

# Legal Notice

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC OF AN APPLICATION BY  
COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC., TO AMEND AND  
EXTEND ITS NATURAL GAS CONSERVATION AND  
RATEMAKING EFFICIENCY PLAN  
CASE NO. PUR-2021-00027

On April 19, 2021, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. (“CVA” or “Company”) filed with the State Corporation Commission (“Commission”) an application (“Application”) for authorization to amend and extend its Conservation and Ratemaking Efficiency Plan (“CARE Plan”) pursuant to Chapter 25 of Title 56 of the Code of Virginia. According to the Company, its current CARE Plan includes a portfolio of programs that promote conservation and energy efficiency among CVA’s residential customers and a decoupling mechanism that adjusts actual non-gas distribution revenues per customer to the allowed distribution revenues previously approved by the Commission. In its Application, the Company proposes to extend its CARE Plan, along with certain modifications and amendments, for an additional three-year period, through December 31, 2024 (“Amended CARE Plan”).

The proposed Amended CARE Plan would only be available to residential customers, including a specific program for low-income and elderly residential customers. The proposed Amended CARE Plan would extend three current conservation and energy efficiency programs and add one new program, for a total of 29 measures. Specifically, the Company requests approval to extend the following three conservation and energy efficiency programs, with certain modifications, for an additional three years: (1) Web-Based Home Audit Program; (2) Home Savings Program; and (3) Residential Income and Age Qualifying Program. The Company also requests approval of a new program, the Home Energy Report Program, which is intended to encourage customer engagement with home energy management and energy efficiency to reduce energy consumption.

The Company expects to invest \$5.3 million over the three years of the Amended CARE Plan. According to the Company, the proposed Amended CARE Plan is designed to recover the incremental costs associated with its conservation and energy efficiency programs, as incurred, by means of a surcharge mechanism described in Section 12.4 of the Company’s General Terms and Conditions (the CARE Program Adjustment (“CPA”). The Company estimates that the proposed Amended CARE Plan’s CPA will cost the average residential customer, using 63.6 dekatherms annually, approximately \$6.74 in 2022. In its Application, CVA requests authority to implement the CPA effective with the first billing unit for the Company’s January 2022 billing cycle (i.e., December 31, 2021). The Company’s proposed Amended CARE Plan also includes a performance-based incentive mechanism and a decoupling mechanism.

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 testimony and exhibits for the details of these proposals.

TAKE NOTICE that the Commission may set any associated service, rates, terms, and conditions in a manner differing from that shown in the Application and supporting documents and thus may adopt service, rates, terms, and conditions that differ from those appearing in the Company’s publication and supporting documents.

The Commission entered an Order for Notice and Comment in this case that, among other things, directed the Company to provide notice to the public and provided 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 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 may be obtained by submitting a written request to counsel for the Company: T. Borden Ellis, Esquire, and Katherine C. Creef, Esquire, NiSource Corporate Services Company, 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, Virginia 23836, or [tbellis@nsource.com](mailto:tbellis@nsource.com) and [kcreef@nsource.com](mailto:kcreef@nsource.com).

On or before June 21, 2021, any interested person may file comments on the Application by following the instructions on the Commission’s website: [scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments](http://scc.virginia.gov/casecomments/Submit-Public-Comments). Commenters are urged to submit comments electronically, though comments also may be sent to the Clerk of the Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118.

On or before June 21, 2021, any interested person or entity may participate as a respondent by filing, with the Clerk of the Commission at the address above or [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/](http://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 B, *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 must be represented by counsel as required by Rule 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice.

On or before June 21, 2021, any interested person or entity may file with the Clerk of the Commission, in accordance with the Rules of Practice, a request that the Commission convene a hearing on the Application. All requests for hearing must include the email address of the filer or its counsel, along with (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 the issues raised in the request for hearing cannot be addressed adequately without a hearing. Filers are urged to make their requests electronically via [scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling](http://scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/), though requests for hearing also may be sent to the Clerk of the Commission at the physical address above.

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.

All documents filed in this case shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00027. Any documents filed in paper form with the Office of the Clerk of the Commission in this docket may use both sides of the paper. In all other respects, all filings shall comply fully with the requirements of 5 VAC 5- 20-150, *Copies and format*, of the Commission’s Rules of Practice.

The Company’s Application, the Commission’s Rules of Practice and the Commission’s Order for Notice and Comment may be found on the Commission’s website: [scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information](http://scc.virginia.gov/pages/Case-Information).