

**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	:	

**INTERIM ORDER ESTABLISHING LITIGATION SCHEDULE AND REVISING
DISCOVERY PROCEDURES**

On March 20, 2025, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia or the Company) filed Supplement No. 392 to Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No. 9 with the Commission. The Company proposes to increase rates to produce additional overall revenues of \$110.5 million per year, a 12.0% increase in overall distribution revenue requirement.

Under the Company’s proposal, the total bill for a residential customer purchasing 70 therms per month would increase from \$138.52 to \$154.29, an increase of \$15.77 or 11.38%. The Company has proposed increasing the monthly residential customer charge from \$17.25 to \$31.97, an increase of \$14.72 or 85.3%. Additionally, the filing requests approval for Columbia to convert its pilot Weather Normalization Adjustment (WNA) into a permanent program, implement a Revenue Normalization Adjustment (RNA), and introduce an Economic

Development Distribution Service tariff, and renew its residential energy efficiency program and establish a new commercial energy efficiency program.

On March 24, 2025, the Commission's Bureau of Investigation & Enforcement (I&E) filed a Notice of Appearance.

On 3/28/25, Linda Allison filed a Complaint at C-2025-3054434

On April 8, 2025, the OCA filed a Formal Complaint, Public Statement, and Notice of Appearance at C-2025-3054484.

On 4/11/25, the Office of Small Business Advocate filed Complaint at C-2025-3054550.

On 4/11/25, Linda Slick filed a Complaint at C-2025-3054552.

On 4/11/25 the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania (CAUSE-PA) filed a Petition to Intervene.

On 4/17/25, Terri Walker filed a Complaint at C-2025-3054662.

On 4/24/25, Pennsylvania State University filed a Complaint at C-2025-3054780.

On April 24, 2025, a Prehearing Conference Order and a Prehearing Conference Notice were issued.

On April 28, 2025, Columbia filed its Supplement No. 399 to Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No. 9, pursuant to the Commission's April 24, 2025 Order suspending the proposed rates and rules contained in Supplement No. 392 to Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No. 9 until December 19, 2025.

On 5/5/25, the Pennsylvania Weatherization Providers Task Force (Task Force) filed a Petition to Intervene.

The Prehearing Conference convened as scheduled. Counsel for Columbia, I&E, OCA and OSBA appeared, as well as the Pennsylvania State University, CAUSE-PA, Task Force. (collectively, Parties). Linda Slick, an individual Complainant also attended the conference.

After addressing various matters at the Prehearing Conference, the following Litigation Schedule is established for this proceeding.

Litigation Schedule

Public Input Hearings	June 3-4, 2025
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 (In-Person)	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. 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.

The above-stated dates are in-hand dates for service on the Parties and the Administrative Law Judge. The Parties at the Prehearing Conference and the Administrative Law

Judge agree to accept electronic service of such material,¹ so long as the subject email is received by the date due. The Administrative Law Judge's e-mail address are:

Administrative Law Judge Jeff Watson (jeffwatson@pa.gov)

Administrative Law Judge Chad Allensworth (callenswor@pa.gov).

The evidentiary hearings will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. The Parties must confer before commencement of the hearing to schedule their witnesses so as to avoid “holes” or “dead time” during the hearing. In the event that a partial settlement is achieved, the Parties should be prepared to proceed at the hearing to present evidence on the non-resolved issues.

Discovery

The Parties shall engage in informal discovery whenever and wherever possible in an attempt to resolve any discovery disputes amicably. 52 Pa. Code § 5.322. If this process fails, the Parties have recourse to the Commission's procedures for formal discovery, as herein modified. 52 Pa. Code §§ 5.321, *et seq.* The Parties must not send the Administrative Law Judge discovery material or cover letters, unless attached to a motion to compel. **All motions to compel must contain a certification of counsel of the informal discovery undertaken and their efforts to resolve their discovery disputes informally.** If a motion to compel fails to contain such certification, the Administrative Law Judge will contact the Parties and direct them to pursue informal discovery.

The Parties must endeavor to complete discovery upon the filing of surrebuttal testimony absent extraordinary circumstances. Motions to compel discovery filed after July 25, 2025 may not be ruled upon in advance of the evidentiary hearing.

OCA proposed modifications to the Commission's procedures for formal discovery. Columbia objected to a portion of the proposed modifications. Following a

¹ For parties accepting electronic service, the documents are to be served electronically on the date indicated, by 4:00 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

discussion with the Parties at the Prehearing Conference, the following modified discovery procedures apply to this case:

The following modifications will apply to all discovery requests served on and after the date of the prehearing conference of May 7, 2025. Any outstanding interrogatories or requests for admissions are due no later than 10 calendar days after the Prehearing Conference to the extent such responses are due later than such date, in accordance with Paragraph A below.

- A. Answers to written interrogatories and requests for document production, entry for inspection, or other purposes shall be served in-hand within ten (10) calendar days of service.
- B. Objections to interrogatories and/or requests for production shall be communicated orally to the propounding party within three (3) calendar days of service of the interrogatories; unresolved objections shall be served in writing to the propounding party within five (5) calendar days of service of the interrogatories and/or requests for production.
- C. Motions to dismiss objections and/or direct the answering of interrogatories and/or requests for production shall be filed within five (5) business days of service of written objections.
- D. Answers to motions to dismiss objections and/or answering of interrogatories and/or requests for production shall be filed within three (3) business days of service of such motions.
- E. Requests for admissions will be deemed admitted unless answered within ten (10) calendar days or objected to within five (5) calendar days of service.
- F. Answers to on-the-record data requests shall be served in-hand within five (5) calendar days of the requests.
- G. Any discovery served after served after 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday or after 1:00 p.m. on a Friday or the day before a holiday will be deemed to have been served on the next business day for purposes of calculating the due date for any responsive filing.

After rebuttal is served, the deadlines should be reduced as follows:

- A. Answers to interrogatories and responses to requests for document production, entry for inspection, or other purposes shall be served within five (5) calendar days of service of the interrogatories or requests for production.
- B. Objections to interrogatories and/or requests for production shall be communicated orally to the propounding party within two (2) calendar days of service; unresolved objections shall be served on the propounding party in writing within three (3) calendar days of service of the interrogatories and/or requests for production.
- C. Motions to dismiss objections and/or direct the answering of interrogatories and/or requests for production shall be filed within three (3) business days of service of written objections.
- D. Answers to motions to dismiss objections and/or direct the answering of interrogatories and/or requests for production shall be filed within three (3) business days of service of such motions.
- E. Requests for admission shall be deemed admitted unless answered or objected to within three (3) calendar days of service.
- F. Discovery requests served after 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday or afternoon on a Friday or the day preceding a holiday shall be deemed to have been served on the next business day.

All discovery due dates shall be “in-hand” and electronic or fax service on the due date will satisfy the “in-hand” requirement.

Prehearing Order

A Prehearing Order addressing all issues discussed at the Prehearing Conference on May 7, 2025, will be entered in this proceeding.

Date: May 8, 2025

_____/s/_____
Jeffrey A. Watson
Administrative Law Judge

_____/s/_____
Chad Allensworth
Administrative Law Judge

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Revised: May 8, 2025

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