

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE TARIFF FILING OF COLUMBIA GAS OF	)	
KENTUCKY, INC. TO IMPLEMENT A SMALL	)	
VOLUME GAS TRANSPORTATION SERVICE,	)	CASE NO.
TO CONTINUE ITS GAS COST INCENTIVE	)	1999-00165
MECHANISMS, AND TO CONTINUE ITS	)	
CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM	)	

ORDER

On April 20, 2004, Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. ("Columbia") filed a request asking that we postpone a planned evaluation of its pilot Customer Choice Program ("Choice Program"). Columbia made its request pending a decision to either terminate or revise the Choice Program. This docket was reopened for the purpose of soliciting comment on Columbia's request from the parties to this case. Comments were filed by Interstate Gas Supply, Inc. ("IGS") and the Community Action Council for Lexington-Fayette, Bourbon, Harrison and Nicholas Counties, Inc. ("CAC").<sup>1</sup>

DISCUSSION

IGS states that it and Columbia have discussed possible modifications to the Choice Program, modifications which may make the planned evaluation/audit a wasteful use of the Commission's resources. IGS also states that the possible proposal of a revised Choice Program might obviate the need for a Commission evaluation of the existing Choice Program. It requests that we stay, for the time being, our planned audit of the pilot Choice Program.

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<sup>1</sup> IGS and the CAC Buyers' Club are the two natural gas marketers presently participating in the Choice Program.

CAC states that it has no objection to Columbia's request to postpone the evaluation. It supports allowing Columbia time to decide whether to let the pilot Choice Program terminate or to file a request to continue the program with modifications.

We are persuaded to grant Columbia's request to postpone our evaluation of the pilot Choice Program. However, a decision on a possible evaluation cannot be postponed indefinitely. It is possible, as IGS suggests, that circumstances will dictate that an evaluation may not be needed. However, it is also possible that an evaluation may be required and that the scheduled March 31, 2005 termination date of the pilot could affect the scope and thoroughness of such an evaluation. Accordingly, in order to be able to evaluate the pilot Choice Program in a timely manner, if necessary, we find that Columbia should be required to file a detailed status report on its plans regarding the future of the Choice Program within 60 days from the date of this Order.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Columbia's request that the Commission postpone its planned evaluation of Columbia's pilot Choice Program is granted.
2. Columbia shall, with 60 days from the date of this Order, file a detailed status report on its plans regarding the future of its Choice Program.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2004.

By the Commission

ATTEST:



Executive Director

Case No. 1999-00165