

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, *ex rel.*

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

v.

CASE NO. URS-2024-00203

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 September 19, 2023, and March 14, 2024, 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 Act by the following conduct:

- (a) Failing on four occasions to mark the approximate horizontal locations of the underground utility lines on the ground to within two feet of either side of the underground utility lines, in violation of Code § 56-265.19 A.
- (b) 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:

(1) The Company will pay a civil penalty to the Commonwealth of Virginia in the amount of \$4,850 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-2024-00203.

(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 Four Thousand Eight Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$4,850) tendered contemporaneously with the entry of this Order is accepted.

(4) This case is dismissed.

A COPY hereof shall be sent by the Clerk of the Commission to: Stephen Richardson, Damage Prevention Execution Leader, Columbia Gas of Virginia, Inc., 1809 Coyote Drive, Chester, 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.

Attachment A

URS-2024-00203

URS Report #	Date	Address	City/County	Code(s)	Civ. Pen.
24-0492	9/19/2023	1032 Commercial Avenue	Alleghany County	§ 56-265.19 A	\$800.00
24-0490	10/2/2023	230 Hill and Dale Farm Road	Pittsylvania County	§ 56-265.19 A	\$600.00
24-0497	10/9/2023	11377 General Jeb Stuart Lane	Culpeper County	§ 56-265.19 A	\$650.00
24-0584	10/31/2023	2424 Cutherell Street	Portsmouth	§ 56-265.19 A	\$600.00
24-0586	11/8/2023	3 Cherry Tree Lane	Fredericksburg	§ 56-265.19 A	\$750.00
24-0698	1/8/2024	3224 South Military Highway	Chesapeake	§ 56-265.19 A	\$650.00
24-0878	3/14/2024	3103 Riveredge Drive	Portsmouth	§ 56-265.19 A	\$800.00
				Total : 7	\$4,850.00

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CASE NO. URS-2024-00203

COLUMBIA GAS OF VIRGINIA, INC.,
DefendantADMISSION 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.

Company Representative: Printed Name: Stephen RichardsonEmail: Srichardson@Nisource.comDate: 10/16/2024