**BEFORE**

**THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

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| **In the Matter of the Application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of Revised Bill Formats** | **)**  **)**  **)** | **Case No. 12-0405-GA-UNC** |

**APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.**

Now comes the Applicant, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (“Columbia”), and files this application for approval of revised bill formats for its Small General Service (“SGS”), General Service (“GS”) and Large General Service (“LGS”) customers billed through Columbia’s Distributive Information (“DIS”) and Gas Measuring Billing (“GMB”) systems. In support of its application, Columbia states as follows:

1. Columbia is an Ohio corporation engaged in the business of supplying natural gas to consumers within the state of Ohio. Columbia is a public utility subject to the Commission’s jurisdiction.

2. Ohio Administrative Code § 4901:1-18-09(C) requires any natural gas company under the Commission’s jurisdiction to submit to the Commission for its approval any proposed new bill format, and further provides that in the absence of any action by the Commission within forty five (45) days, the proposed new bill format shall be approved.

3. In Case No. 08-1344-GA-EXM by Opinion and Order, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (“Commission”) adopted the Stipulation which authorized Columbia to hold an auction to secure natural gas commodity through a Standard Service Offer (“SSO”) for the first two years, and then through the Standard Choice Offer (“SCO”) structure beginning in year three.

4. Columbia successfully held its first two SSO auctions on February 23, 2010 and February 8, 2011.

5. On April 15, 2011, Columbia filed a Revised Program Outline reflecting the changes necessary to implement the SCO auction in February 2012.

6. On September 7, 2011, the Commission approved Columbia’s transition to an SCO auction. [[1]](#footnote-1)

7. Pursuant to the Revised Program Outline, in an SCO auction, the winning bidders receive both the right and obligation to provide natural gas commodity for a specified list of CHOICE eligible customers who have not elected a CHOICE Retail Natural Gas Supplier and are not served through Government Aggregation Programs. Customers served pursuant to the auction are known as “SCO customers.”

8. Default Sales Service (“DSS”) means a Commission regulated Default Sales Service provided by Columbia to Transition customers, those customers not eligible to participate in the CHOICE program or Government Aggregation Program and PIPP customers. Customers served under the DSS are known as “DSS customers.”

9. Changes in both DSS customer bills and SCO customer bills are needed to reflect the changes in how natural gas commodity is procured with the implementation of the SCO auction.

10. **Attachment A** is a sample bill that reflects the changes to bills of SGS, GS and LGS customers whose natural gas commodity is procured pursuant to the SCO auction and who are billed through Columbia’s DIS system. The changes proposed herein add a line item “**Columbia Gas of Ohio”** under “Detail Charges for Gas Service” which reflects all charges by Columbia. The changes also include a separate subsection under “Detail Charges for Gas Service” entitled **“Standard Choice Offer (SCO)”** that identifies the marketer and reflects the SCO gas supply charge including sales tax. Also under this added subsection is a paragraph explaining the customer’s participation in the SCO program and provides the contact information of the assigned marketer.

11. **Attachment B** is a sample bill that reflects the changes to bills of SGS, GS and LGS customers who receive their natural gas commodity through DSS and are billed through Columbia’s DIS system. The proposed changes herein simply add a line item under “Detail of Charges for Gas Service” for the SCO gas costs.

12. **Attachment C** is a sample bill that reflects the changes to bills of SGS, GS and LGS customers whose natural gas commodity is procured pursuant to the SCO auction and who are billed through Columbia’s GMB system. On the first page of the bill, Columbia proposes to add a paragraph explaining the customer’s participation in the SCO and provides contact information of the marketer under “General Information.” On the third page, Columbia proposes to add under “Other Charges” a line item reflecting the SCO Marketer Cost of Gas and to change “Choice/SSO Reconciliation Rider” to “Choice/SCO Reconciliation Rider” to reflect the switch the SCO auction process. The proposed bill also contains a line item under “Taxes” that reflects the applicable county sales tax.

13. **Attachment D** is a sample bill that reflects the changes to bills of SGS, GS and LGS who receive their natural gas commodity through DSS and are billed through Columbia’s GMB system. The proposed revisions herein simply change the two line items that previously read “Choice/SSO Reconciliation Rider” and “Gas Cost Recovery SSO” to “Choice/SCO Reconciliation Rider” and “Gas Cost Recovery SCO” to reflect the switch to the SCO auction.

12. Columbia respectfully requests that the Commission approve this Application so that Columbia can implement the revised billing format with bills issued for the April 2012 billing cycle.

WHEREFORE, Columbia respectfully requests that the Commission approve the revised bill formats as proposed herein.

Respectfully submitted,

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

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ATTACHMENT A

ATTACHMENT B

ATTACHMENT C

ATTACHMENT D

1. Second Opinion and Order (September 7, 2011). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)