

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA GAS OF)	CASE NO.
KENTUCKY, INC. TO EXTEND ITS SMALL)	2010-00233
VOLUME GAS TRANSPORTATION SERVICE)	

COMMISSION STAFF'S FIRST INFORMATION REQUEST
TO COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC.

Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. ("Columbia"), pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, is to file with the Commission the original and 10 copies of the following information, with a copy to all parties of record. The information requested herein is due no later than July 27, 2010. Responses to requests for information shall be appropriately bound, tabbed and indexed. Each response shall include the name of the witness responsible for responding to the questions related to the information provided.

Each response shall be answered under oath or, for representatives of a public or private corporation or a partnership or association or a governmental agency, be accompanied by a signed certification of the preparer or person supervising the preparation of the response on behalf of the entity that the response is true and accurate to the best of that person's knowledge, information, and belief formed after a reasonable inquiry.

Columbia shall make timely amendment to any prior response if it obtains information which indicates that the response was incorrect when made or, though correct when made, is now incorrect in any material respect. For any request to which Columbia fails or refuses to furnish all or part of the requested information,

Columbia shall provide a written explanation of the specific grounds for its failure to completely and precisely respond.

Careful attention should be given to copied material to ensure that it is legible. When the requested information has been previously provided in this proceeding in the requested format, reference may be made to the specific location of that information in responding to this request. When applicable, the requested information shall be separately provided for total company operations and jurisdictional operations.

1. Refer to Columbia's application, paragraph (l). Columbia requests to extend the effective date of Columbia's Customer Choice Program ("Choice Program") for three additional years, from March 31, 2011 through March 31, 2014. In Case No. 2008-00433,¹ the Order indicated that Columbia would, by October 1, 2010, indicate its intent to extend the Choice Program through March 31, 2013. This would allow the two programs, the Choice Program and the Gas Cost Incentive Program and its Off-System Sales and Capacity Release Revenue Sharing mechanism, to be on the same schedule.

a. Explain why Columbia is proposing to extend the Choice Program through March 31, 2014 rather than through March 31, 2013.

b. Explain why Columbia chose to submit this application nearly four full months prior to the October 1, 2010 target date indicated in Case No. 2008-00433.

2. Columbia filed the most recent annual report on its Choice Program with the Commission on June 4, 2010. The last paragraph on page 2 of the report indicates

¹ Case No. 2008-00433, Application of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. to Extend Its Gas Cost Incentive Program and Its Off-System Sales and Capacity Release Sharing Mechanism (Ky. PSC Apr. 15, 2009 and May 22, 2009).

that, since the inception of the program through the most recent month available when the report was filed, participants in the program had paid \$17,280,299 more than “[i]f they had not opted to be supplied by a marketer in the first place.”

a. Confirm whether this amount is for the time since Columbia’s pilot Choice Program began in 2000 or for the time since its current pilot program became effective on April 1, 2005.

b. Given that the program’s participants, collectively, have paid more than they would have paid if they had continued as Columbia’s sales customers, explain why Columbia believes the program should be extended.

3. Provide the names of all the marketers currently participating in the Choice Program.

4. Describe the extent to which Columbia is actively soliciting participation from marketers and describe the nature of the solicitation.

5. Provide (1) the number of customers currently participating in the Choice Program; (2) the number of customers currently eligible to participate in the Choice Program; (3) the percentage of eligible Columbia customers currently participating in the Choice Program; and (4) the number of customers served by each individual marketer. Provide the information requested in parts (1) through (4) of this request as of the time of Columbia’s 2008 and 2009 annual reports on the Choice Program.

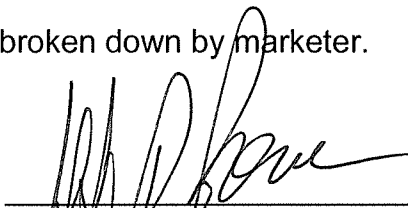
6. Explain whether Columbia is still actively advertising the program and providing customer education concerning the program. If not, explain why.

7. Describe the impact that decreased wholesale natural gas prices over the past two years have had on the Choice Program and the level of customers participating in the program.

8. Explain whether Columbia is convinced that the program has been functioning satisfactorily for all parties since it was extended in Case No. 2008-00195.²

9. Describe any problems that Columbia has experienced with the Choice Program since it was extended in Case No. 2008-00195.

10. Provide the number and details of Choice Program customer complaints received in 2008, 2009 and year-to-date 2010, broken down by marketer.



Jeff Derouen
Executive Director
Public Service Commission
P.O. Box 615
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DATED JUL 13 2010

cc: Parties of Record

² Case No. 2008-00195, The Application of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. to Extend Its Small Volume Gas Transportation Service (Ky. PSC Nov. 7, 2008).

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