

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA GAS)	
OF KENTUCKY, INC. FOR ITS ANNUAL SAFETY)	
MODIFICATION AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM)	CASE NO.
FILING)	2024-00328

ORDER

On October 15, 2024, Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc. (Columbia Kentucky) filed its annual application and tariff to revise its Safety Modification and Replacement Program (SMRP) rates based on a forecasted test period ending December 31, 2025. Columbia Kentucky proposed an effective date of December 31, 2024.

Pursuant to KRS 278.180(1), changes to any rate by any utility is prohibited except upon 30 days' notice to the Commission. Having reviewed Columbia Kentucky's application and proposed tariff, the Commission finds that an investigation is necessary to determine the reasonableness of the proposed tariff, and that an investigation cannot be completed by December 31, 2024. Therefore, pursuant to KRS 278.190(2), the Commission will suspend the effective date of the proposed SMRP rates for one day, up to and including January 1, 2025, to give the Commission time to investigate the SMRP rates, and to allow Columbia Kentucky to begin charging the SMRP rates, pending a final Order, and subject to refund, provided it provides written notice to the Commission of its intention to do so as required by KRS 278.190(2).

The Commission, on its own motion, finds that a procedural schedule should be established for the orderly processing of this case. The procedural schedule is attached as an Appendix to this Order.

Additionally, any hearing scheduled in this matter shall be held on the designated day or days and continued until called from the bench by the presiding officer. Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 2, if the hearing is not concluded on the designated day, the hearing may be continued upon verbal announcement by the presiding officer. A verbal announcement made by the presiding officer shall be proper notice of the continued hearing. Hearings are held in the Richard Raff Hearing Room at the offices of the Public Service Commission at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky. Witnesses who sponsor schedules, testimony, or responses to requests for information are expected to participate in person at a hearing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

1. Columbia Kentucky's proposed SMRP rates are suspended for one day, up to and including January 1, 2025.
2. The procedural schedule set forth in the Appendix to this Order shall be followed.
3. Columbia Kentucky shall respond to all requests for information propounded by Commission Staff, whether identified on the procedural schedule or otherwise, as provided in those requests.
4. Any party filing a paper with the Commission shall file an electronic copy in accordance with the electronic filing procedures set forth in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 8. Electronic documents shall be in portable document format (PDF), shall be searchable,

and shall be appropriately bookmarked. The Commission directs the parties to the Commission's July 22, 2021 Order in Case No. 2020-00085¹ regarding filings with the Commission.

5. 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 that 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. 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 that 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 a potential impact of possible modification of rates will not be deemed sufficient to establish a special interest.

6. Any motion to intervene filed 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.

7. Columbia Kentucky shall give notice of any scheduled hearing in accordance with the provisions set forth in 807 KAR 5:001, Section 9(2). In addition, the notice of hearing shall include the following statements: "This hearing will be streamed

¹ 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).

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 listing 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.

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

9. Any hearing scheduled in this matter shall be held on the designated day or days and continued until called from the bench by the presiding officer. Pursuant to 807 KAR 5:001, Section 2, if the hearing is not concluded on the designated day, the hearing shall be continued upon verbal announcement by the presiding officer. A verbal announcement made by the presiding officer shall be proper notice of the continued hearing.

10. Witnesses who sponsor schedules, testimony, or responses to requests for information shall participate in person at any hearing scheduled in this matter.

11. Columbia Kentucky shall file a witness list at least seven days prior to the hearing date.

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

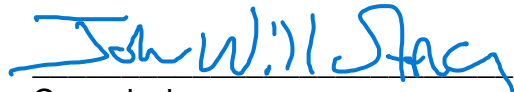
13. The Commission does not look favorably upon motions for continuance. Accordingly, motions for extensions of time with respect to the schedule herein shall be made in writing and will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

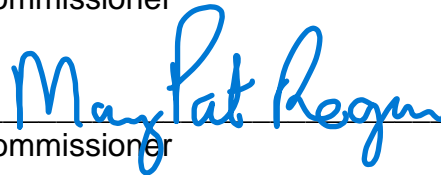
14. The Commission does not look favorably upon motions to excuse witnesses from testifying at Commission hearings. Accordingly, motions to excuse a witness from testifying at a Commission hearing or from testifying in person at a Commission hearing shall be made in writing and will be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Chairman


Commissioner


Commissioner

ENTERED
NOV 12 2024
rcs
KENTUCKY PUBLIC
SERVICE COMMISSION

ATTEST:


Executive Director

APPENDIX

APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE
COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2024-00328 DATED NOV 12 2024

Last day for intervention requests to be accepted.....	11/14/2024
All initial requests for information to Columbia Kentucky shall be filed no later than	11/21/2024
Columbia Kentucky shall file responses to initial requests for information no later than.....	12/06/2024
All supplemental requests for information to Columbia Kentucky shall be filed no later than	12/20/2024
Columbia Kentucky shall file responses to supplemental requests for information no later than	01/10/2025
Last day for parties to request a public hearing or submit a request for the matter be decided based upon the written record	01/13/2025

*Judy M Cooper
Director, Regulatory Services
Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.
2001 Mercer Road
P. O. Box 14241
Lexington, KY 40512-4241

*John R. Ryan
Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.
2001 Mercer Road
P. O. Box 14241
Lexington, KY 40512-4241

*Melissa Thompson
Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.
200 Civic Center Drive
P.O. Box 117
Columbus, OHIO 43216-0117

*Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Inc.
290 W Nationwide Blvd
Columbus, OH 43215