

ORDER NO. 88647

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 style="width: 100%;"/> CASE NO. 9480
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Issue Date: April 17, 2018

On April 13, 2018, 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 (Application”).¹ In its Application, Columbia indicates that the necessity for the revenue increase arises principally from the Company’s continued increased investment in the replacement of leak-prone pipeline infrastructure, increased operation and maintenance expenses, and the need for a reasonable opportunity to earn a fair and reasonable return on its investment in utility facilities. The Company also filed supporting testimony, exhibits, and related tariff revisions. The proposed rates are designed to produce additional annual revenues of \$5,977,212. Columbia requests that the proposed rate increase become effective on October 29, 2018.

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 October 29, 2018. The suspension period is necessary to

¹ See Maillog 219967.

provide the Commission with an opportunity to determine the justness and reasonableness of the proposal.

IT IS THEREFORE, this 17th day of April, in the year Two Thousand Eighteen by the Public Service Commission of Maryland,

ORDERED: (1) That the proposed rates filed by Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. on April 13, 2018, are suspended for a period of not more than 150 days from October 29, 2018;

(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