

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )  
COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC. FOR )  
ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC ) Case No. 2025-00322  
CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY TO BID ON )  
A GAS DISTRIBUTION FRANCHISE IN THE )  
CORPORATION LIMITS OF THE CITY OF )  
BELLEFONTE, KENTUCKY. )

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APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.

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The petition of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. ("Columbia") respectfully states:

(A) That applicant is engaged in the business of furnishing natural gas services to the public in certain counties in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, pursuant to authority granted by the Commission.

(B) That applicant's full name, business address, post office address, email address and fax number are:

Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.  
2001 Mercer Road  
P.O. Box 14241  
Lexington, KY 40512-4241  
[pscmailcky@nisource.com](mailto:pscmailcky@nisource.com)

Phone: (800) 432-9345  
FAX: (859)288-0258

(C) That Columbia's Articles of Incorporation previously have been filed with the Commission in Case No. 2024-00092 and are incorporated herein by reference.

(D) That Columbia is furnishing gas distribution service in the franchise area as of the date of the filing of this Application.

(E) Attached hereto as Attachment A is Ordinance 6-2025 passed on August 25, 2025, by the City of Bellefonte, Kentucky ("Bellefonte"). Said Ordinance reflects the decision of Bellefonte to advertise for bids for a natural gas franchise. Said advertisement was by legal notice published in *The Greenup Gazette* on September 4, 2025 that is attached hereto as Attachment B.

(F) The need and demand for gas distribution service within the corporation limits of Bellefonte is shown by the fact that Columbia serves approximately 392 customers in Bellefonte at the present time. There exists a public necessity for adequate service of natural gas to the citizens of Bellefonte, Kentucky.

(G) Columbia desires to acquire said franchise for gas distribution service in Bellefonte and submit a bid pursuant to Bellefonte's published legal notice. The deadline for receipt of bids was established as September 30, 2025, however Bellefonte has indicated that it will accept bids later than the published date. Attachment C is a communication establishing an extension of the requested bid date to October 31, 2025.

**WHEREFORE**, Columbia respectfully requests that the Public Service Commission make its order issuing a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity, as expeditiously as possible, that authorizes Columbia to acquire a gas distribution franchise from Bellefonte, for the reasons described herein.

Dated at Lexington, KY, this 8th day of October 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

**COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.**

By:   
L. Allyson Honaker  
Heather S. Temple  
Meredith L. Cave  
HONAKER LAW OFFICE PLLC  
1795 Alysheba Way, Suite 1203  
Lexington, KY 40509  
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allyson@hloky.com  
heather@hloky.com  
meredith@hloky.com

Counsel for  
**COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.**

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Ordinance No. 6-2025  
August 25, 2025**

**CITY OF BELLEFONTE, KENTUCKY**  
**ORDINANCE NO. 6 -2025**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTE, KENTUCKY, PROVIDING FOR THE ADVERTISEMENT AND SALE OF A FRANCHISE AUTHORIZING THE OWNER THEREOF TO OWN, MAINTAIN, CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION LINES UPON, ALONG, OVER AND UNDER THE STREETS, THOROUGHFARES, ALLEYS, SIDEWALKS, BRIDGES, PUBLIC WAYS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES OF THE SAID CITY.**

***WHEREAS***, the City of Bellefonte, Greenup County, Kentucky is incorporated under the provisions of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, and desires to grant a franchise for a natural gas company to own, maintain, construct and operate its natural gas distribution lines upon, along, over and under the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, public ways and other public places of the City of Bellefonte, Greenup County, Kentucky, and

***WHEREAS***, there exists a public necessity for adequate service of natural gas to the citizens of the City of Bellefonte, Greenup County, Kentucky, and

***WHEREAS***, it appears that it is in the interest of the public that a franchise be advertised and sold, granting and entitling the grantee to use the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, public ways and public places for the erection, operation and maintenance of lines for the distribution of natural gas to the citizens of the City of Bellefonte, Greenup County, Kentucky, and to persons, firms and corporations beyond the limits of the City of Bellefonte, Greenup County, Kentucky.

***NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTE, KENTUCKY***

**SECTION ONE**

**GENERAL PROVISIONS**

That there be sold at public auction to the highest and best bidder, the franchise, privilege, right and authority to acquire, maintain, construct and operate in, above, under, across and along the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, public ways and other public places (as the same now exist or may hereafter be laid out) of the City of Bellefonte, Greenup County, Kentucky, for the distribution of natural gas, with all the necessary or desirable appurtenances, for the purpose of supplying natural gas to said City and the inhabitants thereof, and persons and corporations beyond the limits thereof, for light, heat, power and any other purpose or purposes for which natural gas is now or may hereafter be used, and for the distribution of the same within, through or across said City.

