

**STATE OF ILLINOIS**

**ILLINOIS COMMERCE COMMISSION**

**Consumers Gas Company** :  
: **13-0482**  
**Petition Pursuant to §7-101 of the** :  
**Public Utilities Act seeking authority** :  
**to enter a lease of office space in** :  
**which an affiliated interest exists.** :

**ORDER**

By the Commission:

On August 19, 2013, Consumers Gas Company (“Consumers”) filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission (“Commission”) a Petition pursuant to Section 7-101 of the Public Utilities Act (“Act”), 220 ILCS 5/1-101 et seq. seeking authority to enter into a Lease Agreement, identified as Exhibit GR-2, for office space with C.A. Robinson Trust. Consumers Gas Company received authority from the Commission to enter into a similar Lease Agreement with C.A. Robinson Trust in Docket No. 10-0611. The Lease Agreement with the C.A. Robinson Trust which was approved in Docket 10-0611 terminated on September 30, 2013.

Pursuant to due notice a pre-hearing conference was held in this matter before a duly authorized Administrative Law Judge of the Commission at its offices in Springfield, Illinois on September 4, 2013. Appearances were entered by counsel on behalf of Consumers and Staff of the Illinois Commerce Commission (“Staff”). There were no other appearances; nor have any petitions to intervene been received.

Following the pre-hearing conference Consumers filed a Motion for Entry of an Interim Order, as this docket will not conclude prior to the expiration of the current lease agreement approved by the Commission. The Commission notes that it entered an Interim Order in this proceeding on October 2, 2013. The Commission notes that a similar lease agreement has been previously extended by the Commission in various dockets, including Docket Nos. 07-0372 and 10-0611.

On October 31, 2013, an evidentiary hearing was held in this proceeding. Consumers and Staff each entered their testimony into evidence at this hearing. Following the conclusion of the hearing, it was determined that there were no contested issues in this proceeding.

The Commission notes that Consumers is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of Illinois and is engaged in the distribution and sale of natural gas to approximately 5,500 customers, counting the Shawneetown and Equality, Illinois municipal systems each as one customer, in Gallatin, White and Edwards Counties.

The Commission also notes that the Charles A. Robinson Trust, a shareholder of Consumers owns real estate and improvements thereon located at 1410 North Cullen Avenue, in Evansville, Vanderburgh County, Indiana and is an "affiliated Interest" as defined by 220 ILCS 5/7-101(2)(ii) of the Act. The evidence further shows that Consumers rents office space from the affiliated interest, and that it has for several years. The evidence also shows that the rent being charged by the affiliate interest is appropriate and compares favorably with other rental properties in the area. The Commission finds that the evidence supports granting Consumers authority to enter into a lease with the affiliated interest under the same conditions as shown in Exhibit GR-2 to the Petition filed herein.

The Commission, having considered the entire record herein and being fully advised in the premises, is of the opinion and finds that:

- (1) Consumers is an Illinois corporation engaged in the distribution of natural gas to the public in Illinois and is a public utility within the meaning of the Act;
- (2) the Commission has jurisdiction over Consumers and the subject matter of this petition;
- (3) Consumers and the C.A. Robinson Trust are affiliated interests as defined in Section 7-101 of the Act;
- (4) the recitals of fact set forth in the prefatory portion of this Order are supported by the record and are hereby adopted as findings of fact;
- (5) that Consumers should be granted authority to enter into a lease of office space with the C.A. Robinson Trust, under the same conditions as shown in Exhibit GR-2 to the Petition filed herein.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Consumers Gas Company is hereby granted authority to enter into a lease of office space with the Charles A. Robinson Trust, an affiliated interest, under the same conditions as shown in Exhibit GR-2 to the Petition filed herein.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that subject to the provisions of 83 Ill. Adm. Code 200.880, this Order is final; it is not subject to the Administrative Review Law.

By order of the Commission this 26th day of November, 2013.

(SIGNED) DOUGLAS P. SCOTT

Chairman