

# THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE AUDIT OF THE  
UNCOLLECTIBLE EXPENSE RIDER OF  
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

CASE NO. 21-321-GA-UEX

## FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on May 5, 2021

### I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. to increase its uncollectible expense rider rate.

### 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} On December 17, 2003, the Commission approved the application of five natural gas companies, including Columbia, to recover uncollectible expenses (UEX) through riders. *In re Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 03-1127-GA-UNC, Finding and Order (Dec. 17, 2003). Columbia was required to file annually with the Commission a report identifying the amounts recovered, deferred, and, as applicable, amortized under the UEX rider. In addition, Columbia was permitted to request an adjustment to the UEX rider.

{¶ 4} On May 20, 2020, the Commission approved Columbia's current UEX rider rate of \$0.0644 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf). *In re Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 20-321-GA-UEX, Finding and Order (May 20, 2020).

{¶ 5} On April 9, 2021, in the above-captioned case, Columbia filed an application to increase its UEX rider rate to \$0.0724 per Mcf, as summarized below:

Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Proposed Increase
\$0.0644 per Mcf	\$0.0724 per Mcf	\$0.0080 per Mcf

The proposed rate is comprised of two components: Columbia's projected deferred uncollectible expenses as of May 31, 2021, and Columbia's estimated uncollectible accounts expense for the 12-month period ending May 31, 2022.

{¶ 6} On April 22, 2021, Staff filed its review and recommendations on Columbia's application, recommending approval of the proposed UEX rider rate.

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

### III. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That Columbia's application be approved and Columbia be authorized to increase the rate for its UEX rider to \$0.0724 per Mcf. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That Columbia is authorized to file tariffs, in final form, consistent with this Finding and Order. Columbia 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 tariffs 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:*

Jenifer French, Chair

M. Beth Trombold

Lawrence K. Friedeman

Daniel R. Conway

Dennis P. Deters

JML/hac

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Summary: Finding & Order approving the application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. to increase its uncollectible expense rider rate electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio