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April 27, 2022

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, 2nd Floor Harrisburg, PA 17120

# **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

RE: Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission v. Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.; Docket No. R-2022-3031211

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached for filing with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is the Prehearing Memorandum of the Columbia Industrial Intervenors ("CII") in the above-referenced proceeding.

As evidenced by the attached Certificate of Service, all parties to this proceeding are being duly served with a copy of this document. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Charis Mincavage

MCNEES WALLACE & NURICK LLC

Chair Mineage

c: Christopher P. Pell, Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge (via e-mail) Certificate of Service

# BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

:

v. : Docket No. R-2022-3031211

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc.

# PREHEARING MEMORANDUM OF THE COLUMBIA INDUSTRIAL INTERVENORS

As requested by Deputy Chief Administrative Law Judge ("DCALJ") Christopher P. Pell in the Prehearing Conference Order dated April 20, 2022, the Columbia Industrial Intervenors ("CII") hereby submit this Prehearing Memorandum.

## I. HISTORY OF THE PROCEEDING

On March 18, 2022, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. ("Columbia" or "Company"), filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("PUC" or "Commission") proposed Supplement No. 337 to Tariff Gas – Pa. P.U.C. No. 9 ("Supplement No. 337"), proposed to become effective on May 17, 2022. Through the filing, Columbia requested a general rate increase of approximately \$82.2 million over its present annual revenues.

On April 14, 2022, the Commission suspended Columbia's proposed filing by operation of law until December 17, 2022, and instituted an investigation into the Company's proposed Supplement No. 337.

Concurrent with the filing of this Prehearing Memorandum, CII is also filing a Complaint in this proceeding. A description of CII is set forth in Paragraph 5 of CII's Complaint. A Prehearing Conference has been scheduled in this proceeding for April 29, 2022.

### II. IDENTIFICATION OF LEAD ATTORNEY

For purposes of the Prehearing Conference, Charis Mincavage will speak as the lead attorney on behalf of CII.

### III. ANTICIPATED ISSUES AND SUB-ISSUES

CII's preliminary review of the Company's filing indicates a need for Commission investigation into at least the following issues:

- a) Whether the size of the requested rate increase is appropriate;
- b) Whether the expenses claimed by Columbia were prudently incurred;
- c) Whether the allocation of the proposed increase among customer classes is just, reasonable and non-discriminatory;
- d) Whether the Return on Equity ("ROE") proposed by the Company results in a fair Rate of Return ("ROR");
- e) Whether the rate design and rate structure proposed by Columbia are appropriate; and
- f) Whether Columbia's claimed Cost of Service Study ("COSS") is accurate and legitimate.

CII anticipates pursuing these issues during this proceeding and reserves the right to raise further issues and to respond to all issues raised by other parties.

#### IV. PROPOSED WITNESS

CII is in the process of evaluating whether it will sponsor testimony in this proceeding. In the event that CII decides to sponsor testimony, it will immediately inform the parties and the DCALJ of any intended witnesses and topics of testimony. CII also intends to participate in this proceeding through the submission of discovery, cross-examination of other parties' witnesses, and the submission of briefs, exceptions, and reply exceptions, if necessary.

V. PROPOSED SCHEDULE AND DISCOVERY RULES

CII will cooperate with the DCALJ and the parties at the Prehearing Conference to

develop an appropriate procedural schedule and discovery rules in accordance with the

Commission's regulations and any directives issued by the DCALJ. Additionally, CII will defer

to the other parties at the Prehearing Conference as to the need for public input hearings and the

amount of hearing time needed.

VI. POSSIBILITY OF SETTLEMENT

CII is willing to participate in discussions with the other parties to amicably resolve the

issues in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

McNEES WALLACE & NURICK LLC

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Counsel to the Columbia Industrial Intervenors

Dated: April 27, 2022

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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am this day serving a true copy of the foregoing document upon the participants listed below in accordance with the requirements of Section 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

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Chair Miniage

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Counsel to the Philadelphia Area Industrial Energy Users Group

Dated this 27th day of April, 2022, in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania