

Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY
COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.
FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND AND EXTEND ITS SAVE
PLAN PURSUANT TO VIRGINIA CODE § 56-604, AND
FOR APPROVAL TO IMPLEMENT A 2021 SAVE PLAN
RIDER IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 20 OF ITS
GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS
CASE NO. PUR-2020-00138

On July 24, 2020, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. (“CVA” or the “Company”) filed an application (“Application”) pursuant to Chapter 26 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia, known as the Steps to Advance Virginia’s Energy (“SAVE”) Plan Act (the “SAVE Act”), for (1) approval to amend and extend its SAVE Plan pursuant of the SAVE Act; and (2) for approval to implement a Steps to Advance Virginia’s Energy Plan Rider (“SAVE Rider”) for calendar year 2021.

The Company requests to extend its SAVE Plan for one year (calendar year 2021), during which time the Company would be authorized to spend up to \$60.4 million on SAVE-eligible natural gas infrastructure and recover such costs through its SAVE Rider (“Phase 3 SAVE Plan”). CVA is not proposing to modify the scope of eligible infrastructure replacements to be performed under the SAVE Plan and is not proposing any other substantive changes to the terms and conditions of the SAVE Plan. The Company also requests approval to implement its 2021 SAVE Rider, which is comprised of a 2019 True-Up Factor and a 2021 Projected Factor, to be effective with the first billing unit of January 2021 through the last billing unit of December 2021.

In its Application, CVA states that its SAVE Plan is designed to accelerate the replacement of certain components of its gas distribution system infrastructure to enhance system safety and reliability. The Company proposes to amend and extend its SAVE Plan for one year to undertake additional identified projects the Company expects to complete in 2021 under the proposed Phase 3 SAVE Plan. The Company states such projects will enhance safety and reliability and positively impact the environment. The Company is requesting authorization to spend up to \$60.4 million (CVA’s currently approved 2021 capital budget) on SAVE-eligible infrastructure during calendar year 2021. However, due to budget uncertainty, the Company proposes to limit investment included in the SAVE Rider to \$46.4 million. In light of CVA’s 2021 capital budget uncertainty, the Company identified approximately \$16 million of SAVE-eligible projects that could be deferred beyond 2021, where funding levels are limited. Per CVA, if those projects are deferred, the Company would allocate an additional \$1.7 million toward replacement of service lines and risers, resulting in a total capital investment of \$46.4 million on SAVE-eligible projects in 2021.

The Company has proposed a total SAVE revenue requirement of \$12,850,153. As proposed, the 2021 SAVE Rider would increase residential customers’ bills by \$1.60 per month, for a total proposed monthly rate of \$3.10.

The details of these and other proposals are set forth in the Company’s Application. Interested persons are encouraged to review the Company’s Application and supporting exhibits for the details of these proposals.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may adopt rates that differ from those appearing in the Company’s Application and supporting documents and may apportion revenues among customer classes and/or design rates in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provides interested persons an opportunity to comment on the Company’s Application.

The Commission has taken judicial notice of the ongoing public health emergency related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19, and the declarations of emergency issued at both the state and federal levels. In accordance therewith, all pleadings, briefs, or other documents required to be served in this matter should be submitted electronically to the extent authorized by 5 VAC 5-20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure (“Rules of Practice”). Confidential and Extraordinarily Sensitive information shall not be submitted electronically and should comply with 5 VAC 5-20-170, *Confidential information*, of the Rules of Practice. For the duration of the COVID-19 emergency, any person seeking to hand deliver and physically file or submit any pleading or other document shall contact the Clerk’s Office Document Control Center at (804) 371-9838 to arrange the delivery.

Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-140, *Filing and service*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice, the Commission has directed that service on parties and the Commission’s Staff in this matter shall be accomplished by electronic means. Please refer to the Commission’s Order for Notice and Comment for further instructions concerning Confidential or Extraordinarily Sensitive Information.

An electronic copy of the Application may be viewed on the Commission’s website or obtained, at no charge, by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: T. Borden Ellis, Assistant General Counsel and Bryan D. Stogdale, Senior Counsel, NiSource Corporate Services Company, 1809 Coyote Drive Chester, Virginia, 23836, or tbellis@nisource.com and bstogdale@nisource.com.

On or before October 2, 2020, any interested person wishing to comment on the Company’s Application may file written comments with the Clerk of the Commission by following the instructions on the Commission’s website: <https://scc.virginia.gov/cascomments/Submit-Public-Comments>. Compact discs or any other form of electronic storage medium may not be filed with the comments. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00138.

Any person or entity may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing, on or before October 2, 2020, with the Clerk of the Commission at: <https://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/>, a notice of participation in accordance with the Commission’s Rules of Practice. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel. Pursuant to Rule 5 VAC 5-20-80, *Participation as a respondent*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice, any notice of participation shall set forth: (i) a precise statement of the interest of the respondent; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; and (iii) the factual and legal basis for the action. Any organization, corporation, or government body participating as a respondent shall be represented by counsel as required by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00138. For additional information about participation as a respondent, any person or entity should obtain a copy of the Commission’s Order for Notice and Comment.

On or before October 2, 2020, any interested person or entity may file, with the Clerk of the Commission at: <https://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/>, a request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Application. Requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00138 and shall include: (i) a precise statement of the filing party’s interest in the proceeding; (ii) a statement of the specific action sought to the extent then known; (iii) a statement of the legal basis for such action; and (iv) a precise statement why a hearing should be conducted in this matter.

A copy of any notices of participation and requests for hearing simultaneously shall be sent to counsel for the Company electronically at the email address set forth above.

The Company’s Application, the Commission’s Rules of Practice, and the Commission’s Order for Notice and Comment may be viewed at: <https://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information>.

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.