

**BEFORE
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Annual Application)
of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for an Ad-) Case No. 22-0621-GA-RDR
justment to the CEP Rider Rate.)

**PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
MELISSA L. THOMPSON
ON BEHALF OF COLUMBIA GAS OF OHIO, INC.**

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February 25, 2022

**PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY
OF MELISSA L. THOMPSON**

I. INTRODUCTION

Q. Please state your name and business address.

A. Melissa L. Thompson, 290 W. Nationwide Blvd., Columbus, Ohio 43215.

Q. By whom are you employed?

A. I am employed by Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. ("Columbia").

Q. Will you please state briefly your educational background and experience?

A. I attended Marietta College, earned a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Political Science, and graduated magna cum laude from Capital University Law School. I worked for two years in private practice with law firms in Columbus, and joined the NiSource Legal Department in 2012. In 2015, I transitioned to my role as the Director of Regulatory Policy with Columbia.

Q. What are your job responsibilities as Director of Regulatory Policy?

A. My primary responsibilities include the planning, supervision, preparation, and support of Columbia's regulatory filings before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("Commission"). I also develop policy to support Columbia's energy efficiency programs and drive Columbia's regulatory initiatives to ensure execution of Columbia's business strategy.

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to support the reasonableness of Columbia's request for the proposed rate adjustments to the CEP Rider, as well as to support and sponsor the Application and Attachment A filed on February 25, 2022.

II. EXPLANATION OF CEP RIDER SCHEDULES

Q. What schedules are you sponsoring in this proceeding?

A. The following is a list of the CEP Rider schedules that I am sponsoring, which were filed on February 25, 2022:

Schedule	Description
Attachment A	Proposed Rate Schedules

Q. How was the CEP Rider authorized by the Commission?

A. The Commission authorized the establishment of the CEP Rider in its Opinion and Order dated November 28, 2018 in Case No. 17-2202-GA-ALT.

Q. Please describe the CEP Rider.

A. The CEP Rider recovers the post-in-service carrying costs, incremental depreciation expense, and property tax expense directly attributable to Columbia’s capital expenditure program (“CEP”). The CEP Rider also provides for a return on and of the assets included in the CEP program.

Q. Would you please provide a brief explanation of Attachment A?

A. Attachment A details the rate schedules to which the CEP Rider applies.

III. IMPACTS OF COLUMBIA’S RATE CASE, 21-0637-GA-AIR, et al.

Q. Did Columbia file a rate case?

A. Yes. Columbia filed its Notice of Intent on May 28, 2021, and its Application on June 30, 2021 to adjust its base rates, continue its Infrastructure Replacement Program (“IRP”) Rider, continue its Capital Expenditure Program (“CEP”) Rider, continue its DSM Rider and energy efficiency program, and address other regulatory items.

Q. Does Columbia’s Application in this proceeding contemplate base rates going into effect with Case No. 21-0637-GA-AIR, et al.?

A. Yes. Columbia’s CEP Rider contains two sets of schedules contemplating the CEP Rider adjusting with the effective date of the base rate change in Case No. 21-0637-GA-AIR, et al. The first set of schedules (CEP) reflect the twelve months of actuals for calendar year 2021, and, if the base rate case has not concluded prior to September 1, 2022, will go into effect before Co-

lumbia's base rates adjust. The second set of schedules (CEP (21-0637)) reflect nine months of actuals for calendar year 2021 (April through December) and will go into effect with the adjustment of Columbia's base rates.

IV. REASONABLENESS OF REQUESTED ADJUSTMENT

Q. Did Columbia agree to CEP Rider rate caps for the Small General Service ("SGS"), General Service ("GS"), and Large General Service ("LGS") class of customers?

A. Yes. In Case No. 17-2202-GA-ALT, Columbia agreed to limit the monthly CEP Rider rates that became effective September 1, 2022 to \$7.71 per SGS customer, \$66.91 per GS customer, and \$1,281.45 per LGS customer.

Q. Are Columbia's proposed rates within the permitted caps?

A. Yes. Columbia's proposed, 12-month SGS class rate is \$7.33 per month, GS class rate is \$54.01 per month, and LGS class rate is \$1,273.85 per month beginning September 1, 2022, before the base rates go into effect, as a result of Case No. 21-0637-GA-AIR, et al.

Q. Do you have an opinion regarding whether Columbia's request to adjust the CEP Rider is reasonable?

A. Yes. I believe Columbia's request to adjust its CEP Rider is fair and reasonable. I believe that the costs of service are properly allocated to the appropriate customer classes and the rate design was properly computed in accordance with the terms and conditions of prior Commission orders. Furthermore, the proposed CEP Rider rates are within the rate caps established in Case No. 17-2202-GA-ALT.

Q. Does this complete your Prepared Direct Testimony?

A. Yes, it does.

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 25th day of February, 2022 upon the parties listed below.

/s/ John R. Ryan _____

John R. Ryan

Attorney for
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Summary: Testimony Direct Testimony of Melissa L. Thompson electronically filed
by Ms. Melissa L. Thompson on behalf of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.