

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC INVESTIGATION OF HOME)	
ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OFFERED)	CASE NO.
BY INVESTOR-OWNED UTILITIES PURSUANT)	2019-00366
TO KRS 278.285(4))	

COMMISSION STAFF'S SECOND REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
TO COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.

Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc., (Columbia Kentucky), pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, is to file with the Commission the original and an electronic version of the following information. The information requested herein is due on January 3, 2020. Responses to requests for information in paper medium shall be appropriately bound, tabbed, and indexed. Electronic documents shall be in portable document format (PDF), shall be searchable and shall be appropriately bookmarked.

Each response shall include the name of the witness responsible for responding to the questions related to the information provided. Each response shall be answered under oath or, for representatives of a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or a governmental agency, be accompanied by a signed certification of the preparer or the person supervising the preparation of the response on behalf of the entity that the response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Columbia Kentucky shall make timely amendment to any prior response if it obtains information which indicates that the response was incorrect when made or,

though correct when made, is now incorrect in any material respect. For any request to which Columbia Kentucky fails or refuses to furnish all or part of the requested information, it shall provide a written explanation of the specific grounds for its failure to completely and precisely respond.

Careful attention shall be given to copied material to ensure that it is legible. When the requested information has been previously provided in this proceeding in the requested format, reference may be made to the specific location of that information in responding to this request. When applicable, the requested information shall be separately provided for total company operations and jurisdictional operations. When filing a paper containing personal information, Columbia Kentucky shall, in accordance with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(10), encrypt or redact the paper so that personal information cannot be read.

1. Confirm that Columbia Kentucky's HEA program is not a crisis program but instead provides recurring benefits to eligible enrolled applicants.

2. Explain whether Columbia Kentucky has prioritization rules to determine which eligible applicants can receive HEA assistance or whether benefits are provided to eligible applicants on a first-come-first-served basis. If there are prioritization rules, describe the prioritization rules in detail.

3. Refer to Columbia Kentucky's response to Commission Staff's First Request for Information (Staff's First Request), Item 1. Provide the "Updated information on Appendix C Page 3" in Excel spreadsheet format.

4. Refer to Columbia Kentucky's response to Staff's First Request, Item 4. Explain whether Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison &

Nicholas Counties' (CAC) and the individual intake agencies conducting actual program enrollment both receive \$25.00 for each new program enrollment and \$15.00 for each participate recertification, for a total of \$50.00 for each new program enrollment and \$30.00 for each participant recertification.

5. Explain how Columbia Kentucky or CAC, or both, developed the fixed fees to administer the HEA program and provide the basis for the fixed fees.

6. Refer to Columbia Kentucky's response to Staff's First Request, Item 6. Provide the calculation and derivation of customer benefit levels (i.e., fixed amount per customer, percentage of bill, etc.).

7. Refer to Columbia Kentucky's response to Staff's First Request, Items 6 and 7.

a. Explain why the average benefit level for participants in the last program year was \$435, while the maximum per participant was \$600.

b. Explain the determination of the maximum benefit level.

c. Provide the average benefit level for participants for the past five program years and the maximum benefit per participant each year if it was a different amount than \$600.

8. Refer to Columbia Kentucky's response to Staff First Request, Item 7.

a. Explain whether unused credits returned to the fund pool provide opportunities for additional enrollment in the same program year or subsequent program years.

b. Explain the phrase "adjust the bill credits per participant" in the context of returning unused credits to the fund pool.

9. Explain whether Columbia Kentucky reviews and approves CAC's proposed annual budget for HEA program variable expenses.

10. Explain whether Columbia Kentucky conducts or authorizes a third party to conduct an audit of CAC's administration of the HEA program to ensure funds are spent appropriately.

11. Provide a copy of one daily, one monthly, and one annual report that CAC provides to Columbia Kentucky.

12. Refer to Columbia Kentucky's response to Staff's First Request, Item 5. To the extent possible, explain the reasons why 238 fewer applicants were enrolled and received benefits than the total number of eligible applicants.

13. Identify any impediments or adverse consequences if the Commission raised Columbia Kentucky's income eligibility requirement from the current level to 150 percent, 200 percent, or some higher increment of the poverty level.

14. Identify any impediments or adverse consequences if the Commission eliminated Columbia Kentucky's requirement that applicants must apply for Low Income Heating Assistance Program (LIHEAP) as one of the eligibility requirements for the HEA program.

15. Identify any impediments or adverse consequences if the Commission eliminated Columbia Kentucky's requirement that applicants be recertified annually and instead perform re-enrollment.

16. State whether the requirement that applicants participate in weatherization services have impacted eligibility for the HEA program and, if so, provide the number of

applicants that were ineligible for the HEA program due to the weatherization participation requirement.

17. Identify any impediments or adverse consequences if the Commission eliminated Columbia Kentucky's requirement that applicants apply for weatherization services as one of the eligibility requirements for the HEA program.

18. Based upon its experience, explain what Columbia believes are the ideal HEA eligibility requirements.



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DATED DEC 16 2019

cc: Parties of Record

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