



**Washington
Gas**

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March 11, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

PUBLIC

Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick
Commission Secretary
Public Service Commission
of the District of Columbia
1325 "G" Street, N.W., 8th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005

**Re: Formal Case Nos. 874
[Public Transcript - Gas Procurement Working Group Meeting
(12/07/2024)]**

Dear Ms. Westbrook-Sedgwick:

Transmitted for filing is the public transcript for the December 7, 2023 Gas Procurement Working Group meeting. A confidential transcript is being filed under separate cover. If there are questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Cain, II
Associate General Counsel

cc: Per Certificate of Service

WASHINGTON GAS

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GAS PROCUREMENT WORKING GROUP
FORMAL CASE NO. 874

+ + + + +

OPEN SESSION

THURSDAY
DECEMBER 7, 2023

+ + + + +

The Gas Procurement Working Group met via Videoconference, at 10:00 a.m. EST, Kimberly Lincoln-Stewart, Chairperson, presiding.

PRESENT:

KIMBERLEY LINCOLN-STEWART, Public Service Commission, Chairperson
 BRYAN HENNING, Public Service Commission
 GILLIAN MARIME, Public Service Commission
 THOMAS OLMSTEAD, Public Service Commission
 POORANI RAMACHANDRAN, Public Service Commission
 ROGER FUJIHARA, Public Service Commission
 TOM SHETTY, Public Service Commission
 RODNEY K. WILSON, Public Service Commission
 ADAM CARLESCO, Office of the People's Counsel
 YOHANNES MARIAM, Office of the People's Counsel
 VICTORIA ABRAHAM PAUL, Washington Gas
 SAMIAH BAHUR, Washington Gas
 ALFRED BALOW JR., Washington Gas
 ROBERT CAIN, Washington Gas
 EVERETT COATES, Washington Gas
 HONORE DZISAM, Washington Gas
 JOSEPH FALLAH, Washington Gas
 MARCEL FORTUNE, Washington Gas
 LISA GILLISON, Washington Gas

DAVID LEWIS, Washington Gas
PHUONG NGUYEN, Washington Gas
MARK SHAVER, Washington Gas
SASHA TRAUP, Washington Gas
JAMES WAGNER, Washington Gas
ELIZABETH WOLOHAN, Washington Gas
JIM WAGNER, Washington Gas

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 10:04 a.m.

3 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: We can get
4 started with the agenda for today. First, could
5 everybody, starting with Washington Gas, say
6 who's on the call and then go to OPC and then the
7 Commission staff?

8 MR. CAIN: Yeah. I'll start. Robert
9 Cain with the Office of Associate General
10 Counsel, Washington Gas.

11 MS. ABRAHAM PAUL: Good morning. My
12 name is Victoria Abraham Paul with Washington
13 Gas.

14 MS. WOLOHAN: Elizabeth --

15 MR. LEWIS: I'm sorry, Elizabeth.
16 This is Dave Lewis with Washington Gas.

17 MS. WOLOHAN: Elizabeth Wolohan,
18 Washington Gas.

19 MS. GILLISON: Lisa Gillison,
20 Washington Gas.

21 MR. FORTUNE: Marcel Fortune,
22 Washington Gas.

1 MR. FALLAH: Joe Fallah, Washington
2 Gas.

3 MR. WAGNER: Jim Wagner, Rates and
4 Regulatory Affairs.

5 MR. SHAVER: Mark Shaver, Washington
6 Gas.

7 MR. BALOW JR.: Al Balow, Washington
8 Gas, Regulatory Affairs.

9 MS. BAHHUR: Samiah Bahhur, Rates and
10 Regulatory Affairs.

11 MS. DZISAM: Honore Dzisam, OGC.

12 MS. NGUYEN: Phuong Nguyen, Washington
13 Gas.

14 MR. TRAUP: Sasha Traup, Washington
15 Gas.

16 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: We can go to OPC
17 if Washington Gas is done.

18 MR. CARLESCO: Sure, Adam Carlesco,
19 Assistant People's Counsel, Office of the
20 People's Counsel.

21 MR. MARIAM: Hi, Yohannes Mariam,
22 economist with OPC.

1 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay. We can
2 start with the Commission, and I'll start. Kim
3 Lincoln-Stewart, Public Service Commission.

4 MS. MARIME: Gillian Marime, Public
5 Service Commission.

6 MS. RAMACHANDRAN: Poorani
7 Ramachandran, Commission staff.

8 MR. FUJIHARA: Roger Fujihara.

9 MR. HENNING: I'm Bryan Henning with
10 the Commission.

11 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay. Lara is
12 not on yet. When Lara gets on I'll have her
13 identify herself. Starting with the agenda --
14 excuse me?

15 MR. SHETTY: No, I was just saying Tom
16 Shetty with PSC staff, that's all.

17 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: I'm sorry. I'm
18 sorry, Tom, I missed you. I'm sorry.

