**BEFORE THE**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission : R-2020-3018835

Office of Small Business Advocate : C-2020-3019702

Office of Consumer Advocate : C-2020-3019714

:

v. :

:

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. :

**ORDER GRANTING THE EXPEDITED MOTION OF THE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT TO EXTEND THE STATUTORY SUSPENSION PERIOD DURING THE EMERGENCY INTERRUPTION OF NORMAL OPERATIONS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

On April 24, 2020, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia) filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) a tariff supplement proposing to increase annual revenues by $100.4 million effective on or after June 23, 2020. By Order entered May 21, 2020, the Commission suspended for investigation Columbia’s tariff supplement for seven (7) months or until January 23, 2021, pursuant to Section 1308(d) of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa.C.S. § 1308(d).

On May 29, 2020, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (I&E) filed an “Expedited Motion of the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement to Extend the Statutory Suspension Period During the Emergency Interruption of Normal Operations of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission” (Motion). In its Motion, I&E requested that an order be issued granting an extension of the statutory suspension period until February 4, 2021, “due to the disaster emergency interruption of the normal operations of the Commission as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.” Motion at 1.

The presiding officer assigned to this case, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Katrina Dunderdale, convened a prehearing conference on June 3, 2020, in which I participated.

During the prehearing conference the parties engaged in oral argument regarding I&E’s Motion, and the positions of the various parties were placed on the record. During deliberation, the ALJ informed me of her position regarding I&E’s Motion.

By Emergency Order dated March 20, 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Commission authorized the Chief ALJ in pending rate case litigation to establish reasonable deadlines under the circumstances after consideration of the positions of the parties and the presiding ALJ. *See*, *Emergency Order Re Suspension of Regulatory and Statutory Deadlines; Modification to Filing and Service Requirements*, M-2020-3019262, at 2.

In regard to the present pending rate case litigation, after consideration of the

positions of the parties and ALJ Dunderdale, I find it reasonable under the circumstances to extend the statutory suspension period by twelve (12) days, or until February 4, 2021. Therefore, I grant I&E’s Motion. Further, I placed my ruling on this matter on the record during the prehearing conference.

Any party dissatisfied with my resolution of this matter may, as set forth in 52 Pa. Code §§ 1.31 and 5.44, file a Petition for Reconsideration from Staff Action with the Commission within twenty (20) days from the date of service of this Order. The Petition shall be sent via email or e-filing only. The email should be addressed to: [rchiavetta@pa.gov](mailto:rchiavetta@pa.gov). If no timely request is made, this Order will be deemed a final action of the Commission.

ORDER

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Expedited Motion of the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement to Extend the Statutory Suspension Period During the Emergency Interruption of Normal Operations of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, in *Pennsylvania Public* *Utility Commission v. Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc*., Docket No. R-2020-3018835 is granted.

2. That the suspension period for resolution of this case is extended by twelve (12) days from January 23, 2021 to February 4, 2021.

3. That any party dissatisfied with my resolution of this case may, as set forth in 52 Pa. Code §§ 1.31 and 5.44, file a Petition for Reconsideration from Staff Action with the Commission within twenty (20) days from the date of service of this Order. The Petition shall be sent via email or e-filing only. The email should be addressed to: [rchiavetta@pa.gov](mailto:rchiavetta@pa.gov). If no timely request is made, this Order will be deemed a final action of the Commission.

Date: June 3, 2020 /s/

Charles E. Rainey Jr.

Chief Administrative Law Judge

**R-2020-3018835 et al - PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION v. COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA INC**

***Revised 6/2/20***

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