

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT)	CASE NO.
FILING OF NATURAL ENERGY UTILITY)	2023-00084
CORPORATION)	

ORDER

On March 6, 2023, Natural Energy Utility Corporation (Natural Energy) filed its proposed Gas Cost Recovery (GCR) rate report to be effective April 1, 2023. Natural Energy's previous GCR rate was provided in Case No. 2022-00407.¹

LEGAL STANDARD

The Commission's standard of review for GCR rates is well settled as stated in KRS 278.274(1):

In determining whether proposed natural gas utility rates are just and reasonable, the commission shall review the utility's gas purchasing practices. The commission may disallow any costs or rates which are deemed to result from imprudent purchasing practices on the part of the utility.

Further, the utility has the burden to prove the rates are just and reasonable and the Commission may reduce the purchased gas component of the utility's rates, or the rates charged by an affiliated company to the extent the amount is deemed to be unjust or unreasonable.²

¹ Case No. 2022-00407, *Electronic Purchased Gas Adjustment Filing Of Natural Energy Utility Corporation* (Ky. PSC Dec. 22, 2022).

² KRS 278.274(2); KRS 278.274(3)(c); and KRS 278.274(3)(d).

DISCUSSION

After reviewing the record in this case and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that Natural Energy's report includes revised rates designed to pass on to its customers its expected change in gas costs. Natural Energy's report sets out an Expected Gas Cost (EGC) of \$4.8786 per Mcf, which is a decrease of \$2.1545 per Mcf from its previous EGC of \$7.0331 per Mcf. Natural Energy's report sets out no Refund Adjustment. Natural Energy's report sets out a current quarter Actual Adjustment (AA) of (\$0.6891) per Mcf. Natural Energy's total AA is (\$1.3991) per Mcf, which is a decrease of \$0.4369 per Mcf from its previous total AA of (\$0.9622) per Mcf.

Based on the calculations above, the Commission finds that Natural Energy's GCR is \$3.4795 per Mcf, which is a decrease of \$2.5914 per Mcf from its previous GCR of \$6.0709 per Mcf. The Commission further finds that rates as proposed by Natural Energy and set forth in the Appendix to this Order are fair, just and reasonable and should be approved for final meter readings by Natural Energy on and after April 1, 2023. Although Natural Energy's GCR rate report did not provide 30 days' notice to the Commission as required by its tariff, KRS 278.180(2) authorizes the Commission to make a reduction in rates effective in less than 30 days.

For the purpose of transparency and to maintain a record of information for future use, the Commission finds that Natural Energy shall submit all invoices it receives along with its monthly usage reports for each month of the reporting period when it files its future GCR rate reports. Should Natural Energy purchase sustainable natural gas from a renewable source during the reporting period of any future GCR reports then the supplier, cost, and amount must be documented in its cover letter to the Commission.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

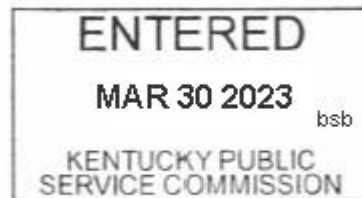
1. The rates proposed by Natural Energy and set forth in the Appendix to this Order are approved for final meter readings on and after April 1, 2023.
2. Natural Energy shall submit all invoices it receives along with its monthly usage reports for each month of the reporting period when it files its future GCR rate reports.
3. Within 20 days of the date of service of this Order, Natural Energy shall file with this Commission, using the Commission's electronic Tariff Filing System, revised tariff sheets setting out the rates approved herein and reflecting that they were approved pursuant to this Order.
4. This case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Vice Chairman


Commissioner



ATTEST:


Executive Director

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2023-00084 DATED MAR 30 2023

The following rates and charges are prescribed for the customers in the area served by Natural Energy Utility Corporation. All other rates and charges not specifically mentioned herein shall remain the same as those in effect under the authority of this Commission prior to the effective date of this Order.

RATES:

<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Base Rate</u>	Gas Cost Recovery <u>Rate</u>	<u>Total Rate</u>
All Mcf	\$4.2400	\$3.4795	\$7.7195

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