

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	R-2024-3046519
Office of Small Business Advocate	:	C-2024-3047905
Office of Consumer Advocate	:	C-2024-3047675
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.	:	

PREHEARING CONFERENCE ORDER

An initial telephonic prehearing conference in this case is scheduled for April 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. The undersigned presiding officer will preside telephonically from Hearing Room 2015, Suite 220, Piatt Place, 301 Fifth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. The parties are hereby directed to comply with the following requirements:

1. Please review the regulations pertaining to prehearing conferences, 52 Pa. Code §5.221- §5.224, and in particular, §5.222(d) which provides, in part:

(d) Parties and counsel will be expected to attend the conference fully prepared for useful discussion of all problems involved in the proceeding, both procedural and substantive, and fully authorized to make commitments with respect thereto.

The preparation must include submission of a prehearing memorandum and list:

- (i) The presently identified issues.
- (ii) The names and addresses of the witnesses.
- (iii) The proposed area of testimony of each witness.

- (2) The preparation may include:
- (i) Development of a proposed procedural schedule.
 - (ii) Advance study of all relevant materials.
 - (iii) Advance informal communication between the parties, including requests for additional data and information, to the extent it appears feasible and desirable.

(Emphasis added.)

2. Each party must prepare and distribute a prehearing memorandum on or before April 15, 2024, which shall include a list of the issues and sub-issues the party intends to address, a statement of the party's position on each of the issues and sub-issues listed, the names, business addresses, and telephone numbers of witnesses the party expects to call and the subject matter of each witness' testimony. The parties are directed to confer prior to the prehearing conference to discuss and attempt to agree upon a final litigation schedule. In the event the parties are able to agree to a proposed litigation schedule, the proposal shall be set forth in the prehearing memoranda. The prehearing memoranda shall be provided to the undersigned presiding officer electronically in Microsoft Word format.

In preparation of prehearing memoranda and discussions between the parties to develop a litigation schedule, the parties should anticipate that the reply brief deadline will be August 30, 2024 and the Commission public meeting date will be December 5, 2024.

In addition, please confer and attempt to agree upon the dates, times, and locations of public input hearings, if any, in this proceeding. In addition, please attempt to agree upon whether each such public input hearing will be conducted in person or by telephone and the substance of and manner in which notice will be provided for each such public input hearing. Any agreement shall be included in the prehearing memoranda, and if no agreement is reached, each parties proposal shall be included in their prehearing memoranda.

3. Please review the regulations relating to discovery, specifically 52 Pa. Code §5.331(b), which provides, inter alia, that “a party shall initiate discovery as early in the proceedings as reasonably possible,” and 52 Pa. Code §5.322, which encourages participants to exchange information on an informal basis. The parties are encouraged to cooperate in discovery. Such cooperation is preferable to numerous or protracted discovery disagreements, which require the presiding officer’s participation for resolution. Please be aware that there are limitations on discovery and sanctions for abuse of the discovery process. 52 Pa. Code §§5.361, 5.371-5.372.

4. You must serve the undersigned Administrative Law Judge directly with a copy of any document that you file in this proceeding. If you send me any correspondence or document, you must send a copy to all other parties. For your convenience, a copy of the Commission’s current service list of the parties to this proceeding is enclosed with this Order.

5. Parties must serve me directly (electronically at jeffwatson@pa.gov and to my Legal Assistant Mary Swarner at mwarn@pa.gov and by hard copy if service of hard copies is possible) with any document you file in this proceeding. If you send any document or correspondence, you must send a copy to all other parties in the case. The current service list is attached to this order. My correct mailing address is:

Administrative Law Judge Jeffrey A. Watson
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
301 Fifth Avenue, Suite 220, Pittsburgh, PA 15222

6. Pursuant to 52 Pa.Code §§ 1.21-1.23, you may represent yourself if you are an individual or a sole proprietorship, or you may have an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, or admitted *pro hac vice*, represent you. However, if you are a partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association, joint venture, other business organization, trust, trustee, legal representative, receiver, agency, governmental entity, municipality or other political subdivision, you must have an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or admitted *pro hac vice* represent you in this proceeding.

R-2024-3046519 - PA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION v. COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA INC

CANDIS A TUNILO ESQUIRE
COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA
INC
800 N THIRD ST SUITE 204
HARRISBURG PA 17102
717.233.1351
223.488.0794
ctunilo@nisource.com
Accepts eService

JOSEPH L VULLO ESQUIRE
BURKE VULLO REILLY ROBERTS
1460 WYOMING AVENUE
FORTY FORT PA 18704
570.288.6441
jlvullo@bvrrlaw.com
Accepts eService

MELANIE EL ATIEH ESQUIRE
CHRISTY APPLEBY ESQUIRE
HARRISON W BREITMAN ESQUIRE
OFFICE OF CONSUMER ADVOCATE
555 WALNUT STREET
HARRISBURG PA 17101
717.783.5048
melatieh@paoca.org
cappleby@paoca.org
hbreitman@paoca.org
Accepts eService

SCOTT B GRANGER ESQUIRE
PA PUC BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
& ENFORCEMENT
SECOND FLOOR WEST
400 NORTH STREET
HARRISBURG PA 17120
717.425.7593
717.884.1440
sgranger@pa.gov
Accepts eService

STEVEN C GRAY ESQUIRE
REBECCA LYTTLE ESQUIRE
OFFICE OF SMALL BUSINESS
ADVOCATE
FORUM PLACE
555 WALNUT STREET 1ST FLOOR
HARRISBURG PA 17101
717.783.2525
717.783.2831
sgray@pa.gov
relyttle@pa.gov
Served via email and first class mail

RIA M. PEREIRA, ESQUIRE
LAUREN N. BERMAN, ESQUIRE
JOHN W. SWEET, ESQUIRE
ELIZABETH R. MARX, ESQUIRE
118 LOCUST STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17101
pulp@pautilitylawproject.org
Accepts eService
Counsel for CAUSE-PA