

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF	)	
COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.	)	CASE NO.
FOR AN ADJUSTMENT OF RATES;	)	2026-00099
APPROVAL OF DEPRECIATION STUDY;	)	
APPROVAL OF TARIFF REVISIONS; AND	)	
OTHER RELIEF	)	

MOTION FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

Comes now Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. (“Columbia”), by and through counsel, pursuant to KRS 61.878, 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13 and other applicable law, and for its motion requesting that the Kentucky Public Service Commission (“Commission”) afford confidential treatment to information provided in Responses to Commission Staff’s Second Request for Information (“Staff’s Second Request”) and the Office of Attorney General’s First Request for Information (“AG’s First Request”). In support of its motion, Columbia hereby states as follows:

1. On June 17, 2026, Commission Staff issued Staff’s Second Request and on June 22, 2026 the Office of the Attorney General issued AG’s First Request. Contemporaneously with this Motion, Columbia is filing its responses to Staff’s Second Request and AG’s First Request.

2. Columbia is requesting confidential protection of its responses to the following data requests:

- Staff's Second Request, Item 12 Attachment A required Columbia to produce an engagement letter and contract with a third party consultant in the proceeding;
- Staff's Second Request, Item 48, Attachment A, asks Columbia to provide an analysis of the change in average "A-rated" long-term utility bond yield and "Baa-rated" long term utility bond yield and Columbia is providing an attachment which includes excerpts from the April 2026 Mergent Bond Record;
- Staff's Second Request, Item 54, Attachment A required Columbia to provide the supporting documentation for the return on equity ("ROE") calculations that were produced by S&P;
- AG's First Request, Item 3, Attachment B contains an organizational chart and reporting relationships of NiSource Corporate Services Company;
- AG's First Request, Item 3 Attachments A and B contain organization charts for Columbia and NiSource Corporate Services Company;
- AG's First Request, Item 6 Attachments A and B contain salary and job titles of all employees;

- AG's First Request, Item 33, asks Columbia to provide a copy of each customer satisfaction survey that Columbia and/or its parent companies have been included in from 2024-2026.
- AG's First Request, Item 34 asks Columbia to provide a copy of Columbia's Distribution Integrity Management Program.
- AG's First Request, Item 42(d), asks Columbia to provide all formal studies that Columbia conducted and/or relied upon concerning its retirement plan contribution rates, including the pension plans and 401(k) program.
- AG's First Request, Item 46(a) asks Columbia to provide the total amount of business development expenses, (direct and allocated) for each of the years, 2021-2025, the BP and included for recovery in the FTP.
- AG's First Request, Item 54, Attachment B contains information regarding corporate aviation;
- AG's First Request, Item 81, Attachment A and B, required Columbia to provide information regarding incentive compensation plans;
- AG's First Request, Item 102, Attachment A provides information regarding certain employees engaged whose job duties include lobbying;
- AG's First Request, Item 114, Attachment A contains certain information regarding various job vacancies and hiring;

- AG's First Request, Item 131, Attachment A contains a corporate policy associated with relocation;
- AG's First Request, Item 157, asks Columbia to identify, by month, the throughput volumes attributable to each of the five largest transportation customers.
- AG's First Request, Item 158, asks Columbia to provide a copy of all the major bond rating agency reports that cover NiSource and Columbia that were issued from January 1, 2022, to the most currently available; and,
- AG's First Request, Item 161 contains certain proprietary sources used to create the ROE recommendations.

Collectively, the information described above is designated as the "Confidential Information" for which protection is sought under KRS 61.878(1)(a), KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1), and KRS 61.878(1)(k). Disclosure of the Confidential Information would permit an unfair commercial advantage to third parties and present an unnecessary and unreasonable infringement upon Columbia's legitimate privacy concerns.

3. The Kentucky Open Records Act and applicable precedent exempts the Confidential Information from disclosure, including KRS 61.878(1)(a); KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1); KRS 61.878(1)(k); *Zink v. Department of Workers Claims, Labor Cabinet*, 902 S.W.2d 825 (Ky. App. 1994); *Hoy v. Kentucky Industrial Revitalization Authority*, 907 S.W.2d 766, 768 (Ky. 1995). The public disclosure of the Confidential Information would harm

Columbia's competitive position in the marketplace by offering competitors insights into payroll costs and negotiated contract rates that are not otherwise publicly available and would be to the detriment of Columbia. Additionally, the Confidential Information is publicly unavailable. The confidentiality of this information is critical to Columbia's effective execution of business decisions and strategy. For these reasons, the Confidential Information satisfies both the statutory and common law standards for affording confidential treatment.

