

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO

**IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT OF
GREGORY T. HOWARD,**

COMPLAINANT,

v.

CASE NO. 17-2536-GA-CSS

COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.,

RESPONDENT.

ENTRY ON REHEARING

Entered in the Journal on June 13, 2018

I. SUMMARY

{¶ 1} The Commission grants the application for rehearing filed by Complainant Gregory T. Howard on May 17, 2018, for the purpose of further consideration of the matters specified in the application for rehearing.

II. DISCUSSION

{¶ 2} R.C. 4905.22 provides that every public utility shall furnish service and facilities that are adequate, just, and reasonable and that all charges made or demanded for any service be just, reasonable, and not more than allowed by law or by order of the Commission.

{¶ 3} Pursuant to R.C. 4905.26, the Commission has authority to consider a written complaint filed against a public utility by any person or corporation regarding any rate, service, regulation, or practice relating to any service furnished by the public utility that is in any respect unjust, unreasonable, insufficient, or unjustly discriminatory.

{¶ 4} Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (Columbia or Company) is a natural gas company as defined in R.C. 4905.03 and a public utility as defined in R.C. 4905.02, and, as such, is subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission.

{¶ 5} Gregory T. Howard (Mr. Howard) filed this instant case against Columbia on December 21, 2017. In the complaint, Mr. Howard alleged that he is reincorporating all filings not considered by the Commission in a previous case, *In re Gregory T. Howard v. Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.*, Case No. 15-873-GA-CSS, Opinion and Order (Aug. 30, 2017). In the complaint, Mr. Howard re-alleged that Columbia damaged his driveway because the Company improperly utilized heavy equipment in replacing a service line. Mr. Howard also re-alleged that Columbia wrongly disconnected service on April 2, 2015, despite being in the process of re-verifying his percentage of income payment plan. Lastly, Mr. Howard re-alleged that the gas meter installed outside his premises on September 30, 2011, is overstating his natural gas usage, resulting in incorrect billing.

{¶ 6} On January 10, 2018, Columbia filed an answer and a motion to dismiss.

{¶ 7} On May 16, 2018, the Commission issued an Entry granting Columbia's motion to dismiss and finding that res judicata barred Mr. Howard from re-litigating previously argued claims.

{¶ 8} Pursuant to R.C. 4903.10, any party who has entered an appearance in a Commission proceeding may apply for rehearing with respect to any matters determined in that proceeding by filing an application within 30 days after the Commission's order is journalized.

{¶ 9} On May 17, 2018, Mr. Howard filed an application for rehearing of the Commission's May 16, 2018 Entry.

{¶ 10} Upon review, the Commission believes that Mr. Howard has set forth sufficient reasons to warrant further consideration of the matters specified in the application for rehearing. Accordingly, his application for rehearing should be granted.

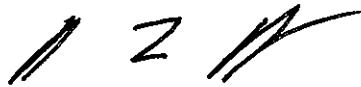
III. ORDER

{¶ 11} It is, therefore,


{¶ 12} ORDERED, That Mr. Howard's application for rehearing be granted for further consideration of the matters specified in the application for rehearing. It is, further,

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

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO



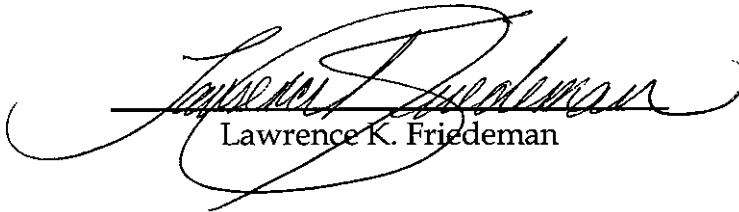
Asim Z. Haque, Chairman



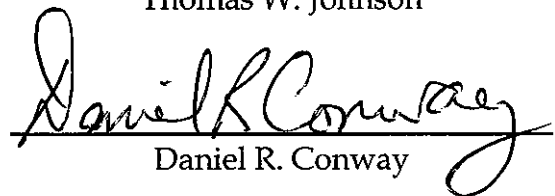
M. Beth Trombold



Thomas W. Johnson



Lawrence K. Friedeman



Daniel R. Conway

AS/mef

Entered in the Journal

JUN 13 2018



Barcy F. McNeal
Secretary