

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC. FOR
AUTHORITY TO AMEND ITS FILED
TARIFFS TO INCREASE THE RATES AND
CHARGES FOR GAS SERVICES AND
RELATED MATTERS.

CASE NO. 21-637-GA-AIR

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC. FOR
APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF
REGULATION.

CASE NO. 21-638-GA-ALT

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC. FOR
APPROVAL OF A DEMAND SIDE
MANAGEMENT PROGRAM FOR ITS
RESIDENTIAL AND COMMERCIAL
CUSTOMERS.

CASE NO. 21-639-GA-UNC

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC. FOR
APPROVAL TO CHANGE ACCOUNTING
METHODS.

CASE NO. 21-640-GA-AAM

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on August 25, 2021

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission accepts for filing as of June 30, 2021, a combined application for an increase in rates and for an alternative rate plan filed by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. and directs that legal notice of the application be published in the non-legal notice section of the applicable newspapers.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia or the Company) is a natural gas company and a public utility as defined by R.C. 4905.03 and R.C. 4905.02, respectively. As such, Columbia is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission pursuant to R.C. 4905.04, 4905.05, and 4905.06.

{¶ 3} The fixation of rates for public utilities in the state of Ohio is governed by R.C. Chapter 4909. The statutory requirements for an application to increase a public utility's rates are enumerated in R.C. 4909.17, 4909.18, 4909.19, and 4909.43. Also, pursuant to R.C. 4901.13, 4909.04(C), and 4909.18, the Commission adopted Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01 and its Appendix (Standard Filing Requirements). These Standard Filing Requirements specify the format for filing all information required in an application for an increase in rates and define the information that the Commission requires pursuant to R.C. 4909.18(E).

{¶ 4} Further, pursuant to R.C. 4929.05(A), a natural gas company may request approval of an alternative rate plan by filing an application to establish or change a rate under R.C. 4909.18.

{¶ 5} On May 28, 2021, Columbia filed separate notices of its intent to file an application for an increase in rates and an application for approval of an alternative rate plan. First, in accordance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01, Appendix A, Chapter I(B), the Company filed a notice of intent to file an application for an increase in rates. Second, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-19-06(A), the Company filed a notice of its intent to file an application for approval of an alternative rate plan.

{¶ 6} Also, on May 28, 2021, Columbia filed a motion to establish a test year and date certain and for waiver of certain filing requirements pursuant to R.C. 4909.15(C) and Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01 and 4901:1-19-02(D), respectively. Columbia proposed to use the 12-month period ending December 31, 2021, as the test year for its intended rate case and March 31, 2021, as the date certain for determining rate base. By Entry issued July 7, 2021, the Commission approved the test year and date certain and granted in part and denied in part the requested waiver of specified Standard Filing Requirements.

{¶ 7} On June 30, 2021, Columbia filed a combined application to increase rates and charges and for approval of an alternative rate plan pursuant to R.C. 4909.18 and R.C. 4929.05, respectively. Columbia amended its application on July 14, 2021.

{¶ 8} On August 10, 2021, Staff filed a letter stating that Columbia's application substantively conformed with the Standard Filing Requirements found in Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01, Appendix A.

{¶ 9} The Commission finds that Columbia's combined application meets the requirements of R.C. 4909.17 to 4909.19, the Standard Filing Requirements, and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-19-06. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the combined application shall be accepted as of the filing date of June 30, 2021.

{¶ 10} The Commission further finds that the Company's proposed notice for publication, set forth in the application as Schedule S-3, complies with R.C. 4909.19 and the Standard Filing Requirements and should be approved. Columbia shall begin publication of the newspaper notice, pursuant to R.C. 4909.19, within 30 days of the date of this Entry; such notice shall not appear in the legal notices section of the applicable newspapers.

III. ORDER

{¶ 11} It is, therefore,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That Columbia's combined application for an increase in rates and for an alternative rate plan shall be accepted for filing as of June 30, 2021. It is, further,

{¶ 13} ORDERED, That the proposed newspaper notice submitted by Columbia be approved for publication. It is, further,

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

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

Jenifer French, Chair

M. Beth Trombold

Lawrence K. Friedeman

Daniel R. Conway

Dennis P. Deters

JWS/mef

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Case No(s). 21-0637-GA-AIR, 21-0638-GA-ALT, 21-0639-GA-UNC, 21-0640-GA-AAM

Summary: Entry accepting for filing as of June 30, 2021, a combined application for an increase in rates and for an alternative rate plan filed by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. and directs that legal notice of the application be published in the non-legal notice section of the applicable newspapers. electronically filed by Kelli C. King on behalf of The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio