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May 20, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING ONLY

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: Application for Approval of Abandonment of Natural Gas Service by
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. to Two (2) Inactive Residential
Premises in Clarion County, Pennsylvania
Docket No. A-2024-**

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Enclosed for filing please find an Application for Approval of Abandonment of Natural Gas Service by Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. to Two (2) Inactive Residential Premises in Clarion County, Pennsylvania.

The appropriate filing fee in the amount of \$350.00 has been paid via electronic payment through the PUC electronic filing system.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. 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 Certificate of Service

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Application for Approval of :
Abandonment of Natural Gas Service :
by Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. : Docket No. A-2024-_____
to Two (2) Inactive Residential :
Premises in Clarion County, :
Pennsylvania :

**APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.
PUBLIC VERSION**

TO THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION:

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Columbia” or “the Company”), pursuant to the provisions of Section 1102(a)(2) of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. § 1102(a)(2), hereby requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) approve the abandonment or discontinuance of natural gas service to two (2) inactive residential premises on Columbia’s system in Clarion County, Pennsylvania. In support of the request, Columbia states as follows:

1. The name and address of the Applicant are:

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.
121 Champion Way, Suite 100
Canonsburg, PA 15317

2. The names and addresses of Columbia’s attorneys are:

Candis A. Tunilo, Esquire (ID #89891)
800 N Third Street, Suite 204
Harrisburg, PA 17102
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Theodore J. Gallagher, Esquire (ID # 90842)
121 Champion Way, Suite 100
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3. Columbia is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with a principal place of business at 121 Champion Way, Suite 100, Canonsburg, PA 15317. Columbia is engaged in the business of selling and distributing natural gas to retail customers within the Commonwealth, and therefore, is a “public utility” within the meaning of Section 102 of the Public Utility Code, 66 Pa. C.S. § 102, subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Commission. Columbia provides natural gas service to approximately 445,000 customers in 26 counties of Pennsylvania, pursuant to certificates of public convenience granted by the Commission.

4. Columbia seeks the Commission’s authorization to abandon service to two (2) inactive residential premises in Clarion County, Pennsylvania. The names of the property owners and addresses of the affected premises (collectively referred to as the “Premises”) are:

Name:	Service Address (Inactive):	Disconnected:
Residential Premises:		
Margaret Odgen	472 Ogden Road, Shippenville, PA 16254	September 11, 2014
Michael A. Palo	473 Ogden Road, Shippenville, PA 16254	November 13, 2017

5. The Premises previously received natural gas service from a 1,758-foot section of distribution line that Columbia owns and operates, which Columbia refers to as the Knox – Amsler School MP System, a medium-pressure distribution system. The Premises have been inactive for more than 2 years.

6. A map of the area depicting the distribution line and the Premises that Columbia proposes to abandon is included as Attachment “A” to this Application. The distribution line is identified on Attachment “A” with a red rectangle. The Premises are identified on Attachment “A” with blue rectangles. As depicted in Attachment “A”, the 1,758-foot section of distribution line runs along Ogden Road.

7. The Company seeks to abandon all 1,758 feet of this section of the Knox – Amsler School MP distribution line, which previously served the Premises. Columbia’s records indicate this section of distribution line is comprised of bare steel and vintage plastic, which is approximately 46 years old. These facilities are at the end of their useful lives and need to be replaced. In addition to the age and composition of these facilities, only the two (2) inactive residential Premises will be affected by the abandonment. Further, there is no potential for customer growth along the portion of main that Columbia proposes to abandon.

8. Replacing these facilities is estimated to result in a net increase to Columbia’s capital investment of at least \$175,800. Since there would be no expected revenue from the installation of facilities to serve the two (2) inactive residential Premises, the cost of installing such facilities is not justified. Further, replacement of this section of distribution main is not otherwise operationally needed for Columbia to transport or deliver gas to other locations in its service territory. Consequently, Columbia submits that it is neither in the public interest, nor in the interest of Columbia’s other customers, to replace the facilities that formerly served the Premises.

9. Prior to filing this Application, Columbia sent letters to the current property owners, on May 1, 2024, via regular and certified mail. In that letter, Columbia explained that the facilities which previously served the Premises are no longer needed for the

operation of Columbia's distribution system, and therefore, Columbia is planning to take the facilities out of service. The letter also advised that Columbia intended to file an abandonment application with this Commission on or after May 15, 2024, and that gas distribution service from Columbia would no longer be available to the Premises if the Commission were to grant the application. The letter advised the property owners of the Premises to contact Columbia if they had any questions or concerns. As of May 20, 2024, the property owners have not contacted Columbia.

10. Approval of Columbia's Application is necessary and proper for the following reasons:

- a. The two (2) inactive residential Premises have not received natural gas service for many years; and
- b. The significant cost to replace the facilities that formerly served the affected Premises cannot be justified, since such replacement facilities will not produce any revenues and are not otherwise operationally needed.

WHEREFORE, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. respectfully requests that the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission issue a Certificate of Public Convenience, pursuant to 66 Pa. C.S. § 1102(a)(2), authorizing Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. to abandon natural gas distribution service to the two (2) inactive residential premises located at 472 Ogden Rd, Shippenville, PA 16254 and 473 Ogden Rd, Shippenville, PA 16254.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: May 20, 2024

Attorneys for Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Attachment "A"
Map of the Affected Area

VERIFICATION

I, Ribeka S. Danhires, Manager of Rates & Regulatory Service for Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc., hereby state that the facts above set forth are true and correct (or are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief) and that I expect to be able to prove the same at a hearing held in this matter. I understand that the statements made herein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: May 20, 2024



Ribeka S. Danhires
Ribeka S. Danhires
Manager of Rates & Regulatory Service
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

VIA FIRST CLASS MAIL

Margaret Odgen
472 Ogden Road
Shippenville, PA 16254

Michael A. Palo
473 Ogden Road
Shippenville, PA 16254

Date: May 20, 2024



Candis A. Tunilo