

**ORDER NO. 88145**

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA GAS  
OF MARYLAND, INC. FOR  
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES  
AND CHARGES

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BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF MARYLAND

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CASE NO. 9447  
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**Issue Date: April 19, 2017**

On April 14, 2017, Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. (“Columbia” or “Company”) filed an application with the Maryland Public Service Commission (“Commission”) for authority to increase its base rates for gas distribution service. Columbia also requests certain other changes to its natural gas tariff, and permission to defer certain incremental expenses incurred to improve pipeline safety and reduce system risk. The Company also filed supporting testimony, exhibits, and related tariff revisions. The proposed rates are designed to produce additional annual revenues of approximately \$6.02 million. Columbia requests that the proposed rate increase becomes effective on May 15, 2017.

Pursuant to Public Utilities Article §4-204, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the Commission concludes that the proposed rates should be suspended for a period of not more than 150 days from May 15, 2017. The suspension period is necessary to provide the Commission with an opportunity to determine the justness and reasonableness of the

proposal.

**IT IS THEREFORE**, this 19th day of April, in the year Two Thousand Seventeen by the Public Service Commission of Maryland,

**ORDERED:** (1) That the proposed rates filed by Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. on April 14, 2017 are suspended for a period of not more than 150 days from May 15, 2017;

(2) That proceedings as to the justness and reasonableness of the proposed rates are instituted by the Commission; and

(3) That this matter is hereby delegated to the Public Utility Law Judge Division.

By Direction of the Commission,

*/s/ David J. Collins*

David J. Collins  
Executive Secretary