

ORIGINAL

507
[Handwritten signature]

STATE OF INDIANA

INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION

APPLICATION OF SOUTHERN INDIANA)
GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY D/B/A)
VECTREN ENERGY DELIVERY OF)
INDIANA, INC. ("VECTREN SOUTH") FOR)
APPROVAL OF A CHANGE IN ITS FUEL)
COST ADJUSTMENT FOR ELECTRIC)
SERVICE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE)
ORDER OF THE COMMISSION IN CAUSE)
NO. 37712 EFFECTIVE JUNE 18, 1986 AND)
SENATE BILL NO. 529 EFFECTIVE APRIL)
11, 1979)

CAUSE NO. 38708 FAC 90

APPROVED: APR 27 2011

BY THE COMMISSION:

Larry S. Landis, Commissioner
Lorraine L. Seyfried, Administrative Law Judge

On February 18, 2011, in accordance with Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42, Southern Indiana Gas and Electric Company d/b/a Vectren Energy Delivery of Indiana, Inc. ("Vectren South" or "Applicant") filed its Verified Application in this Cause for approval for a change in its fuel cost charge. Applicant filed with its Verified Application the testimony of Scott E. Albertson, Applicant's Director of Regulatory Affairs; Ronald G. Jochum, Applicant's Vice President of Power Supply; and J. Cas Swiz, Applicant's Manager, Regulatory and Utility Accounting. The Indiana Office of the Utility Consumer Counselor ("OUCC") filed its report and the testimony of Gregory Guerrettaz, a Certified Public Accountant, and Michael D. Eckert, a Senior Utility Analyst, in this matter on March 25, 2011.

Pursuant to notice published as required by law, proof of which was incorporated into the record by reference and placed in the official files of the Commission, a public hearing was held in this Cause on April 11, 2011 at 10:00 a.m., in Room 224, PNC Center, 101 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana. At the hearing, Applicant and the OUCC appeared by counsel. Applicant and the OUCC offered their respective prefiled testimony and exhibits, which were admitted into evidence without objection.

1. Notice and Jurisdiction. Due, legal and timely notice of the commencement of the public hearing in this Cause was given and published by the Commission as required by law. Applicant operates a public electric utility and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission as provided in the Public Service Commission Act. The provisions of said Act authorize the Commission to act in this proceeding. The Commission, therefore, has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter herein.

2. **Applicant's Characteristics.** Applicant is a public corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana. Its principal office is located at One Vectren Square in Evansville, Indiana. Applicant is engaged in rendering electric utility service to the public and owns and operates electric generating plant and distribution system for the production, transmission, delivery and furnishing of this service.

3. **Source of Fuel and Purchased Power.** Applicant utilizes Indiana coal as its primary fuel source for electric generation. Applicant has made specific data concerning its coal purchases available to the auditors for the OUCC. Applicant's evidence indicated that through its fuel purchase policies and its purchase of power, Applicant endeavors to obtain available fuel or power as economically as possible. Based on the evidence presented, as discussed further herein, the Commission finds that Applicant has made every reasonable effort to acquire fuel so as to provide electricity to its retail customers at the lowest fuel cost reasonably possible.

4. **Purchased Power Costs For September, October and November 2010.** Applicant's witness Jochum testified that a Settlement Agreement approved by this Commission in Cause No. 43414 is effective from May 1, 2008 through April 30, 2012. The approved Settlement Agreement established daily benchmarks using a generic GT heat rate of 12,500 btu/kWh and the NYMEX Henry Hub Gas day ahead price plus \$0.60/mmbtu gas transport charge for a generic gas-fired GT. Applicant's Exhibit 2, Schedule 9 illustrates the calculation of the Daily Benchmarks. Applying the Daily Benchmarks to individual power purchase transactions in this proceeding, Applicant requests the recovery of certain purchased power costs in excess of the Daily Benchmarks for the months of September, October and November 2010.

