



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

April 2, 2024

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.
1307(f) Proceeding / Docket No. R-2024-3047014**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing please find the Prehearing Memorandum, on behalf of the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”), in the above-captioned proceeding.

Copies will be 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,

/s/ Sharon E. Webb

Sharon E. Webb
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Attorney ID No. 73995

Enclosures

cc: Kevin C. Higgins
Parties of Record

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. R-2024-3047014
	:	
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.	:	
1307(f) Proceeding	:	

**PREHEARING MEMORANDUM
OF THE OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS ADVOCATE**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”) is authorized to represent the interests of small business customers of utility services before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) pursuant to the provisions of the Small Business Advocate Act, Act 181 of 1988, 73 P.S. §§ 399.41 – 399.50 (“the Act”). In order to discharge this statutory duty, the Small Business Advocate deems it necessary to participate as a party to these proceedings. Representing the OSBA in the above-referenced matter is Assistant Small Business Advocate Sharon E. Webb.

Please address all correspondence in this matter as follows:

Sharon E. Webb
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Office of Small Business Advocate
Forum Place
555 Walnut Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 783-2525
(717) 783-2831 (fax)
swebb@pa.gov

II. FILING BACKGROUND

On March 1, 2024, pursuant to Section 1307(f) of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. § 1307(f), Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Columbia” or the “Company”) submitted the Company’s pre-filing in support of its annual Purchased Gas Cost (“PGC”) rate filing.

The OSBA filed a Complaint on March 20, 2024.

III. IDENTIFICATION OF WITNESS AND TENTATIVE ISSUES

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

Mr. Kevin C. Higgins
Energy Strategies LLC
111 East Broadway, Suite 1200
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
(801) 355-4365
(801) 521-9142 – Fax
khiggins@energystrat.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 the Company's actual and forecast lost and unaccounted-for gas rates are reasonable and consistent with Commission guidelines.

2) Whether the Company's gas price hedging strategy is consistent with Commission-approved practice or is otherwise reasonable.

3) Whether the Company's design day demand forecasting method and its resulting peak day capacity requirements are consistent with Commission-approved practice or are otherwise reasonable.

4) Whether the Company's gas supply mix and strategy for diversification are consistent

with Commission-approved practice or are otherwise reasonable.

5) Whether the Company's strategy for capacity release, off-system sales, asset management arrangements, and storage fill agreements is consistent with Commission-approved practice or is otherwise reasonable and serves to minimize costs incurred by PGC customers.

The OSBA reserves the right to pursue additional issues that may arise throughout this proceeding.

IV. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS

In accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 1.54(b)(3)(i), the OSBA agrees to accept electronic mail delivery of documents on the due date¹ as satisfying the in-hand requirement. The OSBA requests that email delivery of documents also be provided to its witnesses identified above.

In addition to email copies of pleadings, briefs, and exceptions, the OSBA requests email copies of responses to discovery propounded by the OSBA or any other party.

V. DISCOVERY

The OSBA does not propose any discovery modifications.

VI. SETTLEMENT

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

¹ In accordance with 52 Pa. Code § 1.56(a)(5), documents must be received by 4:30 pm.

VII. HEARING AND BRIEFING SCHEDULE

At the time of this writing, the parties are discussing a proposed procedural schedule.

The OSBA will continue to work collaboratively to establish a mutually acceptable procedural schedule.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sharon E. Webb

Sharon E. Webb
Assistant Small Business Advocate
Attorney ID No. 73995

Office of Small Business Advocate
Forum Place
555 Walnut Street, 1st Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 783-2525
(717) 783-2831 (fax)

Dated: April 2, 2024

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. R-2024-3047014
	:	C-2024-3047686
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.	:	
1307(f) Proceeding	:	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing have been served via email (*unless otherwise 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 Emily DeVoe
Administrative Law Judge
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
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edevoe@pa.gov

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DATE: April 2, 2024

/s/ Sharon E. Webb
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Attorney ID No. 73995