

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
AT RICHMOND, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024

REGULATORY OFFICE
REGULATORY CONTROL CENTER

2024 SEP -9 P 1:24

24002004

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, *ex rel.*

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

v.

CASE NO. URS-2024-00169

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, Code § 56-265.14 *et seq.* The Commission's Division of Utility and Railroad Safety ("Division"), after having conducted an investigation of this matter, alleges the following concerning Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc. ("Company"):

(1) On or about July 25, 2023, Spectator Enterprises damaged a two-inch plastic gas main operated by the Company, located at or near 13701 Jefferson Davis Highway, Chesterfield County, Virginia, while excavating.

(2) On or about September 29, 2023, Langford Excavating & Utilities, LLC, damaged a one-half-inch plastic gas service line operated by the Company, located at or near 14362 General Longstreet Avenue, Culpeper County, Virginia, while excavating.

(3) On or about October 11, 2023, Miller Pipeline, LLC, damaged a one-half-inch plastic gas service line operated by the Company, located at or near 201 South High Street, Orange County, Virginia, while excavating.

(4) On the occasions set out in paragraphs (1) through (3) above, the Company failed to mark underground utility lines by no later than 7 a.m. on the third working day following the excavator's locate request, 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:

(1) The Company will pay a civil penalty to the Commonwealth of Virginia in the amount of \$1,900 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-2024-00169.

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

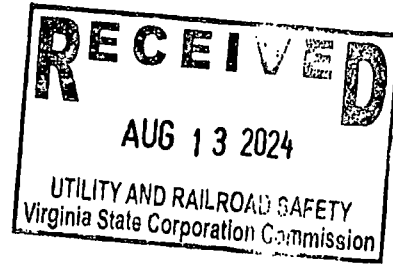
(3) The sum of One Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$1,900) tendered contemporaneously with the entry of this Order is accepted.

(4) This case is dismissed.

A COPY hereof shall be sent electronically by the Clerk of the Commission to:
Stephen Richardson, Damage Prevention Execution Leader, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc.,

1809 Coyote Drive, Virginia 23836, SRichardson@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.

24092004



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Defendant

ADMISSION AND CONSENT

The Defendant, 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 Defendant acknowledges that the Order of Settlement entered herein is a public record and is subject to review by the public.

The Defendant 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: 

Title: Damage Prevention Leader

Email: Srichardson@nsource.com

Date: 8/8/2024