

## THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF  
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC. FOR AN  
ADJUSTMENT TO RIDER IRP AND RIDER  
DSM RATES.

CASE NO. 19-1940-GA-RDR

### ENTRY

Entered in the Journal on March 30, 2020

{¶ 1} Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia) is a natural gas company as defined by R.C. 4905.03 and a public utility as defined by R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission pursuant to R.C. 4905.04, 4905.05, and 4905.06.

{¶ 2} In Case No. 08-72-GA-AIR, et al., the Commission approved a Stipulation that, inter alia, provided a process for adjustments to the Infrastructure Replacement Program Rider (Rider IRP) and the Demand-Side Management Rider (Rider DSM) of Columbia. *In re Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 08-72-GA-AIR, et al. (*Columbia Distribution Rate Case*), Opinion and Order (Dec. 3, 2008). In accordance with the Stipulation, by November 30 of each year, Columbia is to file its initial prefilng notice and such notice would include estimated schedules regarding Rider IRP and Rider DSM, containing a combination of actual and projected data for the calendar year. Columbia agreed to file, by the following February 28, an updated application with schedules based on actual data through the end of the prior calendar year. Staff and other parties may then file comments and Columbia has until March 31 to resolve the issues raised in the comments. If the issues raised in the comments are not resolved, then a hearing will be held. The goal of the process set forth in the Stipulation is for the proposed amendments to Rider IRP and Rider DSM to be effective by the first billing cycle of May.

{¶ 3} In accordance with the Rider IRP and Rider DSM provisions of the Stipulation in the *Columbia Distribution Rate Case*, Columbia filed its prefilng notice on November 26, 2019, in the instant case.

{¶ 4} On February 28, 2020, Columbia filed its application in this case, requesting an adjustment to Rider IRP and Rider DSM to recover costs for 2019.

{¶ 5} By Entry dated March 6, 2020, the attorney examiner adopted a procedural schedule whereby motions to intervene and comments by Staff and intervenors were due to be filed by March 20, 2020; a statement from Columbia informing the Commission whether the issues raised in the comments were resolved must be filed by March 27, 2020; parties and Staff must file expert testimony by March 30, 2020; a stipulation, if entered into, must be filed by March 31, 2020; and a hearing, if necessary, would commence on April 1, 2020.

{¶ 6} By March 20, 2020, the Environmental Law and Policy Center, Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy, Interstate Gas Supply, Inc., and Suburban Natural Gas Company (Suburban) had filed motions to intervene. Also, on March 20, 2020, Staff, OCC, and Suburban filed comments.

{¶ 7} On March 26, 2020, Columbia filed a motion to amend the procedural schedule. Columbia states that the parties have engaged in settlement negotiations, but Columbia is unable to file a Statement of No Issues by the March 27, 2020 deadline. Columbia further states that the parties request an extra week to continue negotiations and that no party objects to extending the remaining procedural schedule by one week. Columbia proposes April 6, 2020, as the deadline for the parties and Staff to file expert testimony; April 7, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., as the deadline for those parties that enter into a stipulation resolving some or all of the issues in the case to file the stipulation with the Commission; and April 8, 2020, as the date the hearing shall commence.

{¶ 8} The attorney examiner finds that Columbia's motion to amend the procedural schedule is reasonable, in part, and, therefore, grants the motion, in part, and denies the motion, in part. First, it must be acknowledged that, on March 9, 2020, Governor DeWine issued an executive order declaring a state of emergency in response to the respiratory disease COVID-19. Governor DeWine and the Director of the Ohio Department of Health, in the Director's Stay at Home Order issued on March 22, 2020, have also banned mass

gatherings in the State of Ohio, and workers are required to stay at home, to work remotely, and to avoid in-person meetings. Consequently, while the attorney examiner grants parties relief from the current procedural schedule, the attorney examiner finds that an in-person hearing should not be held on April 8, 2020, as proposed. The remainder of Columbia's proposed procedural schedule is adopted, with the understanding that this schedule may need to be reassessed and addressed by the parties in the coming days. Furthermore, the need for a hearing, and the timing of that hearing, will be addressed at a later time. The attorney examiner, therefore, finds that the following procedural schedule should be established:

- (a) April 6, 2020 – Deadline for the parties and Staff to file expert testimony.
- (b) April 7, 2020 – In the event that some or all of the parties enter into a stipulation resolving some or all of the issues in this case, the parties must file such a stipulation with the Commission by 10:00 a.m. on April 7, 2020.

{¶ 9} It is, therefore,

{¶ 10} ORDERED, That Columbia's motion to amend the procedural schedule be granted, in part, and denied, in part. It is, further,

{¶ 11} ORDERED, That the procedural schedule established in the March 6, 2020 Entry be amended and the schedule set forth in Paragraph 8 be adopted. It is, further,

{¶ 12} ORDERED, That a copy of this Entry be served upon all parties of record.

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Matthew J. Sandor

By: Matthew J. Sandor  
Attorney Examiner

JRJ/kck

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

**Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on**

**3/30/2020 9:47:43 AM**

**in**

**Case No(s). 19-1940-GA-RDR**

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry Columbia's motion to amend the procedural schedule is granted, in part, and denied, in part. The motion grants relief from the current procedural schedule but denied in that the hearing should not be held on 4.8.20. Therefore, the deadline for the parties and Staff to file expert testimony is 4.6.20 and in the event some or all parties resolve some or all issues, a stipulation should be filed by 4.7.20 at 10:00 a.m. The timing of a hearing, if needed, will be decided at a later time. electronically filed by Mrs. Kelli C King on behalf of Matthew Sandor, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio