

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGULATION OF
THE PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT
CLAUSE CONTAINED WITHIN THE RATE
SCHEDULE OF PIEDMONT GAS
COMPANY
AND RELATED MATTERS.

CASE NO. 20-213-GA-GCR

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNCOLLECTIBLE
EXPENSE RIDER OF PIEDMONT GAS
COMPANY AND RELATED MATTERS.

CASE NO. 20-313-GA-UEX

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on July 8, 2020

{¶ 1} Piedmont Gas Company (Piedmont) 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 this Commission.

{¶ 2} R.C. 4905.302 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07 provide that the Commission shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, periodic audits of each gas or natural gas company under the Commission's jurisdiction. Such audits shall review each company's compliance with the gas cost recovery (GCR) mechanism as delineated in Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-14.

{¶ 3} Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08 provides that the Commission shall hold a public hearing at least 60 days after the filing of each GCR audit report required under Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07. Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08(C) specifies the requirement for notice of a GCR hearing, which each company should cause to be published between 15 and 30 days prior to the date set for its hearing. The notice may be provided by publication of a display ad in a newspaper (in a section other than the legal notice section), bill message, bill insert, or direct mailing to the customers.

{¶ 4} In a January 29, 2020 Entry, the Commission initiated the GCR financial audit for Piedmont for the period December 1, 2017, to November 30, 2019. Additionally, the Entry scheduled a hearing to occur on June 30, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., at the offices of the

Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Hearing Room 11-C, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793. Piedmont was also directed to provide notice of its GCR hearing in accordance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08(C) and the Entry.

{¶ 5} 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/.

{¶ 6} Pursuant to R.C. 3701.13, the Ohio Department of Health has supervision of “all matters relating to the preservation of the life and health of the people” and the “ultimate authority in matters of quarantine and isolation.” On March 12, 2020, the Director of the Ohio Department of Health issued an Order indicating that “all persons are urged to maintain social distancing (approximately six feet away from other people) whenever possible.”

{¶ 7} By Entry dated June 9, 2020, the attorney examiner rescheduled the hearing for August 13, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. The attorney examiner noted that the hearing would be held at the offices of the Commission, unless otherwise ordered.

{¶ 8} At this time, the attorney examiner notes that the hearing in this matter will occur, as currently scheduled, on August 13, 2020. However, due to the continued state of emergency, and given the passage of Am. Sub. H.B. 197, the hearing will be held using remote access technology, as follows:

- (a) The hearing will be held on August 13, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., and will be conducted through Webex, which will enable the parties and interested persons to participate by telephone and/or video on the internet.
- (b) Access information for the hearing will be provided to the parties at their electronic mail address of record.
- (c) Interested members of the public that wish to provide testimony or that plan to join the Webex event must register with the Commission before 12:00 p.m. on August 12, 2020, at <https://bit.ly/20-213> or by calling the Commission at 1-800-686-7826. Interested individuals will be required to provide their full name, home address, telephone number, and electronic mail address, if available; state that they wish to register for the hearing in Case No. 20-213-GA-GCR; specify whether they plan to join the Webex event by internet or by telephone; and indicate whether they intend to offer testimony. Individuals that plan to attend the Webex event through internet access must have a computer or smart device with a microphone and speakers, an electronic mail address, and reliable internet service.
- (d) On the day of the hearing, individuals who have registered to testify will be asked to speak beginning shortly after 10:00 a.m., so all those who have registered to testify should be prepared to speak at that time. For individuals who are speaking by telephone, the Commission's staff will contact those individuals by telephone when it is time for their testimony and connect them to the hearing. If access or other issues are experienced during the hearing, individuals should immediately use the chat function

within Webex or contact the Commission's legal department at 1-614-466-6843 for assistance.

- (e) If individuals wish to supplement their testimony with an exhibit for the Commission's consideration, a copy of the document, along with a reference to the case number, must be provided to the Commission by August 12, 2020, by electronic mail to contactPUCO@puco.ohio.gov or by mail to Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.
- (f) Public comments can be provided in writing on the Commission's web site at <https://puco.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/puco/help-center/contact-us>, by electronic mail to contactPUCO@puco.ohio.gov, or by mail to Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215. Written comments should reference the case number for this matter.

{¶ 9} Additionally, the attorney examiner directs Piedmont to modify the notice of its GCR hearing set forth in the January 29, 2020 Entry. Piedmont shall publish notice of the hearing at least 15 days and not more than 30 days prior to the scheduled hearing date. The revised notice should be in substantially the following form.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has set for public hearing Case No. 20-213-GA-GCR to review the gas cost recovery rates of Piedmont Gas Company and the operation of its purchased gas adjustment clause, and related matters. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. on August 13, 2020, using remote access technology that facilitates participation by telephone or live video on the internet. Interested members of the public that wish to provide testimony or that plan to attend

the hearing must register with the Commission before 12:00 p.m. on August 12, 2020, at <https://bit.ly/20-213> or by calling the Commission at 1-800-686-7826. Further information may be obtained by viewing the Commission's web page at www.puco.ohio.gov or contacting the Commission at 1-800-686-7826 or, for speech and hearing impaired customers, 7-1-1.

{¶ 10} It is, therefore,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the hearing in these matters be conducted in accordance with Paragraph 8. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That Piedmont publish legal notice in accordance with Paragraph 9. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon Piedmont and upon all other parties of record in these proceedings.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/James M. Lynn

By: James M. Lynn
Attorney Examiner

NJW/kck

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 20-0213-GA-GCR, 20-0313-GA-UEX

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that the hearing in this matter will occur, as currently scheduled, on 8.13.20. However, due to the continued state of emergency, and given the passage of Am. Sub. H.B. 197, the hearing will be held using remote access technology, as follows:

(a) The hearing will be held on August 13, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., and will be conducted through Webex, which will enable the parties and interested persons to participate by telephone and/or video on the internet.

(b) Access information for the hearing will be provided to the parties at their electronic mail address of record.

(c) Interested members of the public that wish to provide testimony or that plan to join the Webex event must register with the Commission before 12:00 p.m. on August 12, 2020, at <https://bit.ly/20-213> or by calling the Commission at 1-800-686-7826. Interested individuals will be required to provide their full name, home address, telephone number, and electronic mail address, if available; state that they wish to register for the hearing in Case No. 20-213-GA-GCR; specify whether they plan to join the Webex event by internet or by telephone; and indicate whether they intend to offer testimony. Individuals that plan to attend the Webex