4. Columbia is requesting confidential protection of the documents provided in response to AG's First Request Item 6, Item 102, Item 114, and Item 157 pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(a). All of these documents contain personal information that if disclosed would result in an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The documents contained in AG's First Request Item 6, Item 102, and Item 114 contains salary information of employees. This information is generally recognized as confidential.

5. Columbia is requesting confidential protection of the documents provided in response to AG's First Request Item 157 pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(a). AG's First Request, Item 157 contains information regarding usage information for specific high volume customers. Customer usage information is normally regarded as competitively sensitive and should not be disclosed.

6. Columbia is requesting confidential treatment requesting confidential treatment of its response to Staff's Second Request, Item 12, which legal counsel's

engagement of a third party consultant in this proceeding pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1). If this information were disclosed, it would create an unfair commercial advantage to Columbia's competitors. This information is generally not disclosed, and if disclosed could harm the Company.

7. Columbia is requesting confidential treatment of its response to Staff's Second Request, Item 48, which contains excerpts from the Mergent Bond Record pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1). Columbia is also requesting confidential treatment of its response to Staff's Second Request, Item 54, which contains supporting documentation for the return on equity ("ROE") calculations that were produced by S&P. If this information were disclosed, it would create an unfair commercial advantage to Columbia's competitors. This information is generally not disclosed, and if disclosed could harm the Company. Furthermore, such reports are provided to NiSource pursuant to an understanding that they will be treated confidentially and Columbia does not have permission to publicly disclose the information contained in this response.

8. In the response to AG's First Request, Item 3, Columbia is providing its contain organization charts for Columbia and NiSource Corporate Services Company. Columbia is requesting confidential protection of this information pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1) because if this information were disclosed competitors would gain insight into Columbia's internal structure and could potentially use the information to gain a commercial advantage.

9. Columbia is requesting confidential treatment of its response to AG's First Request Item, 33 that provides customer satisfaction surveys. This information is generally recognized as confidential and proprietary and disclosure would harm Columbia. If this information were disclosed Columbia could face a commercial disadvantage because competitors would have access to the inner workings of NiSource and issues within its operations. This information should be granted confidential protection pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1).

10. Columbia is requesting confidential treatment of its response to AG's First Request Item, 34 that includes a copy of Columbia's Distribution Integrity Management Program ("DIMP"). This information is generally recognized as confidential and proprietary and disclosure would harm Columbia. Additionally, this information should be granted confidential protection based upon KRS 61.878(1)(m) because the DIMP contains information regarding Columbia's gas distribution system that if disclosed could result in a threat to critical infrastructure.

11. Columbia is requesting confidential treatment of its response to AG's First Request Item, 42(d) that provides studies conducted or relied upon concerning retirement plan contribution rates, including the pension plans and 401(k) program. This information is generally recognized as confidential and proprietary and disclosure would harm Columbia. While this information is useful to management in assuring that Columbia's compensation is properly oriented and in-line with the market, the data

would be extremely valuable to competitors in the labor market who could use the information to poach Columbia's workforce. If disclosed, the compensation data would allow others to know with precision how to approach Columbia's skilled workforce and target them for recruitment to other firms. This would, of course, lead to the diminution of Columbia's skilled workforce and the loss of investment in human capital. Furthermore, such reports are provided to NiSource pursuant to an understanding that they will be treated confidentially and Columbia does not have permission to publicly disclose the information contained in this response. The Commission has previously recognized that wage and compensation studies are confidential under the Kentucky Open Records Act.¹

12. Columbia is requesting confidential treatment of its response to AG's First Request Item, 46(a) that depicts business development expenses, (direct and allocated) for each of the years, 2021-2025, the BP and included for recovery in the FTP. This information is generally recognized as confidential and proprietary and disclosure would harm Columbia. If this information were disclosed Columbia's competitors would gain a commercial advantage because the competitors would understand how Columbia is planning on expanding its business. This information should be granted confidential protection pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1).

¹ See Case No. 2015-00039, *In the Matter of the Proposed Adjustment of the Wholesale Water Service Rates of the City of Augusta*, Order (Ky. P.S.C. Sept. 22, 2015).

