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File #: 203798

May 5, 2025

***VIA ELECTRONIC FILING***

Matthew Homsher, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
Commonwealth Keystone Building  
400 North Street, 2nd Floor North  
P.O. Box 3265  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

**Re: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, et al. v. Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.  
Docket Nos. R-2025-3053499, et al.**

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Dear Secretary Homsher:

Attached for filing is the Prehearing Conference Memorandum of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc., in the above-referenced proceeding. Copies of this letter will be provided as indicated on the Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,



Megan E. Rulli

MER/dmc  
Attachment

cc: The Honorable Jeffrey A. Watson (*via email; w/attachment*)  
The Honorable Chad Allensworth (*via email; w/attachment*)  
Certificate of Service

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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

### VIA E-MAIL

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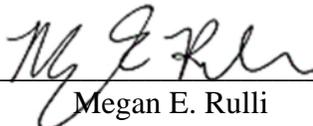
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Dated: May 5, 2025

  
Megan E. Rulli

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	R-2025-3053499
Office of Small Business Advocate	:	C-2025-3054550
Office of Consumer Advocate	:	C-2025-3054484
The Pennsylvania University	:	C-2025-3054780
Terri Walker	:	C-2025-3054662
Linda Slick	:	C-2025-3054552
Linda Allison	:	C-2025-3054434
	:	
v.	:	
	:	
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc	:	

**PREHEARING CONFERENCE MEMORANDUM OF  
COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.**

**TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES JEFFREY A. WATSON AND CHAD ALLENSWORTH:**

**I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

This Memorandum is submitted in response to the Prehearing Conference Order dated April 24, 2025, advising that a Prehearing Conference is scheduled for May 7, 2025, in the above-referenced matter.

On March 20, 2025, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (“Columbia”) filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (“Commission”) Supplement No. 392 to its Tariff Gas – Pa. P.U.C. No. 9 (“Supplement No. 392” or “base rate filing”). Supplement No. 392 was issued to be effective for service rendered on or after May 19, 2025. It proposed changes to Columbia’s distribution base rates designed to produce an increase in annual revenues of approximately \$110.5 million based upon data for a fully projected future test year (“FPFTY”) ending December 31, 2026. The filing also includes a request for approval of a Revenue Normalization Adjustment (“RNA”) mechanism to stabilize utility revenue regardless of changes in actual customer usage

and to make permanent Columbia’s currently effective Pilot Weather Normalization Adjustment (“WNA”). Columbia’s filing also includes requests to extend its Energy Efficiency Pilot for residential customers and to initiate an Energy Efficiency Program Pilot for small commercial customers. Additionally, Columbia is requesting Commission approval of an Economic Development Distribution Service (“EDDS”) tariff to allow Columbia the flexibility to enter into individual contracts with new large volume customers in a manner that provides for accelerated recovery of costs to provide such service from customers who receive that service. The filing was made in compliance with the Commission’s regulations, and contains all supporting data and testimony required to be submitted in conjunction with a tariff change seeking a general rate increase.

On April 24, 2025, the Commission issued an Order suspending Columbia’s Supplement No. 392 by operation of law until December 19, 2025.<sup>1</sup>

The Office of Consumer Advocate (“OCA”), the Office of Small Business Advocate (“OSBA”), The Pennsylvania State University (“PSU”), Terri Walker, Linda Slick, and Linda Allison filed formal complaints. The Coalition for Affordable Utility Services in Pennsylvania (“CAUSE-PA”) and the Pennsylvania Weatherization Providers Task Force (“PWPTF”) filed petitions to intervene. The Commission’s Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (“I&E”) filed a notice of appearance.

## **II. SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS**

Columbia’s counsel in this proceeding are Candis A. Tunilo, Esquire, Theodore J. Gallagher, Esquire, Michael Hassell, Esquire, Anthony Kanagy, Esquire, and Megan Rulli,

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<sup>1</sup> On April 28, 2025, Columbia filed Supplement No. 399 pursuant to the Commission’s April 24, 2025 Suspension Order. Supplement No. 399 suspended the proposed rates contained in Tariff Supplement No. 392 until December 19, 2025.

Esquire. Columbia requests that Michael Hassell be listed as the recipient for service. Mr. Hassell's contact information is provided below:

Michael W. Hassell (ID # 34851)  
Post & Schell, P.C.  
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Columbia also requests that Ms. Tunilo, Mr. Gallagher, Mr. Kanagy, and Ms. Rulli be added to any e-mail distribution lists in this proceeding. Ms. Tunilo's e-mail address is ctunilo@nisource.com. Mr. Gallagher's e-mail address is tjgallagher@nisource.com. Mr. Kanagy's email address is akanagy@postschell.com. Ms. Rulli's e-mail address is mrulli@postschell.com. Columbia requests that it be served with an electronic copy of all documents submitted in this proceeding.

The lead representative on behalf of Columbia for purposes of the prehearing conference will be Ms. Rulli.

### **III. WITNESSES AND ISSUES**

Below is a list of the witnesses and the areas of their testimony comprising Columbia's direct case in this proceeding. The subject matters listed below represent as complete a statement of issues that Columbia can provide at this stage of the proceeding. Further definition of contested issues by the parties will develop within the scope of the subject matters listed below during the course of the proceeding.

