

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE UNCOLLECTIBLE
EXPENSE RIDER OF NORTHEAST OHIO
NATURAL GAS CORP.

CASE NO. 21-309-GA-UEx

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on July 14, 2021

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the application of Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp. to adjust its uncollectible expense rider and to consolidate its uncollectible expense rider rates into a single rate.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp. (NEO) 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 the Commission.

{¶ 3} In Case No. 03-2170-GA-AIR, et al., the Commission authorized NEO to establish an uncollectible expense (UEX) rider. *In re Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp.*, Case No. 03-2170-GA-AIR, et al., Opinion and Order (Nov. 10, 2004).

{¶ 4} On September 28, 2018, in Case No. 18-1484-GA-UNC, et al., NEO, Brainard Gas Corp. (Brainard), Orwell Natural Gas Company (Orwell), and Spelman Pipeline Holdings, LLC (Spelman) filed a joint application seeking approval of a proposed merger of Brainard, Orwell, and Spelman into NEO. The Commission approved the joint application on January 3, 2019. *In re Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp., Brainard Gas Corp., Orwell Natural Gas Co., and Spelman Pipeline Holdings, LLC*, Case No. 18-1484-GA-UNC, et al., Finding and Order (Jan. 3, 2019).

{¶ 5} On June 22, 2021, NEO filed, in the above-captioned case, an application to adjust its UEX rider rates. In the application, NEO notes that its current tariffs have a UEX rider rate for customers in the NEO and Brainard areas and a separate UEX rider rate for

customers in the Orwell area. NEO, therefore, seeks authority to combine the UEX rider rates of NEO and Orwell into a single rate. NEO also requests that the Commission approve its proposed combined UEX rider rate of (\$0.0237) per thousand cubic feet (Mcf),¹ as summarized below:

Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Proposed Decrease
NEO		
\$0.0232 per Mcf	(\$0.0237) per Mcf	\$0.0469 per Mcf
Orwell		
\$0.1465 per Mcf	(\$0.0237) per Mcf	\$0.1702 per Mcf

NEO provides an attachment that shows its calculation of a combined UEX rider rate, which is intended to minimize rate fluctuation between credits and charges, with the proposed rate to be in effect for two years.

{¶ 6} On July 1, 2021, Staff filed its review and recommendations regarding NEO's application. Staff states that it reviewed NEO's UEX for January 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021. Staff concludes that NEO appropriately calculated its UEX rider rate. Staff also indicates that it supports NEO's proposal to combine the separate NEO and Orwell rates into a single rate and, therefore, recommends that the proposed combined rate of (\$0.0237) per Mcf be approved.

{¶ 7} The Commission has reviewed the application, as well as Staff's review and recommendations, and finds that the proposed adjustment to NEO's UEX rider is reasonable, is in the public interest, and should be approved. We also find that NEO's

¹ Numbers in parentheses indicate a credit to customers.

request to combine the UEX rider rates for the NEO and Orwell areas into a single rate is reasonable and should be approved. Accordingly, the Commission finds that NEO should be authorized to include the revised UEX rider rate in its tariff, which contains the terms, conditions, and rates that NEO applies to the gas service it provides to customers.

III. ORDER

{¶ 8} It is, therefore,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That NEO's application be approved. It is, further,

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

Jenifer French, Chair

M. Beth Trombold

Lawrence K. Friedeman

Daniel R. Conway

Dennis P. Deters

SJP/mef

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

7/14/2021 2:35:29 PM

in

Case No(s). 21-0309-GA-UEx

Summary: Finding & Order approving the application of Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp. to adjust its uncollectible expense rider and to consolidate its uncollectible expense rider rates into a single rate electronically filed by Heather A Chilcote on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio