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File #: 178940

June 2, 2020

***VIA ELECTRONIC FILING***

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2nd Floor North  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**Re: PA Public Utility Commission v. Columbia Gas of PA, Inc.  
Docket No. R-2020-3018835**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached for filing is the Prehearing Conference Memorandum on behalf of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc., in the above proceeding. Copies will be provided per the Certificate of Service. Thank you.

Respectfully yours,

Lindsay A. Berkstresser

LAB/kl  
Attachment

cc: Honorable Katrina Dunderdale  
Certificate of Service

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE  
(R-2020-3018835)**

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant.)

**VIA E-MAIL**

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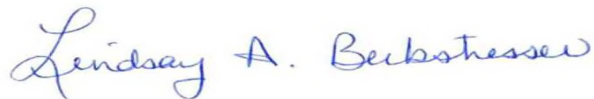
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*Counsel for Intervenor CII*



Date: June 2, 2020

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Lindsay A. Berkstresser

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. R-2020-3018835
	:	
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.	:	

**PREHEARING MEMORANDUM OF  
COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**

**TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE KATRINA L. DUNDERDALE:**

**I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

This Memorandum is in response to the Prehearing Conference Order, dated May 22, 2020, advising that a Prehearing Conference is scheduled for June 3, 2020 in the above-referenced matter.

On April 24, 2020, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Columbia”) filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) Supplement No. 307 to its Tariff Gas – Pa. P.U.C. No. 9 (“Supplement No. 307” or “base rate filing”). Supplement No. 307 was issued to be effective for service rendered on or after June 23, 2020. It proposed changes to Columbia’s distribution base rates designed to produce an increase in annual revenues of approximately \$100.4 million based upon data for a fully projected future test year ending December 31, 2021. The filing was made in compliance with the Commission’s regulations, and contains all supporting data and testimony required to be submitted in conjunction with a tariff change seeking a general rate increase.

On May 21, 2020, the Commission issued an Order suspending Columbia’s Supplement No. 307 by operation of law until January 23, 2021.

On April 27, 2020, I&E filed a Notice of Appearance. The Office of Small Business Advocate and the Office of Consumer Advocate filed Formal Complaints on May 4, 2020 and May 5, 2020, respectively. The Community Action Association of Pennsylvania, the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania, and the Columbia Industrial Intervenors filed Petitions to Intervene.

On May 29, 2020, I&E filed a Motion requesting that the Commission extend the statutory suspension period.

On June 2, 2020, Columbia filed an Answer opposing OCA's Motion.

## **II. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS**

Columbia's counsel in this proceeding are Amy Hirakis, Esquire; Meagan Moore, Esquire, Michael Hassell, Esquire; and Lindsay Berkstresser, Esquire. Columbia requests that Michael Hassell be listed as the recipient for service. Mr. Hassell's contact information is provided below:

Michael W. Hassell (ID # 34851)  
Post & Schell, P.C.  
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Columbia also requests that Ms. Hirakis, Ms. Moore and Ms. Berkstresser be added to any e-mail distribution lists in this proceeding. Ms. Hirakis's e-mail address is [ahirakis@nisource.com](mailto:ahirakis@nisource.com). Ms. Moore's e-mail address is [mbmoore@nisource.com](mailto:mbmoore@nisource.com). Ms. Berkstresser's e-mail address is [lberkstresser@postschell.com](mailto:lberkstresser@postschell.com). Columbia requests that it be served with an electronic copy of all documents submitted in this proceeding.

**III. WITNESSES AND ISSUES**

Below is a list of the witnesses and the areas of their testimony comprising Columbia’s direct case in this proceeding. The subject matters listed below represent as complete a statement of issues that Columbia can provide at this stage of the proceeding. Further definition of contested issues by the parties will develop within the scope of the subject matters listed below during the course of the proceeding.

Columbia presently intends to offer the following witnesses to testify in the base rate proceeding on the following subject matters:

<u>Statement Number(s)</u>		
1	Michael Huwar President and Chief Operating Officer Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	a) Overview of the Company filing; b) Columbia’s quality of service; and c) Management effectiveness
2	Mahamadou Bikienga Manager of Demand Forecasting NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	a) Residential and commercial sales volumes normalization; and b) Customer usage forecasts for the future and fully projected future test years.
3	Melissa J. Bell Lead Regulatory Analyst NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	a) Pro Forma operating revenues; and b) Revenue allocation and rate design proposals.
4	Kelley K. Miller Lead Regulatory Analyst NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	a) Revenue deficiency; b) Adjustments to operation and maintenance expenses.

5	John J. Spanos President Gannett Fleming, Inc. 207 Senate Avenue Camp Hill, PA 17011-2316	a) Depreciation study and service lives; and b) Annual and accrued depreciation.
6	Nicole M. Shultz Lead Regulatory Analyst NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	Rate Base.
7	Michael J. Davidson General Manager and Vice President Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	a) Pipeline distribution system; b) Pipeline replacement efforts; c) Historic operating performance; d) Distribution Integrity Management Program Plan; and e) Strategic O&M initiatives.
8	Paul R. Moul Managing Consultant P. Moul & Associates 251 Hopkins Road Haddonfield, NJ 08033	a) Cost of capital; and b) Fair rate of return.
9	Nancy J.D. Krajovic State Finance Director Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	a) Budgeted Operations and Maintenance; and b) Expenses for the FPFTY.
10	Jennifer Harding Director, Income Tax Operations NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	a) Income tax expense; b) Deferred income tax; and c) Other taxes.
11	Chad Notestone Manager of Regulatory Accounting NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	a) Allocated Cost of Service Studies.
12	Shirley Bardes Hasson Manager, Regulatory Policy Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	Tariffs.

13	Deborah A. Davis Manager, Universal Services Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	a) Columbia's efforts to increase voluntary contributions to the Hardship Fund; and b) Budget Billing Research
14	Robert M. Kitchell Vice President of Construction Services Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Cannonsburg, PA 15317	a) Pipeline replacement efforts

The testimony and exhibits fully support Columbia's proposed rate increase in Supplement No. 307, and fully support the design of rates to recover that increase from customers.<sup>1</sup>

Columbia reserves the right to present testimony, sponsored either by the witnesses listed above or by further witnesses, as may be needed, regarding additional issues and subject matters that may arise during the course of the proceeding.

**IV. PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Columbia proposes the following procedural schedule:

Other Parties' Direct Testimony – July 15, 2020

Rebuttal Testimony – August 11, 2020

Surrebuttal Testimony- August 25, 2020

Rejoinder Outline – August 31, 2020

Hearings – September 2-4, 2020

Main Briefs – September 23, 2020

Reply Briefs – October 7, 2020

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<sup>1</sup> On May 29, 2020, Columbia filed Supplement No. 310 pursuant to the Commission's May 21, 2020 Suspension Order. Supplement No. 310 suspended the proposed rates contained in Tariff Supplement No. 307 until January 23, 2021.

As fully explained in its Answer filed on June 2, 2020, Columbia opposes I&E's request to involuntarily extend the statutory suspension period from January 23, 2021 to February 4, 2021.

**V. DISCOVERY**

To date, Columbia has been served with and has answered numerous interrogatories. Proprietary information has been requested in discovery, and Columbia intends to timely submit an appropriate Motion for Protective Order.

Columbia encourages the use of informal discovery to expedite the discovery process.

**VI. SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS**

As of this time, no settlement discussions have been held. However, Columbia will be working with the parties in an effort to resolve these proceedings through settlement.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: June 2, 2020