13. The response to AG's First Request, Item 54 contains information regarding NiSource's corporation aviation. If this information were disclosed it could create a risk to passengers on this aircraft because the aircraft could be sabotaged. The information should be granted confidential protection pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(m).

14. In the response to AG's First Request, Item 81, Columbia is providing its internal documents related to incentive compensation awards. Columbia is requesting confidential protection of this information pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1) because if this information were disclosed competitors would gain insight into Columbia's compensation and could potentially use the information to create better compensation packages and take Columbia's talent. If this information were disclosed Columbia's competitors would gain a commercial advantage

15. The response to the AG's First Request 131 contains NiSource's corporate relocation policy. Columbia believes this information should be granted confidential protection pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1) because if disclosed competitors would have insight into Columbia's benefits and could potentially use the information to create better compensate

16. ion packages and take Columbia's talent. If this information were disclosed Columbia's competitors would gain a commercial advantage.

17. Columbia is requesting confidential treatment of its response to AG's First Request Item, 158 that contains the major bond rating agency reports that cover NiSource

and Columbia that were issues from January 1, 2022 to the most currently available. This information is generally recognized as confidential and proprietary and disclosure would harm Columbia. If this information were disclosed competitors would gain an unfair commercial advantage and it should be protected pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1). Furthermore, such reports are provided to NiSource pursuant to an understanding that they will be treated confidentially and Columbia does not have permission to publicly disclose the information contained in this response.

18. Columbia is requesting confidential protection of certain attachments provided in the response to the AG's First Request, Item 161. These documents were used to create Columbia's REO. Furthermore, such reports are provided to NiSource pursuant to an understanding that they will be treated confidentially and Columbia does not have permission to publicly disclose the information contained in this response. These documents should be granted confidential protection pursuant to KRS 61.878(1)(c)(1).

19. Overall, the Confidential Information consists of sensitive and proprietary information that is retained by Columbia on a "need-to-know" basis. NiSource and Columbia take all reasonable measures to prevent disclosure of the Confidential Information. Moreover, the Confidential Information is distributed within Columbia only to those employees who must have access for business reasons and is generally recognized as confidential and proprietary in the energy industry.

20. Columbia does not object to limited disclosure of the Confidential Information, pursuant to an acceptable confidentiality and nondisclosure agreement, to intervenors with a legitimate interest in reviewing same for the sole purpose of participating in this case. Columbia reserves the right to object to providing the Confidential Information to any intervenor if said provision could result in liability to Columbia under any Confidentiality Agreement or Non-Disclosure Agreement. Columbia further reserves the right to object to sharing the Confidential Information with any party that may have a mixed-motive for accessing the Confidential Information, that may be a competitor of Columbia in any market, who may have a commercial conflict of interest or for any other reason.

21. In accordance with the provisions of 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(2), Columbia is filing separately under seal one (1) unredacted copy of the information. The attachments provided in response to AG's First Request Item 6 and Item 81 are being provided with highlights because confidential treatment is only being requested for a portion of the documents. The other documents are not provided with highlights because the request for confidential treatment is for the entirety of those documents. Columbia is noting in the public version the filing of confidential responses.

22. In accordance with the provisions of 807 KAR 5:001, Section 13(2), Columbia respectfully requests that the Confidential Information be withheld from public disclosure for an indefinite period.

23. If, and to the extent, the Confidential Information becomes publicly available or otherwise no longer warrants confidential treatment, Columbia will notify the Commission and have its confidential status removed, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001 Section 13(10).

WHEREFORE, on the basis of the foregoing, Columbia respectfully requests that the Commission classify and protect as confidential the Confidential Information described herein for an indefinite period.

This the 7th day of July 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Heather S. Temple

L. Allyson Honaker
Heather S. Temple
Meredith L. Cave
HONAKER LAW OFFICE, PLLC
1795 Alysheba Way, Suite 1203
Lexington, KY 40509
(859) 368-8803
allyson@hloky.com
heather@hloky.com
meredith@hloky.com

And

Ashley G. LaRock
Senior Counsel
290 W. Nationwide Blvd.
Columbus, Ohio 43215
Telephone: (614) 273-4387
Fax: (859) 288-0258
alarock@nisource.com

Attorneys for Applicant
COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that the foregoing electronic filing was transmitted to the Commission on July 7, 2026, and that there are no parties that the Commission has excused from participation by electronic means in this proceeding. Pursuant to prior Commission Orders, no paper copies of this filing will be made.

Heather S. Temple

Counsel for Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.