## **SECTION TWO**

Said lines and appurtenances shall be constructed so as to interfere as little as possible with the traveling public in its use of the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, public ways and other public places.

## **SECTION THREE**

The franchise, privilege, right and authority shall be in full force and effect for a period of twenty (20) years from the date of passage of the Ordinance granting the franchise. The grantee of this franchise shall save the City harmless from any and all liability arising in any way from negligence in the erection, maintenance, or operation of said lines and appurtenances.

## **SECTION FOUR**

The grantee of this franchise shall have the right and privilege to take up such portion or part of any pavement and make such excavation in the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, public ways and other public places of the City of Bellefonte as may be deemed necessary for the construction and maintenance of its distribution lines, but, whenever the grantee of this franchise shall begin the erection of any lines or other equipment, it shall promptly and diligently prosecute the work to completion, and leave the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, public ways and other public places where such work is done in as good condition of repair as before such work was commenced.

## **SECTION FIVE**

Whenever in this franchise either the City of Bellefonte or the grantee thereof is referred to, it shall be deemed to include the respective successors and assigns, of either, and all rights, privileges and obligations contained in this franchise shall be binding upon, and inure to the benefit of, the respective successors and assigns, of the City and said grantee, whether so expressed or not.

## **SECTION SIX**

The grantee of this franchise may make such rules and regulations covering the furnishing of said natural gas as may be fair and reasonable and consistent with the standard practice of the grantee. Said grantee may charge such rates for natural gas as shall be fair and reasonable. The said grantee shall render service under said franchise of like quality, that is, adequate, efficient and reasonable, to that now being rendered to said City.

## **SECTION SEVEN**

The consideration paid by the successful bidder for the franchise, privilege, right and authority provided for herein, shall be complete compensation and consideration for said franchise, privilege, right and authority, and for the use and occupancy of the streets, thoroughfares, alleys, sidewalks, bridges, public ways and other public places of the City, in lieu of any street or alley rental or of any charge for the use or occupancy of said streets, thoroughfares, alleys, sidewalks,

bridges, public ways and other public places of said City, and in lieu of any pole tax or meter tax.

### **SECTION EIGHT**

The City Clerk for the City of Bellefonte, Greenup County, Kentucky, is hereby appointed Special Commissioner, to sell said franchise, privilege, right and authority hereby ordered sold subject to the approval of the City Commission, and said Special Commissioner is directed to offer said franchise for public sale to the highest bidder on the 30<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the front door of the Bellefonte City Building, at 705 Bellefonte Princess Rd, Ashland, Kentucky, after she has advertised the date, time, terms, conditions and place of sale, pursuant to law, by inserting a notice of sale in The Greenup Gazette, Kentucky, a newspaper of general circulation in Bellefonte, Greenup County, Kentucky, one time, which shall be not less than seven (7) days nor more than twenty-one (21) days prior to the date of said sale, said advertisement to include this Ordinance or a summary thereof.

### **SECTION NINE**

Bids and proposals for the purchase and acquisition of the franchise, privilege, right and authority hereby granted shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Special Commissioner on the date and at the time fixed by the Special Commissioner in said advertisement to include this Ordinance or a summary thereof. Thereafter, the Special Commissioner shall report and submit to the City Commission at the time and place of its next regular meeting said bids and proposals for its approval and said City Commission reserves the right for and on behalf of the City of Bellefonte to refuse any and all bids for said franchise, privilege, right and authority. In the event the bids reported by the Special Commissioner shall be rejected by the said City Commission, it may direct, by resolution or ordinance, said franchise, privilege, right and authority to be again offered for sale from time to time until a satisfactory bid therefor shall be received and approved. Each bid shall be accompanied by a deposit and each bidder shall post bond in accordance with the provisions and requirements of KRS 96.020. However, such deposit and bond need not be made by a corporation or person already owning, in or adjacent to the City of Bellefonte, Greenup County, Kentucky, a plant and equipment sufficient to render the service required by this Ordinance.

### **SECTION TEN**

Each bidder for said franchise, privilege, right and authority shall file, as a part of its bid, a certified copy of a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity from the Public Service Commission of Kentucky, issued under the authority of KRS 278.020.

### **SECTION ELEVEN**

The Ordinance granting this franchise shall be accepted by the grantee thereof within sixty (60) days from the date of its passage.

**SECTION TWELVE**

All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict.

**SECTION THIRTEEN**

This Ordinance may be published in summary pursuant to KRS 183A.060(9).


**SECTION FOURTEEN**

This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect when passed and published according to law.



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RYAN REAMES, MAYOR  
CITY OF BELLEFONTE, KENTUCKY

ATTEST:



\_\_\_\_\_  
CITY CLERK-TREASURER

FIRST READING: July-28, 2025


SECOND READING: August 25, 2025



\_\_\_\_\_  
PREPARED BY:  
CITY ATTORNEY, R. STEPHEN MCGINNIS



On the 30<sup>th</sup> of September at the hour of 9:30 a.m., I will auction to the highest bidder the Natural Gas Franchise to the City of Bellefonte, Kentucky, pursuant to Ordinance 6-2025. The auction will take place at the City Building in the city of Bellefonte, 705 Bellefonte Princess Rd, Ashland, KY 41101.

  
Terri Barns, Clerk  
City of Bellefonte, Kentucky

CITY OF BELLEFONTE, KENTUCKY  
ORDINANCE NO. 6-2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTE, KENTUCKY,  
PROVIDING FOR THE ADVERTISEMENT AND SALE OF A  
FRANCHISE AUTHORIZING THE OWNER THEREOF TO OWN,  
MAINTAIN, CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE NATURAL GAS  
DISTRIBUTION LINES UPON, ALONG, OVER AND UNDER THE  
STREETS, THOROUGHFARES, ALLEYS, SIDEWALKS, BRIDGES,  
PUBLIC WAYS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES OF THE SAID CITY.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above caption and Ordinance is titled as set forth above and has  
been reviewed by the undersigned, who is an attorney licensed to practice law in the  
Commonwealth of Kentucky.

 RTR

HON. R. STEPHEN MCGINNIS  
PHONE: (606) 473-7303  
WWW.MCGINNISLESLIE.COM

ADOPTED ON THE 25 day of August, 2025 by the Common  
Council of the City of Bellefonte, Kentucky.



MAYOR, CITY OF BELLEFONTE, KENTUCKY

KENTUCKY

ATTEST:

  
CITY CLERK-TREASURER

**ATTACHMENT B**

*The Greenup Gazette*  
**September 4, 2025**

## Public Notices

# Very special time at the county fair

Friday, Aug. 29, was Sunshine Day at the county fair, when 4-H and FFA exhibitors created special needs stations from the county's cheer school systems to a chance to practice showmanship with farm animals. This included sheep and pigs, and there was a trip around the rounds as well.



No one's being hauled away - the group heading on a hayride peek through the grill of the gate on the wagon taking them around the fairgrounds during Sunshine Day.

### ORDINANCE NO. 3-2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTE, KENTUCKY FIXING THE TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF BELLEFONTE, KENTUCKY FOR THE TAX YEAR 025 ESTABLISHING SAID TAX RATE AT \$3.04 FOR EACH \$100.00 OF TAXABLE PROPERTY; ESTABLISHMENT OF DUE DATE AND PENALTY; AND OTHER MATTERS.

### CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that the foregoing ordinance was introduced and passed by the City Council of the City of Bellefonte, Kentucky, and is hereby published for the information of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

By: R. Stephen McGinnis  
HON. R. STEPHEN MCGINNIS  
CITY CLERK  
WWW.MCGINNISLESLIE.COM

ADOPTED ON THIS 25th day of August, 2025 by the Common Council of the City of Bellefonte, Kentucky.

### CITY OF BELLEFONTE, KENTUCKY ORDINANCE NO. 4-2025

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BELLEFONTE, KENTUCKY, PROVIDING FOR THE ADVERTISEMENT AND SALE OF A FRANCHISE AUTHORIZING THE OWNER THEREOF TO OWN, MAINTAIN, CONSTRUCT AND OPERATE NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION LINES UPON, ALONG, OVER AND UNDER THE STREETS, THOROUGHFARES, ALLEYS, SIDEWALKS, BRIDGES, PUBLIC WAYS, AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES OF THE SAID CITY.

### CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the above captioned Ordinance is filed as set forth above and has been reviewed by the undersigned, who is an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

By: R. Stephen McGinnis  
HON. R. STEPHEN MCGINNIS  
CITY CLERK  
WWW.MCGINNISLESLIE.COM

ADOPTED ON THIS 25th day of August, 2025 by the Common Council of the City of Bellefonte, Kentucky.

ATTEST:  
By: Terry Barnes  
JOYCE CONLEY, CITY CLERK

Published Sept. 4, 2025

By: Ryan Reames  
RYAN REAMES, MAYOR

## **ATTACHMENT C**

### **Bid Extension**

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**From:** City of Bellefonte [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, October 6, 2025 11:09 AM

**To:** Cooper \ Judy \ M [REDACTED]; Durr \ Evelyn \ L [REDACTED]

**Subject:** City of Bellefonte Franchise

**This Message Is From an External Sender**

This message came from outside your organization.

Think before you click links or open attachments. If suspicious, please use the report phishing button or forward to [REDACTED] for review.

The City of Bellefonte will accept bids until Friday, October, 31, 2025 for the natural gas franchise offered by the City.

Thank you for all your help.

Terri Barnes, Bellefonte City Clerk