ORDER NO. 89135

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
*
* _____
*
* CASE NO. 9609
* _____

Issued: May 23, 2019

ORDER INITIATING RATE CASE DOCKET AND
DELEGATING TO THE PUBLIC UTILITY LAW JUDGE DIVISION

On May 22, 2019, Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. ("Company") filed with the Commission an application for authority to increase its existing rates and charges for natural gas service ("Application"). The Company is requesting an annual base rate revenue increase of $3,650,235. The Company also filed supporting testimony, exhibits, and related tariff revisions with a proposed rate effective date of June 21, 2019.

The Commission hereby initiates a new docket, Case No. 9609, to consider the Application and hereby delegates the conduct of the proceedings to the Public Utility Law Judge Division.

Pursuant to Public Utilities Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, §4-204(b)(2)(i), the Commission initially suspends the related tariff revisions for 150 days from June 21, 2019. The suspension period is necessary to provide the Commission with an opportunity to determine the justness and reasonableness of the proposal.

IT IS THEREFORE, this 23rd day of May, in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen, by the Public Service Commission of Maryland,

ORDERED: (1) That the Commission hereby initiates a new docket, Case No. 9609, to conduct proceedings as to the justness and reasonableness of the rates and charges proposed by Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.;

(2) That the proposed rates and charges filed by Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. on May 22, 2019, are suspended for a period of 150 days from June 21, 2019.

(3) That discovery commences immediately for Washington Gas, the Commission's Technical Staff, and the Maryland Office of People's Counsel; and

(4) That the Commission hereby delegates the conduct of the proceedings to the Public Utility Law Judge Division.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ Terry J. Romine

Terry J. Romine
Executive Secretary