Applicant's witness Jochum stated that Applicant incurred purchased power costs in September 2010 in excess of the daily benchmarks in the amount of \$9,012.20; incurred costs in October 2010 in excess of the benchmarks of \$3,364.30; and incurred costs in excess of the November 2010 benchmarks in the amount of \$125,908.35. Applicant's Exhibit 2, Schedule 10. Consistent with the Commission's Order in Cause No. 43414, Vectren South has an opportunity to request recovery of, and justify the reasonableness of, purchased power costs above the respective Monthly Standards and Daily Benchmarks, which are benchmarks, not recovery caps. Applicant provided the Commission with evidence regarding purchased power that included purchased power volumes, costs, the reasons for the purchases, and the sum of hourly purchased power costs in excess of the applicable benchmarks for the reconciliation period. *Id.* Applicant reported that all over-benchmark costs included in this proceeding are recoverable. *Id.* OUCC witness Eckert concurred that Applicant should be allowed to recover the \$138,284.85 of purchased power that exceeded the benchmark.

5. **Available Data on Actual Fuel Cost.** At the time of the filing of this application, the latest month for which Applicant's actual fuel costs were available was November 2010, and the latest three months for which such figures were available were September, October and November 2010.

Applicant's cost of fuel to generate electricity and the cost of fuel included in the cost of purchased electricity in Applicant's rate Order approved August 15, 2007 in Cause No. 43111 was \$0.023363 per kWh. Applicant's cost of fuel to generate electricity and the cost of fuel included in the cost of purchased electricity in November 2010 was \$0.034065 per kWh (Applicant's Exhibit 2, Schedule 5, page 3 of 4, Line 25), and for the months of September, October and November 2010, the weighted average cost was \$0.035478 per kWh (Applicant's Exhibit 2, Schedule 5, page 4 of 4, Line 25).

6. Fuel Cost/Other Operating Expenses. Actual increases in Applicant's fuel cost through November 30, 2010 have not been offset by actual decreases in other operating expenses. In Cause No. 43111, the Commission found Applicant's annual operation and maintenance expenses, excluding fuel cost, to be \$243,494,000. As shown in Applicant's Exhibit 3, the actual operation and maintenance expense, excluding fuel cost, for the twelve months ended November 30, 2010 amounted to \$276,370,000. Thus, these figures show an increase in such expenses rather than a decrease.

7. Return Earned. Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42(d)(3), subject to the provisions of Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42.3, generally prohibits a fuel cost adjustment charge which would result in Applicant earning a return in excess of the applicable authorized return. Should the fuel cost adjustment result in Applicant earning a return in excess of the applicable authorized return, Applicant must, in accordance with the provisions of Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42.3, determine if the sum of the differentials between the actual earned return and the authorized return for each of the twelve month periods considered during the relevant period is greater than zero.

The Order in Applicant's most recent general rate case, Cause No. 43111 dated August 15, 2007, allowed a return of \$76,400,199 to be phased-in over the appropriate period that net income is affected by the earnings modification. The allowed return from Cause No. 43111, when coupled with the ECR Order adjustment from Cause No. 42861 and the Blackfoot Landfill Generation adjustment from Cause No. 43577, results in a total authorized return in this Cause of \$84,990,821, including the prorating of the additional return allowed in Cause No. 42861. Applicant's Exhibit 3 shows net electric operating income applicable to retail customers for the twelve months ended November 30, 2010 of \$88,629,000. However, the sum of the differentials for the relevant period (*i.e.*, the previous twenty FAC quarters as defined in Ind. Code § 8-1-2-42.3) for Vectren South is a deficit of \$33,215,635, as reflected on Applicant's Exhibit 4, Line 21. Thus, Applicant did not exceed its authorized return.

8. Estimation of Fuel Cost. Applicant estimates that its prospective fuel cost for the months of May, June and July 2011 will be \$55,368,402. Applicant's Exhibit 2, Schedule 1, Line 23. Applicant estimated its weighted average fuel cost for September, October and November 2010 would be \$0.035575 per kWh. Applicant's Exhibit 2, Schedule 5, page 4 of 4, Line 25. The actual weighted average fuel cost experienced for this three month period was \$0.035478 per kWh (*Id.*) resulting in a difference between estimated and actual weighted average cost in the amount of \$0.000097 per kWh or 0.27% (Applicant's Exhibit 2, Schedule 5, Page 4 of 4, Line 26). Based on the evidence presented, the Commission finds that Applicant's estimating techniques are reasonable, and its estimates for May, June and July

2011 should be accepted.

9. Actual Incremental Fuel Cost/Actual Incremental Fuel Clause Revenue.

During September, October and November 2010, Applicant's actual incremental cost of fuel incurred was \$14,751,668 (Applicant's Exhibit 2, Schedule 4, total of Column D, pages 1-3) but its actual incremental fuel adjustment revenues to be reconciled with this amount equaled \$14,585,609 (Applicant's Exhibit 2, Schedule 4, total of Column H, pages 1-3), resulting in an under recovery for the reconciliation period, in the amount of \$166,059 (Applicant's Exhibit 2, Schedule 4, total of Column I, pages 1-3). Applicant's reconciliation of the actual incremental fuel cost and the collected fuel costs for September, October and November 2010 is proper, and when combined with the estimated three months of May, June and July 2011 assures that the Applicant is reconciling actual fuel cost applicable to kWh sales.

10. Resulting Fuel Cost Adjustment.

Applicant's Exhibit 2, Schedule 1, Column E indicates that the estimated cost of fuel for the months of May, June and July 2011, in the amount of \$0.037434 per kWh (Line 24) plus the variance of \$0.000112 per kWh (Line 26), less the base cost of fuel in the amount of \$0.023363 per kWh (Line 28) results in a factor of \$0.014183 per kWh (Line 29) and, when modified for the recovery of the Indiana Utility Receipts Tax, results in a fuel cost adjustment of \$0.014403 per kWh (Line 30) to be applied to the usage billed by the Applicant during May, June and July 2011. This represents a decrease of \$0.000748 per kWh from the currently approved fuel cost adjustment.

11. Effect on Customers.

The typical residential customer using 1,000 kWh per month will experience a decrease of \$0.75 or 0.56% on his or her electric bill for May, June and July 2011 compared to the factor approved in Cause No. 38708 FAC 89 (excluding various tracking mechanisms and sales tax).

12. Interim Rates.

The Commission is unable to determine whether Applicant will earn an excess return while this FAC is in effect. Accordingly, the Commission finds that the fuel cost adjustment approved herein should be interim subject to refund, pending reconciliation of fuel costs in a subsequent FAC in the event an excess return is earned.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED BY THE INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION that:

1. The Verified Application of Vectren Energy Delivery of Indiana, Inc. for approval of a fuel cost adjustment for electric service as set out in Finding No. 10 above shall be and hereby is approved.

2. The fuel cost adjustment approved herein shall be an interim rate subject to refund consistent with Finding No. 12 above.

3. Applicant shall file with the Electricity Division of this Commission, prior to placing in effect the fuel cost adjustment herein approved, a separate amendment to its rate schedules with a reasonable reference therein reflecting that such fuel cost adjustment is

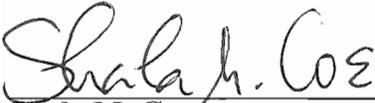
applicable to all of its filed rate schedules.

4. This Order shall be effective on and after the date of its approval.

ATTERHOLT, LANDIS AND ZIEGNER CONCUR; MAYS AND BENNETT NOT PARTICIPATING:

APPROVED: APR 27 2011

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the Order as approved.



Shala M. Coe
Acting Secretary to the Commission