

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

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| 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 |
| Alexandra Garlitz | : | C-2025-3055233 |
| Daniel and Stacy Chronister | : | C-2025-3056194 |

v.

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc

INTERIM ORDER
CONFIRMING HEARING REQUIREMENTS

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 Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission). The Company proposed increasing rates to produce additional overall revenues of \$110.5 million per year, a 12.0% increase in the 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 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), introduce an Economic Development Distribution Service tariff, 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 Office of Consumer Advocate (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 a 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 scheduling a telephonic Prehearing Conference for May 7, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

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 was convened as scheduled. Counsels appeared for Columbia, I&E, OCA, OSBA, the Pennsylvania State University, CAUSE-PA, and Task Force (collectively, Parties). Linda Slick, an individual Complainant also attended the conference and represented herself.

On May 9, 2025, a Prehearing Order was entered consolidating the complaints of the statutory advocates, the Pennsylvania State University, Terri Walker, Linda Slick, and Linda Allsion with the above-docketed rate proceeding. In addition, the Petitions to Intervene filed by CAUSE-PA and the Task Force were granted. The litigation schedule was also established.

In addition, it was ordered that in-person public input hearings were tentatively scheduled for 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. on June 3, 2025, at the Washington County Crossroads Center, 95 West Beau Street, Washington, Pennsylvania, and that public input hearings by telephone were tentatively scheduled for June 4, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

On May 14, 2025, an Interim Order was entered modifying the litigation schedule to permit supplemental direct testimony related to the York public input hearings. In addition, additional in-person public input hearings were scheduled for to be held in York Pennsylvania on June 11, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

On June 6, 2025, an In-Person Evidentiary Hearing Notice was issued scheduling the evidentiary hearing for Wednesday, August 6, 2025, through Friday, August 8, 2025, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

To assist the Parties in the preparation for the evidentiary hearing, the following Interim Order will be entered.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. The Parties shall comply with the terms set forth in the Prehearing Order entered on May 9, 2025, as amended and supplemented by the First Interim Order Amending Prehearing Order entered on May 14, 2025.

2. For evidentiary hearings conducted in-person or telephonically, evidentiary hearing exhibits, including written testimony and exhibits admitted into evidence, shall be sent to the court reporter electronically by the Party sponsoring the exhibits by the close of business on the last day of hearings, with a copy provided to the presiding officers. This is in the interest of the environment and saving ratepayers money from the expenditure of printing voluminous hard copies.

3. In the event that all active Parties have stipulated to waive cross-examination and to excuse a witness from attending the evidentiary hearing, the sponsoring Party need not include the witness's pre-served testimony and exhibits as part of the Party's evidentiary hearing exhibits, as long as the pre-served testimony has already been circulated to the presiding officers and Parties in this proceeding. In such event, the pre-served testimony of such witnesses whose appearance and cross-examination have been waived, may be identified for movement into the record at the hearing through an inventory of pre-served testimony which must be provided by the sponsoring Party as a hearing exhibit. In such case, the evidentiary hearing exhibits, including written testimony and exhibits admitted into evidence, shall be sent to the court reporter electronically by the Party sponsoring the exhibits by the close of business on the last day of hearings, with a copy provided to the presiding officers.

4. Where an in-person hearing is convened, and witnesses appear at the evidentiary hearing to provide oral rejoinder testimony or be subject to cross-examination, copies of exhibits, as well as written testimony and accompanying exhibits, will be provided to the witness who prepared each written testimony, the Presiding Officers, the Court Reporter, and the Parties at the evidentiary hearing. However, the Parties may agree to waive circulation of pre-served written testimony at the evidentiary hearing, among themselves, as the Parties agree.

5. In the event the hearing is conducted telephonically, evidentiary hearing exhibits need not include all pre-served testimony which has previously been circulated to the presiding officers and active Parties in this proceeding in accordance with the above-referenced procedural schedule. However, such pre-served testimony may be identified for movement into the record at the hearing through an inventory of pre-served testimony which is provided as a hearing exhibit by the Party sponsoring the witness. In such case, the evidentiary hearing exhibits, including written testimony and exhibits admitted into evidence, shall be sent to the court reporter electronically by the Party sponsoring the exhibits by the close of business on the last day of hearings, with a copy provided to the presiding officers.

6. All stipulations entered by the Parties must be reduced to writing, signed by the Parties to be bound thereby, and moved into the record during the hearing in this case. An exception to this requirement may occur when circumstances of time and expediency warrant. If so, an oral presentation of a stipulation is permissible, if it is followed by a reduction to writing as herein directed.

7. That all Parties who will present evidence or examine witnesses shall promptly consult with each other and identify and exchange a list of all written testimonies, exhibits, and all such documents and materials that each Party intends to introduce into evidence at the evidentiary hearing as well as a list of all documents and materials that each party intends to use at the evidentiary hearing, not later than August 5, 2025, at 10 AM. A master list of all such written testimonies, exhibits, and all such documents and materials, including verifications or affidavits of witnesses, shall also be provided to the undersigned presiding officers not later than August 5, 2025, at 4 PM.

8. That all Parties who will present evidence or examine witnesses shall promptly consult with each other and prepare a witness matrix including the identification of witnesses for each party, indicating which parties intend to cross-examine witnesses and the approximate amount of time for examination of each witness by each Party and cross-examination by each Party. The witness matrix shall be provided to the undersigned presiding officers not later than August 5, 2025, at 4 PM.

9. That no written testimony will be admitted into evidence at the Evidentiary Hearings unless accompanied by a verification or affidavit of the witness.

10. In the event of a settlement by the Parties, a request to cancel the evidentiary hearings will be considered in the event the settling parties file a fully executed joint stipulation for the admission of evidence with the Secretary's Bureau not later than August 4, 2025, at 4:00 PM. The stipulation must include: (1) a stipulation that all parties waive cross-examination of all witnesses, (2) a list of all testimonies and exhibits to be admitted into the record, either embedded within the stipulation or attached to the stipulation, (3) a stipulation that the testimonies and exhibits to be admitted into the record are admissible and should be admitted, and (4) a stipulation regarding proposed findings of fact with references to the evidence to support each such stipulated finding of fact. If such a stipulation is filed, the ALJs may issue an Order adopting the stipulation, admitting the evidence into the record, cancelling the evidentiary hearings, and ordering the parties to file their testimonies and exhibits, with appropriate verifications, with the Commission's Secretary's Bureau along with a copy of the Order. The stipulation shall also be provided to the ALJ in Microsoft Office Word format.

11. Confidential Security Information (CSI) as defined by 35 P.S. § 2141 *et seq.* should not be transmitted by email or other electronic means. The Parties are to avoid introducing CSI into the record and should develop alternative means, such as joint stipulations or redaction when proposing testimony or exhibits. If there is no other alternative to establishing a material fact other than by CSI, the Parties are to contact the Administrative Law Judges immediately and in advance of the evidentiary hearing.

12. That the Parties shall comply in all respects with the terms of the Orders entered on May 9, 2025, and May 15, 2025, not inconsistent with the terms set forth in this Order.

Date: July 31, 2025

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

Date: July 31, 2025

_____/s/_____
Chad Allensworth
Administrative Law Judge

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