

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
WATERVILLE GAS & OIL COMPANY FOR
APPROVAL OF AN ADJUSTMENT TO ITS
UNCOLLECTIBLE EXPENSE RIDER RATE.

CASE No. 20-317-GA-UEX

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on July 15, 2020

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the application of Waterville Gas & Oil Company to increase its uncollectible expense rider rate.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Waterville Gas & Oil Company (Waterville 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 this Commission.

{¶ 3} In Waterville's last rate case, the Commission approved a Stipulation and Recommendation, wherein Waterville agreed to, among other things, the establishment of an uncollectible expense (UEX) rider mechanism and the rider rate was initially set at \$0.03 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf). *In re Waterville Gas & Oil Co.*, Case No. 07-194-GA-AIR, Opinion and Order (Nov. 20, 2007) at 7, 9. Since the UEX rider was initially established, Waterville has filed applications to update and adjust its rider rate.

{¶ 4} Most recently, the Commission approved Waterville's application to adjust its UEX rider and established the rate at \$0.0021 per Mcf. *In re Waterville Gas & Oil Co.*, Case No. 19-317-GA-UEX, Finding and Order (Sept. 11, 2019).

{¶ 5} On May 18, 2020, in the above-captioned case, Waterville filed an application to increase its UEX rider rate to \$0.0031 per Mcf, as summarized below:

Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Proposed Increase
\$0.0021 per Mcf	\$0.0031 per Mcf	\$0.0010 per Mcf

The rate is comprised of the balance of deferred uncollectible accounts expense net of recoveries, as of April 30, 2020, and the actual bad debt write-offs for the 12-month period ending April 30, 2020.

{¶ 6} On May 28, 2020, Staff filed its review and recommendation in regard to Waterville's application, recommending approval of the proposed UEX rider rate. Staff reviewed the Company's annual balance of actual uncollectible accounts expense, net of recoveries, as of January 1, 2019, through April 30, 2020, the UEX rider calculation and the revised rider calculation, and the proposed tariff sheets. Staff concluded that Waterville calculated its UEX rider correctly and recommends that its proposed rate of \$0.0031 per Mcf be approved.

{¶ 7} The Commission has reviewed the application, as well as Staff's review and recommendation, and finds that the proposed adjustment to Waterville's UEX rider is reasonable, is in the public interest, and should be approved. Accordingly, the Commission finds that Waterville should be authorized to include the revised UEX rider rate in its tariff, which contains the terms, conditions, and rates the Company applies to the gas service it provides to customers.

III. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That Waterville's application be approved and the Company be authorized to increase the rate for its UEx rider to \$0.0031 per Mcf. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That Waterville is authorized to file tariffs, in final form, consistent with this Finding and Order. Waterville 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 tariff 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 nothing in this Finding and Order shall be binding upon this Commission in any future proceeding or investigation involving the justness or reasonableness of any rate, charge, rule, or regulation. It is, further,

{¶ 13} 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). 20-0317-GA-UEx

Summary: Finding & Order approving the application of Waterville Gas & Oil Company to increase its uncollectible expense rider rate. electronically filed by Ms. Mary E Fischer on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio