

Theodore J. Gallagher
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August 20, 2024

Via: Electronic Filing

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
P.O. Box 3265
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

RE: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Bureau of Investigation
and Enforcement v. Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.
Docket No. C-2024-3050579

Dear Ms. Chiavetta:

Enclosed is the Answer of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. to the Formal Complaint **of the Commission's Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement ("I&E")**. As indicated on the attached Certificate of Service, copies have been served in the manner indicated.

Please contact me at the above phone number should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Theodore J. Gallagher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Theodore J. Gallagher
Attorney for
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.

cc: Certificate of Service

BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement	:	
	:	
v.	:	Docket No. C-2024-3050579
	:	
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.	:	

ANSWER OF COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

Pursuant to Section 5.61 of the Public Utility Commission’s (“PUC” or “Commission”) regulations, 52 Pa. Code § 5.61, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Columbia” or “Company”) submits this Answer to the Formal Complaint of the Commission’s Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (“I&E”), which the Commission served on Columbia on August 6, 2024. For its Answer to the numbered averments in the Formal Complaint, Columbia states as follows:

1. The **averment regarding the Commission’s mailing address is admitted.** The remaining averments in this paragraph suggest a legal conclusion, to which no response is required.
2. The averments in this paragraph suggest a legal conclusion, to which no response is required.
3. **The averments regarding Complainant’s legal representation do not require a response.**

4. Admitted.
5. The averments in this paragraph suggest a legal conclusion, to which no response is required.
6. The averments in this paragraph suggest a legal conclusion, to which no response is required.
7. The averments in this paragraph suggest a legal conclusion, to which no response is required.
8. The averments in this paragraph suggest a legal conclusion, to which no response is required.
9. The averments in this paragraph suggest a legal conclusion, to which no response is required.
10. The averments in this paragraph suggest a legal conclusion, to which no response is required.
11. Columbia admits the averments in this paragraph regarding the American Society of Civil Engineering definition of SUE. Columbia denies that it failed to employ the proper level of SUE for the project at issue. To the extent that I&E avers that the proper level of SUE was not employed for the project at issue, specific proof thereof is demanded.
12. Columbia admits the averments in this paragraph regarding the American Society of Civil Engineering definition of utility quality level A. Columbia denies that it failed to employ the proper level of SUE for the project at issue. To the extent that I&E avers that the proper level of SUE was not employed for the project at issue, specific proof thereof is demanded.
13. Columbia admits the averments in this paragraph regarding the American Society of Civil Engineering definition of utility quality level B. Columbia denies that it failed to

employ the proper level of SUE for the project at issue. To the extent that I&E avers that the proper level of SUE was not employed for the project at issue, specific proof thereof is demanded.

14. Columbia admits the averments in this paragraph regarding the American Society of Civil Engineering definition of utility quality level C. Columbia denies that it failed to employ the proper level of SUE for the project at issue. To the extent that I&E avers that the proper level of SUE was not employed for the project at issue, specific proof thereof is demanded.

15. Columbia admits the averments in this paragraph regarding the American Society of Civil Engineering definition of utility quality level D. Columbia denies that it failed to employ the proper level of SUE for the project at issue. To the extent that I&E avers that the proper level of SUE was not employed for the project at issue, specific proof thereof is demanded.

16. The averments in this paragraph suggest a legal conclusion, to which no response is required.

17. The averments in this paragraph suggest a legal conclusion, to which no response is required.

18. The averments in this paragraph suggest a legal conclusion, to which no response is required.

19. The averments in this paragraph suggest a legal conclusion, to which no response is required.

20. Admitted.

21. Admitted.

22. Admitted in part, denied in part. Columbia denies the averment that the complex project ticket that I&E designated as I&E Exhibit 2 was submitted on February 22, 2022, clarifying here that the ticket was submitted on February 25, 2022.

23. Admitted.

24. Admitted.

25. Denied.

26. Admitted.

27. Admitted.

28. Admitted.

29. Admitted.

30. Admitted.

31. This paragraph references a document that speaks for itself. To the extent that the averments regarding the document misconstrue or misstate the contents thereof, the averments are denied. Any averment of wrongdoing by Columbia is specifically denied.

32. This paragraph references a document that speaks for itself. To the extent that the averments regarding the document misconstrue or misstate the contents thereof, the averments are denied. Any averment of wrongdoing by Columbia is specifically denied.

33. Admitted.

34. **The description of DPI's December 13, 2023** correspondence is admitted. Any averment of wrongdoing by Columbia is specifically denied.

35. Admitted.

36. Admitted in part, denied in part. Columbia denies the averment that it was informed of the matters described in this paragraph on February 14, 2024, clarifying here

that the correct date is February 16, 2024. All other averments in this paragraph are admitted.

37. Admitted.

38. This paragraph references a document that speaks for itself. To the extent that the averments regarding the document misconstrue or misstate the contents thereof, the averments are denied. Any averment of wrongdoing by Columbia is specifically denied.

39. This paragraph references a document that speaks for itself. To the extent that the averments regarding the document misconstrue or misstate the contents thereof, the averments are denied. Any averment of wrongdoing by Columbia is specifically denied.

40. Admitted.

41. The responses above to the averments in paragraphs 1 through 41 of the Formal Complaint are incorporated herein as if stated in their entirety.

42. Columbia denies the allegations of violations as described in paragraph 42, Count 1 of the Formal Complaint. Strict proof thereof is demanded. Further responding to this paragraph, all averments after the reference to 73 P.S. § 181.1(1) appear to be in the nature of legal arguments, to which no response is required.

43. Columbia denies the allegations of violations as described in paragraph 43, Count 2 of the Formal Complaint. Strict proof thereof is demanded. Further responding to this paragraph, all averments after the reference to 73 P.S. § 184 appear to be in the nature of legal arguments, to which no response is required.

WHEREFORE, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. respectfully requests that the Commission issue an Order denying the relief sought in the Bureau of Investigation and **Enforcement's Formal Complaint** and entering judgment in favor of Columbia.

Respectfully submitted,

COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

By:  _____

Theodore J. Gallagher (ID #90842)

121 Champion Way, Suite 100

Canonsburg, PA 15317

Phone: 724-809-0525

E-mail: tjgallagher@nisource.com

Attorney for Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.

Date: August 20, 2024

VERIFICATION

I, Alicia Bozic, being the Damage Prevention Consultant, 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.

Date: 08/20/2024


Alicia Bozic

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

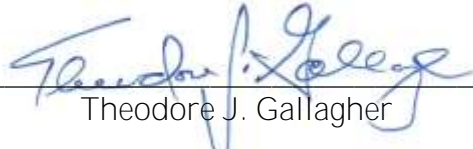
I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of 52 Pa. Code § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Grant Rosul
Prosecutor
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120
grosul@pa.gov

Michael L. Swindler
Deputy Chief Prosecutor
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120
mswindler@pa.gov

Date: August 20, 2024


Theodore J. Gallagher