

**BEFORE  
THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO**

In the Matter of the Application of )  
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Authority )  
to Amend its Filed Tariffs to Increase the ) Case No. 21-637-GA-AIR  
Rates and Charges for Gas Services and )  
Related Matters. )

In the Matter of the Application of )  
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval ) Case No. 21-638-GA-ALT  
of an Alternative Form of Regulation. )

In the Matter of the Application of )  
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval )  
of a Demand Side Management Program ) Case No. 21-639-GA-UNC  
for its Residential and Commercial )  
Customers. )

In the Matter of the Application of )  
Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Approval ) Case No. 21-640-GA-AAM  
to Change Accounting Methods. )

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**MOTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE TESTIMONY  
AND  
REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED RULING  
BY  
OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL**

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This proceeding involves Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc.'s ("Columbia") request to increase the rates that its customers pay for gas service by 27.07%.<sup>1</sup> The Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel ("OCC"), on behalf of the residential utility consumers of Columbia, moves the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio ("PUCO") for a 14-day extension of time for the filing of intervenor testimony, as permitted under O.A.C. 4901-

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<sup>1</sup> *In the Matter of the Application of Columbia Gas of Ohio, Inc. for Authority to Amend its Filed Tariffs to Increase the Rates and Charges for Gas Services and Related Matters*, Case Nos. 21-637-GA-AIR, et al., Testimony of Melissa L. Thompson at 3.

1-12 and 4901-1-13(A). A 14-day extension would extend the intervenor testimony filing deadline from Friday, May 6, 2022 to Friday, May 20, 2022. Further, OCC seeks an expedited ruling under O.A.C. 4901-1-12(C). As of this filing, OCC cannot certify that other parties do not oppose an expedited ruling.

The reasons supporting this request are set forth in the attached Memorandum in Support.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Weston (0016973)  
Ohio Consumers' Counsel

/s/ Angela D. O'Brien  
Angela D. O'Brien (0097579)  
Counsel of Record  
William J. Michael (0070921)  
Assistant Consumers' Counsel

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**MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR AN EXTENSION OF TIME  
TO FILE TESTIMONY AND REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED RULING  
BY  
OFFICE OF THE OHIO CONSUMERS' COUNSEL**

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

This case affects the rates paid by approximately 1.4 million consumers of Columbia for natural gas service. Columbia filed an Application seeking to increase its rates on June 30, 2021. OCC, the State of Ohio’s advocate for residential utility consumers, moved to intervene in this case on July 12, 2021.

The PUCO Staff filed its Staff Report of Investigation (“Staff Report”) on April 6, 2022. Accordingly, the current deadline for the filing of objections to the Staff Report, as provided in R.C. 4909.19, is May 6, 2022. Similarly, the deadline for filing direct expert

testimony is currently May 6, 2022, in accordance with the PUCO’s procedural rules.<sup>2</sup> OCC moves the PUCO for a 14-day extension of time for the filing of intervenor testimony, consistent with O.A.C. 4901-1-12 and 4901-1-13(A).

## **II. APPLICABLE PROCEDURAL RULES**

O.A.C. 4901-1-13(A) permits parties to move for extensions of time to file testimony. That rule provides for the granting of such motions for “good cause shown.”

O.A.C. 4901-1-12(C) allows parties to request an expedited ruling on their motions. If the motion certifies that no party objects to the issuance of such a ruling, then an immediate ruling may be issued without awaiting the filing of a memorandum contra.<sup>3</sup>

## **III. RECOMMENDATIONS**

OCC seeks a 14-day extension of time to file its expert testimony under O.A.C. 4901-1-13(A). This extension of time would change the deadline for filing expert testimony from May 6, 2022 to May 20, 2022. OCC proposes that the extension apply to all intervenors. The good cause for the extension includes that the Staff Report determined that Columbia’s Cost of Service Study (“COSS”) is not “a reasonable presentation of the costs to serve each rate class and should not be used as a starting point for designing rates.”<sup>4</sup> The PUCO Staff recommended that Columbia rerun the COSS, and that the “results of the modified COSS [] be used as a basis for rate design.”<sup>5</sup> It is unclear when Columbia will provide the modified COSS requested by Staff. Additional time to analyze these documents

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<sup>2</sup> See April 14, 2022 Entry, at ¶ 14, O.A.C. 4901-1-29.

<sup>3</sup> See O.A.C. 4901-1-12(C).

<sup>4</sup> Staff Report, at 38.

<sup>5</sup> Staff Report, at 38.

and formulate testimony is therefore necessary and fair. Parties are also required by statute (R.C. 4909.19) to file Objections to the PUCO Staff's extensive Staff Report on May 6, 2022, the same day testimony is currently due. Additional time to prepare testimony is also necessary due to the current press of regulatory work in which OCC is involved on behalf of Ohio residential consumers.

Granting this brief extension would allow intervenors more time to develop and file testimony responsive to the Application filed in this proceeding and the Staff Report. The extension will not cause undue delay and should not work to prejudice any party. For these reasons, the PUCO should grant OCC's Motion for an Extension of Time to File Testimony.

Objections and testimony are currently due in less than two weeks. Parties and stakeholders, and the PUCO, would benefit from more immediate notice regarding whether that due date will be changed. Therefore, an expedited ruling on OCC's Motion is appropriate. OCC cannot at this time certify that other parties do not object to an expedited ruling on this motion.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

For the reasons stated above, the PUCO should grant OCC's Motion for an Extension to the deadline for filing intervenor testimony from Friday May 6, 2022 to Friday, May 20, 2022 on an expedited basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce Weston (0016973)  
Ohio Consumers' Counsel

/s/ Angela D. O'Brien

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(willing to accept service by e-mail)

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

It is hereby certified that a true copy of the foregoing Motion was served by electronic transmission upon the parties below this 25<sup>th</sup> day of April 2022.

*/s/ Angela D. O'Brien*  
Angela D. O'Brien  
Assistant Consumers' Counsel

The PUCO's e-filing system will electronically serve notice of the filing of this document on the following parties:

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**Case No(s). 21-0637-GA-AIR, 21-0638-GA-ALT, 21-0639-GA-UNC, 21-0640-GA-  
AAM**

Summary: Motion Motion for an Extension of Time to File Testimony and Request  
for Expedited Ruling by Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel electronically filed  
by Mrs. Tracy J. Greene on behalf of O'Brien, Angela D