

**ORDER NO. 88158**

IN THE MATTER OF THE MERGER OF ALTAGAS LTD. AND WGL HOLDINGS, INC.  <hr style="width: 35%; margin-left: 0;"/>	* * * * * * *	BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF MARYLAND  <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/> CASE NO. 9449  <hr style="width: 20%; margin-left: auto; margin-right: 0;"/>
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**Issued: April 26, 2017**

On April 24, 2017, pursuant to § 6-105 of the Public Utilities Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland* (“PUA”), AltaGas Ltd. (“AltaGas”), WGL Holdings, Inc. (“WGL”), and Washington Gas Light Company (“Washington Gas”) (collectively, the “Applicants”) filed, with the Public Service Commission (“Commission”), an application requesting authorization for AltaGas to acquire the power to exercise substantial influence over the policies and actions of Washington Gas (“Application”). The Applicants also filed supporting testimony and appendices.

According to the Application, AltaGas and WGL have agreed to combine (the “Merger”), whereby Washington Gas, a public service company operating in Maryland, will become part of the family of AltaGas distribution utilities. Washington Gas, a natural gas distribution company operating in the State, is a wholly-owned subsidiary of WGL. Consequently, the Commission’s approval is required under § 6-105 of the PUA because the Merger will result in AltaGas acquiring the power to exercise substantial influence over the policies and actions of Washington Gas, and AltaGas will become an affiliate of Washington Gas upon consummation of the Merger.

A pre-hearing conference in this matter is hereby set for Tuesday, May 30, 2017, in the Commission's 16<sup>th</sup> Floor Hearing Room, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the hearing is to set a procedural schedule for this proceeding, consider any petitions to intervene that have been filed, and consider any other preliminary matters requested by the parties. Petitions to intervene shall be filed by Thursday, May 25, 2017.

**IT IS, THEREFORE,** this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year Two Thousand Seventeen, by the Public Service Commission of Maryland,

**ORDERED:** (1) That pursuant to § 6-105(g) of the Public Utilities, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, a proceeding is hereby initiated by the Commission for examination and investigation of the Application and for the issuance of an Order concerning the transaction after hearings in this matter have been conducted by the Commission;

(2) That an original and 17 paper copies, and an electronic copy, of any petition to intervene in this matter shall be filed with the Commission by Thursday, May 25, 2017;

(3) That the Applicants are hereby directed to cause a display advertisement to be published in newspapers in general circulation throughout the Maryland service area of Washington Gas at least two times prior to May 25, 2017, that includes a description of the matter on which the prehearing conference is being held and the time, date, place and purpose of the prehearing conference scheduled for May 30, 2017. The notice shall also advise persons who seek to intervene in this proceeding that an original and 17 copies,

plus one electronic file copy,<sup>1</sup> of the petition to intervene, shall be submitted to David J. Collins, Executive Secretary, Public Service Commission of Maryland, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, by Thursday, May 25, 2017;

(4) That the Applicants are directed to place on each entity's home website page a notice of the prehearing conference and the date by which petitions to intervene in the matter must be filed in a manner that a person need not click the link to determine the date, time, location and purpose of the prehearing conference or the date by which a petition to intervene must be filed;

(5) That the Applicants are directed to utilize social media or other means of communication at its disposal to further notify its customers of the prehearing conference, as appropriate; and

(6) That the Applicants shall file a proof of publication on or before the date of the prehearing conference.

By Direction of the Commission,

*/s/ David J. Collins*

David J. Collins  
Executive Secretary

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<sup>1</sup> The Commission encourages parties to use the Commission's "e-file" system for filing the electronic file copy. Details of the "e-file" system are on the Commission's web page, [www.psc.state.md.us](http://www.psc.state.md.us). Otherwise the electronic copy shall be submitted on a CD along with the paper copies of the filings.