

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-2021-00144

On August 9, 2021, 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, an application (“Second Application to Amend”) to amend the Company’s System Expansion Plan (or “Plan”) approved by the Commission on February 19, 2016, in Case No. PUE-2015-00056 (“Original Approval Order”). The Plan is a natural gas infrastructure expansion plan designed to deliver natural gas service to customers located 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”) from the beneficiaries of the investments (“Affected Customers”) through a fixed monthly rider (the “MAIN Rider”).

In its Second Application to Amend, the Company states that it provides natural gas service to over 279,000 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 Company further states that, in the Original Approval Order, the Commission authorized a maximum level of 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. The Company also states that the Original Approval Order established the MAIN Rider at \$6.63 per month to recover the eligible system expansion infrastructure costs (“Plan Cost of Service”) associated with the EEI.

In December 2020 in Case No. PUR-2020-00149, the Commission approved the Company’s first application to amend the Plan as needed to complete 71 existing projects contributing EEI to the Plan and to recover the related costs from Affected Customers (“Amendment Order”). In the Amendment Order, the Commission approved only the first step of the Company’s proposed two-step increase to the MAIN Rider. The Company states that, in the Amendment Order, the Commission approved the Company’s request to (1) increase the maximum level of investment under the Plan to \$5.1 million; (2) increase the estimated Plan Cost of Service from \$8,476,655 to \$9,503,506; (3) increase the MAIN Rider from \$6.63 to \$8.63 effective January 1, 2021; and (4) decrease the projected Affected Customers from 5,319 to 3,301. The Amendment Order denied the Company’s request for a second step increase in the MAIN Rider and directed the Company to file additional information in support of any future request to increase the MAIN Rider.

The Company states that the existing MAIN Rider is not sufficient for the Company to recover the Plan Cost of Service. In its Second Application to Amend, CVA is requesting: (1) an increase in the MAIN Rider from \$8.63 to \$10.94 effective December 30, 2021, which is the first billing unit of January 2022; (2) a decrease to the Plan Cost of Service from \$9,503,506 to \$8,816,951; and (3) an increase in projected Affected Customers from 3,301 to 3,437.

The Company also requests that the Commission approve the associated amendments to the Company’s Terms and Conditions. CVA states that, as of May 31, 2021, MAIN Rider revenues have been less than Plan costs by \$267,944. CVA also states that it does not currently project a need for any other future bill increases.

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

The Commission has taken judicial notice of the ongoing public health issues related to the spread of the coronavirus, or COVID-19. 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. 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 Second 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, Assistant General Counsel and Katherine C. Creef, Senior Counsel, NiSource Corporate Services Company, 1809 Coyote Drive Chester, Virginia, 23836, or tbellis@nsource.com and kcreef@nsource.com.

On or before October 8, 2021, any interested person wishing to comment on the Company’s Second Application to Amend may file written comments with the Clerk of the Commission by following the instructions on the Commission’s website: sec.virginia.gov/casecomments/SubmitPublicComments. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file comments electronically may file such comments by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the State Corporation Commission, c/o Document Control Center, P.O. Box 2118, Richmond, Virginia 23218-2118. All such comments shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00144.

Any person or entity may participate as a respondent in this proceeding by filing a notice of participation, on or before October 8, 2021, with the Clerk of the Commission at: scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a notice of participation electronically may file such notice by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Such notice of participation shall include the email addresses of such parties or their counsel, if available. Pursuant to 5 VAC 5-20-80 B, *Participation as a respondent*, of the 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 5 VAC 5-20-30, *Counsel*, of the Rules of Practice. All filings shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00144. 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 8, 2021, any interested person or entity may file, with the Clerk of the Commission at the address above or scc.virginia.gov/clk/efiling/, and in accordance with the Rules of Practice, a request for hearing on the Second Application to Amend. Those unable, as a practical matter, to file a request for hearing electronically may file such request for hearing by U.S. mail to the Clerk of the Commission at the address listed above. Any request for a hearing shall refer to Case No. PUR-2021-00144, shall include the email address of the filer or its counsel, if available, 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 Second Application to Amend, the Order for Notice and Comment, and the Commission’s Rules of Practice may be viewed at the Commission’s website: scc.virginia.gov/pages/CaseInformation.

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.