

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA GAS OF)	
KENTUCKY, INC. FOR AN)	CASE NO. 2016-00162
ADJUSTMENT IN RATES)	
)	

ORDER

On October 12, 2016, Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc., (“Columbia”) filed a motion which states, among other things, that “the parties have reached a settlement in principle,” and which requests that an Informal Conference (“IC”) with Commission Staff and other parties be scheduled as soon as practicable in order to obtain the requisite signatures prior to the scheduled hearing date.

Additionally, Columbia states that since the parties have reached a settlement in principle, Columbia would like to hold the deadline for filing rebuttal testimony in abeyance until a settlement is filed with the Commission. Columbia further states that “[s]hould such a settlement not be filed, Columbia would still like the opportunity to file rebuttal testimony prior to the hearing date.” Columbia notes that it “has consulted with the other parties who have expressed no objection to such proposal.” According to the procedural schedule appended to our Order of June 10, 2016, the current deadline for filing rebuttal testimony is October 14, 2016.

We find that, pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 9(4), in pertinent part, the Commission “may convene a conference in a case for the purpose of considering the possibility of settlement, the simplification or clarification of issues, or any other matter

that may aid in the handling and disposition of the case.” The Commission finds that a conference with Commission Staff should be held. In the event that the parties authorize and execute a settlement agreement prior to the date of the conference, the Commission finds that a copy of the executed settlement agreement should be submitted to the Commission on or before the date of the conference.

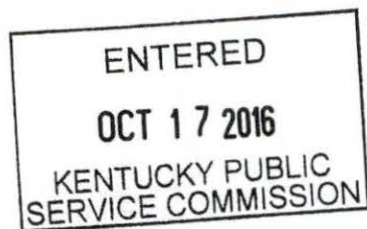
We also find that Columbia’s motion to hold in abeyance the deadline to file rebuttal testimony should be denied. Columbia’s rate application seeks a substantial increase in revenue, and many of its adjustments have been challenged by intervenors. Columbia’s rebuttal testimony will assist the Commission in determining the reasonableness of any settlement that may be proposed in this case. Since the due date for Columbia to file rebuttal testimony has passed, we will grant an extension of time until October 21, 2016, for filing rebuttal.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Columbia’s motion for an informal conference is granted.
2. An informal conference shall be held on Tuesday, October 18, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, in the Commission’s offices at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky, for the purpose of considering the possibility of settlement and any settlement agreement between the parties, the simplification of issues, and any other matters that may aid in the handling or disposition of this case.
3. If the parties authorize and execute a settlement agreement prior to the date of the conference, the parties shall file a copy of the executed settlement agreement into the record on or before October 18, 2016.

4. Columbia's motion to hold the deadline for filing rebuttal testimony in abeyance is denied and its rebuttal testimony shall be filed no later than October 21, 2016.

By the Commission



ATTEST:


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