

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
PIEDMONT GAS COMPANY FOR
APPROVAL OF AN ADJUSTMENT TO ITS
UNCOLLECTIBLE EXPENSE RIDER RATE.

CASE NO. 22-313-GA-UEX

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on November 2, 2022

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the Staff's recommendation to decrease the uncollectible expense rider rate of Piedmont Gas Company to (\$0.0321) per Mcf.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} Piedmont Gas Company (Piedmont) 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} By Opinion and Order issued October 15, 2010, the Commission authorized Piedmont to establish an uncollectible expense (UEX) rider to recover uncollectible accounts expenses. *In re Piedmont Gas Co.*, Case No. 09-1862-GA-AIR, Opinion and Order (Oct. 15, 2010).

{¶ 4} On May 24, 2017, the Commission approved Piedmont's current UEX rider rate of \$0.01914 per thousand cubic feet (Mcf). *In re Piedmont Gas Co.*, Case No. 17-313-GA-UEX, Finding and Order (May 24, 2017).

{¶ 5} On February 22, 2022 in the above-captioned case, Piedmont filed an application to decrease its UEX rider rate to \$0.00 per Mcf, as summarized below:

Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Proposed Decrease
\$0.01914 per Mcf	\$0.00 per Mcf	(\$0.01914) per Mcf

Piedmont explained that the proposed rate is comprised of the balance of under-collected uncollectible account expenses as of December 31, 2021, plus an estimate of uncollectible accounts for the period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022. The sum is then divided by the estimated sales volumes for the period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022.

{¶ 6} On June 7, 2022, Staff filed comments on Piedmont's proposed rate. Staff noted that Piedmont's proposed rate of \$0.00 is based on a projected net UEX amount of (\$28,478.23) and projected sales volume of 576,000 Mcf for the 12 months ending December 31, 2022. Staff states that, based upon Staff's calculations, it projects a net UEX amount of (\$18,478.23). Staff explains that the difference between Piedmont's and Staff's calculations is because Staff reduced Piedmont's over-collected balance as of December 31, 2021, by the estimated uncollectible accounts for January 31, 2022, through December 31, 2022, instead of adding them to the over-collected balance. Staff recommends that the Commission adopt and order a revised rider rate of (\$0.0321) per Mcf. Staff notes that a prudence review of this rate, if approved, will occur in a future UEX audit proceeding.

{¶ 7} Piedmont filed a letter on September 20, 2022, indicating that it does not object to Staff's proposed rate of (\$0.0321) per Mcf.

{¶ 8} The Commission has reviewed the application, as well as Staff's comments, and finds that Staff's proposed adjustment of Piedmont's UEX rider to (\$0.0321) is reasonable and in the public interest, and should be approved. Accordingly, the Commission finds that Piedmont should be authorized to include the revised UEX rate of (\$0.0321) in its tariff, which contains the terms, conditions, and rates Piedmont applies to the gas service it provides to customers.

III. ORDER

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That Piedmont be authorized to decrease the rate for its UEX rider to (\$0.0321) per Mcf. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That Piedmont is authorized to file tariffs, in final form, consistent with this Finding and Order. Piedmont shall file one copy in this case docket and one copy in its TRF docket. It is, further,

{¶ 12} 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,

{¶ 13} 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,

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

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

Jenifer French, Chair

Lawrence K. Friedeman

Daniel R. Conway

JML/hac

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11/2/2022 3:06:42 PM

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Case No(s). 22-0313-GA-UEX

Summary: Finding & Order approving the Staff's recommendation to decrease the uncollectible expense rider rate of Piedmont Gas Company to (\$0.0321) per Mcf electronically filed by Heather A. Chilcote on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio