

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of Co-) lumbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Authority) to Amend its Filed Tariffs to Increase the) Rates and Charges for Gas Services and) Related Matters.)	Case No. 21-637-GA-AIR
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In the Matter of the Application of Co-) lumbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of) an Alternative Form of Regulation.)	Case No. 21-638-GA-ALT
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In the Matter of the Application of Co-) lumbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval of) a Demand Side Management Program) for its Residential and Commercial Cus-) tomers.)	Case No. 21-639-GA-UNC
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In the Matter of the Application of Co-) lumbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval to) Change Accounting Methods.)	Case No. 21-640-GA-AAM
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**SUPPLEMENTAL MOTION OF COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.
FOR WAIVER OF STANDARD FILING REQUIREMENTS**

On June 30, 2021, Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. (“Columbia”) will file an application for an increase in its distribution rates and to make various changes to Columbia’s tariffs and accounting methods. Columbia also will file an application for approval of an alternative rate plan, under which it would continue its existing Infrastructure Replacement Program and Capital Expenditure Program Riders and adopt a new Federally Mandated Investment Rider to recover increased costs imposed under the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration “mega rule” and other future mandated governmental spending. Columbia will also seek authority to continue its Demand Side Management program and rider. On May 28, 2021, Columbia filed a Motion to Establish Test Period and Date Certain and for Waivers of Standard Filing Requirements.

Columbia now seeks one additional waiver of the Commission's Standard Filing Requirements (SFRs), relating to Schedule D-1b (the rate of return summary for the parent-consolidated company). Columbia respectfully submits that good cause exists for the waiver. Pursuant to SFR Section II(A)(4)(e), Columbia further submits that good cause also exists for waiving the SFRs' requirement to file motions for waiver thirty days or more before the docketing of the application with the Commission.

Accordingly, pursuant to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01 and 4901:1-19-02(D) and Section II(A)(4) of the Commission's SFRs, Columbia respectfully requests that the Commission waive one additional portion of the SFRs for Chapter II, Section (D), Paragraph A relating to Schedule D-1. A description of the specific requirement that Columbia is asking the Commission to waive, and the reasons supporting Columbia's Motion, are set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph M. Clark

Joseph M. Clark, Asst. Gen. Counsel
(0080711) (Counsel of Record)

John R. Ryan, Sr. Counsel (0090607)

P.O. Box 117

290 W. Nationwide Blvd.

Columbus, Ohio 43216-0117

Telephone: (614) 813-8685

(614) 285-2220

E-mail: josephclark@nisource.com

johnryan@nisource.com

Eric B. Gallon (0071465)

Mark S. Stemm (0023146)

L. Bradfield Hughes (0070997)

Devan K. Flahive (0097457)

Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP

41 South High Street

Columbus, OH 43215

Telephone: (614) 227-2000

Email: egallon@porterwright.com
mstemm@porterwright.com
bhughes@porterwright.com
dflahive@porterwright.com

(Willing to accept service by e-mail)

Attorneys for
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT

1. The Commission will waive filing requirements if the utility sets forth specific reasons for the request and shows good cause.

A public utility filing an application for an increase in rates must generally comply with the Standard Filing Requirements (SFRs) set forth in Appendix A to Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01.¹ However, the Commission may waive portions of the SFRs if the utility timely moves to waive them and the Commission grants the waiver before the utility files its rate increase application.² A waiver request will be considered timely if it is “filed thirty days or more before the docketing of the application with the commission.”³ An applicant may file a motion for waiver fewer than thirty days before the docketing of the application with the Commission if “good cause” is shown.⁴

The Commission may waive a requirement of the SFRs if the utility specifically explains its request for waiver and shows good cause, so long as the requirement is not statutorily mandated.⁵ Determining whether the utility has shown good cause requires “due regard” to, *inter alia*:

- i. whether the other information provided by the utility would allow Staff to “effectively and efficiently review the application”;
- ii. whether the utility normally maintains the information in question, or has that information reasonably available to it; and
- iii. the utility’s cost to provide the information in question.⁶

Similarly, a natural gas company filing an alternative rate plan application for an increase in rates must generally submit the exhibits described in R.C. 4909.18(A) - (D) and Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01.⁷ However, the Commission

¹ Ohio Adm.Code 4901-7-01.

² *Id.*

³ SFR Chapter II, § (A)(4)(e).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ SFR Chapter II, § (A)(4)(a) and (d).

⁶ SFR Chapter II, § (A)(4)(d).

⁷ Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-19-06(C).

may waive any requirement of Ohio Adm.Code Chapter 4901:1-19 that is not statutorily mandated upon a showing of good cause.⁸

2. Columbia meets the “good cause” standard for filing this Supplemental Motion fewer than thirty days before docketing of the application with the Commission.

As indicated above, Columbia substantially complied with the Commission’s requirements for filing motions to waive standard filing requirements. Columbia filed its Motion to Establish Test Period and Date Certain and for Waivers of Standard Filing Requirements on May 28, 2021 – more than thirty days in advance of the docketing of the application with the Commission. Columbia devoted its best efforts to timely identifying SFRs appropriate for waiver. Notwithstanding these best efforts, the need for this supplemental motion was identified in late June. Columbia now advances only one item deserving of supplemental waiver consideration ahead of the Commission’s ruling on Columbia’s initial Motion. Columbia respectfully submits this waiver request and, for the reasons below, urges the Commission to entertain this motion.

3. Columbia meets the “good cause” standard for waiving one portion of the standard filing requirements specified in Chapter II, Section D, General Instructions and Paragraph (A) – Rate of Return Summary (Schedule D-1).

The general instructions for SFR Section D direct applicants whose securities are not publicly traded to “submit all data required in section ‘D’ on an applicant-stand-alone basis and also on a parent-consolidated basis.” Paragraph (A) of Section D then requires the applicant utility to “[p]rovide a proposed rate of return summary schedule as of the date certain or most recent available historic calendar quarter showing the calculation of the weighted average cost of capital as illustrated in Schedule D-1, lines 1-4.” It further instructs the applicant to “provide an explanation of difference” if “the rate of return shown on Schedule D-1, line 4 is not the same as that shown on Schedule A-1, line 4 * * * .”

Columbia requests a waiver of the requirement to provide a cost of common equity or a weighted average cost of capital for Columbia’s parent-consolidated company, NiSource. Paul Moul, Columbia’s expert witness on the subject of Columbia’s cost of capital, will file testimony explaining that he did not calculate

⁸ Ohio Adm.Code 4901:1-19-02(D).

NiSource's cost of common equity for this Application because he determined that NiSource's capital structure was inapplicable to his analysis, and thus should not be used for determining an appropriate rate of return for ratesetting purposes. Columbia's Schedule D-1 will, however, provide information regarding NiSource's debt/equity ratio. And Columbia will provide the information required for Schedules D-2, D-3, D-4, and D-5 on both an applicant-stand-alone basis and a parent-consolidated basis.

For the reasons provided above, Columbia respectfully requests that the Commission grant this Supplemental Motion, waive the requirement to file this motion at least thirty days before docketing the application, and waive the above-specified portion of Chapter II, Section D, Paragraph (A).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Joseph M. Clark

Joseph M. Clark, Asst. Gen. Counsel
(0080711) (Counsel of Record)

John R. Ryan, Sr. Counsel (0090607)
P.O. Box 117

290 W. Nationwide Blvd.
Columbus, Ohio 43216-0117

Telephone: (614) 813-8685
(614) 285-2220

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Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur LLP

41 South High Street

Columbus, OH 43215

Telephone: (614) 227-2000

Email: egallon@porterwright.com
mstemm@porterwright.com
bhughes@porterwright.com
dflahive@porterwright.com
(Willing to accept service by e-mail)

Attorneys for
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

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 29th day of June, 2021, upon the persons listed below.

**Ohio Energy Group
(OEG)**

Michael L. Kurtz, Esq.
Kurt J. Boehm, Esq.
Jody Kyler Cohn, Esq.
BOEHM, KURTZ & LOWRY
mkurtz@BKLawfirm.com
kboehm@BKLawfirm.com
jkylercohn@BKLawfirm.com

/s/ Joseph M. Clark _____

Joseph M. Clark

Attorney for
COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.

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Summary: Motion , Supplemental, for Waiver of Standard Filing Requirements electronically filed by Mr. Eric B. Gallon on behalf of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.