

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC PURCHASED GAS ADJUSTMENT)	CASE NO.
FILING OF COLUMBIA GAS OF KENTUCKY,)	2024-00245
INC.)	

ORDER

On July 29, 2024, Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. (Columbia Kentucky) filed its proposed Gas Cost Adjustment (GCA) report to be effective August 28, 2024. Columbia Kentucky's previous GCA rate was approved in Case No. 2024-00121.¹

LEGAL STANDARD

The Commission's standard of review for GCA rates is well settled as stated in KRS 278.274(1):

In determining whether proposed natural gas utility rates are just and reasonable, the commission shall review the utility's gas purchasing practices. The commission may disallow any costs or rates which are deemed to result from imprudent purchasing practices on the part of the utility.

Further, the utility has the burden to prove the rates are just and reasonable and the Commission may reduce the purchased gas component of the utility's rates, or the rates charged by an affiliated company to the extent the amount is deemed to be unjust or unreasonable.²

¹ Case No. 2024-00121, *Electronic Purchased Gas Adjustment Filing of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.* (Ky. PSC May. 29, 2024), Order at 3.

² KRS 278.274(2); KRS 278.274(3)(c); and KRS 278.274(3)(d).

DISCUSSION

After reviewing the record in this case and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that Columbia Kentucky's report includes revised rates designed to pass on to its customers its expected changes in gas costs. Columbia Kentucky's report sets out an Expected Gas Cost (EGC) of \$4.1454 per Mcf, which is an increase of \$0.2917 per Mcf from its previous EGC of \$3.8537 per Mcf. Columbia Kentucky's report sets out a rate for Banking and Balancing Service of \$0.0369 per Mcf. Columbia Kentucky's report sets out a total supplier Refund Adjustment (RA) of \$0.0000 per Mcf. Columbia Kentucky's report sets out a current quarter Actual Cost Adjustment (ACA) of (\$0.2187) per Mcf. Columbia Kentucky's total ACA is (\$1.1552) per Mcf, which is an increase of \$0.3619 per Mcf from its previous total ACA of (\$1.5171) per Mcf. Columbia Kentucky's report sets out a Balancing Adjustment (BA) of (\$0.04201) per Mcf, which is a decrease of (\$1.8083) per Mcf from its previous BA of 1.3882 per Mcf. Columbia Kentucky's report set out no Special Agency Service (SAS) refund adjustment. Columbia Kentucky's report sets out a Performance-Based Rate (PBR) Adjustment of \$0.4080 per Mcf, which is unchanged from its previous PBR of \$0.4080 per Mcf.

Based on the calculations above, the Commission finds that Columbia Kentucky's GCA is \$2.9781 per Mcf, which is a decrease of (\$1.1547) per Mcf from its previous GCA of \$4.1328 per Mcf. The Commission further finds that the rates as proposed by Columbia Kentucky and set forth in the Appendix to this Order are fair, just and reasonable and should be approved for billing with the final meter readings beginning on and after August 28, 2024.

For the purpose of transparency and to maintain a record of information for future use, the Commission finds that Columbia Kentucky should submit all invoices it receives along with its monthly usage report for each month of the reporting period when it files its future GCA rate reports. As ordered by the Commission in Case No. 2018-00150,³ Columbia Kentucky's future GCA reports should include an electronic version containing supporting calculations in Excel spreadsheet format with all formulas, columns, and rows unprotected and fully accessible. Should Columbia Kentucky purchase sustainable natural gas from a renewable source during the reporting period of any future GCA reports then the supplier, cost, and amount must be documented in its cover letter to the Commission.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. The rates proposed by Columbia Kentucky and set forth in the Appendix to this Order are approved for billing with the final meter readings beginning on and after August 28, 2024.
2. Columbia Kentucky shall submit all invoices it receives along with its monthly usage reports for each month of the reporting period when it files its future GCA rate reports.
3. Columbia Kentucky's future GCA reports shall include an electronic version containing supporting calculations in Excel spreadsheet format with all formulas, columns, and rows unprotected and fully accessible.

³ Case No. 2018-00150, *Electronic Purchased Gas Adjustment Filing of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.* (Ky. PSC May 16, 2018), Order at 2.

4. Within 20 days of the date of service of this Order, Columbia Kentucky shall file with this Commission, using the Commission's electronic Tariff Filing System, revised tariff sheets setting out the rates approved herein and reflecting that they were approved pursuant to this Order.

5. This case is closed and removed from the Commission's docket.

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

*Signed
by Chair
Hutton
w/ permission*

Angie Hutton
Chairman

Vice Chairman

Mary Pat Regan
Commissioner

ENTERED
AUG 19 2024
KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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ATTEST:

 *PRC*
Executive Director

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2024-00245 DATED AUG 19 2024

The following rates and charges are prescribed for the customers in the area served by Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. All other rates and charges not specifically mentioned herein shall remain the same as those in effect under the authority of the Commission prior to the effective date of this Order.

CURRENTLY EFFECTIVE BILLING RATES

<u>SALES SERVICE</u>	<u>Base Rate Charge</u> \$	<u>Gas Cost Adjustment¹ Demand</u> \$	<u>Commodity</u> \$	<u>Total Billing Rate</u> \$
<u>RATE SCHEDULE GSR</u>				
Delivery Charge per Mcf	5.2528	1.6589	1.3192	8.2309
<u>RATE SCHEDULE GSO</u>				
<u>Commercial or Industrial</u>				
First 50 Mcf or less per billing period	3.2513	1.6589	1.3192	6.2294
Next 350 Mcf per billing period	2.5096	1.6589	1.3192	5.4877
Next 600 Mcf per billing period	2.3855	1.6589	1.3192	5.3636
Over 1,000 Mcf per billing period	2.1700	1.6589	1.3192	5.1481
<u>RATE SCHEDULE IS²</u>				
First 30,000 Mcf per billing period	0.7093		1.3192	2.0285
Next 70,000 Mcf per billing period	0.4378		1.3192	1.7570
Over 100,000 Mcf per billing period	0.2423		1.3192	1.5615
Firm Service Demand Charge				
Demand Charge times Daily Firm				
Volume (Mcf) in Customer Service Agreement		10.1875		10.1875
<u>RATE SCHEDULE IUS</u>				

¹ The Gas Cost Adjustment, as shown, is an adjustment per Mcf determined in accordance with the "Gas Cost Adjustment Clause" as set forth on Sheets 48 through 51 of Columbia Kentucky's Tariff. The Gas Cost Adjustment applicable to a customer who is receiving service under Rate Schedule GS or IUS and received service under Rate Schedule SVGTS shall be \$4.1454 per Mcf only for those months of the prior 12 months during which they were served under Rate Schedule SVGTS.

² IS Customers may be subject to the Demand Gas Cost under the conditions set forth on Sheets 14 and 15 of Columbia Kentucky's Tariff.

Delivery Charge per Mcf	1.1959	1.6589	1.3192	4.1740
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TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

RATE SCHEDULE SS

Standby Service Demand Charge per Mcf				
Demand Charge times Daily Firm				
Volume (Mcf) in Customer Service Agreement	10.1875			10.1875
Standby Service Commodity Charge per Mcf			1.4192	1.3192

RATE SCHEDULE DS

Banking and Balancing Service				
Rate per Mcf	0.0369			0.0369

RATE SCHEDULE MLDS

Banking and Balancing Service				
Rate per Mcf	0.0369			0.0369

RATE SCHEDULE SVGTS

		<u>Base Rate</u>
		\$
<u>General Service Residential (SGVTS GSR)</u>		
Delivery Charge per Mcf		5.2528
<u>General Service Other—Commercial or Industrial (SVGTS GSO)</u>		
First 50 Mcf or less per billing period		3.2513
Next 350 Mcf per billing period		2.5096
Next 600 Mcf per billing period		2.3855
Over 1,000 Mcf per billing period		2.1700

Intrastate Utility Service

Delivery Charge per Mcf		1.1959
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		<u>Billing Rate</u>
		\$

<u>Actual Gas Cost Adjustment</u> ³		(\$0.9557)
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RATE SCHEDULE SVAS

Balancing Charge—per Mcf		1.1741
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³ The Gas Cost Adjustment is applicable to a customer who is receiving service under Rate Schedule SVGTS and received service under Rate Schedule GS, IS, or IUS for only those months of the prior twelve months during which they were served under Rate Schedule GS, IS, or IUS.

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