

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

BEBY JAYARAM	)	
	)	
COMPLAINANT	)	
	)	
v.	)	CASE NO. 99-175
	)	
COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.	)	
	)	
DEFENDANT	)	

O R D E R

On April 23, 1999, Beby Jayaram filed a formal complaint against Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. ("Columbia Gas"). Mr. Jayaram alleged in his complaint that Columbia Gas overcharged him for his consumption of gas during the billing periods of December 1998, January 1999, and February 1999. Mr. Jayaram also alleged that Columbia Gas had disconnected his water heater, that he was required to pay a professional plumber to reconnect the water heater, and that he suffered from a lack of hot water for a number of days, which caused his mother to develop several health complications. Mr. Jayaram seemed to be requesting that Columbia Gas reimburse him for the amount allegedly overcharged and that Columbia Gas be held accountable for the inconveniences caused to him and his mother by disconnection of the water heater.

In its answer, Columbia Gas averred that it was not responsible for any of the damages Mr. Jayaram alleged in his complaint and further averred that it had charged properly tarified rates.

On May 28, 1999, the Commission ordered Columbia Gas to remove and test for accuracy the meter located in Mr. Jayaram's home. When tested by Columbia Gas, the meter tested to be 2.5 percent slow.

On August 30, 1999, Mr. Jayaram requested that the hearing scheduled by the Commission be postponed due to his search for employment which would carry him out of town. By Order of September 21, 1999, the Commission cancelled the scheduled hearing and ordered that if either party desired a hearing, a written request should be filed with the Commission within 15 days of the issuance of the Order. As of May 10, 2000, no party has filed such a request.

Having reviewed the evidence on record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that:

1. A hearing on this matter is not necessary in the public interest or for the protection of substantial rights, and this complaint should be dismissed without a hearing.

2. Mr. Jayaram has failed to allege that Columbia Gas charged non-tariffed rates or that his gas meter was inaccurate. In fact, when Columbia Gas tested the meter per Commission Order, it tested 2.5 percent slow, which means any error in Mr. Jayaram's bills has been to his benefit. Mr. Jayaram, therefore, has stated no claim upon which the Commission may grant relief.

3. The Commission lacks the proper jurisdiction to grant the damages Mr. Jayaram seeks for expenses related to his mother's health.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the complaint herein is hereby dismissed with prejudice.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2000.

By the Commission

ATTEST:

  
Executive Director