



**Washington  
Gas**

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April 1, 2024

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

**PUBLIC**

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

**Re: Formal Case No. 874  
[Public Transcript - Gas Procurement Working Group  
Meeting (03/07/2024)]**

Dear Ms. Westbrook-Sedgwick:

Transmitted for filing is the public transcript for the March 7, 2024 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

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## OPEN SESSION

THURSDAY  
MARCH 7, 2024

+ + + + +

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

## PRESENT:

KIMBERLEY LINCOLN-STEWART, Public Service  
Commission, Chairperson  
ROGER FUJIHARA, Public Service Commission  
GILLIAN MARIME, Public Service Commission  
THOMAS OLMSTEAD, Public Service Commission  
ADAM CARLESCO, Office of the People's  
Counsel  
YOHANNES MARIAM, Office of the People's  
Counsel  
ROBERT CAIN, Washington Gas  
JAMES SIPES, Washington Gas  
JOSEPH FALLAH, Washington Gas  
PHUONG NGUYEN, Washington Gas  
MARCEL FORTUNE, Washington Gas  
VICTORIA ABRAHAM PAUL, Washington Gas  
LISA GILLISON, Washington Gas  
ELIZABETH WOLOHAN, Washington Gas  
ALFRED BALOW JR., Washington Gas  
JAMES WAGNER, Washington Gas  
EVERETT COATES, Washington Gas  
MARK SHAVER, Washington Gas

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

2 10:04 a.m.

3 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay, I think we  
4 can get started. This is Kim Lincoln-Stewart,  
5 Public Service Commission, District of Columbia.  
6 Can the Commission staff introduce themselves,  
7 followed by OPC, and then Washington Gas?

8 Hello? Can you hear me?

9 MR. OLMSTEAD: Thomas Olmstead, Senior  
10 Environmental Economist, OTRA.

11 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: What did you  
12 say?

13 MR. OLMSTEAD: I said this is Thomas  
14 Olmstead with the Commission, Senior  
15 Environmental Economist, and OTRA.

16 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Are you the only  
17 person on from -- let me see -- I can't --

18 MR. OLMSTEAD: I'm going through the  
19 list. It appears that it's just you and me.

20 (Laughter.)

21 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay, I think  
22 Lara will be on in a little bit, if not, like you

1 said, just you and me. So let's go on to OPC and  
2 then Washington Gas, please?

3 MR. CARLESCO: Sure. Adam Carlesco,  
4 Office of the People's Counsel, Assistant  
5 People's Counsel.

6 MR. MARIAM: Yohannes Mariam, Office  
7 of the People's Counsel, Economist.

8 MR. CAIN: Okay, I guess it's -- it's  
9 our turn, Washington Gas?

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

11 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Yes, it is.

12 MR. CAIN: Robert Cain, Washington  
13 Gas, Associate General Counsel.

14 MS. ABRAHAM-PAUL: Hi, good morning.  
15 This is Victoria Abraham-Paul with Washington  
16 Gas, Energy Acquisition.

17 MS. NGUYEN: Phuong Nguyen from  
18 Washington Gas.

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Sorry?

21 MS. NGUYEN: Phuong Nguyen from  
22 Washington Gas.

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

3 MR. COATES: Everett Coates --  
4 (Simultaneous speaking.)

5 MS. GILLISON: Lisa Gillison,  
6 Washington Gas.

7 MR. COATES: Everett Coates,  
8 Washington Gas.

9 MR. SHAVER: Good morning, this is  
10 Mark Shaver with Washington Gas.

11 MR. FORTUNE: Marcel Fortune,  
12 Washington Gas.

13 MS. WOLOHAN: Elizabeth Wolohan,  
14 Washington Gas.

15 MR. SIPES: James Sipes, Washington  
16 Gas.

17 MR. BALOW: Al Balow, Washington Gas,  
18 Regulatory Affairs.

19 MR. WAGNER: Jim Wagner, Washington  
20 Gas.

21 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Is that  
22 everyone?

1 PARTICIPANT: I believe so.

2 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay, we can  
3 start with the FERC update.

