

**BEFORE THE
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

John Hayden	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2025-3055770
	:	
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.	:	

**INTERIM ORDER
STAYING PROCEEDING**

On June 12, 2025, John Hayden filed a Formal Complaint with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission), against Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Company, Respondent, or Columbia) regarding service at his residence at 403 Main Street, Emlenton, PA (service location). Complainant checked the “other” box on the Formal Complaint Form, writing,

I have an issue with the Weather Normalization Adjustment working as the PUC intended it to do. The Adjustment has not had a ‘leveling effect’ in my case, and possibly many others. Only charges, never credits.

See Complaint at ¶ 4.

As relief, Complaint requests that Columbia justify its Weather Normalization Adjustment (WNA), providing documentation of debits and credits evening out costs to customers. Complaint at ¶ 4.

Regarding service by the Commission, Complainant elected to be served by First-Class Mail. Complaint ¶ 9.

On July 8, 2025, Columbia filed an Answer. In its Answer, Columbia denies there are any incorrect charges on Complainant's bill and avers the WNA charges were billed to Complainant's account consistent with Columbia's Commission-approved tariff at Docket No. R-2012-2321748. Columbia's Answer at 1.

On July 18, 2025, the Commission issued an Initial Telephonic Hearing Notice, assigning this matter to me and scheduling an evidentiary hearing for September 10, 2025.

On July 18, 2025, I issued an Interim Order reminding the parties of the date and time of the hearing and setting forth procedural directives for the parties.

The hearing convened on September 10, 2025, as scheduled. Complainant appeared and represented himself. Larry Crayne, Esquire, was present on behalf of the Company. Complainant testified on his own behalf and Ribeka Danhires, Manager of Rates and Regulatory Service, testified on behalf of Columbia. Additionally, Columbia Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4, 4.1, and 5 were admitted into the record. I took judicial notice of the Initial Decision in *Skvarla v. Columbia*, at Docket No. C-2023-3039555. Tr. 28. I also took judicial notice of the Joint Petition for Partial Settlement, Recommended Decision, and Final Order and Opinion at Docket No. R-2018-2647577. Complainant did not make a closing statement, but Columbia did.

The record closed at the conclusion of the hearing. 52 Pa. Code § 5.431(a).

On October 1, 2025, the 53-page transcript was filed.

DISCUSSION

In the instant Complaint, Complainant alleges the WNA is not functioning as originally intended and is unreasonable as applied to him. There is no dispute that since April 2017, Mr. Hayden was charged a WNA for 35 months, totaling \$189.72, and received a credit nine months, totaling \$45.30. Columbia Ex. 4.1.

On March 20, 2025, Columbia filed proposed Supplement No. 392 to Tariff Gas Pa. P.U.C. No. 9 (2025 Rate Case) with the Commission. *See* R-2025-3053499 et al. Columbia proposed, *inter alia*, convert its pilot WNA into a permanent program. On October 3, 2025, Administrative Law Judges Jeffrey A. Watson and Chad L. Allensworth issued a Recommended Decision in the 2025 Rate Case recommending, *inter alia*, that the WNA pilot program not be permitted to continue. *See* Recommended Decision at 489-497. The Commission is scheduled to issue a Final Order and Opinion on the Recommended Decision by December 19, 2025.

The Final Order and Opinion issued in the Columbia Rate proceeding may be dispositive of the instant matter or may at least provide guidance on possible outcomes or remedies if I were to sustain Mr. Hayden's Complaint.

The Commission's rules provide that presiding officers have the authority to, *inter alia*, regulate the course of the proceeding. 52 Pa. Code § 1005.184(a). In this case, it is necessary to stay the instant matter pending a Final Order and Opinion in the 2025 Rate Case at R-2025-3053499 et al. The stay is necessary to avoid rendering a decision in the instant matter that may be contradicted or rendered moot by the Commission's Final Order and Opinion. The record in the instant matter closed on September 10, 2025, and an Initial Decision is due to be served within 90 days of the close of the record, or December 9, 2025. Staying the matter until December 19, 2025, to allow for the issuance of a Final Order and Opinion in the 2025 Rate Case does not substantially delay the issuance of an Initial Decision in the instant matter.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED;

1. That the matter at John Hayden v. Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. is stayed pending a Final Order and Opinion at R-2025-3053499 et al.
2. That the parties shall file a status report with the Commission within 15 days of the Commission issuing a Final Order and Opinion at R-2025-3053499 et al., describing

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