

**BEFORE THE  
PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION**

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement	:	
	:	
	:	
v.	:	C-2023-3044398
	:	
Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.	:	

**INTERIM ORDER  
GRANTING JOINT MOTION TO ADMIT EVIDENCE INTO THE RECORD TO SUPPORT  
SETTLEMENT**

On or about November 11, 2023, the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement (I&E) filed a Complaint with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Commission) at Docket No. C-2023-3044398. I&E filed proprietary and non-proprietary versions of the Complaint. In the Complaint against Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. (Columbia or Columbia Gas), I&E made several requests for relief, including that the Commission: (1) find Columbia Gas to be in violation of the Public Utility Code, Commission regulations, and/or Code of Federal Regulations for each violation alleged; (2) impose a cumulative civil penalty upon Columbia Gas in the amount of Two Million, One Hundred Eighty-Six Thousand, Four Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars (\$2,186,465.00); (3) direct Columbia Gas to perform each of the corrective actions detailed in the Complaint; and (4) order such other remedies as the Commission may deem appropriate.

On December 8, 2023, Columbia Gas filed an Unopposed Motion for Extension of Time to File an Answer, which was granted on December 12, 2023.

On January 12, 2024, Columbia Gas filed an Answer to I&E’s Complaint. In its Answer, Columbia Gas, *inter alia*, denied all material allegations of fact and denied that the Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement was entitled to relief.

By notice dated January 23, 2024, this matter was scheduled for a Telephonic Prehearing Conference on March 13, 2024 before Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Conrad Johnson.

On March 12, 2024, I&E and Columbia Gas each filed Prehearing Memoranda.

On March 13, 2024, a Telephonic Prehearing Conference was held before ALJ Conrad Johnson.

On March 14, 2024, an Interim Order was issued holding establishment of a litigation schedule in abeyance and directing the parties to file a status report, allowing the Parties to explore settlement.

The Parties filed status reports on May 17, 2024 and November 14, 2024, indicating that settlement negotiations were progressing and ongoing.

On March 4, 2025, the Commission issued a Judge Change Notice assigning this proceeding to the undersigned.

On or about March 14, 2025, I&E and Columbia (Parties or Joint Petitioners" filed Joint Petition for Approval of Settlement (Settlement or Settlement Agreement) to resolve all issues related to the above-docketed I&E Formal Complaint (Complaint) proceeding. Attached to the Settlement was Joint Proposed Conclusions of Law and Ordering Paragraphs attached as Appendix A, and Statements in Support of the Settlement of I&E and Columbia Gas attached as Appendix B and Appendix C, respectively.

On October 17, 2025, an Interim Order was entered providing the Parties with an opportunity to file any appropriate and timely pleadings; a proposed stipulation of facts with citations to record evidence to be entered into the evidentiary record; a motion to admit evidence into the record to support a settlement; and an amended settlement with proposed stipulated facts. In the alternative, the parties were permitted to file a status report, on or before February 1, 2026, addressing the issues raised in the October 17, 2025 Interim Order, as well as all dates in which the Parties and their witnesses were

available to conduct an in-person evidentiary hearing. The Parties were also permitted to request a prehearing conference in this proceeding.

On January 15, 2026, the parties filed a Joint Motion to Admit Evidence Into the Record to Support Settlement and a Joint Stipulation of Facts in this proceeding. The Motion identified proposed exhibits including Confidential Exhibits E, F and G. No request for a protective Order was filed, and no Order was requested to determine whether any filing or evidence in this proceeding is confidential or proprietary.

The Parties, in their Joint Motion, move for admission into the evidentiary record the statements and appendices attached to the Joint Motion to Admit Evidence Into the Record to Support Settlement, and marked as Appendix D. The Parties requested that the Appendices identified as Confidential, namely, Confidential Appendices E, F, and G, also be moved into the evidentiary record on a confidential basis.

Generally, an Order limiting the disclosure of a trade secret or other confidential information on the public record may be granted when a party demonstrates that the potential harm to the party of providing the information would be substantial and that the harm to the party if the information is disclosed without restriction outweighs the public's interest in free and open access to the administrative hearing process.<sup>1</sup>

On February 6, 2026, an Interim Order was entered requiring the Parties to confer and attempt to stipulate to the terms of a petition and protective order to address the proposal to admit, on a confidential basis, Appendices E, F, and G, as identified in the Joint Motion to Admit Evidence Into the Record to Support Settlement at Appendix D. In addition, the Order permitted the Parties, on or before March 10, 2026, to file, jointly or individually, a proposed petition for a protective order to include the specific basis for the restrictions sought by the Parties, consistent with applicable law. The Joint Motion to Admit Evidence Into the Record to Support Settlement was held in abeyance pending receipt of any petition for protective order timely filed by a party to this proceeding.

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<sup>1</sup> See 52 Pa. Code § 5.365

On March 10, 2026, Columbia and I&E filed a Joint Motion For Protective Order, which was executed by counsel for both Parties. Based upon the representations set forth in the Motion and the representations by legal counsel for the Parties, on May 21, 2026, an Interim Order was entered granting the Joint Motion For Protective Order. Under the circumstances, a ruling on the Joint Motion to Admit Evidence Into the Record to Support Settlement is proper, and the following Interim Order will be entered.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Joint Motion to Admit Evidence Into the Record to Support Settlement, including the proposal to admit, on a confidential basis, Appendices E, F, and G, as identified in the Joint Motion to Admit Evidence Into the Record to Support Settlement at Appendix D, is hereby Granted.
2. That the Parties shall file the properly marked evidence identified in the Joint Motion to Admit Evidence Into the Record to Support Settlement, with the Commission Secretary, and provide a copy of such evidence to the undersigned presiding officer, as marked and filed, within 30 days of the date of this Order.

Date: May 21, 2026

\_\_\_\_\_/s/  
Jeffrey A. Watson  
Administrative Law Judge

**C-2023-3044398 - PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION & ENFORCEMENT v. COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA INC**

*Revised: May 21, 2026*

COLBY B WIDDOWSON ESQUIRE  
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION  
BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION AND ENFORCEMENT  
400 NORTH STREET - THIRD FLOOR  
HARRISBURG PA 17120  
**717.787.2139**

[cwiddowson@pa.gov](mailto:cwiddowson@pa.gov)

Served via eService May 22, 2026

EMILY FARAH ESQUIRE  
COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC  
121 CHAMPION WAY - SUITE 100  
CANONSBURG PA 15317  
**724.416.6355**

[efarah@nisource.com](mailto:efarah@nisource.com)

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