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Lindsay A. Berkstresser

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April 27, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Rosemary Chiavetta, Secretary Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Commonwealth Keystone Building 400 North Street, 2nd Floor North P.O. Box 3265 Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265

PA PUC v. Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. Re: Docket Nos. R-2022-3031211, et al.

Dear Secretary Chiavetta:

Attached is the Prehearing Memorandum filed on behalf of Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc., in the above-referenced proceedings. Copies will be provided per the attached Certificate of Service.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay A. Berkstresser

Lindsay A. Beckstresser

LAB/kls Attachment

Honorable Christopher P. Pell (w/att.)

Certificate of Service

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that true and correct copies of the foregoing have been served upon the following persons, in the manner indicated, in accordance with the requirements of § 1.54 (relating to service by a participant).

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Date: April 27, 2022

BEFORE THE PENNSYLVANIA PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	:	R-2022-3031211
Office of Small Business Advocate	:	C-2022-3031632
Office of Consumer Advocate	:	C-2022-3031767
Pennsylvania State University	:	C-2022-3031957
Jose A. Serrano	:	C-2022-3031821
Constance Wile	:	C-2022-3031749

:

:

Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc

v.

PREHEARING MEMORANDUM OF COLUMBIA GAS OF PENNSYLVANIA, INC.

TO ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE CHRISTOPHER P. PELL:

I. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

This Memorandum is in response to the Prehearing Conference Order, dated April 20, 2022, advising that a Prehearing Conference is scheduled for April 29, 2022, in the above-referenced matter.

On March 18, 2022, Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. ("Columbia") filed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ("Commission") Supplement No. 337 to its Tariff Gas – Pa. P.U.C. No. 9 ("Supplement No. 337" or "base rate filing"). Supplement No. 337 was issued to be effective for service rendered on or after May 17, 2022. It proposed changes to Columbia's distribution base rates designed to produce an increase in annual revenues of approximately \$82.2 million based upon data for a fully projected future test year ("FPFTY") ending December 31, 2023. The filing was made in compliance with the Commission's regulations, and contains all supporting data and testimony required to be submitted in conjunction with a tariff change seeking a general rate increase.

On April 14, 2022, the Commission issued an Order suspending Columbia's Supplement

No. 337 by operation of law until December 17, 2022.¹

The Office of Consumer Advocate, the Office of Small Business Advocate, the

Pennsylvania State University, Constance Wile, and Jose Serranno filed formal complaints. The

Pennsylvania Weatherization Providers Task Force, Inc., the Retail Energy Supply Association,

Shipley Choice, LLC, and NRG Energy, Inc., and the Coalition for Affordable Utility Services

and Energy Efficiency in Pennsylvania filed petitions to intervene. The Commission's Bureau of

Investigation and Enforcement filed a notice of appearance. Several customer complaints have

been filed.

On April 26, 2022, Columbia filed Supplement 343 to Tariff Gas Pa PUC No. 9, which

proposes to add the Green Path Rider to Columbia's tariff. Also on April 26, 2022, Columbia filed

a Motion to Consolidate the Green Path Rider tariff filing with this base rate proceeding.

II. **SERVICE OF DOCUMENTS**

Columbia's counsel in this proceeding are Amy Hirakis, Esquire; Theodore Gallagher,

Esquire, Michael Hassell, Esquire; and Lindsay Berkstresser, Esquire. Columbia requests that

Michael Hassell be listed as the recipient for service. Mr. Hassell's contact information is provided

below:

Michael W. Hassell (ID # 34851)

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¹ On April 22, 2022, Columbia filed Supplement No. 342 pursuant to the Commission's April 14, 2022 Suspension Order. Supplement No. 342 suspended the proposed rates contained in Tariff Supplement No. 325 until

December 17, 2022.

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Columbia also requests that Ms. Hirakis, Mr. Gallagher, and Ms. Berkstresser be added to any e-mail distribution lists in this proceeding. Ms. Hirakis's e-mail address is ahirakis@nisource.com. Mr. Gallagher's e-mail address is tjgallagher@nisource.com. Ms. Berkstresser's e-mail address is lberkstresser@postschell.com. Columbia requests that it be served with an electronic copy of all documents submitted in this proceeding.

The April 20, 2022 Prehearing Conference Order directs that parties who are represented by multiple attorneys should designate in their prehearing memorandum a lead representative for the purposes of the prehearing conference. The lead representative on behalf of Columbia for purposes of the prehearing conference will be Ms. Berkstresser.

III. WITNESSES AND ISSUES

Below is a list of the witnesses and the areas of their testimony comprising Columbia's direct case in this proceeding. The subject matters listed below represent as complete a statement of issues that Columbia can provide at this stage of the proceeding. Further definition of contested issues by the parties will develop within the scope of the subject matters listed below during the course of the proceeding.

Columbia presently intends to offer the following witnesses to testify in the base rate proceeding on the following subject matters:

Statement Number(s)			
1	Mark Kempic President and Chief Operating Officer Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	a) b) c)	Overview of the Company filing; Columbia's quality of service; and Management effectiveness
2	Melissa Bartos Vice President Concentric Energy Advisors 293 Boston Post Road West Suite 500	a) b)	Residential and commercial sales volumes normalization; and Customer usage forecasts for the future and fully projected future test years.

	Marlborough, MA 01752	
3	Judith Siegler Lead Regulatory Analyst NiSource Corporate Services Company 801 E. 86 th Avenue Merriville, IN 46410	a) Pro Forma operating revenues;b) Calculation of Merchant Function Charge;andc) Annualization of Forfeited Discounts.
4	Kelley K. Miller Lead Regulatory Analyst NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	a) Revenue deficiency;b) Adjustments to operation and maintenance expenses.
5	John J. Spanos President Gannett Fleming, Inc. 207 Senate Avenue Camp Hill, PA 17011-2316	a) Depreciation study and service lives; andb) Annual and accrued depreciation.
6	Kevin L. Johnson Lead Regulatory Studies Analyst NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 West Nationwide Boulevard Columbus, OH 43215	 a) Allocated Cost of Service Studies; b) Revenue allocation and rate design proposals; and c) Revenue Normalization Adjustment.
7	Raymond A. Brumley Director of Construction Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 2787 Memorial Boulevard Connellsville, PA 15425	a) Plant additions through FPFTY; andb) Overview of ongoing replacement activities
8	Paul R. Moul Managing Consultant P. Moul & Associates 251 Hopkins Road Haddonfield, NJ 08033	a) Cost of capital; andb) Fair rate of return.
9	Nicole M. Paloney Director of Rates and Regulatory Affairs Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	a) Budgeted Operations and Maintenance; andb) Expenses for the FPFTY.
10	Jennifer Harding Director, Income Tax Operations NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	a) Income tax expense;b) Deferred income tax; andc) Other taxes.
11	Julie Covert Lead Regulatory Analyst	Rate Base.

	NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 W. Nationwide Blvd. Columbus, OH 43215	
12	Ribeka Danhires Manager, Rates & Regulatory Service Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	Tariffs.
13	Deborah A. Davis Manager, Universal Services Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Canonsburg, PA 15317	a) Hardship Fund update;b) Low-Income Usage Reduction Program;andc) Customer Outreach Efforts
14	C.J. Anstead Vice President of Gas Operations Columbia Gas of Pennsylvania, Inc. 121 Champion Way, Suite 100 Cannonsburg, PA 15317	 a) Overview of Columbia's distribution system; b) Historic operating performance; c) Safety and Compliance efforts; and d) Planned enhancements to Columbia's operations.
15	Nicholas Bly Manager of Corporate O&M and Consolidation NiSource Corporate Services Company 290 West Nationwide Boulevard Columbus, OH 43215	Budgeting Process and Financial Plan.
16	Theodore M. Love Partner Green Energy Economics Group, Inc. 2534 Dowingsville Road Lincoln, Vermont 05443	Energy Efficiency Plan

The testimony and exhibits fully support Columbia's proposed rate increase in Supplement No. 337, and fully support the design of rates to recover that increase from customers.

Columbia reserves the right to present testimony, sponsored either by the witnesses listed above or by further witnesses, as may be needed, regarding additional issues and subject matters that may arise during the course of the proceeding.

IV. PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Columbia proposes the following procedural schedule. The Company's proposed schedule is based on the due dates provided in the Prehearing Order.

Other Parties' Direct Testimony June 7, 2022

Rebuttal Testimony July 7, 2022

Surrebuttal Testimony July 21, 2022

Rejoinder Outlines July 27, 2022

Hearings for cross-examination of all

witnesses, oral rejoinder

August 2-4, 2022*

Close of Record Thursday, August 4, 2022

Main Briefs Due Wednesday, August 23, 2022

Reply Briefs Due Friday, September 2, 2022

Public Meeting Thursday, December 8, 2022

End of Suspension Saturday, December 17, 2022

V. <u>DISCOVERY</u>

To date, Columbia has been served with and has answered numerous interrogatories. Proprietary information has been requested in discovery, and Columbia intends to timely submit an appropriate Motion for Protective Order.

Columbia encourages the use of informal discovery to expedite the discovery process.

^{*}Columbia witness Paloney is available only on the August 2 hearing date.

VI. SETTLEMENT DISCUSSIONS

As of this time, no settlement discussions have been held. However, Columbia will be working with the parties in an effort to resolve these proceedings through settlement.

Respectfully submitted,

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Phone: 717-233-1351

E-mail: ahirakis@nisource.com

Date: April 26, 2022

Michael W. Hassell (ID # 34851) Lindsay A. Berkstresser (ID # 318370)

Lindsay A. Beckstresser

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