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File #: 172359

February 7, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor North
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265


Re: Pa. PUC v. UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division
Docket Nos. R-2018-3006814, et al.

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing is the Petition of UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division (“UGI Gas”) Requesting a One-Year Extension of the Phase I Energy Efficiency and Conservation (“EE&C”) Plan.

Per the enclosed Certificate of Service, UGI Gas is serving copies of this filing on the Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office of Small Business Advocate, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement, and all other parties of record in UGI Gas’s 2019 base rate proceeding at Docket Nos. R-2018-3006814, *et al.*, where the EE&C Plan was originally approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Devin Ryan

DR/dmc
Enclosures

cc: Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

VIA E-MAIL & FIRST-CLASS MAIL

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Date: February 7, 2024



Devin T. Ryan, Esquire

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division	:	Docket Nos. R-2018-3006814, <i>et al.</i>
	:	
Petition of UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division	:	
for a One-Year Extension to Its Phase I Energy	:	
Efficiency and Conservation Plan	:	

**PETITION OF UGI UTILITIES, INC. – GAS DIVISION REQUESTING
A ONE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE
PHASE I ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PLAN**

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.41, UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division (“UGI Gas” or the “Company”) hereby petitions the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) for a one-year extension of the Company’s Commission-approved Phase I Energy Efficiency and Conservation (“EE&C”) Plan (“Phase I EE&C Plan”) that was approved as part of the Company’s 2019 base rate case at Docket Nos. R-2018-3006814, *et al.* The requested extension will allow additional time for a thorough review of UGI Gas’s forthcoming Petition for Approval of its Phase II EE&C Plan and help conserve the Company’s and interested parties’ time and resources in a period with many other time-consuming procedural matters coming before the Commission. The extension will also enable a seamless continuation for the Company’s customers to reduce their gas consumption by implementing the EE&C measures offered under UGI Gas’s current Phase I EE&C Plan. The alternative to this extension would be an expedited procedural schedule for the Company’s Phase II EE&C Plan, targeting an October 1, 2024 effective date.

Prior to filing and as part of planning for the Company’s Phase II EE&C Plan, UGI Gas consulted with the Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”) and Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”), and as part of those discussions, developed the proposed one-year extension. The Company is authorized to represent that OSBA does not oppose the requested one-year extension. Further, it is the Company’s understanding that the OCA supports the requested one-year extension of the EE&C Plan.

In support of the Petition, UGI Gas avers as follows:

I. INTRODUCTION

1. UGI Gas is a “public utility” and an “natural gas distribution company” (“NGDC”), as those terms are defined in Sections 102 and 2202 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. §§ 102, 2202.

2. On January 28, 2019, UGI Gas filed its 2019 base rate case (at Docket Nos. R-2018-3006814, *et al.*), which included its consolidated EE&C Plan that was based on the Company’s then-existing two voluntary gas EE&C Plans for its former North and South rate districts.¹ The consolidated EE&C Plan is currently effective from October 1, 2019, until September 30, 2024, and extends the Company’s EE&C program and measure offerings to its entire UGI Gas service territory.

3. On October 4, 2019, UGI Gas’s consolidated EE&C Plan was approved by the Commission, as part of the 2019 base rate proceeding as modified by the Settlement, at Docket No. R-2018-3006814.²

¹ See Docket Nos. R-2015-2518438, *et al.* for former South rate district’s approved EE&C Plan and Docket Nos. R-2016-2580030, *et al.* for the former North rate district’s approved EE&C Plan.

² See *Pa. PUC v. UGI Utilities, Inc. Gas Div.*, Docket Nos. R-2018-3006814, *et al.*, at 10, 30, 32 (Opinion and Order entered Oct. 4, 2019) (“*UGI 2019 Rate Case Order*”).

4. On January 29, 2021, UGI Gas filed its Annual Report on Program Year (“PY”) 1 of the EE&C Plan.

5. On June 23, 2021, UGI Gas filed a Petition to Modify its Phase I EE&C Plan, which proposed minor changes to the EE&C Plan.

6. On July 21, 2021, the Commission issued a Secretarial Letter approving the Petition to Modify and directing the Company to file a revised EE&C Plan within 30 days that incorporated the minor changes that were approved.

7. On July 23, 2021, UGI Gas filed the revised EE&C Plan pursuant to the July 21, 2021 Secretarial Letter.

8. On January 11, 2022, UGI Gas filed its Annual Report on PY 2 of the EE&C Plan.

9. On January 26, 2023, UGI Gas filed its Annual Report on PY 3 of the EE&C Plan.

10. On January 31, 2024, UGI Gas filed its Annual Report on PY 4 of the EE&C Plan.

II. UGI GAS REQUESTS COMMISSION APPROVAL TO EXTEND THE PHASE I EE&C PLAN BY ONE YEAR

11. Through this Petition, UGI Gas respectfully requests that the Commission extend the Company’s Phase I EE&C Plan by one year.

12. The Company’s Phase I EE&C Plan is set to expire on September 30, 2024.

13. However, it is reasonable and in the public interest that the current Phase I EE&C Plan be extended by one year.

14. The extension year would utilize budget and program details identical to Phase I PY 5. This would allow a seamless transition with consistent program metrics for reporting purposes and would help ensure currently engaged contractor resources are available.

15. UGI Gas’s customers also have experienced substantial benefits from participating in the Phase I EE&C Plan. The Phase I EE&C Plan has enabled customers to take advantage of

six programs that offer a wide range of energy efficiency and conservation measures and education initiatives. UGI Gas seeks to continue to allow customers to take advantage of the Company's Phase I EE&C programs, so that customers can continue to benefit from reduced gas consumption.

16. A one-year extension will help conserve the Company's and interested parties' time and resources. In the alternative, in order to obtain Commission approval of a Phase II EE&C Plan before the Phase I EE&C Plan terminates on September 30, 2024, UGI Gas would have to pursue an expedited litigation schedule for its Phase II EE&C Plan. Such expedited litigation schedules are commonplace in EE&C Plan proceedings. However, based on discussions with stakeholders, extending the current Phase I EE&C Plan by one year will enable the Company and interested parties to conserve time and resources that are already strained and will be further strained by several major procedural matters before the Commission this year. It will also ensure that the Phase II EE&C Plan receives the appropriate level of review. Thus, a one-year extension will enable the parties to litigate the Phase II EE&C Plan using a less strenuous schedule that is not compounded by impacts related to voluminous additional procedural matters which are running, or anticipated to run, concurrently.

17. No changes to UGI Gas's Rider G – Energy Efficiency and Conservation Rider (“EEC Rider”) are needed to approve the instant Petition. The tariff already contemplates the Company's recovery of the costs related to its Phase I EE&C Plan and does not specify a set number of years for Phase I EE&C Plan. As set forth in the Company's Commission-approved tariff, the EEC Rider will remain subject to annual review and reconciliation. As part of this Petition, the Company would apply the budget from its fifth year to the extension year, with no alterations to the programs or funding levels.

18. To move forward without delay, the extension must be granted without any modification of the budget and program details of the Phase I EE&C Plan. If any modification is requested, UGI Gas requests that the Commission deny any such request, as any proposed modifications can be fully addressed in the upcoming Phase II EE&C proceeding.

19. To the extent that any party files an answer in opposition or requesting modification, UGI Gas will be prepared to file its Petition for Approval of the Phase II EE&C Plan on March 1, 2024, with a requested proposed effective date of October 1, 2024. If no party opposes this Petition, then UGI Gas will file its Petition for Approval of the Phase II EE&C Plan on or before April 15, 2024, seeking an effective date of October 1, 2025.

III. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas Division respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission extend the Phase I Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan by one year, *i.e.*, until September 30, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: February 7, 2024

Attorneys for UGI Utilities, Inc. – Gas
Division

VERIFICATION

I, Brian J. Meilinger, hereby state that I am Senior Manager-Customer Programs for UGI Utilities, Inc., that I am duly authorized to and do make this Verification on behalf of the company, that the facts set forth above are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, and that I expect the company to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: February 6, 2024

DocuSigned by:
Brian Meilinger
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Brian J. Meilinger