ohio to protect the well-being of Ohioans from the dangerous effects of COVID-19. As described in the Executive Order, state agencies are required to implement procedures consistent with recommendations from the Department of Health to prevent or alleviate the public health threat associated with COVID-19. Additionally, all citizens are urged to heed the advice of the Department of Health regarding this public health emergency in order to protect their health and safety. The Executive Order was effective immediately and will remain in effect until the COVID-19 emergency no longer exists. The Department of Health is making COVID-19 information, including information on preventative measures, available via the internet at [coronavirus.ohio.gov/](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/).

{¶ 4} On March 16, 2020, an attorney examiner issued an Entry in Case No. 20-591-AU-UNC, directing that any time period prescribed by order, statute, or rule for the Commission to act upon a pending application or other filing should be tolled during the

state of emergency and also during the 14 days thereafter. Further, the attorney examiner indicated that, during the declared emergency, Staff would continue to investigate pending applications and the Commission would act on such applications on a case-by-case basis. *In re the Proper Procedures and Process for the Commission's Operations and Proceedings During the Declared State of Emergency and Related Matters*, Case No. 20-591-AU-UNC, Entry (Mar. 16, 2020) at ¶ 5.

{¶ 5} The application filed in the above-captioned proceeding was, thus, subject to the March 16, 2020 Entry and suspended from automatic approval during the state of emergency.

{¶ 6} On May 20, 2020, although the state of emergency remains in effect, the attorney examiner found that the tolling directive in the March 16, 2020 Entry should be modified and lifted, in order to ensure the orderly flow of the Commission's business. Accordingly, the tolling of any time period prescribed by order, statute, or rule for the Commission to act upon a pending application or other filing was terminated effective June 1, 2020. *In re the Proper Procedures and Process for the Commission's Operations and Proceedings During the Declared State of Emergency and Related Matters*, Case No. 20-591-AU-UNC (May 20, 2020) at ¶ 6.

{¶ 7} Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-27-10 provides that, upon good cause shown, an attorney examiner may suspend consideration of an application to provide CRNGS.

{¶ 8} Given that the tolling directive has been lifted as indicated in Paragraph 6, the attorney examiner finds that, for the Commission and Staff to further review the above-captioned case, CES's CRNGS application should be suspended until the Commission specifically orders otherwise.

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That approval of CES's CRNGS application be suspended until the Commission specifically orders otherwise. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/James M. Lynn

By: James M. Lynn  
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/hac

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

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**in**

**Case No(s). 20-0645-GA-CRS**

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry suspending approval of CES's CRNGS application electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of James M. Lynn, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission