



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

April 27, 2016

**E-FILED**

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

**Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.  
(Base Rate Case)  
Docket No. R-2016-2529660**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

I am delivering for filing today the Prehearing Memorandum, on behalf of the Office of Small Business Advocate, in the above-captioned proceeding.

Copies have been served on all known parties in this proceeding, as indicated on the attached Certificate of Service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel G. Asmus".

Daniel G. Asmus  
Assistant Small Business Advocate  
Attorney ID No. 83789

Enclosures

cc: The Honorable Katrina L. Dunderdale  
Mr. Robert D. Knecht  
Parties of Record



## **II. FILING BACKGROUND**

On March 18, 2016, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania (“Columbia” or the “Company”) filed Supplement No. 241 to Columbia’s Tariff Gas, Pa. P.U.C. No. 9 (“Supplement No. 241”) with the Commission. The proposed Tariff, if approved by the Commission, would increase the Company’s distribution rates by \$55.3 million per year.

On April 4, 2016, the OSBA filed a Complaint against Supplement No. 241.

On April 22, 2016, Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) Katrina L. Dunderdale issued a Prehearing Conference Order setting April 28, 2016, as the date for a telephonic Prehearing Conference. This Prehearing Memorandum is being served on the parties consistent with that Order.

## **III. IDENTIFICATION OF WITNESSES AND TENTATIVE ISSUES**

Assisting in the development and presentation of the OSBA’s case in this proceeding will be:

Mr. Robert D. Knecht  
Industrial Economics Incorporated  
2067 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02140  
(617) 354-0074  
(617) 354-0463 – Fax  
[rdk@indecon.com](mailto:rdk@indecon.com)

The OSBA will participate in this proceeding to assure that the interests of small business customers are adequately represented and protected.

After an initial review of the materials submitted by Columbia, the OSBA has identified the following list of issues that it will evaluate in this proceeding:

1. Whether Supplement No. 241 is just, reasonable, and lawful.
2. Whether Supplement No. 241 sets rates in a discriminatory manner for the Company's small business customers.
3. Whether all costs related to universal service programs are allocated to the residential class.
4. Whether test year load forecasts and post-test year capital expenditures are just and reasonable.
5. Whether the merchant function charge, cost allocation, revenue allocation, and rate design for small business customers are just and reasonable.

The OSBA reserves the right to pursue additional issues as they arise throughout the proceeding.

#### **IV. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS**

The OSBA requests that all parties serve a hard copy of any document filed in this case upon the OSBA and the OSBA witness identified above. In addition to hard copies of pleadings, briefs, and exceptions, the OSBA requests hard copies of responses to discovery propounded by the OSBA or any other party. Service by electronic mail *only* is not acceptable.


#### **V. SETTLEMENT**

The OSBA notes its willingness to enter into settlement discussions at the appropriate phase of this proceeding.

**VI. HEARING AND BRIEFING SCHEDULE**

At the time of this writing, the parties are pursuing agreement on a proposed procedural schedule. In light of the Governor's commitment to reduce state spending, the OSBA respectfully requests that the evidentiary hearings take place in Harrisburg.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Daniel G. Asmus  
Attorney ID No. 83789  
Assistant Small Business Advocate

For:

John R. Evans  
Small Business Advocate

Office of Small Business Advocate  
300 North Second Street, Suite 202  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Dated: April 26, 2016

**BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

**Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.** :  
**Base Rate Increase** : **Docket No. R-2016-2529660**

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing have been served via email and/or first-class mail (unless other noted below) upon the following persons, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

The Honorable Katrina L. Dunderdale  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
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Piatt Place  
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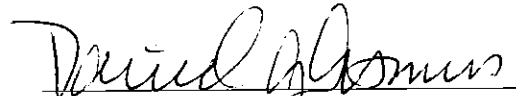
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DATE: April 27, 2016

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