

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE APPLICATION OF AMERICAN NATURAL GAS )  
CORPORATION FOR APPROVAL TO ADJUST ITS ) CASE NO. 2001-00369  
MISCELLANEOUS CHARGES )

O R D E R

On November 1, 2001, American Natural Gas Corporation ( American ) applied for authority to increase its return check fee, reconnection charge, and collection charge. On November 13, 2001, the Commission informed American that its application was deficient and would not be considered filed until all filing deficiencies were cured. American cured the filing deficiencies on November 27, 2001, and was notified that its application was accepted for filing as of that date.

Pursuant to KRS 278.180(1), no change can be made in any rate by a utility except upon 30 days notice to the Commission. Therefore, the earliest date on which American s proposed rates could lawfully become effective was December 27, 2001. However, the Commission found that an investigation was necessary to determine the reasonableness of the proposed charges and suspended them for five months from December 27, 2001.

On January 24, 2002, Commission Staff requested additional information from American. In its response to the Staff, American withdrew its request for approval to increase its collection charge. The Commission shall consider American s response as a motion to withdraw the proposed collection charge.

The Commission, having reviewed the record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, finds that:

1. Administrative Regulation 807 KAR 5:006, Section 8(2) provides that special charges shall yield only enough revenue to pay the expenses incurred in rendering the service. American has not provided adequate evidence to demonstrate that the expenses associated with processing a returned check exceed the current return check charge of \$15.00.

2. American has provided adequate evidence of the expenses incurred in reconnecting service to justify an increase in its reconnection charge from \$25.00 to \$50.00.

3. The proposed reconnection charge of \$50.00 is fair, just, and reasonable and should be approved effective with the date of this Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. American's motion to withdraw the proposed collection charge is granted.  
2. American's request for an increase in its return check charge is denied.  
3. A reconnection charge of \$50.00 is approved for service rendered on and after the date of this Order.

4. Within 30 days of the date of this Order, American shall file its revised tariff sheet setting out the reconnection charge approved herein.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2002.

By the Commission

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director