

ORDER NO. 88211

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF COLUMBIA GAS OF MARYLAND, INC. FOR AUTHORITY TO INCREASE RATES AND CHARGES	* * * * * * *	BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF MARYLAND <hr/> CASE NO. 9447 <hr/>
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Issue Date: May 18, 2017

On April 14, 2017, Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. filed an application with the Public Service Commission of Maryland (“Commission”) for authority to increase its base rates for the distribution of natural gas effective with services rendered on or after May 15, 2017. By Order No. 88145, the Commission initiated this proceeding, delegated the proceedings to the Public Utility Law Judge Division, and suspended the proposed rates for an initial period of 150 days.

On May 16, 2017, the Commission’s Technical Staff (“Staff”) submitted a letter in the matter which set forth an agreement on a proposed procedural schedule and conditions agreed to by the parties.¹ On May 18, 2017, a pre-hearing conference was held, and the procedural schedule was adopted. The adopted procedural schedule contemplates that a 30-day extension of the 150-day suspension period will be granted, and all the parties consented to the extension.

Pursuant to § 4-204(b) of the Public Utilities Article, *Annotated Code of*

¹ The other parties are Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. and the Office of People’s Counsel.

Maryland, the Commission finds that extension of the initial suspension for an additional 30 days is required to ensure that the proceedings can be completed within the procedural schedule as adopted by the Public Utility Law Judge on May 18, 2017.

IT IS THEREFORE, this 18th day of May in the year Two Thousand Seventeen by the Public Service Commission of Maryland,

ORDERED That proposed rates filed by Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. on April 14, 2017, are hereby suspended for 180 days from May 15, 2017.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ David J. Collins

David J. Collins
Executive Secretary