

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

AN ADJUSTMENT OF RATES OF)
COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.) CASE NO. 10201

O R D E R

On May 18, 1988, Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. ("Columbia"), pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001 §4(4) filed a Motion for a settlement conference.

The Commission believes that in many instances settlements offer a viable alternative to litigation. However, after a review of the settlement procedures followed in Columbia's prior rate case and in subsequent cases involving other utilities, the Commission has had the opportunity to consider the role of its staff in major rate proceedings. The Commission has strongly advocated that the Staff participate to the maximum extent possible in negotiations. It is of the opinion that such participation is most beneficial when the Staff positions are presented in written form. However, Staff testimony in this proceeding is not possible because Staff and its resources are limited because of the number of major proceedings pending at this time.

Because of these constraints, the Commission finds that it is not in the public interest to hold a settlement conference in this case.

IT IS ORDERED that Columbia's Motion is denied.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 9th day of June, 1988.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Richard D. Henson, Jr.
Chairman

Robert M. Davis
Vice Chairman

James M. Williams
Commissioner

ATTEST:

Ford M. Skiff
Executive Director