



Candis A. Tunilo
Senior Counsel
Legal Department

800 N. Third Street
Suite 204
Harrisburg, PA 17102
Cell: 223-488-0794
ctunilo@nisource.com

August 4, 2023

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: Petition for Declaratory Order of the Retail
Energy Supply Association
Docket No. P-2023-3039774**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing please find Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.'s Prehearing Memorandum regarding the above matter.

Thank you for your attention. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at 223-488-0794.

Very truly yours,

Candis A. Tunilo

/kak

Enclosure

Cc Christopher P. Pell, Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge cpell@pa.gov
Chad Allensworth Administrative Law Judge callenswor@pa.gov

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Petition for Declaratory Order of the Retail :
Energy Supply Association : Docket No. P-2023-3039774
:

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

**TO: ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES CHRISTOPHER P. PELL AND CHAD
ALLENSWORTH:**

Pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 5.222(d) and the Prehearing Conference Order dated July 12, 2023, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Columbia” or “Company”) hereby submits this Prehearing Conference Memorandum.

I. HISTORY OF THIS PROCEEDING

On April 10, 2023, the Retail Energy Supply Association (“RESA”) filed a Petition for Declaratory Order (“Petition”) seeking a finding that two of Columbia’s purchased gas cost (“PGC”) filings are improper and requesting that the Commission issue a cease-and-desist order that prohibits Columbia from making interim PGC adjustment filings. Specifically, the PGC filings that RESA references are (1) the filing made February 27, 2023, to be effective March 1, 2023 (“March 1 Interim Filing”), and (2) the filing made March 28, 2023, to be effective April 1, 2023 (“April 1 Quarterly Filing”).

As averred in Columbia’s Answer to RESA’s Petition filed on May 1, 2023, Columbia submitted the March 1 Interim Filing with the Commission on February 27, 2023, which filing reduced the PGC rate due to the significant, unexpected reduction in actual gas prices from those projected in late 2022. The significant gap between projected gas prices and actual gas prices had

already resulted in an approximate \$18.7 million over-collection from customers from January 1-February 28, 2023. The March 1 Interim Filing was designed to better align the PGC rate with actual gas prices and leave customers' money in their households rather than Columbia holding significant excess customer funds until the PGC's E-Factor (reconciliation of over or under-collections plus interest) is adjusted in October 2023. Thereafter, Columbia filed the April 1 Quarterly Filing in accordance with the Company's regular quarterly PGC filing schedule.

On May 1, 2023, OCA filed an Answer to RESA's Petition opposing the relief sought by RESA and supportive of Columbia's March 1 Interim Filing.

II. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS

Columbia's attorneys in this proceeding are:

Candis A. Tunilo, Esquire
800 N Third Street, Suite 204
Harrisburg, PA 17102
Phone: 223-488-0794
E-mail: ctunilo@nisource.com

Theodore J. Gallagher, Esquire
121 Champion Way, Suite 100
Canonsburg, PA 15317
Phone: 724-809-0525
E-mail: tjgallagher@nisource.com

Columbia requests that Candis A. Tunilo be listed as the recipient for service. Columbia also requests that Mr. Gallagher be added to any e-mail distribution lists in this proceeding. Columbia agrees to receive service of documents electronically in this proceeding.

III. WITNESSES AND ISSUES

At this time, the Company expects to present the following witness:

| |
|---|
| <u>Witness</u> |
| Jessica M. Fischer Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania 240 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215 |

Columbia reserves the right to call additional witnesses, as necessary, to address issues that may arise during the course of this proceeding. In the event that Columbia intends to call additional witnesses, Columbia will promptly advise the ALJs and parties thereof.

IV. PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Columbia, RESA and OCA have engaged in preliminary settlement negotiations. Based on those negotiations, the parties are optimistic that this matter will be resolved by way of settlement. Accordingly, Columbia requests that the procedural schedule be held in abeyance for not longer than two weeks, at which time the parties will advise the ALJs if a second prehearing conference should be convened to address a litigation schedule or to set timelines for filing of a joint petition for settlement and statements in support.

V. DISCOVERY

At this time, Columbia does not propose any modifications to established regulations regarding service and timing of discovery.

To the extent that protection of confidential information is necessary, Columbia will timely submit a Motion for Protective Order.

VI. SETTLEMENT

As described above, the Company remains open to settlement of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Candis A. Tunilo, (ID # 89891)
800 N. Third Street, Suite 204
Harrisburg, PA 17102
Phone: 2230488-0794
E-mail: ctunilo@nisource.com

Theodore J. Gallagher (ID # 90842)
121 Champion Way, Suite 100
Canonsburg, PA 15317
Phone: 724-416-6355
E-mail: tjgallagher@nisource.com

Date: August 4, 2023

*Attorneys for Columbia Gas of
Pennsylvania, Inc.*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

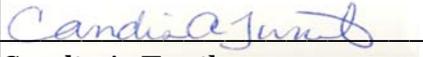
Richard Kanaskie, Esquire
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120
rkanaskie@pa.gov

Todd S. Stewart, Esquire
Hawke McKeon & Sniscak LLP
100 North Tenth Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101
tsstewart@hmslegal.com
Counsel for RESA/NGS Parties

NazAarah Sabree
Small Business Advocate
Office of Small Business Advocate
555 Walnut Street
1st Floor, Forum Place
Harrisburg, PA 17101
Ra-sba@pa.gov

Aron J. Beatty, Esquire
Harrison W. Breitman, Esquire
Office of Consumer Advocate
555 Walnut Street
5th Floor, Forum Place
Harrisburg, PA 17101-1923
abeatty@paoca.org
hbreitman@paoca.org

Dated August 4, 2023


Candis A. Tunilo