

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2023-3043425
	:	
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.	:	

**INTERIM ORDER  
DIRECTING PARTIES TO SUBMIT STATUS REPORT**

On October 6, 2023, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (I&E) of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) filed a Formal Complaint (Complaint) against Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia, Respondent, or Company), alleging violations of the Public Utility Code, Pennsylvania Code, and Code of Federal Regulations in connection with a natural gas explosion that occurred on October 29, 2020, at 448 Chestnut Street, Rimersburg, Pennsylvania. As relief, I&E proposes Columbia pay a civil penalty and take various corrective actions.

On October 16, 2023, Columbia filed a Letter requesting an extension of time to file a response to the Complaint. By Secretarial Letter dated October 17, 2023, the Commission’s Secretary’s Bureau granted Columbia’s request, extending the deadline for Columbia to file a response to November 14, 2023.

On November 14, 2023, Columbia filed an Answer to the Complaint, denying the material averments in the Complaint.

On November 15, 2023, the Commission issued a Hearing Notice, assigning this matter to me and scheduling an evidentiary hearing for January 4, 2024.

After reviewing the filings in this matter and consulting with the parties, I determined it was appropriate to convert the January 4, 2024, proceeding into a Prehearing Conference. On November 20, 2023, I issued a Prehearing Conference Order, which advise the parties to, *inter alia*, file prehearing conference memoranda by noon on January 3, 2024.

On January 3, 2024, both I&E and Columbia filed prehearing conference memoranda. After reviewing the filings, in which both parties indicated settlement discussions were ongoing, I contacted the parties to determine whether the conference on January 4, 2024, was necessary or appropriate. The parties agreed to cancel the conference and submit a status report in 30 days.

On January 3, 2024, the Commission issued a Notice, cancelling the January 4, 2024, conference.

On February 1, 2024, the parties submitted a status report by email, advising that settlement discussions are productive and ongoing. They requested they be permitted to submit a status report in thirty days. I advised them by email this was agreeable.

On February 6, I issued an Interim Order memorializing those email communications.

On March 4, 2024, the parties submitted another status report by email, advising they have held and have scheduled additional meetings to continue settlement negotiations. They advised that discussions have been fruitful and progress has been made. They requested an additional 30 days in an effort to reach an amicable resolution. I responded that was acceptable and directed the parties to submit a status report by April 3, 2024. This Order memorializes those email communications.

On April 3, 2024, the parties submitted another status report by email, advising they continue to discuss settlement. They requested an additional 30 days to pursue an amicable

settlement. I responded by email that this was acceptable and directed the parties to submit a status update by **May 3, 2024**.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. The parties shall submit a status report by **May 3, 2024**.
2. The parties may submit their status report by email directly to me at [edevoe@pa.gov](mailto:edevoe@pa.gov).

Date: April 4, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Emily I. DeVoe  
Administrative Law Judge

**C-2023-3043425 - BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION & ENFORCEMENT v. COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA INC**

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