

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Long-Term Gas)
Forecast Report of Vectren Energy Delivery) Case No. 05-120-GA-FOR
of Ohio, Inc. and Related Matters.)

In the Matter of the Regulation of the)
Purchased Gas Adjustment Clause) Case No. 04-220-GA-GCR
Contained Within the Rate Schedules of)
Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc.)

ENTRY

The attorney examiner finds:

- (1) Pursuant to Section 4935.04, Revised Code, and Rule 4901:5-3-01(C), Ohio Administrative Code, Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. (Vectren) filed its 2005 long-term gas forecast report (LTFR) on May 27, 2005, in Case No. 05-120-GA-FOR (2005-LTFR case).
- (2) By entry issued June 9, 2005, the attorney examiner scheduled a hearing on Vectren's LTFR on August 9, 2005.
- (3) On October 6, 2004, the Commission scheduled a hearing in Case No. 04-220-GA-GCR (2004-GCR case). However, because of delays in the assignment of the auditor in that case, that hearing has been rescheduled to February 14, 2006 (see, Entry issued June 17, 2005).
- (4) On June 22, 2005, staff filed a motion to consolidate the 2005-LTFR case and the 2004-GCR case for hearing and decision. Vectren filed a memorandum contra staff's motion, contending that consolidation might deprive it of the Commission's review and comment upon the LTFR prior to the beginning of the year 2006, the year upon which the forecast is based. Staff, in its motion and again in its reply to the Vectren memorandum contra, points out that such consolidation has regularly occurred in the cases of other regulated gas and natural gas utilities.

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- (5) That an LTFR should be reviewed prior to the beginning of the year upon which it is based may seem to make sense. However, this is not required by statute. Indeed, prior cases of this Commission demonstrate that quite often this timing result does not occur¹. In the instant matters, the previous GCR case was unavoidably delayed thereby delaying the hearing in the 2004-GCR case. In recognition of those delays, and for the reasons indicated above. Therefore, there is no compelling reason why the 2004-GCR case and the 2005-LTFR case should not be consolidated for purposes of hearing, and staff's motion is reasonable in this regard. However, because of the differing statutory requirements of each of these proceedings, each case should be separately decided.
- (6) Additionally, because, Section 4935.04(D), Revised Code, requires that the Commission hold the public hearing within 90 days of the report being filed, the public 2005-LTFR case should commence on August 9, 2005, as scheduled, and then be continued until the time that the consolidated cases are scheduled for hearing.
- (7) The hearing in the 2004-GCR case and the continuation of the hearing in the 2005-LTFR case should be held at the offices of the Commission, on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, at 10:00 a.m., in Hearing Room 11-F, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215.
- (8) Rule 4901:1-14-08(C), Ohio Administrative Code, specifies the requirement for notice of hearing which Vectren should cause to be published between fifteen and thirty days prior to the date set for the hearing. The notice shall be published in substantially the form ordered in the entry issued October 6, 2004, in the 2004-GCR case.

It is, therefore,

¹ *In the Matter of the 2000 Long-Term Gas Forecast Report of Vectren Energy Delivery of Ohio, Inc. and Related Matters*, Case No. 00-120-GA-FOR, Opinion and Order issued September 25, 2001. This involved Vectren's forecast case based on the year 2001, and was consolidated with Vectren's 2000 GCR case. *In the Matter of the 2004 Long-Term Gas Forecast Report of The East Ohio Gas Company d.b.a. Dominion East Ohio (DEO)*, Case No. 03-119-GA-FOR, Opinion and Order issued March 2, 2005. This involved DEO's forecast case based on the year 2004, and was consolidated with DEO's 2003 GCR case. *In the Matter of the 2004 Long-Term Gas Forecast Report of The Cincinnati Gas and Electric Company (CG&E) and Related Matters*, Case No. 00-118-GA-FOR, Opinion and Order issued May 18, 2005. This involved CG&E's forecast case based on the year 2004, and was consolidated with CG&E's 2003 GCR case.

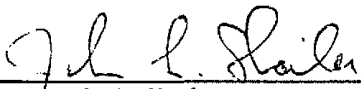
ORDERED, That staff's motion to consolidate Vectren's 2005-LTFR case and the 2004-GCR case for hearing and decision is granted in part and denied in part, the two matters being consolidated for the purposes of hearing but not as to decision. It is, further,

ORDERED, That the public hearing regarding Vectren's 2005-LTFR case will commence as previously ordered, on Tuesday, August 9, 2005, and shall be continued, consolidated with the hearing in the 2004-GCR case, in Hearing Room 11-F, 180 East Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215, at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, February 14, 2006. It is further,

ORDERED, That Vectren shall publish notice of the hearing in at least one newspaper of general circulation in each county in Vectren's service territory as set forth in finding 8. It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

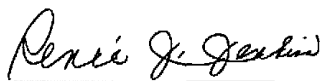
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO


By: John L. Shailer
Attorney Examiner

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Entered in the Journal

JUL 12 2005



Renee J. Jenkins
Secretary