Columbia presently intends to offer the following witnesses to testify in the base rate proceeding on the following subject matters:

<u>Statement Number(s)</u>		
1	Mark Kempic President and Chief Operating Officer Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	a) Overview of the Company filing; and b) Case objectives.
2	Michael E. Girata Manager of Financial Planning & Analysis NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	a) Residential and commercial sales volumes normalization; and b) Customer usage forecasts for the future and fully projected future test years.
3	May Battig Lead Regulatory Analyst NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	Pro Forma operating revenues.
4	Joseph Vassalotti Senior Regulatory Analyst NiSource Corporate Services Company 801 E. 86 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Merrillville, Indiana 46410	a) Cost of service; and b) Adjustments to operation and maintenance expenses.
5	John J. Spanos President Gannett Fleming Valuation and Rate Consultants, LLC 207 Senate Avenue Camp Hill, PA 17011-2316	a) Depreciation study and service lives; and b) Annual and accrued depreciation.
6	Kevin L. Johnson Lead Regulatory Analyst NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 West Nationwide Boulevard Columbus, OH 43215	a) Allocated Cost of Service Studies; and b) Revenue allocation and rate design proposals.
7	Raymond A. Brumley Director of Construction Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	a) Plant additions through FPFTY; and b) Overview of ongoing replacement activities.

8	Vincent Rea Managing Director Regulatory Finance Associates, LLC 80 Blake Boulevard, #4572 Pinehurst, NC 28374	a) Capital Structure; b) Rate of return on common equity; and c) Overall rate of return.
9	Nicole M. Paloney Director of Rates and Regulatory Affairs Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	a) Performance quality; and b) Proposed Rate Schedule EDDS.
10	Jennifer Harding VP Tax NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	a) Income tax expense; b) Deferred income tax; and c) Other taxes.
11	Julie Covert Lead Regulatory Analyst NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	Rate Base.
12	Ribeka Danhires Manager, Rates & Regulatory Service Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	Tariff changes.
13	Joseph A. Nunley Partner Green Energy Economics Group, Inc. 2209 North Second Street Harrisburg, PA 17110	Energy Efficiency Plan.
14	Brian Scutta Interim Vice President of Gas Operations Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	a) Overview of Columbia's distribution system; b) Historic operating performance; c) Safety and Compliance efforts; and d) Planned enhancements to Columbia's operations.
15	George Jonda NCSC Regulatory Manager NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 West Nationwide Boulevard Columbus, OH 43215	Budgeted O&M expenses for NCSC.

16	Deborah Davis Manager of Universal Services Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	a) Proposed CAP Pilot; b) Proposed Speech Analytics Pilot; and c) Proposed cost recovery through Rider USP.
17	John Taylor Managing Partner Atrium Economics 10 Hospital Center Commons, Suite 400 Hilton Head Island, SC 29926	a) Rate design; b) WNA proposals; and c) RNA proposals.
18	Jason Leal Lead Financial Planning Analyst NiSource Corporate Services Company 801 E. 86 <sup>th</sup> Avenue Merrillville, IN 46410	Budgeting processes for Columbia’s Utility Segment departments.

The testimony and exhibits fully support Columbia’s proposed rate increase in Supplement No. 392, and fully support the design of rates to recover that increase from customers.

Columbia reserves the right to present testimony, sponsored either by the witnesses listed above or by further witnesses, as may be needed, regarding additional issues and subject matters that may arise during the course of the proceeding.

**IV. PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE**

Columbia proposes the following procedural schedule. The Company’s proposed schedule is based on the due dates provided in the Prehearing Conference Order.

Other Parties’ Direct Testimony	June 18, 2025
Rebuttal Testimony	July 17, 2025
Surrebuttal Testimony	July 31, 2025
Rejoinder Outlines	August 5, 2025
Hearings for cross-examination of all witnesses, oral rejoinder	August 6, 7, and 8, 2025
Main Briefs	August 26, 2025
Reply Briefs	September 5, 2025

End of Suspension

December 19, 2025

Because of availability conflicts, Columbia witness Spanos will have limited availability for cross-examination on August 6, 2025. Columbia has consulted with the other parties about this proposed procedural schedule. At this time, I&E, OCA, OSBA, CAUSE-PA, and PWPTF have indicated their agreement to the schedule noted above. In addition, the parties have agreed to an extension for the submission of surrebuttal testimony by OCA witness Mugrace until 2:00 PM on August 1, 2025.

Columbia does not oppose a reasonable schedule of public input hearings. Columbia requests that any public input hearings be scheduled sufficiently in advance of the due date for rebuttal testimony in order that the Company may address any issues arising at the public input hearings in rebuttal.

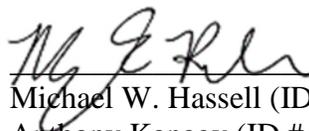
**V. DISCOVERY**

To date, Columbia has been served with and has answered numerous interrogatories. Proprietary information has been requested in discovery, and Columbia intends to timely submit an appropriate Motion for Protective Order. Columbia encourages the use of informal discovery to expedite the discovery process.

**VI. SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS**

As of this time, no settlement discussions have been held. However, Columbia will be working with the parties in an effort to resolve these proceedings through settlement.

Respectfully submitted,



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Anthony Kanagy (ID # 85522)  
Megan Rulli (ID # 331981)  
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May 5, 2025