

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGULATION OF  
THE PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT  
CLAUSE CONTAINED WITHIN THE RATE  
SCHEDULES OF WATERVILLE GAS AND  
OIL COMPANY.

CASE NO. 21-217-GA-GCR

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNCOLLECTIBLE  
EXPENSE RIDER OF WATERVILLE GAS  
AND OIL COMPANY.

CASE NO. 21-317-GA-UEx

### ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on March 2, 2021

{¶ 1} Waterville Gas and Oil Company (Waterville) is a natural gas company, as defined by R.C. 4905.03, and a public utility, as defined by R.C. 4905.02. As such, Waterville is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 2} Further, Waterville is also a natural gas company within the meaning of R.C. 4905.302(C) and, as such, Waterville implements a purchased gas adjustment mechanism. Pursuant to R.C. 4905.302(A)(1), the purchased gas adjustment mechanism allows a gas company or natural gas company to adjust the rates that it charges customers in accordance with any fluctuation in the cost the company incurs for the gas that it sells to customers. To facilitate the purchased gas adjustment mechanism and the audit of the mechanism, the rules contained in Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-14 direct that the jurisdictional cost of gas be separated from all other costs incurred by a gas or natural gas company and provide for each company's recovery of the gas costs.

{¶ 3} R.C. 4905.302 also directs the Commission to establish investigative procedures, including periodic reports, audits, and hearings; to examine the arithmetic and accounting accuracy of the gas costs reflected in the company's gas cost recovery (GCR) rates; and to review each company's production and purchasing policies and their effect upon the rates. Pursuant to such authority, Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07 requires that the

gas costs for each gas company or natural gas company be audited annually, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

{¶ 4} In addition to the audit of Waterville's GCR, these proceedings will also audit Waterville's uncollectible expense (UEx) rider. In Waterville's last rate case, the Commission approved a stipulation and recommendation, wherein Waterville agreed to, among other things, the establishment of an UEx rider mechanism. *In re Waterville Gas & Oil Co.*, Case No. 07-194-GA-AIR, Opinion and Order (Nov. 20, 2007). Most recently, the Commission approved Waterville's application to adjust its UEx rider and established the rate at \$0.0031 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf). *In re Waterville Gas & Oil Co.*, Case No. 20-317-GA-UEx, Finding and Order (July 15, 2020).

{¶ 5} 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.

{¶ 6} By Entry issued January 27, 2021, the Commission initiated these proceedings; established the GCR audit period of August 1, 2018, through July 31, 2020; established the UEx audit period of January 1, 2019, through December 31, 2020; set the due date by which the GCR and UEx audit reports must be filed; and directed that Staff conduct the required audits pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07. The January 27, 2021 Entry also scheduled this matter for a hearing and directed Waterville to publish notice of the hearing, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08(C).

{¶ 7} 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/).

{¶ 8} Due to the continued state of emergency, and the passage of Sub. H. B. 404, the public hearing will be held using remote access technology that facilitates participation by telephone and/or live video on the internet.

{¶ 9} The public hearing will be held on May 25, 2021, commencing at 10:00 a.m., through Webex.

{¶ 10} Interested persons who wish to provide testimony must pre-register with the Commission before 12:00 p.m., on May 24, 2021, at <https://puco.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/puco/events/case-no-21-217-ga-gcr-evh> or by calling the Commission at 1-800-686-7826.

{¶ 11} Persons providing public testimony 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 public hearing in Case Nos. 21-217-GA-GCR and 21-317-GA-UEX; specify whether they plan to join the remote access event by internet or by telephone; and state that they intend to offer testimony. Individuals that plan to attend the remote access event through internet access must have a computer or smart device with a microphone and speakers, an electronic mail address, and reliable internet service.

{¶ 12} 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 public 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.

{¶ 13} 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 May 24, 2021, by electronic mail to [contactPUCO@puco.ohio.gov](mailto:contactPUCO@puco.ohio.gov) or by mail to Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

{¶ 14} Public comments can be provided in writing on the Commission's web site at <https://puco.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/puco/helpcenter/contact-us>, by electronic mail to [contactPUCO@puco.ohio.gov](mailto: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 these matters.

{¶ 15} Interested individuals who merely wish to attend the hearing remotely and not offer testimony can do so by registering and indicating they do not intend to provide testimony or by calling 1-408-418-9388 and entering the access code 129 616 0303. Additional information is available by contacting the Commission's Consumer Call Center at 1-800-686-7826.

{¶ 16} Access information for the public hearing will be provided to counsel for the parties at the electronic mail address of record. Counsel who will speak during the hearing should join the Webex event through internet access and must have a computer or smart

device with a camera, microphone, and speakers; an electronic mail address; and reliable internet service.

{¶ 17} Waterville shall publish notice of the hearing, by display ad in a newspaper (in a section other than the legal notice section), bill message, bill insert, or direct mail to customers, at least 15 days and not more than 30 days prior to the scheduled hearing date. Waterville shall file proof of publication of the notice with the Commission. The form of the notice should be in substantially the following form:

#### LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has set for public hearing Case Nos. 21-217-GA-GCR and 21-317-GA-UEX, to review the gas cost recovery rates of Waterville Gas & Oil Company and the operation of its purchased gas adjustment clause, and related matters. Interested members of the public will be provided an opportunity to testify in these proceedings. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, May 25, 2021, 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 must register with the Commission before 12:00 p.m., on May 24, 2021, at <https://puco.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/puco/events/case-no-21-217-ga-gcr-evh> or by calling the Commission at 1-800-686-7826. Interested individuals who merely wish to attend the hearing remotely and not offer testimony can do so by registering and indicating they do not intend to provide testimony or by calling 1-408-418-9388 and entering the access code 129 616 0303. Further information may be obtained by viewing the Commission's web page at [www.puco.ohio.gov](http://www.puco.ohio.gov) or contacting the Commission's hotline at 1-800-686-7826.

{¶ 18} It is, therefore,

{¶ 19} ORDERED, That the hearing in these cases be held on May 25, 2021, in accordance with this Entry. It is, further,

{¶ 20} ORDERED, That Waterville publish notice of the hearing, in accordance with Paragraph 17. It is, further,

{¶ 21} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon Waterville and all parties and interested persons of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Greta See

By: Greta See  
Attorney Examiner

GAP/hac

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

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**Case No(s). 21-0217-GA-GCR, 21-0317-GA-UEX**

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that the hearing in these cases be held on May 25, 2021, in accordance with this Entry and ordering that Waterville publish notice of the hearing, in accordance with Paragraph 17 electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Greta See, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission