

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Complaint of Corey	)	
Hughes,	)	
	)	
Complainant,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. 15-1532-GA-CSS
	)	
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.,	)	
	)	
Respondent.	)	

ENTRY

The attorney examiner finds:

- (1) The above-referenced complaint was filed on August 31, 2015. In the complaint, Corey Hughes (Mr. Hughes or Complainant) alleges that a subcontractor for Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia), Infrasource, caused multiple forms of damage to his property, including a collapsed drainage pipe in his yard. Mr. Hughes states that the collapsed pipe caused a backup of storm water over the past two years, with basement flooding and extensive damage to his belongings and his basement structure. Mr. Hughes requests that the Commission assist him in getting his house repaired.
- (2) On September 21, 2015, Columbia filed an answer denying the allegations in the complaint.
- (3) The attorney examiner finds that this matter should be scheduled for a settlement conference. The purpose of the settlement conference will be to explore the parties' willingness to negotiate a resolution of this complaint in lieu of an evidentiary hearing. In accordance with Ohio Adm.Code 4901-1-26, any statements made in an attempt to settle this matter without the need for an evidentiary hearing will not generally be admissible to prove liability or invalidity of a claim. An attorney examiner from the Commission's legal department will facilitate the settlement discussion. However, nothing prohibits any party from initiating settlement negotiations prior to the scheduled settlement conference.

- (4) Accordingly, a settlement conference shall be scheduled for October 22, 2015, at 1:30 p.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 12th floor, Room 1247, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793. The parties should bring all relevant documents to the conference. If it becomes apparent that the parties are not likely to settle this matter, the parties should be prepared to establish a procedural schedule to facilitate the timely and efficient processing of this complaint.
- (5) As is the case in all Commission complaint proceedings, the complainant has the burden of proving the allegations of the complaint. *Grossman v. Public Util. Comm.*, 5 Ohio St. 2d 189, 214 N.E. 2d 666 (1966).

It is, therefore,

ORDERED, That the matter be scheduled for a settlement conference in accordance with finding (4). It is, further,

ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon each party of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Kerry K. Sheets

By: Kerry K. Sheets  
Attorney Examiner

jrj/vrm

**This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities**

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**9/30/2015 9:15:11 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 15-1532-GA-CSS**

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry scheduling a settlement conference for October 22, 2015, at 1:30 p.m.; electronically filed by Vesta R Miller on behalf of Kerry K. Sheets, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio