

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, APRIL 17, 2024

REGISTRATION CONTROL CENTER

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, *ex rel.*

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

2024 APR 17 P 12:14

v.

CASE NO. URS-2023-00302

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.,
Defendant

ORDER OF SETTLEMENT

Pursuant to § 56-265.30 of the Code of Virginia ("Code"), the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") is charged with enforcing the provisions of the Underground Utility Damage Prevention Act ("Act"), Code § 56-265.14 *et seq.* The Commission's Division of Utility and Railroad Safety ("Division"), charged with the investigation of probable violations of the Act, has completed investigations of certain incidents that occurred between February 7, 2023, and March 28, 2023, listed in Attachment A, involving Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("Company"), the Defendant, and alleges that:

(1) During the aforementioned period, the Company violated the Code and/or Act by the following conduct:

- (a) Failing on three occasions to mark the underground utility lines within the time prescribed in the Act, in violation of Code § 56-265.19 A.

As evidenced in the attached Admission and Consent document, the Company neither admits nor denies these allegations but admits to the Commission's jurisdiction and authority to enter this Order.

As an offer to settle all matters before the Commission arising from the Division's allegations made herein, the Company represents and undertakes that:

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(1) The Company will pay a civil penalty to the Commonwealth of Virginia in the amount of \$2,200 to be paid contemporaneously with the entry of this Order.

(2) Any amounts paid in accordance with this Order shall not be recovered in the Company's rates as part of the cost of service. Any such amounts shall be booked in Uniform System of Accounts No. 426.3. The Company shall verify its booking by filing a copy of the journal entries made to record such amounts with the Commission's Division of Utility Accounting and Finance.

NOW THE COMMISSION, being advised by the Division and finding sufficient basis herein for the entry of this Order, accepts this settlement.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) The captioned case is docketed and assigned Case No. URS-2023-00302.

(2) Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission by Code § 12.1-15, the offer of settlement made by the Company is accepted.

(3) The sum of Two Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$2,200) tendered contemporaneously with the entry of this Order is accepted.

(4) This case is dismissed.

A COPY hereof shall be sent electronically by the Clerk of the Commission to: Mr. Stephen Thomas, Damage Prevention Execution Leader, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, VA 23836, Stephenthomas@nisource.com; and a copy shall be delivered to the Commission's Office of General Counsel and Divisions of Utility and Railroad Safety and Utility Accounting and Finance.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

Attachment A

URS-2023-00302

240420154

URS Report #	Date	Address	City/County	Code(s)	Civ. Pen.
23-0681	2/7/2023	486 Jefferson Highway	Staunton (City)	CP: 19 A (1)	\$850.00
23-0772	3/16/2023	438 Byrne Street	Petersburg (City)	CP: 19 A (1)	\$800.00
23-0848	3/28/2023	9508 Grant Avenue	Manassas (City)	CP: 19 A (1)	\$550.00
					\$2,200.00



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Defendant

ADMISSION AND CONSENT

The Company, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., admits the jurisdiction of the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") as to the party and subject matter hereof and, without admitting or denying the allegations made herein by the Division of Utility and Railroad Safety, hereby consents to the form, substance, and entry of the foregoing Order of Settlement. The Company acknowledges that the Order of Settlement entered herein is a public record and is subject to review by the public.

The Company further states that no offer, tender, threat, or promise of any kind has been made by the Commission or by any member, officer, agent, or representative thereof in consideration of this Admission and Consent.

Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc.

By: [Signature]

Title: Manager of Ops Prgms

Email: stephen.thomas@nsource.com

Date: 12/19/23