

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
NORTHEAST OHIO NATURAL GAS CORP.
FOR AUTHORITY TO ABANDON SERVICE
TO FIVE PREMISES IN TRUMBULL COUNTY,
OHIO.

CASE No. 22-789-GA-ABN

FINDING AND ORDER

Entered in the Journal on June 14, 2023

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission approves the application filed by Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp. for authority to abandon service to five premises in Trumbull County, Ohio.

II. DISCUSSION

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

{¶ 3} R.C. 4905.20 and 4905.21 generally provide that public utilities may not abandon service, except with the approval of the Commission following an application for abandonment.

{¶ 4} On August 19, 2022, NEO filed an application for authority to abandon service to five premises in Trumbull County, Ohio, pursuant to R.C. 4905.20 and 4905.21. NEO states that it provides natural gas service to two customers at five premises located in Mentor, Ohio, off a lateral that would require extensive testing to comply with regulatory safety standards. NEO contends that it is not financially feasible to perform the testing required to bring the lateral into compliance; therefore, the Company seeks to abandon the lateral. The Company states that four of the five premises are served by the Knox Energy Cooperative (Knox), that NEO has informed Knox of the pending abandonment, and that

Knox has notified the affected customer. Similarly, NEO affirms that it has notified the customer of the remaining premise of the pending abandonment.

{¶ 5} Continuing, the application explains that the customers at these premises are capable of receiving service from Dominion East Ohio (Dominion), which has distribution lines in the immediate area to serve other residential customers. NEO asserts that the affected customers are aware that service is available through Dominion and have inquired about converting their service. Furthermore, the Company has informed the customers that, if there is a cost for the installation of the service line not covered by Dominion, NEO will reimburse the customers for that cost up to and including the meter.

{¶ 6} In short, NEO submits that the requested abandonment is in the public interest because only five premises are impacted, there is no cost-effective way for the Company to continue to serve the affected customers, and the customers can receive service from Dominion. As such, NEO requests that the Commission approve the abandonment application.

{¶ 7} On April 6, 2023, the Company filed correspondence through which NEO informs the Commission that the five premises served by the pipeline sought to be abandoned are now receiving service from Dominion. As such, no customers are being served on the line subject to the application.

{¶ 8} The Commission finds that NEO's application for authority to abandon service to the five premises in Trumbull County, as identified in the application, is reasonable and should be approved. The record demonstrates that the affected premises are now being served by Dominion, which means no customers are being served by the pipeline the Company seeks to abandon. Additionally, the Commission notes that no person has filed a motion to intervene in this case or any comments in response to the Company's application or subsequent correspondence. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the Company's application for authority to abandon service should be approved and that no hearing is necessary in this matter.

III. ORDER

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That NEO's application be approved. It is, further,

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

COMMISSIONERS:

Approving:

Jenifer French, Chair
Daniel R. Conway
Lawrence K. Friedeman
Dennis P. Deters
John D. Williams

PAS/dr

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Case No(s). 22-0789-GA-ABN

Summary: Finding & Order approving the application filed by Northeast Ohio Natural Gas Corp. for authority to abandon service to five premises in Trumbull County, Ohio. electronically filed by Ms. Mary E. Fischer on behalf of Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.