

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC TARIFF FILING OF COLUMBIA)	
GAS OF KENTUCKY, INC. TO EXTEND ITS)	CASE NO.
SMALL VOLUME GAS TRANSPORTATION)	2021-00386
SERVICE)	

ORDER

On September 30, 2021, Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. (Columbia Kentucky) submitted a tariff filing through the Commission’s electronic Tariff Filing System to continue its Small Gas Transportation Service tariff and Small Volume Aggregation Service tariff, commonly known collectively as the “CHOICE program,” under the program’s current terms and conditions, through March 31, 2025. Extension of the CHOICE program was last approved in Case No. 2017-00115¹ and is scheduled to run through March 31, 2022. The September 30, 2021 tariff filing proposed an effective date of April 1, 2022.

KRS 278.030 provides that a utility may collect fair, just and reasonable rates and that the service it provides must be adequate, efficient and reasonable. Having reviewed the tariff filing and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that an investigation is necessary to determine the reasonableness of the proposed tariffs to extend the CHOICE program, and that such investigation should occur through a formal proceeding rather than through the more informal tariff filing process.

¹ Case No. 2017-00115, *Tariff Filing of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. to Extend its Small Volume Gas Transportation Service* (Ky. PSC June 19, 2017).

The Commission directs Columbia Kentucky to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085² in which the Commission mandated the use of electronic filing procedures listed in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8. The Commission finds that electronic filing procedures should be used, consistent with the filing procedures set forth in Case No. 2020-00085.

The Commission further finds that a procedural schedule should be established to review the reasonableness of the proposed tariffs. The procedural schedule is attached hereto as an Appendix to this Order and is incorporated herein.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. This proceeding is established to investigate the reasonableness of the proposed tariffs.

2. Columbia Kentucky shall, by counsel, enter an appearance in this proceeding within seven days of the date of entry of this Order. The entry of appearance shall include the name, address, telephone number, fax number, and electronic mail address of counsel.

3. Unless otherwise ordered by the Commission, the procedures set forth in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8, related to service and electronic filing of papers shall be followed in this proceeding.

4. Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8(9), within seven days of entry of this Order, Columbia Kentucky shall file by electronic means a written statement that it waives

² Case No. 2020-00085, *Electronic Emergency Docket Related to the Novel Coronavirus COVID-19* (Ky. PSC July 22, 2021), Order (in which the Commission ordered that for case filings made on and after March 16, 2020, filers are NOT required to file the original physical copies of the filings required by 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8).

any right to service of Commission Orders by United States mail and that it or its authorized agent possesses the facilities to receive electronic submissions.

5. Unless a party is granted leave to intervene and states its objection to the use of electronic filing procedures in a motion for intervention, the party shall:

a. Be deemed to have consented to the use of electronic filing procedures and the service of all papers, including Orders of the Commission, by electronic means; and

b. Within seven days of the date of entry of an Order of the Commission, granting intervention, file with the Commission a written statement that:

(1) It or its authorized agent possesses the facilities to receive electronic transmissions; and

(2) Sets forth the electronic mail address to which all electronic notices and messages related to this proceeding should be served.

6. If a party objects to the use of electronic filing procedures and the Commission determines that good cause exists to excuse that party from the use of electronic filing procedures, service of documents on that party and by that party shall be made in accordance with 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(8).

7. The procedural schedule set forth in the Appendix to this Order shall be followed.

8. As set forth in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 4(11)(a), a person requesting permissive intervention in a Commission proceeding is required to demonstrate either (1) a special interest in the proceeding which is not adequately represented in the case, or (2) that the person requesting permissive intervention is likely to present issues or

develop facts that will assist the Commission in fully considering the matter without unduly complicating or disrupting the proceedings. Further, KRS 278.040(2) requires that a person seeking intervention must have an interest in the rate or service of a utility, as those are the only matters that are subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. Therefore, any person requesting to intervene in a Commission proceeding must state with specificity the person's special interest that is not otherwise adequately represented, or the issues and facts the person will present that will assist the Commission in fully considering the matter. A mere recitation of the quantity of utility service consumed by the movant or a general statement regarding the potential impact of possible modification of rates will not be deemed sufficient to establish a special interest. In addition, any motion to intervene after the date established in the procedural schedule shall also show good cause for being untimely. If the untimely motion is granted, the movant shall accept and abide by the existing procedural schedule.

9. Columbia Kentucky shall give notice of the hearing in accordance with the provisions set forth in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 9(2). In addition, the notice of the hearing shall include the following statements: "This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov"; and "Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov." At the time publication is requested, Columbia Kentucky shall forward a duplicate of the notice and request to the Commission.

10. At any public hearing in this matter, neither opening statements nor summarization of direct testimonies shall be permitted.

11. Pursuant to KRS 278.360 and 807 KAR 5:001, Section 9(9), a digital video recording shall be made of the hearing.

12. The Commission does not look favorably upon motions for continuance. Accordingly, motions for extensions of times with respect to the schedule herein shall be made in writing and will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

13. Nothing contained herein shall prevent the Commission from entering further Orders in this matter.

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By the Commission



ATTEST:


Executive Director

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2021-00386 DATED OCT 18 2021

Requests for intervention shall be filed no later than10/29/2021

Initial requests for information to Columbia Kentucky
shall be filed no later than11/05/2021

Columbia Kentucky shall file responses to
initial requests for information no later than..... 11/19/2021

All supplemental requests for information to Columbia Kentucky
shall be filed no later than12/03/2021

Columbia Kentucky shall file responses to supplemental requests
for information no later than.....12/17/2021

Intervenor Testimony, if any, in verified prepared
form shall be filed no later than12/29/2021

All requests for information to Intervenors shall
be filed no later than01/12/2022

Intervenors shall file responses to requests for
information no later than01/26/2022

Columbia Kentucky or any Intervenor shall request either a
hearing or that the case be submitted for decision
based on the record no later than 02/02/2022

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