

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE ELECTRONIC TARIFF FILING OF
COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC. TO
EXTEND ITS SMALL VOLUME GAS
TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

)
)
)
)
)
)
)

Case No. 2021-00386

**PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF JUDY M. COOPER
ON BEHALF OF
COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.**

FILED: January 18, 2022

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the matter of:)
)
 ELECTRONIC TARIFF FILING OF) Case No. 2021-00386
 COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY,)
 INC. TO EXTEND ITS SMALL)
 VOLUME GAS TRANSPORTATION)
 SERVICE)

VERIFICATION OF JUDY COOPER

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY)
)
 COUNTY OF FAYETTE)

Judy Cooper, Director of Regulatory Affairs of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc., being duly sworn, states that she has supervised the preparation of her Direct Testimony in the above-referenced case and that the matters and things set forth therein are true and accurate to the best of her knowledge, information and belief, formed after reasonable inquiry.

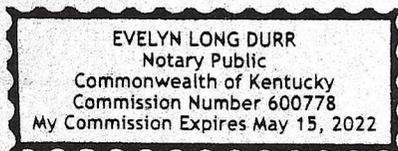
Judy Cooper
 Judy Cooper

The foregoing Verification was signed, acknowledged and sworn to before me this 18th day of January, 2022, by Judy Cooper.

Evelyn Long Durr

Notary Commission No. 600 778

Commission expiration: 05/15/2022



**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

In the matter of:)
)
ELECTRONIC TARIFF FILING OF) Case No. 2021-00386
COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY,)
INC. TO EXTEND ITS SMALL)
VOLUME GAS TRANSPORTATION)
SERVICE)

**PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
JUDY M. COOPER
ON BEHALF OF COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.**

Mark David Goss
David S. Samford
L. Allyson Honaker
GOSS SAMFORD, PLLC
2365 Harrodsburg Road, Suite B-325
Lexington, Kentucky 40504
Telephone: (859) 368-7740
mdgoss@gosssamfordlaw.com
david@gosssamfordlaw.com
allyson@gosssamfordlaw.com

Joseph M. Clark
Assistant General Counsel
290 W. Nationwide Blvd.
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Telephone: (614) 813-8685
Email: josephclark@nisource.com

Attorney for Applicant
COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.

January 18, 2022

1 I. INTRODUCTION

2 **Q: Please state your name and business address.**

3 A: My name is Judy M. Cooper and my business address is 2001 Mercer Rd.,
4 Lexington, KY 40511.

5 **Q: What is your current position and what are your responsibilities?**

6 A: I am the Director of Regulatory Affairs for Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.
7 (“Columbia”). I am responsible for the management of Columbia’s
8 regulatory affairs, tariffs and filings with the Kentucky Public Service
9 Commission (“Commission”), including quarterly Gas Cost Adjustments.

10 **Q: What is your educational background?**

11 A: I obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from the University
12 of Kentucky in 1982. In 1985, I received a Master’s Degree in Business
13 Administration from Xavier University.

14 **Q: What is your employment history?**

15 A: I began my employment with the Commission as an auditor in 1982.
16 Subsequently, I served as Rate Analyst, Energy Policy Advisor, Branch
17 Manager of Electric and Gas Rate Design, and Director of Rates, Tariffs
18 and Financial Analysis at the Commission. In July of 1998, I joined
19 Columbia as Manager of Regulatory Services and have remained in

1 regulatory and government roles. My job title currently is Director,
2 Regulatory Affairs.

3 **Q: Have you previously testified before the Kentucky Public Service**
4 **Commission?**

5 A: Yes, I have testified before the Kentucky Public Service Commission in
6 eight cases for Columbia: Case No. 2002-00117, *The Filing by Columbia Gas*
7 *of Kentucky, Inc. to Require that Marketers in the Small Volume Gas*
8 *Transportation Program be Required to Accept a Mandatory Assignment of*
9 *Capacity*; Case No. 2007-00008, *In the Matter of Adjustment of Rates of*
10 *Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.*; Case No. 2009-00141, *In the Matter of an*
11 *Adjustment of Rates of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.*; Case No. 2010-00146,
12 *An Investigation of Natural Gas Retail Competition Programs*; and Case No.
13 2013-00167, *In the Matter of Application of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc., for*
14 *an Adjustment of Rates for Gas Service*, Case No. 2017-00453, *In the Matter of*
15 *the Application of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. to Extend its Gas Cost*
16 *Incentive Adjustment Performance Based Rate Mechanism*, Case No. 2020-
17 00378, *In the Matter of Electronic Application of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.*
18 *to Extend its Gas Cost Incentive Adjustment Performance Based Rate Making*
19 *Mechanism* and Case No. 2021-00183, *In the Matter of Electronic Application*
20 *of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. for an Adjustment of Rates; Approval of*

1 *Depreciation Study; Approval of Tariff Revisions; Issuance of a Certificate of*
2 *Public Convenience and Necessity; and Other Relief.*

3 **Q: What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?**

4 A: The purpose of my testimony is to support Columbia’s request to continue
5 its Customer CHOICE program and the proposed modification to change
6 the authorized period on Columbia’s tariff Sheet No. 30 and Sheet No. 33.
7 The proposed change is the same for both tariff pages and would allow
8 the continuance of the Customer CHOICE program through March 31,
9 2025.

10 **Q: Why does Columbia request to continue the Customer CHOICE**
11 **program?**

12 A: The Commission’s Order of June 19, 2017, in Case No. 2017-00115,
13 authorized Columbia to extend its Customer CHOICE program through
14 March 31, 2022. As part of that Order, Columbia was required to submit
15 for the Commission’s approval a CHOICE Program Status Report and the
16 format of a customer survey prior to Columbia’s next filing for an
17 extension of the CHOICE program.

18 In compliance with the Commission’s June 19, 2017 Order, on September
19 30, 2020, Columbia filed the required status report with the Commission.
20 By Order dated March 24, 2021, in Case No. 2020-00402 the Commission

1 found that Columbia adequately met the requirements of the
2 Commission's Order in Case No. 2017-00115 and approved the customer
3 survey to be conducted with results to be reported by September 30, 2021.
4 The survey results and report were filed with the Commission on July 9,
5 2021 in Case No. 2020-00402. The survey results indicated that customers
6 participating in the program have the desire for a choice in supplier of the
7 natural gas commodity consumed.

8 **Q: How will Columbia's customers be impacted if the Commission does**
9 **not act to continue the Customer CHOICE program beyond March 31,**
10 **2022.**

11 A: The current procedural schedule in this case establishes dates beyond
12 March 31, 2022 for certain activities to occur. However, Columbia has not
13 been authorized to continue the program beyond March 31, 2022.

14 Therefore, absent an Order of the Commission allowing the program to
15 continue, all participants will be returned to the applicable General Sales
16 Service Rate Schedule effective with Columbia's April 2022 billing cycle.

17 **Q. Does this conclude your Direct Testimony?**

18 A: Yes.