

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGULATION OF
THE PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT
CLAUSE, UNCOLLECTIBLE EXPENSE
RIDER, OR PERCENTAGE OF INCOME
PAYMENT PLAN RIDER OF:

FORAKER GAS COMPANY,
EASTERN NATURAL GAS COMPANY,
GLENWOOD ENERGY OF OXFORD, INC.,
PIKE NATURAL GAS COMPANY,
WATERVILLE GAS AND OIL COMPANY,

CASE No. 20-204-GA-GCR

CASE No. 20-207-GA-GCR

CASE No. 20-210-GA-GCR

CASE No. 20-214-GA-GCR

CASE No. 20-217-GA-GCR

EASTERN NATURAL GAS COMPANY,
GLENWOOD ENERGY OF OXFORD, INC.,
PIKE NATURAL GAS COMPANY,
WATERVILLE GAS AND OIL COMPANY,

CASE No. 20-307-GA-UEX

CASE No. 20-310-GA-UEX

CASE No. 20-314-GA-UEX

CASE No. 20-317-GA-UEX

EASTERN NATURAL GAS COMPANY,
GLENWOOD ENERGY OF OXFORD, INC.,
PIKE NATURAL GAS COMPANY,

CASE No. 20-407-GA-PIP

CASE No. 20-410-GA-PIP

CASE No. 20-414-GA-PIP

AND RELATED MATTERS.

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on February 10, 2021

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission closes gas cost recovery, uncollectible expense, and percentage of income payment plan cases in which there were no audits in 2020.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Foraker Gas Company (Foraker), Eastern Natural Gas Company (Eastern), Glenwood Energy of Oxford, Inc. (Glenwood), Pike Natural Gas Company (Pike), and Waterville Gas and Oil Company (Waterville) are natural gas companies as defined in R.C. 4905.03 and public utilities under R.C. 4905.02 and, as such, are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

{¶ 3} R.C. 4905.302(C), Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07, and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-

14-08 require that the Commission periodically conduct audits and hold hearings related to the gas cost recovery (GCR) rates utilized by the regulated natural gas companies. Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07(A) provides that, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the GCR audits shall be conducted annually. For the above-captioned natural gas companies, the Commission generally conducts GCR audits every two years.

{¶ 4} Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-04 requires natural gas companies to file quarterly GCR reports with the Commission and permits companies to revise the expected gas cost component of the GCR report on a monthly basis.

{¶ 5} At the beginning of 2020, GCR dockets were opened in Case Nos. 20-204-GA-GCR, 20-207-GA-GCR, 20-210-GA-GCR, 20-214-GA-GCR, and 20-217-GA-GCR for Foraker, Eastern, Glenwood, Pike, and Waterville, respectively. While the Commission did not audit the companies' GCR mechanisms in 2020, the dockets were opened in order to receive the companies' quarterly and monthly GCR reports.

{¶ 6} The Commission finds that the sole purpose of the cases listed in Paragraph 5 was for the filing of the companies' 2020 GCR reports. Therefore, at this time, we find that the cases listed in Paragraph 5 should be closed of record and the audits for the companies' 2020 GCR mechanisms should be conducted in subsequent cases during 2021.

{¶ 7} R.C. 4929.11 authorizes the Commission to allow any automatic adjustment mechanism or device in a natural gas company's rate schedules that allows a company's rates or charges for a regulated service or goods to fluctuate automatically with changes in the specified cost or costs.

{¶ 8} Consistent with R.C. 4929.11, the Commission authorized the recovery of uncollectible expenses (UEX) for Eastern, Glenwood, Pike, and Waterville through riders. In approving the UEX riders for Eastern, Glenwood, Pike, and Waterville, the Commission required that the riders be audited in the course of the GCR audits of Eastern, Glenwood, Pike, and Waterville.

{¶ 9} As noted above, the Commission did not initiate audits concerning the GCR rates for Eastern, Glenwood, Pike, and Waterville. Consequently, the UEX riders for Eastern, Glenwood, Pike, and Waterville also were not audited during 2020 and, therefore, Case Nos. 20-307-GA-UEX, 20-310-GA-UEX, 20-314-GA-UEX, and 20-317-GA-UEX should now be closed of record. Audits for the companies' UEX riders should be conducted in subsequent cases during 2021, in conjunction with their 2021 GCR audits.

{¶ 10} The Commission also authorized the recovery of Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) arrearages associated with providing natural gas service through a PIPP rider. *In re Recovery Method for Percentage of Income Payment Plan Arrearages*, Case No. 87-244-GE-UNC, Finding and Order (Aug. 4, 1987). The PIPP riders are to be audited in the course of the GCR audits.

{¶ 11} The Commission did not initiate audits concerning the PIPP riders for Eastern, Glenwood, and Pike during 2020. Therefore, Case Nos. 20-407-GA-PIP, 20-410-GA-PIP, and 20-414-GA-PIP should now be closed of record. Audits for the companies' PIPP riders should be conducted in subsequent cases during 2021, in conjunction with their 2021 GCR audits.

III. ORDER

{¶ 12} It is, therefore,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That Case Nos. 20-204-GA-GCR, 20-207-GA-GCR, 20-210-GA-GCR, 20-214-GA-GCR, 20-217-GA-GCR, 20-307-GA-UEX, 20-310-GA-UEX, 20-314-GA-UEX, 20-317-GA-UEX, 20-407-GA-PIP, 20-410-GA-PIP, and 20-414-GA-PIP be closed as a matter of record. It is, further,

{¶ 14} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record in these cases.

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

M. Beth Trombold
Lawrence K. Friedeman
Daniel R. Conway
Dennis P. Deters

SJP/kck

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in

Case No(s). 20-0204-GA-GCR, 20-0207-GA-GCR, 20-0210-GA-GCR, 20-0214-GA-GCR, 20-0217-GA-G

Summary: Entry closing gas cost recovery, uncollectible expense, and percentage of income payment plan cases in which there were no audits in 2020. electronically filed by Ms. Mary E Fischer on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio