## COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

### BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

ELECTRONIC JOINT APPLICATION OF COMMERCIAL PROPANE SERVICE, LLC AND OLD BRIDGE GAS UTILITY LLC FOR APPROVAL OF OLD BRIDGE GAS UTILITY LLC'S ACQUISITION OF COMMERCIAL PROPANE SERVICE LLC'S UTILITY ASSETS IN OLD BRIDGE SUBDIVISION, DANVILLE, KENTUCKY

CASE NO. 2024-00382

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### <u>O R D E R</u>

On December 6, 2024,<sup>1</sup> Commercial Propane Service, LLC (CPS) and Old Bridge Gas Utility LLC (Old Bridge Gas) (together, Joint Applicants) filed an application, pursuant to KRS 278.020(6) and KRS 278.020(7), requesting approval of Old Bridge Gas's acquisition of CPS's utility assets, a utility subject to the Commission's jurisdiction.

KRS 278.020(7) states that the Commission shall render a decision on an application for the acquisition of control of a jurisdictional utility within 60 days after the application was filed, unless it is necessary to continue the application for up to 60 additional days, for good cause. Based upon a review of the application, the Commission finds that an investigation of the proposed acquisition is necessary. The Commission finds additional time is necessary to ensure that Old Bridge Gas meets all statutory requirements, as Old Bridge Gas is a recently formed limited liability corporation (LLC).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Joint Applicants tendered its application on December 4, 2024, and the application was rejected for filing deficiencies by letter on December 5, 2024. On December 6, 2024, the Joint Applicants tendered documents to cure the deficiency and the application was deemed filed on December 6, 2024.

The Commission finds that the investigation cannot be completed by February 4, 2025. Therefore, the Commission will continue the application for an additional 60 days, up to and including April 5, 2025.

The Commission also finds that a procedural schedule should be established for the orderly processing of this case. A procedural schedule is set forth in the 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 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:

This case is continued for an additional 60 days, up to and including April
5, 2025.

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

3. Joint Applicants shall respond to all requests for information propounded by Commission Staff, whether identified on the procedural schedule or otherwise, as provided in those requests.

Case No. 2024-00382

-2-

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. 2020-00085<sup>2</sup> 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 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> 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).

7. Joint Applicants 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 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, Joint Applicants 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. Joint Applicants 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.

-4-

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.

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Chairman

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Commissioner

ATTEST:

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**Executive Director** 

ENTERED

DEC 17 2024 AH

KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

## APPENDIX

# APPENDIX TO AN ORDER OF THE KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION IN CASE NO. 2024-00382 DATED DEC 17 2024

Last day for intervention requests to be accepted	12/23/2024
All initial requests for information to Old Bridge Gas shall be filed no later than	12/27/2024
Joint Applicants shall file responses to initial requests for information no later than	01/17/2025
All supplemental requests for information to Old Bridge Gas shall be filed no later than	01/28/2025
Joint Applicants shall file responses to supplemental requests for information no later than	02/07/2025
Last day for Parties to request a Public Hearing or submit a request for the matter be decided based upon the written record	02/07/2025

\*Commercial Propane Service, LLC d/b/a Bright's 160 Sulphur Springs Road Lebanon, KY 40033

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