

May 30, 2017

Public Utilities Commission of Ohio
ATTN: Barcy McNeal
Director of Administration
Docketing Division - 11th Floor
180 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Re: Case Number 89-8003-GA-TRF
Case Number 16-2430-GA-ATA

Dear Ms. McNeal:

In compliance with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's rules governing Tariff Filing Procedures in Case Number 89-500-AU-TRF, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia) has enclosed for filing a copy in the above referenced dockets the following tariff sheets:

<u>Section No.</u>	<u>Sheet No.</u>	<u>Page No.</u>	<u>Description</u>
	One Hundred and Ninety-Seventh Revised Sheet No. 1B		Index
VII	Fifth Revised Sheet No. 12	1a of 4	Part 12 – Customer Billing and Payments
VII	Fourth Revised Sheet No. 12	1b of 4	Part 12 – Customer Billing and Payments
VII	Fourth Revised Sheet No. 12	2 of 4	Part 12 – Customer Billing and Payments
VII	Second Revised Sheet No. 7	1 of 12	Part 7 – End-Use Customer Enrollment Process
VII	First Revised Sheet No. 7	10a of 12	Part 7 – End-Use Customer Enrollment Process
VII	First Revised Sheet No. 7	10b of 12	Part 7 – End-Use Customer Enrollment Process

Very truly yours,

/s/ Larry W. Martin

Larry W. Martin
Director
Regulatory Matters

Enclosures

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION
AND SALE OF GAS**

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Daniel A. Creekmur, President

SECTION VII
PART 12 - CUSTOMER BILLING AND PAYMENTS

12.1 Billing Options

A Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator participating in Columbia's Customer CHOICESM Program may choose from two billing options in rendering a bill to a participating customer through the execution of a "Billing Option Agreement". The Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator may opt to use: (1) Company consolidated billing option through which the Company issues the total bill; or (2) the Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator may bill its portion of the bill with the Company continuing to bill the non-gas cost portion of the bill. Retail Natural Gas Suppliers or Governmental Aggregators that elect the consolidated billing option must provide all information needed by the Company, for preparation of bills in a form and format acceptable to the Company.

12.2 Columbia's Billing Rates

Customers that elect to participate in Columbia's Customer CHOICESM Program will be billed all applicable transportation service base rates, including all applicable riders as identified in Section VII, Part 25, Part 26 and Part 27 of this tariff.

12.3 A Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator which elects the Company's consolidated billing option shall have the following billing options:

Rate Ready

- a) Fixed rate per Mcf to be applied to the Customer's consumption to determine the applicable billing charges. This fixed rate per Mcf shall be provided by the Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator.
- b) NYMEX Monthly Rate plus or minus a value per Mcf to be applied to the Customer's consumption to determine the applicable billing charge. The plus or minus Mcf value shall be provided by the Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator.

Bill Ready – Specific Charge

- c) Columbia transmits to Supplier the customer-specific metered consumption data. Supplier transmits to Columbia within three business days a customer-specific charge exclusive of all non-gas cost service charges.

Bill Ready – Pre-Pay

- d) Service is limited to customers that participate in Columbia's Bill Ready program that are billed through Columbia's Distributive Information Billing System. Columbia transmits to Supplier customer-specific metered consumption data. Supplier transmits to Columbia within three business days the commodity charge to be billed and prepaid balance. The display of the any prepaid balance on the bill will be limited to the current Supplier.

Columbia is not a party to the Supplier's prepayment program or customer agreement nor has any responsibility to oversee, monitor, account for or be aware of the specific contract terms. The Supplier is responsible for all commodity related activities, including but not limited to, collection of the prepayment; accounting for all billings, payments and balance of the prepayment account; provision of commodity charge and prepayment balance to Columbia each month, refunding of any unused prepayment where applicable; and payment of applicable sales taxes. Columbia's provision of this service is limited to the provision of the customer-specific metered consumption data each month and display of commodity charge, billing rate and prepayment balance on bill; and billing of and accounting for distribution related charges. Prepaid funds can only be credited to the Supplier's commodity charges. Prepaid amounts cannot be used to pay distribution

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charges or any unpaid balance due. Columbia will send a separate notification to the customer upon the initial use of the prepayment service designed to explain the Customer will be subject to disconnection for failure to pay timely the Distribution Charges portion of the bill and any unpaid commodity charges.

Current Retail Natural Gas Suppliers participating in this program may initiate a gas cost adjustment for any previously billed period within twelve months during which they were the Supplier with the exception of a bill for the pending period. Previous suppliers have two billing cycles from the time they become inactive to initiate a gas cost adjustment for the previous twelve months.

