Public Comments Received for Case Number: 2026-00306
Response Monday, October 19, 2026

Your comments in the above referenced matter have been received and will be placed into the case file for the Commission's consideration. Please cite the case number in this matter, 2026-00306 in any further correspondence.

The documents in this case are available at: View Case Filings for: 2026-00306 (ky.gov).

Received through Public Comments Saturday, October 17, 2026

From: Emma Mitchell
City: Paris
State: KY
Zip: 40361

Comments:
Dear Commissioners:

I am a residential Columbia Gas customer in Paris, Bourbon County, Kentucky. I am submitting this objection concerning Columbia Gas of Kentuckys proposed adjustment to its Safety Modification and Replacement Program (SMRP) Rider.

I understand that maintaining and replacing aging natural gas pipelines is necessary for public safety. However, I am deeply concerned about the increasing financial burden these additional charges place on residential customers.

My winter gas bill totaled $207.12 and included the following charges:

Monthly customer charge: $21.25

Gas delivery charge: $66.44

Safety Modification and Replacement Program Rider: $14.91

Actual natural gas supply cost: $81.20

These figures show that I paid $102.60 in customer, delivery, and pipeline replacement charges, compared with only $81.20 for the actual natural gas.

Columbia Gas is also seeking increases in its general rate case, No. 2026-00099, including increases to residential customer and delivery charges.

I respectfully request that the Commission investigate the following:

Are customers being charged for pipeline replacement costs through both regular delivery rates and the separate safety rider?

What specific pipeline replacement projects justify the proposed rider adjustment?

Has Columbia Gas demonstrated that all expenses included in the rider are necessary, reasonable, and properly documented?

Are any pipeline replacement expenses already being recovered through other approved rates?

What steps are being taken to protect residential customers from the combined financial impact of increasing delivery charges, fixed customer charges, and pipeline replacement riders?

Has the Commission examined whether Columbia Gas is earning an appropriate return on these investments without placing an unreasonable burden on customers?

I am particularly concerned about households living on fixed incomes. During winter, my natural gas bills exceed $200, and these additional charges make an essential utility increasingly difficult to afford.

I respectfully request that the Commission reject or reduce any proposed safety rider increase that Columbia Gas cannot fully justify and ensure that customers are not charged twice for the same infrastructure expenses.

Public safety is important, but so is protecting Kentucky households from unnecessary and excessive utility charges.

Thank you for considering my objection.

Respectfully,

Emma Mitchell
Paris, Bourbon County, Kentucky
Columbia Gas Residential Customer

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