

**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
Ronald T. Bernick	:	C-2024-3048339
Linda Allison	:	C-2024-3048588
Philip Bloch	:	C-2024-3048478
Pennsylvania State University	:	C-2024-3048624
Daniel E. Skvarla	:	C-2024-3049677
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.	:	

**INTERIM ORDER SETTING VARIOUS DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR POST
HEARING FILINGS**

On March 15, 2024, Columbia Gas filed with the Commission, Supplement No. 374 to its Tariff Gas – Pa. P.U.C. No. 9. Supplement No. 374 was issued to be effective for service rendered on or after May 14, 2024. It proposed changes to Columbia’s distribution base rates designed to produce an increase in annual revenues of approximately \$124.1 million based upon data for a fully projected future test year (FPFTY) ending December 31, 2025.

On April 4, 2024, the Commission issued an Order suspending Columbia’s Supplement No. 374 by operation of law until December 14, 2024., the Office of Consumer Advocate filed a Formal Complaint (Complaint) at Docket No. C-2024-3047675.

On March 27, 2024, the Office of Small Business Advocate filed a Formal Complaint at Docket No. C-2024-3047905.

On March 29, 2024, Ronald T. Bernick filed a Formal Complaint at Docket No. C-2024-3048339.

On March 18, 2024, the Pennsylvania Weatherization Providers Task Force, Inc. filed a Petitions to Intervene.

On April 4, 2024, the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA) filed a Petition to Intervene.

On March 21, 2024, the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement filed a Notice of Appearance.

On April 8, 2024, Linda Allison filed a Formal Complaint at Docket No. C-2024-3048588.

On April 15, 2024, Philip Bloch filed a Formal Complaint at Docket No. C-2024-3048478.

On April 10, 2024, a Call-In Telephone Prehearing Conference Notice (Conference Notice) was issued scheduling an initial telephonic prehearing conference in this case is scheduled for April 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

By Prehearing Conference Order dated April 10, 2024, Columbia, OCA, OSBA, I&E, Pennsylvania Weatherization Providers Task Force, Inc., and CAUSE-PA were notified that the proceeding was assigned to the undersigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ or Presiding Officer) for a telephonic Prehearing Conference on April 17, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. In accordance with the regulations pertaining to prehearing conferences, 52 Pa. Code §§5.221-5.224, the parties were directed to file their prehearing memorandums on or before April 15, 2024.

On April 16, 2024, a copy of the Prehearing Conference Order and Conference Notice was provided by email to Ronald Bernick. The Parties timely filed prehearing memoranda. The Prehearing Conference proceeded as scheduled on April 17, 2024. Counsel for Columbia, OCA, OSBA, I&E, Pennsylvania Weatherization Providers Task Force, Inc., and

CAUSE-PA, as well as Ronald Bernick participated in the Prehearing Conference, which resulted in the establishment of a litigation schedule and an agreement regarding various scheduling and procedural matters.

On April 18, 2024, a Prehearing Order was entered which, among other things, adopted discovery deadlines and a litigation schedule.

On April 22, 2024, the Pennsylvania State University filed a Formal Complaint at Docket No. C-2024-3048624.

On May 1, 2024, a public input hearing notice was issued which scheduled in-person public input hearings for Tuesday, May 21, 2024, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. and telephone public input hearings for Wednesday, May 22, 2024, at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.

On May 21, 2024, the undersigned presiding officer convened the initial in-person public input hearing at 1 p.m. Two individuals, Richard Culbertson and Gordon Lowry provided testimony. Richard Culbertson also provided the undersigned presiding officer with a thirty-six-page packet of information, including Appendices I, II and III, which was marked for identification purposes as Culbertson Exhibit 1. After providing the Parties with an opportunity to address the request by Mr. Culbertson, and given the voluminous nature of the exhibit and the relatively short period of time that Parties may have had to review the exhibit the undersigned presiding officer advised the Parties that an Order would be entered providing a deadline of May 29, 2024 to file and serve objections to Culbertson Exhibit 1 and June 5, 2024 to file and serve responses to the objections.

On May 21, 2024, at 6 p.m. the undersigned presiding officer convened the second in-person public input hearing. No individuals requested to provide testimony and the hearing was adjourned.

On May 22, 2024, the undersigned presiding officer convened the initial telephone public input hearing at 1 p.m. Six individuals, Daniel Skvarla, Renee Rothwell, Philip

Bloch, Linda Mosley, Raymond Berisko and Corey Burnett appeared and provided sworn testimony, with the exception of Raymond Berisko, who made an unsworn statement off of the record. On May 22, 2024, the undersigned presiding officer convened the second telephone public input hearing at 6 p.m. Linda Mosley appeared and supplemented her testimony from the 1 p.m. telephone public input hearing and the hearing was adjourned as no other witnesses offered to provide testimony.

On May 23, 2024, an Interim Order was entered permitting the Parties to file objections to the evidence offered by Richard Culbertson by May 29, 2024, and permitting the Parties and Richard Culbertson to file a response to the Objections by June 5, 2024.

On May 29, 2024, Columbia filed its Objections to the testimony and exhibit of Richard C. Culbertson. At paragraph 6 of its Objections, Columbia objected to certain portions of Mr. Culbertson's testimony and Culbertson Exhibit 1 as being irrelevant to the rates and service of Columbia. At paragraph 7 of its objections, Columbia objects to the certain portions of Mr. Culbertson's testimony and Culbertson Exhibit 1, as hearsay. Columbia also objected at paragraph 8 of its Objections to certain portions of Mr. Culbertson's testimony and Culbertson Exhibit 1, arguing they raise issues and claims that were previously decided by the Commission and the Commonwealth Court.

On May 31, 2024, Richard C. Culbertson filed Objections to the Objections of Columbia.

On June 20, 2024, an Interim Order was entered denying the Objections of Columbia Gas set forth in Paragraphs 6 and 8 of Columbia's Objections and sustaining the hearsay Objections of Columbia Gas set forth in Paragraph 7 of Columbia's Objections. The Interim Order further provided that the evidence provided through Mr. Culbertson at the public input hearing identified in Paragraphs 6 and 8 of Columbia's Objections would be admitted to the hearing record, that the presiding officer would determine the weight, if any, which the evidence would carry, and Columbia could provide rebuttal evidence to the admitted evidence. The Interim Order further provided that the objections to the evidence provided through Mr.

Culbertson at the public input hearing identified in Paragraph 7 of Columbia's Objections were sustained and the hearsay evidence would be stricken from the hearing record.

On June 20, 2024, Columbia filed the Motion for Protective Order of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. No objections were filed.

On July 17, 2024, a Protective Order was entered in this proceeding.

On July 18, 2024, an Interim Order was entered setting various deadlines and procedures for the evidentiary hearing in this proceeding.

The telephone evidentiary hearing has been scheduled to begin on July 31, 2024.

Under the circumstances, the following Order will be entered.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

Any Main Briefs and any Settlement Petition shall be filed and served on or before 4:00 p.m. on August 20, 2024.

In the event that a full or partial Settlement is reached in this proceeding, on or before August 20, 2024, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc., shall serve by first class mail, postage pre-paid and email, a copy of any Settlement Petition filed in this proceeding, upon all Parties and all individual Complainants, with instructions that any Objections to the Settlement Petition must be filed with the Commission Secretary and served upon the Parties and the undersigned presiding officer not later than 4:00 p.m. on August 30, 2024.

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