In the event the Retail Natural Gas Suppliers or Governmental Aggregators pricing arrangements require system billing changes, and the Company is willing to enhance its system, Company will perform these bill enhancements at an agreed upon cost based fee. Nothing in this tariff shall obligate the Company to bill for penalty or termination fees the Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator desires to assess against CHOICE® Program customers.

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A Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator which elects the Company's consolidated billing options 12.3(a) and/or 12.3(b) will provide the Company with the details of any new rate design at least forty-five (45) days prior to the date the first bill must be rendered using this rate design. Subsequent to the receipt of such rate design the Company will indicate to the Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator if additional time is required to accommodate such rate design. The Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator will notify the Company of its rate(s) each month, by the 20th of each month, or first business day prior to the 20th if the 20th is weekend day or legal holiday, prior to the billing cycle during which the rate is to be effective. The Company shall use the last rate provided under such option if the Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator does not provide necessary rate information by the timeline set out herein. All rate information received by the Company from the Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator is confidential. Company shall provide the Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator an electronic pre-bill for each rate change or addition prior to the commencement of the Company's Cycle 21 billings.

The Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator which elects the Rate Ready billing option is responsible for making the customer whole if it submits an account on the wrong rate or Aggregation Pool, or fails to provide timely rate information to the Company. The Company may, at its option, make the adjustment for the Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator, at an agreed-upon fee.

12.4 Consolidated Billing Taxes

Retail Natural Gas Suppliers' or Governmental Aggregators' rates shall exclude all sales taxes. The Company will calculate state and local taxes and add the amount to the gas supply charges.

If the Customer claims to be tax exempt, the Customer has the sole and complete responsibility for the provision to Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator of all necessary documentation regarding the Customer's tax-exempt status. The Company assumes no responsibility or risk for any misapplication of tax-exempt status to any Customer. The Retail Natural Gas Supplier, Governmental Aggregator or Customer shall hold Company harmless for any assessments, interest, penalties, or risk of any kind whatsoever, related to any misapplication of tax-exempt status to any Customer.

12.5 Budget Payment Plan

The Company will make its Budget Payment Plan available to customers that elect to participate in Columbia's Customer CHOICESM Program. For the purposes of this rule, full payment of a budget amount due shall not be construed as a partial payment.

For consolidated billing purposes, Budget Payment Plan estimates will be calculated based on the Retail Natural Gas Supplier's or Governmental Aggregators elected consolidated billing option(s):

Rate Ready

Budget Payment Plan estimates for customers billed under the Rate Ready option are comprised of (1) an estimate of costs to be paid by the customer for gas supplied by the Retail Natural Gas Suppliers or Governmental Aggregators during the budget period; and (2) all non-gas cost charges to be billed by Columbia during that same period.

SECTION VII

PART 7 – END-USE CUSTOMER ENROLLMENT PROCESS

7.1 Customer Enrollment

Retail Natural Gas Suppliers and Governmental Aggregators, with the exception of that case identified in Section VII, Part 7.5, shall coordinate Customer Enrollment with the Company in accordance with requirements set forth in Section VII, Part 7, End-Use Customer Enrollment Process through the use of the following options:

- a) Mailings, Facsimiles or Direct Solicitation;
- b) Telephonic Enrollment;
- c) Internet Enrollment;
- d) Opt-Out Governmental Aggregation; or
- e) Immediate CHOICE Enrollment Program.

Retail Natural Gas Suppliers and Opt-In Governmental Aggregators are prohibited from enrolling Eligible Customers without their consent and proof of that consent as delineated in Section VII, Part 7.

7.2 Mailings, Facsimiles, and Direct Solicitation

- 1) Where enrollment occurs by mail, facsimile, or direct solicitation, the Customer's signature on a contract shall constitute consent.
- 2) Prior to entering into a contract for service with a Customer through direct mail, facsimile or direct solicitation, Retail Natural Gas Suppliers and Opt-In Governmental Aggregators shall:
 - a) Provide each Customer with enrollment documents that contain, at a minimum, clear and understandable pricing, terms and conditions of service; the dollar amount of all recurring and nonrecurring charges, including any fees for early termination of the contract, and the duration of the contract.
 - b) Provide each Customer a reasonable opportunity to read all enrollment documents and shall answer any and all questions posed by any applicant about information contained in the documents.
- 3) Immediately upon obtaining the Customer's signature, the Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Opt-In Governmental Aggregator shall provide the applicant a legible copy of the signed contract. This requirement is not applicable if the Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Opt-In Governmental Aggregator has already provided the Customer with a separate, complete copy of the terms and conditions for the Customer's record and has complied with paragraph (C)(1) of rule 4901:1-29-10 of the Ohio Administrative Code.

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execution of a "Customer Information Agreement", customer information consistent with paragraph (A) of rule 4901:1-28-05 of the Ohio Administrative Code. The Opt-Out Governmental Aggregator shall not, without the customer's express written consent, disclose or use for any purpose other than formation and operation of its aggregation, a customer's account number or social security number or any customer information regarding customers who had opted-off of the Company's pre-enrollment list. Before an Opt-Out Governmental Aggregator releases any customer account number, social security number, or any information related to a customer who has opted off of the Company's pre-enrollment list, the Opt-Out Governmental Aggregator shall obtain the customer's signature on a release. The release shall be on a separate piece of paper. The release shall be clearly identified on its face as a release of personal information and all text on the release shall be in at least sixteen-point type. The following statements shall appear prominently on the release, just prior to the signature, in type larger and darker than the type in the surrounding sentences: **I realize that, under the rules and regulations of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, I may refuse to allow (name of aggregator) to release the information set forth above. By my signature, I freely give (name of aggregator) permission to release the information designated above.** The information that the Opt-Out Governmental Aggregator seeks to release shall be specified on the form. Forms requiring a customer to circle or to check off preprinted types of information to be released may not be used.

7.9 Identification of Eligible Customers By Opt-Out Governmental Aggregators

- 1) Each Opt-Out Governmental Aggregator shall use its best efforts to ensure that only eligible customer accounts within its governmental boundaries and customers who have not opted-out are included in its aggregation. If ineligible accounts, accounts from outside of the Opt-Out Governmental Aggregator's governmental boundaries, or accounts for customers who opted out of the aggregation are switched to the governmental aggregation, the Opt-Out Governmental Aggregator shall promptly contact the Company and supply any information in the form and format acceptable to the Company to have the customer switched back to the customer's former Retail Natural Gas Supplier. The Opt-Out Governmental Aggregator shall reimburse the customer for any switching fees that were paid by the customer as a result of the switch. In addition, if the customer's former rate was less than the rate charged by the Opt-Out Governmental Aggregator, then the Opt-Out Governmental Aggregator shall reimburse the customer the difference between the customer's former rate and the Opt-Out Governmental Aggregator's rate multiplied by the customer's usage during the time that the customer was served by the Opt-Out Governmental Aggregator.

7.10(a) Immediate CHOICE Enrollment Program

- 1) Immediate enrollment program available to customers at the time service is requested, which provides CHOICE eligible customers, with the exception of those currently enrolled in the CHOICE Program, an opportunity to participate in Columbia's Immediate CHOICE Enrollment Program for two billing cycles. Participating customers may choose a specific supplier that will provide service for two billing cycles that starts with the provision of gas service at the new address. During these two billing cycles, the supplier will

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have an opportunity to execute a traditional contract with the customer for service through the CHOICE Program. Customers that elect to participate in this program may request a specific supplier. The supplier will be made aware of the customer's election and scheduled projected date of service at that time. The customer's election of a supplier does not result in a contract between the customer and the supplier. Customers that elect traditional CHOICE service from their specific supplier during the two billing cycles will not be charged a switching fee. Customers that elect traditional CHOICE service from an alternative CHOICE supplier during the two billing cycles will be charged a switching fee. The rate billed customers participating during this introductory period will be equivalent to the effective SCO billing rate. The customer may terminate their decision to participate in this program as long as enrollment is pending. Upon connection of the customer at the new address Columbia will reevaluate the customer to determine CHOICE eligibility. Customers determined eligible through this process will be enrolled in this introductory program with final confirmation of the customer's enrollment being sent to the supplier at that time. Customers participating in this program that do not execute a traditional CHOICE Program contract upon expiration of the two billing cycles and customers that elect not to participate in the Immediate CHOICE Enrollment Program will be assigned to DSS service for one billing cycle and then assigned to an SCO provider. All Retail Natural Gas Suppliers participating in this program must have previously opted to participate.

7.10(b) Customer Notification of Rejection of Application

- 1) In customer enrollment, if the Company rejects a customer from enrollment, the Retail Natural Gas Supplier or Governmental Aggregator shall notify the customer within three business days from the Company's notification of rejection that the customer will not be enrolled or enrollment will be delayed, along with the reason(s) therefore.

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Summary: Tariff Revised Tariff pages for COH's Section VII - Part 7 End Use Customer Enrollment, Sheet 7 Page 1, Sheet 7 Page 10a and 10b and Part 12 Customer Billing and Payments, Sheet 12 Pages 1a, 1b and 2, effective May 31, 2017. electronically filed by Ms. Melissa J Bell on behalf of Columbia Gas of Ohio