

BEFORE

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

In the Matter of the Complaint of Harris)	
Design Services,)	
)	
Complainant,)	
)	
v.)	Case No. 15-405-GA-CSS
)	
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.,)	
)	
Respondent.)	

ENTRY

The attorney examiner finds:

- (1) On February 25, 2015, Harris Design Services (HDS) filed a complaint against Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (CGO or Company). HDS states property it owns was damaged when CGO erroneously and without notice turned off gas service to the property. HDS asserts its property was vacant in August 2013, when CGO began construction work on adjacent property. According to HDS, in December 2013, the property did not have any issues and the furnace was running. HDS says it checked on the property again in February 2014, after receiving an unusually high water bill, and found significant water damage due to frozen pipes that burst. According to HDS, a technician from CGO investigated the property in April 2014, and informed HDS that the gas line was struck during the construction at the adjacent property and CGO interrupted the gas service at that time. HDS avers it received no notice of any interruption of service and that, when it contacted CGO, the Company denied interrupting the gas service.
- (2) On March 17, 2015, CGO filed its answer to the complaint. CGO denies the allegations and states that the Commission is not authorized to award the damages sought by HDS. CGO avers service was physically disconnected on September 16, 2013, to repair facility damage and it was unable to gain access inside to relight the property in September and November 2013. CGO states HDS has maintained an active natural gas account, has received regular billing statements, and has been

registering zero consumption since the June 25, 2013 billing statement. CGO denies that its construction caused the damage and also denies that HDS received no notice of the interruption of service.

- (3) A settlement conference was held on April 27, 2015; however, the parties were unable to settle this matter.
- (4) By Entry issued June 8, 2015, the attorney examiner scheduled this matter for hearing. The hearing was scheduled to take place on August 4, 2015. By Entry issued July 13, 2015, the hearing was rescheduled for October 14, 2015.
- (5) Thereafter, on September 24, 2015, CGO filed a joint motion to continue the hearing and a motion in support. CGO asserts that both parties would benefit from additional time to prepare for the hearing.
- (6) The attorney examiner finds that the motion filed by CGO to continue the hearing is reasonable and should be granted. Accordingly, the hearing in this matter is rescheduled for October 30, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-C, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793.
- (7) Direct expert or factual testimony should be filed and served upon all parties by October 14, 2015.
- (8) 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 joint motion for continuance is granted. It is, further,

ORDERED, That the hearing be continued to October 30, 2015, at 11:00 a.m., at the offices of the Commission, 180 East Broad Street, 11th Floor, Hearing Room 11-C, Columbus, Ohio 43215-3793, in accordance with Finding (6). It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

/s/ Nicholas Walstra

By: Nicholas Walstra
Attorney Examiner

jrj/vrm

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in

Case No(s). 15-0405-GA-CSS

Summary: Attorney Examiner Entry continuing the hearing to October 30, 2015, at 11:00 a.m.; electronically filed by Vesta R Miller on behalf of Nicholas Walstra, Attorney Examiner, Public Utilities Commission of Ohio