19 MR. SHETTY: No, my apologies. I was
20 a little slow, that's all.

21 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: We can start
22 with the FERC update.

1 MR. CAIN: Sure. Here's Lara.

2 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Lara, can you
3 announce yourself? Commission staff? Hello?
4 Can anybody hear her?

5 MR. CAIN: No.

6 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Well, Lara, keep
7 trying to announce yourself or call back in and
8 try to get on again. We're not hearing you.
9 Going on with the FERC update, as she calls in
10 she can just break in and say her name for the
11 record. Go ahead FERC update, number one.

12 MR. WAGNER: Good morning all, this is
13 Jim Wagner.

14 I have two item today for the FERC
15 update. Washington Gas has three major
16 pipelines, Transco, Columbia, and Eastern Gas
17 Transmission & Storage. All of them have been in
18 for rate cases and are currently in stay-out
19 provision, so we will not have any changes in our
20 demand cost related to the pipelines in the
21 coming 2024.

22 The remaining item to be completed

1 from those three settlements, all three FERC
2 cases, or pipeline cases were settled, and the
3 remaining item was for Columbia Transmission.
4 They have a thousand plus mile low pressure
5 system. As part of the settlement they were to
6 come up with a plan to help reduce emissions and
7 leaks coming from that very old part of their
8 system.

9 On August 25th, Columbia filed a plan
10 that wasn't approved by the other utilities. So,
11 Washington Gas was part of a approximately 20
12 utility group that looked at the plan. There was
13 a steering committee that worked with Columbia.
14 A consultant was hired to come up with a plan,
15 but the steering committee rejected the Columbia
16 plan. Columbia filed it. Washington Gas along
17 with the other utilities also made a filing at
18 FERC on September 6, and in that filing we
19 basically said that we opposed what Columbia has
20 filed.

21 So, at this point there has been no
22 action on that particular filing made by Columbia

1 by FERC, so we're awaiting FERC's action. The
2 utilities felt it was contrary to what was said
3 in the settlement. There was no time line for a
4 final plan. So, that's why we opposed it. So,
5 at this point that is the one outstanding issue
6 from the rate case settlement that was approved
7 by the Commission in February 2022.

8 So, just so folks know, the rate case
9 number was RP20-1060-000. That was where the
10 settlement can be found. And the current
11 process, the low pressure system plan is the same
12 RP20-1060, but different, -010 are the numbers
13 for the filings related. So, since those
14 September filings there's been no activity in the
15 FERC docket in this particular proceeding.

16 The second item I'll discuss is the
17 Mountain Valley Pipeline. At this time it's
18 anticipated that in the first quarter of 2024 the
19 Mountain Valley Pipeline will be operational.
20 It's been a long time. It's been a six year
21 process. At this point the cost is over \$6
22 billion for the building of the pipeline.

1 Washington Gas along with the other
2 Virginia Gas Utilities holds an annual
3 conference. At the conference in October of this
4 year we were able to get an attorney who had
5 represented Mountain Valley Pipeline during this
6 six year process. So, he gave an interesting
7 presentation of all the hurdles and obstacles
8 that they had to go through. I believe there
9 were 12 different attempts by other parties to
10 stop the pipeline, but at this point, the high
11 cost, again there's permit delays, as well as the
12 litigation. But he gave an interesting behind
13 the scenes of all that he and others had been
14 through in finally getting this pipeline to be
15 approved.

16 Just as an example of what they were
17 up against, recently, the Sierra Club, who is one
18 of the parties fighting it, made a filing with
19 FERC as well as with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
20 Service, and their complaint was that continuing
21 work on the pipeline would interfere with the
22 hibernation of the Indiana bat and also the

1 Northern long-eared bat. So, the noise in cave
2 openings would cause a problem. Again, FERC and
3 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services both rejected
4 that particular thing, but, again, some of the
5 opponents continuing to go through.

6 But it is expected in October, and
7 what that should do for our company is indirectly
8 lower some gas prices since you'll have a large
9 supply of gas that is entering the Carolinas
10 through that pipeline, so there should be an
11 indirect benefit to WG customers.

12 That's all I have. Happy to answer
13 any questions.

14 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Are there any
15 questions? Hearing none we'll move on to item
16 number 2 update on gas procurement activities.
17 Does this need to go into confidential session?

18 MR. CAIN: Yes.

19 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay. Can we go
20 into confidential session?

21 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
22 went off the record at 10:13 a.m.)

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C E R T I F I C A T E

This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Gas Procurement Working Group
Open Session

Before: Washington Gas

Date: 12-07-23

Place: teleconference

was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under
my direction; further, that said transcript is a
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proceedings.

Neal R Gross

Court Reporter

NEAL R. GROSS

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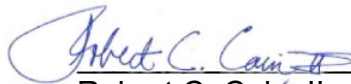
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009-7831

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, the undersigned counsel, hereby certify that on this 11th day of March 2024, I caused copies of the foregoing document to be hand-delivered, mailed, postage prepaid, or electronically delivered to the following:

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