

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
THE EAST OHIO GAS COMPANY D/B/A
DOMINION ENERGY OHIO FOR
APPROVAL OF AN ALTERNATIVE FORM OF
REGULATION TO CONTINUE AND TO
EXPAND ITS DEMAND-SIDE
MANAGEMENT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY
PROGRAMS.

CASE NO. 21-1109-GA-ALT

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on January 26, 2022

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission accepts for filing, as of November 30, 2021, the alternative rate plan application filed by The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio (Dominion or 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, Dominion is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 3} Under R.C. 4929.05, a natural gas company may seek approval of an alternative rate plan by filing an application under R.C. 4909.18, regardless of whether the application is for an increase in rates. After an investigation, the Commission shall approve the plan if the natural gas company demonstrates, and the Commission finds, that the company is in compliance with R.C. 4905.35, is in substantial compliance with the policy of the state as set forth in R.C. 4929.02, and is expected to continue to be in substantial compliance with that state policy after implementation of the alternative rate plan. The Commission must also find that the alternative rate plan is just and reasonable.

{¶ 4} R.C. 4929.051(A) provides that an alternative rate plan filed by a natural gas company under R.C. 4929.05 and proposing to initiate or continue a revenue decoupling mechanism shall be considered an application not for an increase in rates if the rates are

based upon the billing determinants and revenue requirement authorized by the Commission in the company's most recent rate case proceeding and the plan also establishes, continues, or expands an energy efficiency or energy conservation program. In addition, R.C. 4929.051(B) provides that an alternative rate plan filed by a natural gas company under R.C. 4929.05 and seeking authorization to continue a previously approved alternative rate plan shall be considered an application not for an increase in rates.

{¶ 5} On October 15, 2008, the Commission approved Dominion's application for an alternative rate plan, pursuant to a stipulation and recommendation that provided for the funding of Dominion's demand-side management (DSM) programs for low-income customers and an associated DSM rider. Dominion's DSM rider is applicable to residential and non-residential customers served under the General Sales Service and Energy Choice Transportation Service rate schedules. As approved, Dominion may recover \$4.0 million annually through the DSM rider and the balance of the Company's DSM program expenditures, \$5.5 million, is funded through base rates, for a total annual DSM commitment of \$9.5 million. *In re The East Ohio Gas Co. d/b/a Dominion East Ohio*, Case No. 07-829-GA-AIR, et al., Opinion and Order (Oct. 15, 2008) at 7, 12. By December 1 each year, Dominion is required to file an application to adjust its DSM rider rate and to initiate the audit of its rider. *In re The East Ohio Gas Co. d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio*, Case No. 17-1372-GA-RDR, Finding and Order (Aug. 2, 2017) at ¶ 21.

{¶ 6} On November 30, 2021, Dominion filed an alternative rate plan application, along with supporting exhibits and testimony, pursuant to R.C. 4929.05, 4929.051(A), 4929.051(B), 4929.11, and 4909.18. The application seeks Commission approval to continue and to expand the Company's DSM and energy efficiency (EE) programs to include eight new programs for residential and non-residential customers. If approved, the application proposes that the DSM/EE program budget be increased to approximately \$14.6 million in the first year, with the budget increasing to approximately \$20.4 million in the fifth year. Like the funding for the current DSM/EE programs, Dominion proposes that recovery in excess of the \$5.5 million in base rates be recovered through subsequent updates to the DSM

rider. Additionally, for subsequent years beyond the fifth year, Dominion proposes that the total amount of DSM/EE funding increase annually by three percent, until such time as the Company files a subsequent application with the Commission to further modify the alternative rate plan to increase DSM/EE funding or offer new DSM/EE programs.

{¶ 7} On December 13, 2021, Dominion filed notice that, while the Company sent courtesy copies of its application to the parties of record in its last rate case, the Company's certificate of service inadvertently omitted Ohio Energy Group (OEG) and Industrial Energy Users-Ohio (IEU-Ohio). Dominion states that counsel for OEG and IEU-Ohio were sent a copy of the application on December 8, 2021.

{¶ 8} On December 30, 2021, Staff filed a letter notifying Dominion that its application is in substantial compliance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-19-06, pursuant to the requirements of R.C. 4929.05. However, Staff specifically noted that Dominion's alternative rate plan application failed to include verifications by the president or a vice-president and the secretary or treasurer of the applicant, as required under R.C. 4909.18. Staff recommended that the Company file the verifications.

{¶ 9} On January 5, 2022, Dominion supplemented its application with notarized verifications by the president or a vice-president and the secretary or treasurer of Dominion, as required under R.C. 4909.18.

{¶ 10} Accordingly, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-19-07(B), the Commission finds that the application shall be deemed to have been filed as of the filing date of November 30, 2021.

III. ORDER

{¶ 11} It is, therefore,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That Dominion's application be deemed to have been filed as of November 30, 2021. It is, further,

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

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

Jenifer French, Chair

M. Beth Trombold

Lawrence K. Friedeman

Daniel R. Conway

Dennis P. Deters

GNS/hac

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in

Case No(s). 21-1109-GA-ALT

Summary: Entry accepting for filing, as of November 30, 2021, the alternative rate plan application filed by The East Ohio Gas Company d/b/a Dominion Energy Ohio electronically filed by Heather A. Chilcote on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio