

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Co-)
lumbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval) Case No. 17-2202-GA-ALT
of an Alternative Form of Regulation.)

**MOTION OF COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.
FOR EXTENSION OF FILING DEADLINE
FOR SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY
AND
REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED RULING**

Pursuant to Ohio Adm. Code 4901-1-12(C), 4901-1-13, 4901:1-19-02(D), and 4901:1-19-06(C), Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. ("Columbia") respectfully requests that the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission") extend its deadline for filing supplemental testimony in response to Staff's report so that deadline will be October 22. Columbia has contacted the other parties to this proceeding, and Columbia believes that no party objects to the grant of such an extension. A memorandum in support of this Motion is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Eric B. Gallon

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MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

On December 1, 2017, Columbia filed an alternative rate plan application in this proceeding to establish a capital expenditure program rider (“CEP Rider”). On March 19, 2018, Staff issued its determination that Columbia’s application “is for an increase in rates” and indicated it would continue its review if Columbia amended its application to provide the information required by Ohio Adm. Code 4901:1-19-06(C). On April 2, 2018, Columbia filed its amended application.

That same day, Columbia filed a motion asking the Commission to waive certain of the Commission’s standard filing requirements (SFRs). A natural gas company filing an alternative rate plan application for an increase in rates must submit the exhibits described in R.C. 4909.18(A) - (D) and the SFRs set forth at Ohio Adm. Code 4901-7-01 “unless otherwise waived by paragraph (D) of rule 4901:1-19-02.”¹ Ohio Adm. Code 4901:1-19-02(D) provides that the Commission may waive any requirement of Ohio Adm. Code Chapter 4901:1-19 that is not statutorily mandated.² That rule does not incorporate the “good cause” standard otherwise required for a motion for waiver under the SFRs.³ It also does not establish any “specific timeframes for the filing of waivers.”⁴ The Commission granted Columbia’s motion on May 16, 2018.

On September 14, 2018, Commission Staff filed a report providing Staff’s findings and recommendations regarding Columbia’s Amended Application. Under the SFRs, a utility filing a rate increase may file supplemental testimony in response to a staff report, though such testimony is “limited to matters which the applicant could not [have] reasonably expect[ed] to be raised in the case * * *.”⁵ The deadline for filing such supplemental testimony is the day the utility files “objections to the staff report.”⁶

¹ Ohio Adm. Code 4901:1-19-06(C).

² Ohio Adm. Code 4901:1-9-06(D).

³ See Ohio Adm. Code 4901-7-01, Appendix A, §II(A)(4)(a); see also *id.* § II(A)(4)(d).

⁴ *Id.* (OCC, endorsing the addition of “specific timeframes” for filing a waiver request).

⁵ Ohio Adm. Code 4901-7-01, Appendix A, Chapter II, Section (A)(6)(c).

⁶ *Id.*

Here, the deadline for filing objections in this case is October 15, 2018.⁷ Thus, the deadline for Columbia to file supplemental testimony in response to the Staff Report is also October 15. Yet the parties are currently engaged in settlement negotiations, which Columbia believes may ultimately make the filing of supplemental testimony unnecessary and counterproductive. Additionally, the deadline for filing expert testimony in this proceeding is not until October 29, 2018.⁸

In order to avoid filing potentially unnecessary testimony that could hinder Columbia's ability to reach a stipulation with Staff or other parties, Columbia respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Motion and extend Columbia's deadline for filing supplemental testimony (should that ultimately prove necessary) until October 22, 2018. Columbia has circulated this Motion to the other parties in this proceeding, and Columbia believes no party objects to the granting of Columbia's requested extension.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Eric B. Gallon

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⁷ Entry, ¶ 12(b) (Sept. 19, 2018).

⁸ Entry, ¶ 12(c) (Sept. 19, 2018).

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the parties referenced on the service list of the docket card who have electronically subscribed to the case. In addition, the undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing document is also being served via electronic mail on the 12th day of October, 2018, upon the parties and movants listed below:

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Case No(s). 17-2202-GA-ALT

Summary: Motion for Extension of Filing Deadline for Supplemental Testimony and Request for Expedited Ruling and Memorandum in Support electronically filed by Cheryl A MacDonald on behalf of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.