

# THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
SANTANNA NATURAL GAS  
CORPORATION DBA SANTANNA ENERGY  
SERVICES FOR WAIVERS OF CERTAIN  
PROVISIONS OF OHIO ADM.CODE  
CHAPTERS 4901:1-21 AND 4901:1-29, TO  
PERMIT ELECTRONIC ENROLLMENT AND  
THIRD-PARTY VERIFICATION BY DIGITAL  
CONFIRMATION.

CASE NO. 23-171-GE-WVR

## ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on May 15, 2023

{¶ 1} Santanna Natural Gas Corporation d/b/a Santanna Energy Services (Santanna or Applicant) is an electric services company and retail natural gas supplier as defined in R.C. 4928.01 and 4929.01, is certified to provide competitive retail electric service and competitive retail natural gas service under R.C. 4928.08 and 4929.20, and is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission pursuant to R.C. 4928.16 and 4929.24.

{¶ 2} On March 1, 2023, the Applicant submitted an application to the Commission requesting waivers of Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-21-06(D)(1), 4901:1-29-06(D), 4901:1-21-06(D)(1)(h), 4901:1-21-06(D)(2)(a), 4901:1-29-06(D)(6)(b), and 4901:1-29-06(E)(1). Santanna seeks waivers of certain rules governing enrollment and the third-party verification (TPV) process for new customers enrolled through sales channels requiring TPV. Applicant contends that the requested waivers will enable Santanna to offer customers the ability to complete the enrollment and verification process through digital/electronic means and confirmation. Applicant contends that digital/electronic enrollment and TPV enables better, faster, and more accurate enrollment verification and a greatly enhanced customer experience, without diminishing any consumer protections afforded by the Commission's rules.

{¶ 3} On various dates, the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia) filed motions to intervene. On April 13, 2023, Santanna filed a memorandum contra OCC's motion. On April 20, 2023, OCC filed its reply.

{¶ 4} On April 5, 2023, Columbia filed its initial comments in response to the application.

{¶ 5} On April 12, 2023, Santanna filed an amended application, clarifying its initial application.

{¶ 6} On April 13, 2023, the attorney examiner issued an Entry soliciting comments from stakeholders, wherein the following procedural schedule was established: motions to intervene and comments should be filed by May 15, 2023, and reply comments should be filed by May 31, 2023.

{¶ 7} On May 5, 2023, Santanna filed a motion for protective order related to portions of discovery propounded by OCC.

{¶ 8} On May 11, 2023, Santanna filed a motion to extend deadlines to file initial and reply comments, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-13(A), and requested an expedited ruling, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-12(C). Santanna submits that good cause exists to grant the motion because Santanna has cooperated as much as reasonably possible with Staff, OCC, and Columbia to answer questions and engage in meaningful settlement discussions regarding the pending application; however, Santanna asserts that additional time is needed to continue settlement discussions and notes that an extension will allow parties to focus on discussions without the added pressure of meeting comment deadlines. Santanna believes the extension will benefit the other parties because it will allow interested parties to continue their ongoing and open dialogues with Santanna in order to receive answers to questions that they may have. Santanna requests that the Commission extend the deadlines to file initial and reply comments to June 8, 2023, and June 23, 2023, respectively. Santanna represents that, in accordance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-12(C)

and 4901-1-13(B), it has contacted the other parties to provide them with a summary of this extension request to determine whether any party opposes the extension request or issuance of an expedited ruling. According to Santanna, Columbia and Staff do not oppose the extension, but Santanna is unable to certify that OCC does not oppose the extension or an expedited ruling.

{¶ 9} On May 12, 2023, OCC filed a memorandum contra. OCC asserts that Santanna did not provide good cause to grant the extension. OCC argues that Santanna failed to request an extension of the current intervention deadline, May 15, 2023, which would prejudice other interested stakeholders who may seek intervention; therefore, if an extension of the comment deadlines is granted, the intervention deadline should be extended. OCC also argues that there is no reason why the waiver application cannot be addressed in the current timeline. Further, OCC believes keeping the current procedural schedule does not preclude Santanna from continuing discussions with other parties and that filing comments will clarify parties' positions, making any future discussions more meaningful. According to OCC, issues related to the requested waivers are being considered in pending five-year rule review cases in front of the Commission, Case Nos. 17-1843-EL-ORD and 17-1845-GA-ORD, which are more appropriate venues to address such issues.

{¶ 10} Upon review of the motion, the attorney examiner finds that Santanna has shown good cause to grant the motion, therefore, the motion should be granted. Accordingly, the deadlines for parties to file initial and reply comments are extended to June 8, 2023<sup>1</sup>, and June 23, 2023, respectively.

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<sup>1</sup> As stated in the April 13, 2023 Entry, the attorney examiner again directs that Columbia may only file comments in response to Santanna's amended application since Columbia has already filed comments regarding the initial application. Columbia may file reply comments with regard to either the initial or amended application.

{¶ 11} It is, therefore,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That Santanna's motion be granted and initial and reply comment deadlines extended, as stated in Paragraph 10. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

*/s/ Matthew J. Sandor*

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By: Matthew J. Sandor  
Attorney Examiner

MJA/dr

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**Case No(s). 23-0171-GE-WVR**

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry granting Santanna's motion and extending the deadlines for parties to file initial and reply comments to June 8, 2023<sup>1</sup>, and June 23, 2023, respectively electronically filed by Debbie S. Ryan on behalf of Matthew J. Sandor, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.