

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE REGULATION OF
THE PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT
CLAUSE CONTAINED WITHIN THE RATE
SCHEDULES OF NORTHEAST OHIO
NATURAL GAS CORP.

CASE NO. 22-209-GA-GCR

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

CASE NO. 22-309-GA-UEx

IN THE MATTER OF THE PERCENTAGE OF
INCOME PAYMENT PLAN RIDER OF
NORTHEAST OHIO NATURAL GAS CORP.

CASE NO. 22-409-GA-PIP

ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on December 9, 2022

{¶ 1} Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corporation (NEO or the Company) is a natural gas company as defined in R.C. 4905.03 and a public utility as defined in R.C. 4905.02. As such, the Company is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission.

{¶ 2} R.C. 4905.302 and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07 require that the Commission conduct, or cause to be conducted, periodic financial audits of each gas or natural gas company under the Commission's jurisdiction. The audits shall review each company's compliance with the gas cost recovery (GCR) mechanism as delineated in Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-14. Under Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-07(C), each audit shall culminate in the filing of an audit report. Finally, Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08(A) provides that the Commission shall hold a public hearing at least 60 days after the filing of the required GCR audit report.

{¶ 3} By Entry dated February 9, 2022, the Commission initiated the Company's GCR financial audit for the period July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2022, as well as audits of NEO's uncollectible expense (UEX) rider and percentage of income payment plan (PIPP) rider. The February 9, 2022 Entry further directed the Company to publish required legal notices, established a deadline for filing testimony, and set the evidentiary hearing for

February 14, 2023. Thus, pursuant to the timeline dictated by Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08, the GCR audit report must be filed no later than December 16, 2022, with the UEX and PIPP audit reports to be filed concurrently.

{¶ 4} On December 6, 2022, Staff filed an unopposed motion for an extension of time in which to file the audit reports and for expedited consideration of its request. Staff moves for a 30-day extension of time to file the reports. For cause, Staff states that it intends to seek through data requests additional information necessary to complete the audits for the GCR and PIPP riders. Additionally, in completing the audits, Staff continues to evaluate information filed as recently as December 1, 2022. In support of its request for expedited consideration of its motion, Staff states that it contacted NEO and that the Company does not object to the extension.

{¶ 5} The attorney examiner finds that Staff's motion for an extension is reasonable and should be granted. Accordingly, the date by which Staff must file the ordered audit reports should be extended to January 17, 2023. Furthermore, because Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08 requires that the public hearing be held at least 60 days after the filing of the audit report, the evidentiary hearing should be continued to March 30, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. in Hearing Room 11-C at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.

{¶ 6} Finally, consistent with the Commission's February 9, 2022 Entry and Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-14-08(C), the Company should public notice of the GCR hearing at least 15 days and not more than 30 days prior to the scheduled hearing date. The notice may be provided by publication of a display ad in a newspaper (in a section other than the legal notice section), bill message, bill insert, or direct mailing to customers. The form of the notice should be in substantially the following form.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio has set for public hearing Case No. 22-206-GA-GCR to review the gas cost recovery rates of Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corporation, the operation of its purchased gas adjustment clause, and related matters. This hearing is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 30, 2023, at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, Hearing Room 11-C, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793. All interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. Further information may be obtained by viewing the Commission's web page at <https://puco.ohio.gov>, by contacting the Commission's hotline at 1-800-686-7826, or, for individuals with hearing or speech impairment, by dialing 711.

{¶ 7} It is, therefore,

{¶ 8} ORDERED, That Staff's motion for an extension of time be granted. It is, further,

{¶ 9} ORDERED, That the ordered audit reports be filed by January 17, 2023. It is, further,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That the evidentiary hearing be continued to March 30, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., as stated in Paragraph 5. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the Company publish legal notice in accordance with Paragraph 6. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/*Patricia A. Schabo*

By: Patricia A. Schabo
Attorney Examiner

MJA/hac

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities
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in

Case No(s). 22-0209-GA-GCR, 22-0309-GA-UEX, 22-0409-GA-PIP

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry ordering that Staff's motion for an extension of time be granted; that Staff's motion for an extension of time be granted; that the evidentiary hearing be continued to March 30, 2023, at 10:00 a.m.; and, that the Company publish legal notice in accordance with Paragraph 6 electronically filed by Heather A. Chilcote on behalf of Patricia Schabo, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission