

# Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY  
COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.  
FOR APPROVAL TO AMEND A SYSTEM EXPANSION PLAN  
PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 28 OF TITLE 56  
OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA  
CASE NO. PUR-2020-00149

On August 5, 2020, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. (“CVA” or the “Company”) filed with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”), pursuant to § 56-610 et seq. of the Code of Virginia (“Code”), an application (“Application to Amend”) to amend its System Expansion Plan (or “Plan”) approved by the Commission in February 2016.

CVA provides natural gas service to over 270,000 customers in Central and Southern Virginia, the Piedmont region, and most of the Shenandoah Valley, as well as portions of Northern and Western Virginia and the Hampton Roads region. The Plan is an infrastructure expansion plan designed to deliver natural gas service to customers in unserved areas within the Company’s service territory by providing an alternative method of collecting the uneconomic portion of the investment related to infrastructure expansion projects (“eligible expansion investment” or “EEI”). The Company seeks to amend its Plan as needed to complete 71 existing projects contributing EEI to the Plan and to recover the related costs from the beneficiaries of these investments (“Affected Customers”).

In its Application to Amend, CVA explains that, in Case No. PUE-2015-00056, the Commission approved a maximum level of Plan investment of approximately \$3.57 million with the ability to exceed this amount by no more than 10% over the Plan’s five-year investment period and established a fixed monthly rider (the “MAIN Rider”) at \$6.63 per month to recover the eligible system expansion infrastructure costs (“Plan Cost of Service”) associated with the EEI. CVA states that 71 projects contributing EEI to the Plan that have been placed under contract resulted in a total of approximately \$3.81 million in estimated EEI based on the economic analysis completed at the time each project was placed under contract. While the estimated EEI for these projects in the Plan falls within the authorized maximum level of investment, the actual costs for the projects, and thus the actual EEI for the projects, are expected to be higher than the estimates. CVA is requesting the approvals necessary to complete the 71 existing projects contributing EEI to the System Expansion Plan and recover the associated costs from Affected Customers.

Specifically, the Company is requesting:

- (1) An increase in the maximum level of investment under the Plan from \$3.57 million plus 10% to \$5.1 million;
- (2) An increase in estimated Plan Cost of Service from \$8,476,655 to \$9,503,506;
- (3) A two-step increase in the MAIN Rider from \$6.63 to \$8.63 effective January 1, 2021, and to \$10.63 effective January 1, 2022;
- (4) A decrease in projected Affected Customers from 5,319 to 3,301.

The Company is requesting a modified maximum level of investment of \$5.1 million to complete the 71 projects contributing EEI to the System Expansion Plan. CVA calculated this amount based on the projects contributing EEI to the Plan that are near completion. According to CVA, as of May 31, 2020, MAIN Rider revenues have been less than Plan costs, and the \$6.63 MAIN Rider is not sufficient to recover eligible system expansion infrastructure costs. Accordingly, CVA proposes to increase the MAIN Rider gradually over the next two years for the Affected Customers.

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

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

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 shall 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 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 to Amend 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, Esquire, and Bryan D. Stogdale, Esquire, NiSource Corporate Services Company, 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836, or [tbellis@nsource.com](mailto:tbellis@nsource.com) and [bstogdale@nsource.com](mailto:bstogdale@nsource.com).

On or before October 6, 2020, any interested person wishing to comment on the Company’s Application to Amend may file written comments with the Clerk of the Commission by following the instructions on the Commission’s website: <https://scv.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments>. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00149.

Any person or entity may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing, on or before October 6, 2020, with the Clerk of the Commission at: <https://scv.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-2020-00149. 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 6, 2020, any interested person or entity may file, with the Clerk of the Commission at: <https://scv.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/>, a request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Application to Amend. Requests for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2020-00149 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 Commission’s Application to Amend, the Order for Notice and Comment, and the Commission’s Rules of Practice may be viewed at the Commission’s website: <https://scv.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information>.

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.