

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

Application **Not** for an Increase in Rates,
Pursuant to Section 4909.18, Revised Code

In the Matter of the Application of Co-)
lumbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. For Authority) Case No. 17-1005-GA-ATA
to Revise its Tariffs.)

**APPLICATION OF
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.
TO REVISE ITS TARIFF**

1. APPLICANT RESPECTFULLY PROPOSES: (Check applicable proposals)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Rule or Regulation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Classification | <input type="checkbox"/> Reduction in Rates |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change in Classification | <input type="checkbox"/> Correction of Error |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other, not involving increase in rates | <input type="checkbox"/> Various related and unrelated textual revision, without change in intent |

2. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL:

Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. ("Columbia") proposes to amend Section IV of its Rules and Regulations for Furnishing Gas Service ("Tariff"), Tariff Sheet Nos. 13 and 14, to conform to regulations recently enacted by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration ("PHMSA"). Specifically, Columbia proposes to amend its Tariff to make provision for the installation of an excess flow valve ("EFV") as directed by PHMSA. Such amendments will identify the party responsible for the costs of installing an EFV.

3. **TARIFF SHEET(S) AFFECTED:** See Exhibit A.

4. **ATTACHED HERETO AND MADE A PART HEREOF ARE:**

 X Exhibit A – existing schedule sheets (to be superseded) if application is approved.

 X Exhibit B – proposed schedule sheets.

 X Exhibit B-1 – redline tariff sheets showing changes made to existing tariffs.

 Exhibit C-1

- a. if new service is proposed, describe;
- b. if new equipment is involved, describe (preferably with a picture, brochure, etc.) and where appropriate, a statement distinguishing proposed service from existing services;
- c. if proposed service results from customer requests, so state, giving, if available, the number and type of customers requesting proposed service.

 X Exhibit C-2 – if a change of classification, rule or regulation is proposed, a statement explaining the reason for the change.

 Exhibit C-3 – statement explaining the reason for any proposal not covered by Exhibit C-1 or Exhibit C-2.

5. This Application will not result in an increase in any rate, joint rate, toll, classification, charge or rental.

6. Columbia respectfully requests that the Commission expeditiously approve this Application and the proposed tariffs attached hereto.

Respectfully submitted by,

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

/s/ Joseph M. Clark

Joseph M. Clark, Counsel of Record

Stephen B. Seiple, Asst. General Counsel
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Attorneys for

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

EXHIBIT A

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION
AND SALE OF GAS**

6. Miscellaneous Charges

The following charges shall apply to all classes of customers:

(a) Reconnection Trip Charge

If a service is reconnected after disconnection, a charge of fifty-two dollars (\$52.00) shall be assessed.

(b) Connection Charge

If payment is made to an employee whose authorized purpose was to disconnect service and who is authorized to accept such payment, or to an employee dispatched to the premises to accept payment, a charge of five dollars and fifty cents (\$5.50) may be assessed on each of such visits and shall be payable at the time of such visit.

(c) Dishonored Check Charge

Whenever a customer pays a bill by check and the check is returned to the company by the customer's financial institution for lack of sufficient funds in the customer's account, there may be a dishonored check charge assessed for each check returned. Such customer shall be charged eighteen dollars (\$18.00) for processing the dishonored check.

(d) Late Payment Charge

If a bill payment is not received by the company or by the company's authorized agent on or before the specified payment date, which shall be the date of the company's next scheduled meter reading date whether actual or estimated, an additional amount of 1.5% of the unpaid balance on the subsequent bill will become due and payable as part of the customer's total obligation. This provision is not applicable to: (1) unpaid account balances existing prior to the effective date of this rule and regulation, or (2) unpaid account balances of customers enrolled in payment plans pursuant to Section 4901:1-18-04, Ohio Administrative Code.

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION
AND SALE OF GAS****6. (Continued)****(e) Tie-in Charge**

If a tie-in is required to restore service to the same customer who had his/her service line cut and plugged as a result of repeated detection of unauthorized use of service, a charge of up to four hundred fifty seven dollars (\$457.00) or actual cost, whichever is less, shall be assessed. Unauthorized use of service includes:

- (1) Detection by Company of meter having been turned on after non-pay turn off by Company, or;
- (2) Detection by Company of meter and curb valve having been turned on after non-pay turn off, or;
- (3) Detection by Company of by-passing meter inlet and outlet connections after removal of meter.

(f) Theft of Service Investigation Fee

Whenever the gas service meter, metering equipment, or associated property is damaged, interfered with, displaced, bypassed or otherwise tampered with by a customer, consumer or other person, or when a person not authorized by Company has reconnected service, and Company investigator has been dispatched to investigate the matter prior to disconnection, the customer shall pay an Investigation Fee of eighty eight dollars (\$88.00) prior to reconnection in addition to other required reconnection charges. The Investigation Fee will only be levied in those circumstances where the company has reasonable proof of the customer's fraudulent or damaging practice. Reasonable proof includes: an admission by the customer; documentation evidencing the fraudulent or damaging practice; or, personal observation by Company personnel or representatives of Company.

(g) Meter Test Charge

If a meter is tested at the request of a customer and said test result demonstrates the meter was operating within accepted tolerances, a charge of forth dollars (\$40.00) shall be assessed. If the meter was not operating within accepted tolerances, there shall be no charge for the test or removal.

SECTION V – SALES SERVICE**1. Definitions (As used herein)**

- A **“Account”** includes all gas consumption of the same individual, governmental entity or corporate entity (including subsidiaries and affiliates), that (1) occurs at a single service address; (2) is measured by a master meter; or (3) Company treated as a single “Account” prior to November 1, 2008.
- B **“Annual Period”** means the twelve-month period beginning on the first day of Customer's November billing cycle and ending on the last day of Customer's October billing cycle.
- C **“Business Day”** is a Day that is a weekday (Monday through Friday), excluding holidays.

Filed in accordance with Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Order dated December 3, 2008 in Case Nos. 08-0072-GA-AIR , 08-0073-GA-ALT, 08-0074-GA-AAM, and 08-0075-GA-AAM.

Issued: December 3, 2008

Effective: December 3, 2008

Issued By
J. W. Partridge Jr., President

EXHIBIT B

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

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(e) Excess Flow Valve Charge

If an eligible customer, as defined by 49 CFR 192.383, requests the installation of an excess flow valve on the Service Line, the requesting eligible customer must pay Columbia's average cost of installing an excess flow valve prior to Columbia's installation of the excess flow valve.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION
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Filed in accordance with Public Utilities Commission of Ohio Order dated

in Case No. 17-XXX-GA-ATA

Issued:

Effective:

Issued By
Daniel A. Creekmur, President

EXHIBIT B-1

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

~~Third~~~~Second~~ Revised Sheet No. 13
Cancels
~~First~~~~Second~~ Revised Sheet No. 13

**RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION
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RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF GAS

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Issued: [December 3, 2008](#)

Effective: [December 3, 2008](#)

Issued By
[Daniel A. Creekmur J. W. Partridge Jr.](#), President

EXHIBIT C-2

Exhibit C-2

Statement Explaining the Reason for the Proposal

Columbia proposes to amend Section IV of its Tariff, Tariff Sheet Nos. 13 and 14, to conform to regulations recently enacted by PHMSA. These new regulations are discussed below.

PHMSA recently enacted (effective April 14, 2017) a final rule relative to EFVs, thereby expanding those situations for which an EFV may be installed.¹ Under this new rule, subject to certain exceptions in 49 C.F.R. 192.383(c), a customer on a service line not exceeding 1,000 standard cubic feet per hour may request installation of an EFV for an existing service line that is not being newly installed replaced

To properly incorporate these new requirements into its Tariff, Columbia proposes to amend its Tariff. Furthermore, as the PHMSA regulation defers issues related to financial responsibility for such installations, Columbia requests authority to revise its Tariff to require eligible customers, pursuant to 49 CFR 192.383, to pay for the installation of an EFV.

Significantly, PHMSA's new regulation imposes a date of April 14, 2017, by which Columbia must begin notifying customers that they may request installation of an EFV. Accordingly, Columbia submits that it will, as mandated by PHMSA, notify customers beginning April 14, 2017, but will not commence with any customer-requested installations until such time as the Commission rules upon this Application. Such a delay is appropriate in that it will avoid uncertainty, confusion, and inconsistency in respect of the obligations of Columbia and its customers.

This application requests approval of a new service, because federal pipeline safety regulations did not previously require installation of an EFV for any of the aforementioned categories of service. The proposed charges are, therefore, "first-filed" charges within the meaning of Revised Code § 4909.18, as interpreted and applied by both the Commission and the Supreme Court of Ohio.²

¹ See Docket No. PHMSA-2011-0009, Amdt. No. 192-121.

² *Ohio Bell Telephone Co. v. Public Utilities Commission of Ohio*, (1969), 17 Ohio St.2d 45, 48, 245 N.E.2d 351, 252-353.

This foregoing document was electronically filed with the Public Utilities

Commission of Ohio Docketing Information System on

4/13/2017 3:49:27 PM

in

Case No(s). 17-1005-GA-ATA

Summary: Application for Authority to Revise Columbia's Tariffs electronically filed by Ms. Melissa L. Thompson on behalf of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.