

ORDER NO. 88695

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION	*	BEFORE THE
OF WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT	*	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO	*	OF MARYLAND
INCREASE EXISTING RATES AND	*	
CHARGES FOR GAS SERVICE AND TO	*	
REVISE ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS	*	
FOR GAS SERVICE	*	

		CASE NO. 9481

Issue Date: May 18, 2018

**To: Washington Gas Light Company; Maryland Office of People’s Counsel;
Technical Staff of the Maryland Public Service Commission**

On May 15, 2018, Washington Gas Light Company (“Washington Gas” or “Company”) filed an application with the Maryland Public Service Commission (“Commission”) for authority to increase its base rates for gas distribution service and to revise the terms and conditions applicable to its gas service in Maryland (Application”).¹ The Company is requesting an annual base rate revenue increase of \$56.3 million that includes \$15 million of cost currently being collected through surcharges associated with the Company’s approved Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement (“STRIDE”) Plan. In its Application, Washington Gas indicates that several factors contribute to the request for an increase in base rates, including the growth in rate base, general cost increases in operation and maintenance expenses, employee-related costs, a new billing system, higher leak management costs, and regulatory requirements. The

¹ See Maillog 220464.

Company also filed supporting testimony, exhibits, and related tariff revisions with a proposed rate effective date of June 14, 2018.²

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 June 14, 2018. The suspension period is necessary to provide the Commission with an opportunity to determine the justness and reasonableness of the proposal.

A prehearing conference in this matter is hereby set for Friday, June 22, 2018, in the Commission's 16th 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 5 p.m., Wednesday, June 20, 2018. Furthermore, discovery commences immediately for Washington Gas, the Commission's Technical Staff ("Staff"), and the Office of People's Counsel ("OPC").

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

ORDERED: (1) That proceedings as to the justness and reasonableness of the rates and charges proposed by Washington Gas Light Company are instituted by the Commission;

² The Company also filed, under separate cover, its Cost Allocation Manual and Independent Audit Opinion. See Maillog 220443.

(2) That the proposed rates and charges filed by Washington Gas Light Company on May 15, 2018, are suspended for a period of 150 days from June 14, 2018.

(3) That discovery commences immediately for Washington Gas, Staff, and OPC.

(4) That Washington Gas Light Company is hereby directed to cause a display advertisement to be published in a newspaper(s) in general circulation throughout its service area at least two times prior to Monday, June 18, 2018, that includes a description of the matter on which the prehearing is being held and the time, date, place, and purpose of the prehearing conference scheduled for June 22, 2018. The notice shall also advise persons who seek to intervene in this proceeding that an original and 17 copies, plus one electronic copy,³ of any petition to intervene, shall be filed with David J. Collins, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, by Wednesday, June 20, 2018;⁴

(5) That Washington Gas Light Company shall file a proof of publication on or before the date of the prehearing conference;

(6) That Washington Gas Light Company shall also place on its home 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 customer 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; and

³ The Commission encourages parties to use the Commission's "e-file" system for filing the electronic copy. Details of the "e-file" system are on the Commission's web page, www.psc.state.md.us. Additionally, five paper copies of the petition shall be three-hole punched.

⁴ Persons are reminded that if the "e-file" system is used, the original and required paper copies of the filing must be delivered to the Commission's docket room by noon, the next business day after the e-filing is made to retain the filing date of the e-filed document. In the event the paper copies are received after noon of the next business day, the date on which the paper copies are received becomes the official filing date.

(7) That Washington Gas Light Company is directed to employ any routinely used social media platforms, such as Twitter or Facebook, and any other means of communication at its disposal to further notify its customers of the prehearing conference, as appropriate.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ David J. Collins

David J. Collins
Executive Secretary