

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

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In the Matter of the :
Application of Columbia : Case No.
Gas of Ohio, Inc. for : 16-552-GA-AAM
Approval to Change :
Accounting Methods. :

- - -

PROCEEDINGS

Before Sarah Parrot, Attorney Examiner, held at
the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, 180
East Broad Street, Room 11-D, Columbus, Ohio, on
Thursday, August 18, 2016, at 10:30 A.M.

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Armstrong & Okey, Inc.
222 East Town Street, 2nd Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 224-9481 - (800) 223-9481
Fax - (614) 224-5724

- - -

1 APPEARANCES:

2 Mr. Joseph M. Clark
3 290 West Nationwide Boulevard
4 Columbus, Ohio 43215

5 On behalf of Columbia Gas
6 of Ohio, Inc.

7 Mr. Werner L. Margard, III
8 Assistant Attorney General
9 30 East Broad Street, 16th Floor
10 Columbus, Ohio 43215

11 On behalf of the Staff of the
12 Public Utilities Commission
13 of Ohio.

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- - -

1 Thursday Morning,
2 August 18, 2016.

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4 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: The Public
5 Utilities Commission of Ohio has called for
6 hearing at this time and place Case No.
7 16-552-GA-AAM being in the Matter of the
8 Application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for
9 Approval to Change Accounting Methods Associated
10 with its Pipeline Safety Program.

11 Good morning, everyone. My name is
12 Sarah Parrot, I am the Attorney Examiner
13 assigned by the Commission to hear this case.

14 Let's start with appearances
15 beginning with the company.

16 MR. CLARK: Thank you, Your Honor.
17 On behalf of Columbia Gas by Joseph M. Clark,
18 Stephen B. Seiple, 290 West Nationwide
19 Boulevard, Columbus, Ohio 43215.

20 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. On
21 behalf of the Staff.

22 MR. MARGARD: Thank you, your Honor.
23 On behalf of the Staff of the Public Utilities
24 Commission of Ohio, Mike Dewine, Ohio Attorney
25 General, William L. Wright, Section Chief of the

1 Public Utilities Section, by Assistant Attorney
2 General Werner L. Margard, 30 East Broad Street,
3 16th Floor, Columbus, Ohio.

4 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you. Let
5 the record reflect that there are no members of
6 the general public present today for
7 the hearing.

8 Are there preliminary matters the
9 parties wish to discuss?

10 MR. CLARK: Not at this time, your
11 Honor.

12 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Very good. It's
13 my understanding the parties have filed in this
14 case a Stipulation and Recommendation for
15 the Commission's consideration. That was filed
16 on June 24th, 2016. Mr. Clark, would you like
17 to mark the Stipulation?

18 MR. CLARK: Yes, I would. May I
19 approach?

20 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: You may.

21 MR. CLARK: Your Honor, I have
22 Columbia Exhibit 1, the actual application in
23 this case.

24 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: So marked.
25

1 MR. CLARK: Joint Exhibit 1 will be
2 the Stipulation between Columbia Gas of Ohio and
3 Staff.

4 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: All right. So
5 marked.

6 (EXHIBITS HEREBY MARKED FOR
7 IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES)

8 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Mr. Clark, you
9 have a witness to support the stipulation, I
10 believe.

11 MR. CLARK: I do, your Honor, if I
12 may. Columbia Gas of Ohio calls Ms. Thompson.

13 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Okay.

14 (WITNESS SWORN)

15 - - -

16 MELISSA L. THOMPSON
17 called as a witness, being first duly sworn,
18 testified as follows:

19 DIRECT EXAMINATION

20 By Mr. Clark:

21 Q. Good morning, Ms. Thompson.

22 A. Good morning.

23 Q. Would you state your name and
24 address for the record, please?

25 A. Melissa L. Thompson. My business

1 address is 290 West Nationwide Boulevard,
2 Columbus, Ohio 43215.

3 Q. By whom are you employed?

4 A. I am employed by Columbia Gas of
5 Ohio.

6 Q. And are you sponsoring -- I am
7 sorry. Strike that.

8 Would you state briefly your
9 educational background and experience?

10 A. I received my Bachelor of Arts
11 degree from Marietta College in Political
12 Science and Communications. In 2010 I received
13 my Juris Doctor from Capital University Law
14 School.

15 Q. Can you tell us a little bit about
16 your work experience?

17 A. After law school I actually worked
18 at two firms in the Columbus area practicing
19 utilities law.

20 And after that time I then joined
21 the Columbia Gas of Ohio legal team in real
22 estate, then regulatory. And in April 2015 I
23 moved to the Columbia Gas of Ohio regulatory
24 department, and my current role as Director of
25 Regulatory Policy.

1 Q. And could you explain a little bit
2 about your job responsibilities as the Director
3 of Regulatory Policy?

4 A. My job responsibilities are to
5 prepare, review and shepherd through all of our
6 regulatory filings at the Columbia Gas of Ohio
7 regulatory department. The easiest way I like
8 to explain to folks is that I do a lot of our
9 non-financial filings. Customer complaint
10 cases, Power Siting Board applications. And my
11 counterpart deals with the financial filings.

12 Q. And what's the purpose of your
13 testimony today?

14 A. The purpose of my testimony today is
15 to support the stipulation filed in this
16 proceeding.

17 Q. And are you familiar with the
18 criteria the Commission utilizes for the
19 approval of settlements?

20 A. I am.

21 Q. And is the stipulation a product of
22 serious bargaining among capable and
23 knowledgeable parties?

24 A. It is. The stipulation was an
25 agreement between the Commission's staff and

1 Columbia Gas of Ohio. Both parties did
2 negotiate and come to terms that did amend the
3 application in this proceeding.

4 Q. And do you believe the stipulation
5 as a package benefits ratepayers and the public
6 interest?

7 A. It does. The stipulation provides
8 for additional regulatory funding in the
9 deferral authority for Columbia's pipeline
10 safety program.

11 The pipeline safety program itself
12 is a benefit to the customers and to the general
13 public. It provides for safety funding for four
14 of our programs as well as provides the
15 customers and our public with educational
16 opportunities.

17 And also a program that goes after
18 our most riskiest risks on our system from a
19 distribution standpoint.

20 Q. And do you believe the stipulation
21 as a package violates any important regulatory
22 principle or practice?

23 A. It does not.

24 Q. And so what is your recommendation
25 for the Commission today?

1 A. I recommend that the Commission
2 adopt the stipulation in this proceeding.

3 MR. CLARK: Thank you. That's all
4 the questions I have, your Honor.

5 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you, Mr.
6 Clark. Anything, Mr. Margard?

7 MR. MARGARD: I have nothing. Thank
8 you, your Honor.

9 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Thank you very
10 much.

11 MR. CLARK: Your Honor, Columbia
12 would move for the admission of Columbia Exhibit
13 1 and Joint Exhibit 1 as well, please.

14 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Any objections?

15 MR. MARGARD: No objections, Your
16 Honor.

17 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: All right.
18 Columbia Exhibit 1 and Joint Exhibit 1 are
19 admitted into the record.

20 (EXHIBITS ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE)

21 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Anything else
22 today, Mr. Clark?

23 MR. CLARK: Nothing from me, your
24 Honor.

25 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: Anything from

1 Staff?

2 MR. MARGARD: No. Thank you, Your
3 Honor.

4 ATTORNEY EXAMINER: All right. With
5 that we are adjourned. Thank you.

6 (AT 10:15 A.M. the hearing was
7 concluded)

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CERTIFICATE

I do hereby certify that the foregoing
is a true and correct transcript of the
proceedings taken by me in this matter on August
18, 2016, and carefully compared with my
original stenographic notes.

Michael O. Spencer,
Registered Professional
Reporter.

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This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

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in

Case No(s). 16-0552-GA-AAM

Summary: Transcript In the Matter of the Application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval to Change Accounting Methods, hearing held on August 18, 2016. electronically filed by Mr. Ken Spencer on behalf of Armstrong & Okey, Inc. and Spencer, Michael O. Mr.