THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC. FOR
APPROVAL OF A NATURAL GAS
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE
AGREEMENT

CASE NO. 20-1284-GA-AEC

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on August 26, 2020

I.   SUMMARY

{¶ 1}   The Commission approves the application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for a reasonable arrangement with GenOn Power Midwest, LP for the transportation of natural gas.

II.   DISCUSSION

{¶ 2}   Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia) 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}   R.C. 4905.31 authorizes the Commission to approve schedules or reasonable arrangements between a public utility and one or more of its customers. The statute provides that every such schedule or reasonable arrangement shall be under the supervision and regulation of the Commission, and is subject to change, alteration, or modification by the Commission.

{¶ 4}   On July 16, 2020, Columbia filed an application, pursuant to R.C. 4905.31, seeking approval of a reasonable arrangement under which Columbia would provide transportation of natural gas within the state of Ohio to GenOn Power Midwest, LP (GenOn). GenOn is one of the largest independent power producers in the nation delivering electricity to wholesale customers primarily in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. While Columbia currently serves GenOn under its general transportation service, GenOn needs an additional, interruptible supply of gas. As Columbia does not have an interruptible rate schedule in its tariff, Columbia is required to meet this request through a

special contract. Columbia and GenOn entered into an agreement for Columbia to provide interruptible natural gas transportation service. According to the agreement, a copy of which is attached to Columbia's application, when pressure at GenOn's metering and regulation station is at or below 65 pounds per square inch gauge, the natural gas service will be interrupted and GenOn will use an alternative fuel source to power its equipment. Columbia requests Commission approval of its application, approval of the attached agreement between Columbia and GenOn, and authorization to implement the arrangement described in the application.

{¶ 5}   On August 10, 2020, Staff filed its review and recommendation in response to Columbia's application. Staff states that, following its review of Columbia's application, Staff finds that the application is reasonable and should be approved.

{¶ 6}   Upon review of Columbia's application, as well as Staff's review and recommendation, the Commission finds that the application does not appear to be unjust or unreasonable and should, therefore, be approved. Accordingly, we find that the reasonable arrangement, as pertaining to the transportation of natural gas by Columbia to GenOn, should be approved pursuant to R.C. 4905.31.

III.   ORDER

{¶ 7}   It is, therefore,

{¶ 8}   ORDERED, That Columbia's application be approved. It is, further,

{¶ 9}   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,

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

COMMISSIONERS:
Approving:
   Sam Randazzo, Chairman
   M. Beth Trombold
   Lawrence K. Friedeman
   Daniel R. Conway
   Dennis P. Deters

DMH/kck

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Summary: Finding & Order approving the application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for a reasonable arrangement with GenOn Power Midwest, LP for the transportation of natural gas. electronically filed by Kelli C. King on behalf of The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio