



NIXON PEABODY LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

NIXONPEABODY.COM
@NIXONPEABODYLLP

Stanley W. Widger, Jr.
Partner
T 585-263-1529
swidger@nixonpeabody.com

1300 Clinton Square
Rochester, NY 14604-1792
585-263-1000

July 28, 2015

Via E-Mail

Donna Giliberto
Records Access Officer
New York Department of Public Service
Three Empire State Plaza
Albany, New York 12223-1350

RE: Case 15-G-0213 - Report on New York State Gas Supply Readiness for the 2015-2016 Winter

Dear Ms. Giliberto:

In connection with the filing today of its response to the request of the Department of Public Service Gas Policy and Supply Section, Office of Utility Rates and Services, for information regarding natural gas supply and reliability plans and preparedness for the 2015-2016 winter, Corning Natural Gas Corporation (“Corning” or the “Company”) is requesting that portions of that filing be accorded protection from disclosure as “confidential commercial information” and/or “trade secrets” under the Public Service Commission’s (the “Commission”) regulations (16 NYCRR § 6-1.3). The information that is the subject of this request (the “Confidential Information”) consists principally of pricing information and information regarding Corning’s business plans.

The Commission’s regulations define “trade secrets” to include “any formula, pattern, device or compilation of information which is used in one’s business, and which provides an opportunity to obtain an advantage over competitors who do not know or use it” (16 NYCRR Section 6-1.3(a)). While “confidential commercial information” is not specifically defined in the regulations, the term is commonly understood to include information that gives the possessor an advantage over others and that would be valuable to others, if they could obtain it, in the context of commercial relationships. For purposes of the showing required of the person seeking to avoid disclosure, “trade secrets” and “confidential commercial information” are treated nearly identically in the regulations.

A person seeking protection from disclosure of data as a “trade secret” or as “confidential commercial information”

must show the reasons why the information, if disclosed, would cause substantial injury to the competitive position of the subject commercial enterprise. Factors to be considered include, but are not necessarily limited to:

- (i) the extent to which the disclosure would cause unfair economic or competitive damage;
- (ii) the extent to which the information is known by others and can involve similar activities;
- (iii) the worth or value of the information to the person and the person's competitors;
- (iv) the degree of difficulty and cost of developing the information;
- (v) the ease or difficulty associated with obtaining or duplicating the information by others without the person's consent; and
- (vi) other statute(s) or regulations specifically excepting the information from disclosure.

16 NYCRR Section 6-1.3(b)(2).

Consideration of these factors underscores the competitive sensitivity of the subject Confidential Information, and the prejudice that could result to Corning upon disclosure of such Confidential Information to a public that would include suppliers, vendors, customers and competitors, present or potential, of the Company.

The prices that Corning pays for natural gas supply and transportation are particularly sensitive from a competitive standpoint in that their disclosure would provide a basis for competitors, suppliers, vendors and customers to determine pricing and other business strategies in their dealings with Corning. Similar considerations apply to information on the extent to which the Company relies on particular arrangements, such as hedging and futures contracts to meet its supply obligations. Likewise, disclosure of specific information on Corning's business plans, including expansion plans, could give competitors an advantage in identifying and undermining the Company's efforts in such competitive areas. Such Confidential Information is not otherwise readily available publicly and could only be obtained or replicated by others with great difficulty and at great cost or, more likely, not at all.

Plainly, disclosure of the Confidential Information would risk "substantial injury to the competitive position" of Corning within the meaning of Section 6-1.3(b)(2).

Providing the Confidential Information subject to protection, as requested herein, will enable the Staff of the Department of Public Service and the Commission itself to confirm that Corning is

prepared for the 2015-2016 winter. Beyond serving that limited purpose, there is simply no further need for the Confidential Information and there is certainly no need for it to be publicly disclosed.

The following is a listing of the sections or tables within the Company's response that contain Confidential Information, together with a brief description of the nature of such information.

Section 9(c), Table 6: natural gas supply pricing.

Section 18(e): transportation capacity pricing.

Section 23(f): potential future "REV-like" projects.

Section 24(c): natural gas supply pricing.

Section 24(d): natural gas supply pricing.

Section 24(e): natural gas supply pricing.

Section 24(f): natural gas supply pricing.

Section 25(a): natural gas supply hedging percentages.

Section 25(b): breakdown of hedging among types of contracts.

Section 25(c): quantities of natural gas supply purchased under fixed price contracts of particular types.

Section 25(o), Table 7: portions of natural gas supply purchases and corresponding prices under different types of contractual arrangements.

The foregoing information warrants protection from disclosure for one or more of the reasons stated above.

The Confidential Information is contained in the PDF file accompanying this letter. For convenience, the Company's entire response is included; but wherever the Confidential Information appears, it is highlighted in pink. Each page containing such Confidential Information is marked as such and is preceded by a cover page indicating that the Confidential Information follows.

We are providing a copy of this letter, without the confidential enclosure, but with a redacted version, to Secretary Burgess and to the indicated members of the Staff of the Department of Public Service.

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If you should have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Stanley W. Widger, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stanley W. Widger, Jr.

Enclosure

cc: Hon. Kathleen H. Burgess
Charles Puglisi
John P. Sano