**BEFORE THE**

**PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission : R-2020-3018835

Office of Consumer Advocate : C-2020-3019702

Office of Small Business Advocate : C-2020-3019714

Columbia Industrial Intervenors : C-2020-3020105

Michael Pikus: C-2016-2538843

:

v. :

:

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. :

**AMENDED PREHEARING ORDER**

On April 24, 2020, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia) filed Supplement No. 307 to Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No. 9 at Docket No. R-2020-3018835, with an effective date of January 23, 2021. Columbia proposed to increase overall rates by approximately $100.4 million per year, or 17.54% over present revenues. Columbia’s proposal, if granted, would increase the average residential customer bill from $87.57 to $103.19, or by approximately 17.84%. Columbia also proposed to increase the residential fixed monthly charge from $16.75 to $23.00.

On Wednesday, June 3, 2020, the presiding officer conducted a call-in telephonic prehearing conference with the parties in which various procedural matters were discussed and a litigation schedule was established. Present during the call-in telephonic prehearing conference were counsel representing the following: Columbia Gas; OCA; OSBA; BIE; CII; CAAP; and CAUSE-PA. The parties addressed various procedural matters including the litigation schedule but could not agree on a litigation schedule. The parties requested time after the prehearing conference in which to discuss together the litigation schedule and then to inform the presiding officer the proposed dates the parties would request for this proceeding.

On Friday, June 5, 2020, the parties provided suggested dates for the litigation schedule. Thereafter, the presiding officer requested, and received, clarifying information about the technology and procedure to be used by witnesses and non-testifying participants at the telephonic public input hearings. Accordingly, on Friday, June 12, 2020, the presiding officer issued the Prehearing Order which memorialized the matters discussed by the parties during the prehearing conference on June 3, 2020 and which established the litigation schedule.

Also, on June 12, 2020, the Office of Administrative Law Judge issued the Telephonic Evidentiary Hearing Notice which scheduled the telephonic evidentiary hearings for Tuesday, September 22, 2020 through Thursday, September 24, 2020.

Procedural Schedule

After the prehearing conference, the parties agreed to the following litigation schedule.

**Litigation Schedule**

Telephonic Public Input Hearings July 1, 2020

Other Party’s Direct Testimony July 28, 2020

Written Rebuttal Testimony August 26, 2020

Written Surrebuttal Testimony September 16, 2020

Written Rejoinder Outlines September 21, 2020

Hearings – Telephonic September 22-24, 2020

Close of Record September 24, 2020

Main Briefs October 16, 2020

Reply Briefs October 30, 2020

Last Public Meeting before suspension date February 4, 2020

The Prehearing Order issued on June 12, 2020 included the correct litigation schedule in the body of the Prehearing Order but included an incorrect set of dates in another location in the same Prehearing Order. In addition, the Prehearing Order incorrectly stated, in Ordering Paragraph No. 4, a different set of dates for the evidentiary hearings which had previously been discussed at the Prehearing Conference but were not agreed to by the parties.

Furthermore, after agreeing to July 1, 2020 as the date for the two telephonic public input hearings, it became obvious there was insufficient time to provide two weeks’ notice of the public input hearings. Columbia Gas, BIE and OCA advised the presiding officer on June 15, 2020, that July 8, 2020 would be an agreeable date for the telephonic public input hearings.

Thus appearing there is a need to clarify the correct dates for the evidentiary hearings and the public input hearings in this matter, the Prehearing Order dated June 12, 2020, will be amended in the Ordering Paragraphs below to reflect the correct dates for the telephonic evidentiary hearings and to move the telephonic public input hearings from July 1, 2020, to July 8, 2020.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the procedural schedule is amended to reflect the evidentiary hearings in this matter will be conducted telephonically on Tuesday, September 22, 2020 through Thursday, September 24, 2020.

2. That the telephonic public input hearings will be conducted on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. and at 6:00 p.m.

Date: June 15, 2020 /s/ Katrina L. Dunderdale

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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