

ORDER NO. 90644

Washington Gas Light Company’s Application *
 for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges for *
 Natural Gas Services *
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BEFORE THE
 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
 OF MARYLAND

 CASE NO. 9704

Issue Date: May 19, 2023

**ORDER INITIATING DOCKET, SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS, AND
 SCHEDULING PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

On May 18, 2023, Washington Gas Light Company (“WGL” or “Company”) submitted to the Commission an application for authority to adjust its rates and charges and to revise the terms and conditions applicable to gas service in its Maryland service territory no later than December 14, 2023 pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Public Utilities Article (“PUA”) §§ 4-203 and 4-204 (“Application”).¹ In support of its Application, WGL also filed supporting testimony, exhibits, data required by the Commission’s general filing requirements, and proposed rate schedules to be effective June 17, 2023.

WGL proposes an increase in its annual base rate revenues of \$49.4 million, with an incremental increase of \$28.4 million after the inclusion of Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement (STRIDE) revenue requirements. WGL’s proposed rate design would result in an average residential customer experiencing an approximate 5.3% increase in their total bill.

¹ Maillog No. 303021.

Pursuant to Public Utilities Article, Annotated Code of Maryland, §4-204, the Commission concludes that the proposed rates filed by WGL on May 18, 2023, should be suspended for a period of not more than 180 days from June 17, 2023. The suspension period is necessary to provide the Commission with an opportunity to determine the justness and reasonableness of the proposals.

A prehearing conference in this matter is hereby set for Wednesday, June 7, 2023, beginning after the conclusion of the Pepco prehearing conference, which is scheduled to begin 10 minutes after the conclusion of the regularly scheduled Administrative Meeting, which begins at 10:00 AM. 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 Monday, June 5, 2023. Furthermore, discovery commences immediately for WGL, the Commission's Technical Staff, and the Maryland Office of People's Counsel.

IT IS, THEREFORE, this 19th day of May in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Three, by the Public Service Commission of Maryland, **ORDERED:**

(1) that proceedings to consider the Application and the justness and reasonableness of WGL's Application, proposed rates, terms, and conditions of its tariff revisions are hereby instituted by the Commission;

(2) that, pursuant to PUA § 4-204, the tariff revisions filed by WGL are suspended for an initial period of 180 days from June 17, 2023;

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

(4) that interested parties shall file petitions to intervene by June 5, 2023;

(5) that WGL 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 June 2, 2023, that includes a description of the matter on which the prehearing conference is being held and the time, date, method, and purpose of the prehearing conference scheduled for June 7, 2023. The notice shall also advise persons who seek to intervene in this proceeding that any petition to intervene shall be filed² by June 5, 2023, with Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202;

(6) that WGL shall file a proof of publication on or before the date of the prehearing conference;

(7) that WGL also shall 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, method, and purpose of the prehearing conference or the date by which a petition to intervene must be filed; and

(8) that WGL 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/ Andrew S. Johnston

Andrew S. Johnston
Executive Secretary

² The Commission requests that parties use the Commission's E-file system, which eliminates the need to submit paper copies. Details of the E-file system are on the Commission's web page, www.psc.state.md.us (Online Services or Tools).