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July 27, 2009

James J. McNulty, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**Re: *Petition of West Penn Power Company d/b/a
Allegheny Power - Energy Efficiency
and Conservation Program: Docket No. M-2009-2093218***

Dear Mr. McNulty:

For electronic filing in the referenced matter, please find Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.'s Petition to Intervene.

Should you have any questions concerning this matter, please feel free to call me at 724.416.6355 or e-mail me at tjgallagher@nisource.com.

I thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Theodore J. Gallagher

cc: Certificate of Service

2. The name and address of Petitioner are:

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.
501 Technology Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

3. The name, address, e-mail address, and telephone and facsimile numbers of Petitioner's counsel are:

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4. On or about July 1, 2009, West Penn Power Company d/b/a Allegheny Power ("Allegheny Power") filed its Act 129 Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan ("EEC Plan") with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

5. Perusal of the tariffs under which Columbia and Allegheny Power operate, respectively, demonstrates a significant amount of overlap in their service territories. Columbia claims a right to intervene by virtue of an interest in this matter that is of such nature that its intervention is necessary or appropriate to the administration of Act 129, in that: its interest in this matter is not adequately represented by existing parties, and Columbia may be bound by the action of the Commission in this proceeding, and; its participation will be in the public interest. 52 Pa. Code § 5.72(a)(2), (3).

6. Under Act 129, electric distribution company (EDC) energy efficiency and conservation plans must include “a variety of energy efficiency and conservation measures” that will reduce electric consumption and peak demand 66 Pa.C.S. § 2806.1(a)(5), (c), (d). Consistent with Act 129’s directive regarding a ‘variety’ of measures, Columbia submits that a proper ECC Plan should include some fuel substitution measures, including natural gas, where appropriate.

7. Columbia submits that the use of natural gas as a means of reducing electric consumption and demand should be considered in this matter, since a natural gas option may positively impact the cost of Act 129 compliance that will ultimately be borne by Allegheny Power’s customers. Once approved, Allegheny Power’s ECC Plan will not readily be subject to amendment. Consequently, due consideration must be given to the use of natural gas as an alternate fuel at the implementation phase of the ECC Plan.

8. Columbia seeks to intervene in this matter so that the use of additional fuel substitution measures in Allegheny Power’s ECC Plan, particularly natural gas, is given due consideration. The inclusion of additional fuel substitution measures in the ECC Plan will not only assist in complying with Act 129’s consumption and demand reduction mandates, but will also inure to the benefit of customers in the form of downward pressure on wholesale electric and natural gas prices. Since Columbia provides natural gas service to a large

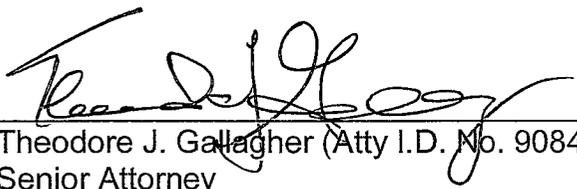
number of customers in Allegheny Power's service territory, its participation in this matter will serve to promote the consideration of natural gas as an alternative fuel source to assist in electric consumption and demand reduction by Allegheny Power's customers. Thus, Columbia's intervention in this matter is in the public interest. Moreover, Columbia's interest in this matter is not adequately represented by any other party or participant.

WHEREFORE, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. respectfully requests that the Commission approve this petition and grant it leave to intervene and admit it as a party in the above-captioned proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

By:


Theodore J. Gallagher (Atty I.D. No. 90842)
Senior Attorney
NiSource Corporate Services Company
501 Technology Drive
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Attorney for
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Dated: July 27, 2009

VERIFICATION

I, P. David Haddad, hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct (or are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief) and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements made herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: July 27, 2009



P. David Haddad
Director, Regulatory Policy
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, this 27th day of July, 2009:

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL and ELECTRONIC MAIL

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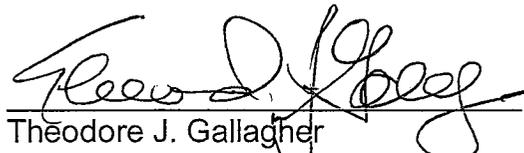
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