

**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
CLOSING EVIDENTIARY RECORD**

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. The Complaint included the following averments:

- a. Columbia Gas and its contractor, Infrasource, failed to identify no less than 220 visually unacceptable fusions and saddle tee fusions on service lines and main lines. These visually unacceptable fusions lacked a complete impression of the cold ring clamp and/or were mitered.¹
- b. Columbia Gas and its contractor, Infrasource, failed to mark, label, or sign no less than 552 fusions according to Columbia Gas Standards.²
- c. Columbia Gas and its contractor, Infrasource, allowed an unqualified contractor employee to perform and inspect plastic fusions.³
- d. Columbia Gas and its contractor, Infrasource, failed to properly install no less than 44 saddle tee taps to a gas main line.⁴

¹ Compl. ¶¶ 37a, 53.
² Compl. ¶¶ 37d, 54.
³ Compl. ¶ 55.
⁴ Compl. ¶ 56.

- e. Columbia Gas and its contractor, Infracore, failed to capture and maintain accurate records of the pipeline components and personnel performing work on the pipeline.⁵

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 filed an Answer to I&E's Complaint. In its Answer, Columbia, *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.

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

⁵ Compl. ¶ 57.

On or about March 14, 2025, I&E and Columbia (Parties or Joint Petitioners) filed a 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 were 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.

Although I&E filed a Formal Complaint and an Answer was filed by Columbia, there was no evidentiary hearing in this proceeding and neither Party proffered evidence by stipulation nor did the proposed Settlement contain any stipulation of facts to establish an evidentiary record. Accordingly, on October 17, 2025, an Interim Order was entered holding the record at Docket No. C-2023-3044398 open and providing the Parties 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.

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 support of their Joint Petition. The Motion identified the proposed exhibits including Confidential Exhibits E, F and G. No request for a protective Order was filed in this proceeding, and no Order was requested to determine that any filing or evidence in this proceeding is confidential or proprietary. The Parties, in their Joint Motion to Admit Evidence Into the Record to Support Settlement, moved 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.

In order to consider the proposed Settlement and to address the intent of the Parties to restrict access to the materials identified as Confidential, and to provide the Parties an opportunity to confer and attempt to agree to the terms of a protective order, an Interim Order was entered on February 6, 2026. The Interim Order directed 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. The Parties were also permitted, on or before March 10, 2026, to file a proposed petition for a protective order. 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.

On March 10, 2026, the Parties filed a Joint Motion of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. and the Bureau Of Investigation And Enforcement for a Protective Order.

On May 20, 2026, an Interim Order Granting Joint Motion Of Columbia Gas Of Pennsylvania, Inc. and The Bureau Of Investigation And Enforcement For Protective Order was entered.

On May 21, 2026, an Interim Order was entered granting 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. In addition, the Parties were directed to 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 the Interim Order.

On June 12, 2026, counsel for Columbia filed Appendix H with the Commission Secretary, as well as Appendices E, F, and G, identified as Confidential.

Upon a review of the record, it appears that it is appropriate to close the evidentiary record and to issue a recommended decision in this proceeding. Under the circumstances, the following order will be entered.

THEREFORE,

IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the record at Docket No. C-2023-3044398 is closed.
2. That a recommended decision will be entered in this proceeding.

Date: June 24, 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

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