

ORDER NO. 88003

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF *
WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY *
FOR APPROVAL OF REVISED TARIFF *
PROVISIONS TO FACILITATE ACCESS *
TO NATURAL GAS IN THE COMPANY’S *
MARYLAND FRANCHISE AREA *
CURRENTLY WITHOUT NATURAL GAS *
SERVICE *

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF MARYLAND

CASE NO. 9433

Issue Date: February 1, 2017

To: Parties of Record and Interested Persons

On December 7, 2016, the Washington Gas Light Company (“WGL” or “Company”) filed with the Maryland Public Service Commission (“Commission”) a Petition for Approval of Revised Tariff Provisions that will Facilitate Access to Natural Gas in Areas within the Company’s Maryland Franchise Area that are Currently without Natural Gas Service (“Petition”). The Company also filed supporting testimony and exhibits which included applicable proposed tariff revisions for natural gas service with a proposed effective date of February 15, 2017. In its Petition and accompanying testimony, the Company asks the Commission to approve three proposed service initiatives, i.e., Contribution Payment Plan, Targeted Conversion Plan, and Gas Access Program.

Subsequently, on December 22, 2016, the Commission issued Order No. 87956 initiating Case No. 9433 that established proceedings as to the justness and reasonableness of the proposed service initiatives and associated tariff revisions. In addition, pursuant to the provisions of § 4-204 of the Public Utilities Article, *Annotated*

Code of Maryland, the Commission suspended the proposed tariff revisions filed by WGL for a period of 150 days from February 15, 2017 and directed interested persons to file petitions to intervene by Wednesday January 18, 2017. The Commission further indicated that no pre-hearing conference would be held in this matter. One petition to intervene has been received by the Commission in this proceeding.¹

On January 30, 2017, the Commission's Technical Staff, ("Staff") in consultation with the Company, the Maryland Office of People's Counsel ("OPC") and AOBA, filed a proposed procedural schedule and discovery procedures for Commission consideration in this matter.² After review of Staff's proposal, the Commission adopts the proposed procedural schedule as filed. In addition, the Commission grants AOBA's Petition to Intervene in this proceeding, along with WGL, Staff, and OPC (collectively the "Parties").

The procedural schedule, as adopted, requires the extension by 30 days of the initial 150-day suspension period for the tariff revisions filed in this proceeding. Accordingly, pursuant to § 4-204(b)(2)(ii) of the Public Utilities Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the Commission finds that the proceedings cannot be completed within the initial 150-day suspension period and, therefore, extends the initial 150-day suspension period by an additional 30 days, or until August 14, 2017.

Further, the Commission finds that the discovery procedures as proposed by the Parties and filed by Staff is appropriate and is adopted in this case as follows:

¹ The Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington ("AOBA") filed its Petition to Intervene in this proceeding on January 17, 2017.

² Case No. 9433, Item No. 10.

- Responses to discovery requests served by March 1, 2017 are due within ten business days of service, and any objections to discovery requests must be served within five business days.
- Responses to discovery requests served after March 1, 2017 and up to March 24, 2017 are due within seven business days of service, and any objections to discovery requests must be served within three business days.
- Responses to discovery requests served after March 24, 2017 are due within five business days of service, and any objections to discovery requests must be served within three business days.
- Electronic service of discovery requests, responses and documents is sufficient so long as the recipient acknowledges actual receipt, which the responding party should obtain and maintain, and hard copies shall be made available if electronic service is not successful.
- The parties should consult with each other and attempt in good faith to resolve all disputes prior to making an objection and again prior to filing a motion seeking relief from the Commission. In the event parties are unable to resolve a dispute, the aggrieved party may file a motion for relief within three business days from service of the written objection. The opponent shall respond to the motion within two business days of service of the motion. The motion and response shall be letter format, and shall each be limited in length

to three single-spaced pages with a 12-point or greater font. The letters must specify the dates and times of all consultations for the purpose of resolving the dispute. The parties shall contact the Executive Secretary via phone or email to schedule a hearing, if necessary, and shall provide the Executive Secretary an electronic copy of the motion and response.

IT IS THEREFORE, this 1st day of February, in the year Two Thousand Seventeen by the Public Service Commission of Maryland;

ORDERED: (1) That Parties shall file pleadings in this proceeding as follows:

- (a) Staff, OPC, and Intervenors shall file Direct Testimony by March 1, 2017;
- (b) All Parties shall file Rebuttal Testimony by March 24, 2017;
- (d) Staff, OPC, and Intervenors shall file Surrebuttal Testimony by April 13, 2017;
- (e) Initial briefs shall be filed by June 9, 2017; and
- (f) Reply briefs shall be filed by June 30, 2017.

An original and 17 paper copies, and an electronic copy³, of the pleadings⁴ shall be submitted to David J. Collins, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland

³ The Commission encourages persons to submit the electronic copy of a filing through the Commission's E-file system, which is available via the Commission's website.

⁴ All pleadings shall be submitted with a 12-Point or greater font size.

21202. Five of the paper copies shall be three-hole punched. In addition, all testimony shall be served on the parties electronically on the date of the filing in addition to service by first class mail.

(2) That the Parties shall abide by the discovery procedure set forth in this Order;

(3) That evidentiary hearings are scheduled as follows::

(a) May 1, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m.; and

(b) May 2, 2017, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

WGL may provide live Rejoinder Testimony limited to the scope of Surrebuttal Testimony during its witnesses' appearances at the evidentiary hearings. The Commission reserves the right to revise the hearing schedule, as needed; and

(4) That, pursuant to § 4-204(b)(2)(ii) of the Public Utilities Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, the initial 150-day suspension period previously ordered in this proceeding is hereby extended by 30 days, or until August 14, 2017.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ David J. Collins

David J. Collins
Executive Secretary