4 MR. WAGNER: Good morning all, this is  
5 Jim Wagner, Rates and Regulatory Affairs at  
6 Washington Gas. And for the FERC update today I  
7 have two items, one deals with administrative  
8 matters that are occurring at FERC and the second  
9 deals with a current proceeding that we're  
10 involved with, the Columbia pipeline.

11 So, first off, at FERC Willie  
12 Phillips, a former D.C. Public Service Commission  
13 Chairman, and currently had been Acting FERC  
14 Chairman, was appointed a permanent FERC Chairman  
15 in February. And there are only two FERC  
16 Commissioners currently, Willie Phillips and Mark  
17 Christy, but three new nominees have been brought  
18 before, to fill the five-member FERC.

19 At FERC, the White house party has,  
20 gets three nominees and two from the other party.  
21 So, FERC always has a three-two party split based  
22 on the party in power. At NARUC last week

1 Chairman Phillips did speak, and he noted that  
2 his state, the regulatory background, he saw it  
3 very important in becoming a FERC Commissioner.  
4 And Judge Christy, the other current  
5 commissioner, spent 16 years as a Virginia  
6 Commissioner, so Washington Gas was very familiar  
7 with him.

8 West Virginia Senator Joe Mansion  
9 spoke at NARUC also, right before Willie Phillips  
10 came up to be interviewed, and he mentioned that  
11 he felt Willie Phillips was the best chairman  
12 that he had seen at FERC in a while. So, if  
13 these three new nominees are appointed then FERC  
14 will be at a full, its full commission of five  
15 commissioners. So that's the administrative news  
16 currently at FERC.

17 From the proceeding standpoint, the  
18 Columbia pipeline, Washington Gas's largest  
19 pipeline, they had filed a case back in 2020, and  
20 -- just the numbers, it was RP20-1060-010 -- the  
21 case was settled in --

22 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Can you repeat

1 that again?

2 MR. WAGNER: Sure. RP20-1060-010.

3 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Thank you.

4 MR. WAGNER: Sure. That case was  
5 settled in 2021. Three major components, one was  
6 a rate increase that was settled, a second was a  
7 modernization program which is similar to the  
8 accelerated replacement programs that Washington  
9 Gas has, for Columbia to modernize the pipes on  
10 its system. A third part that wasn't settled but  
11 was pushed out, was a low pressure system.

12 Columbia has a part of its system  
13 that's very old and very leaky, that's 1,045  
14 miles and has five different segments. So, in  
15 the settlement there was going to be a work group  
16 that would get together, a consultant study was  
17 prepared. So parties spent, after the settlement  
18 was approved in February of '22, parties spent  
19 over a year working, trying to come up with a  
20 solution to this part of Columbia's system.

21 Columbia came up with a plan, but it  
22 was rejected by the utilities. Washington Gas is

1 part of a customer group of about 20 utilities on  
2 the Columbia system, that work together in any  
3 type of rate proceedings. Columbia did file  
4 something, it's still pending before FERC but the  
5 parties have rejected it, so we don't expect to  
6 go anywhere with it.

7 Columbia recently came out with a new  
8 settlement offer whereby they're looking to,  
9 basically, sell a portion of that system to  
10 someone else who would take it over and remediate  
11 it. So, currently, you know, Washington Gas,  
12 along with the other utilities and shippers, are  
13 working with Columbia in an effort to reach  
14 settlement on this particular part of the  
15 Columbia system. So, more to come on that.

16 And that's all I have related to FERC,  
17 unless there are any questions?

18 Hearing none, thanks very much.

19 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Thank you.

20 MR. WAGNER: Sure.

21 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: So, now we'll go  
22 to the update on gas planning activities. So I

1 believe we go into closed session, so -- not  
2 closed session, but confidential session. So,  
3 Reporter, can you mark this as confidential?

4 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
5 went off the record at 10:10 a.m. and resumed at  
6 10:43 a.m.)

7 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: And now, let's  
8 look to the next meeting date. And not closed,  
9 confidential, just -- the next meeting date we  
10 are in, what month, June? March -- June or July?

11 MR. CAIN: Looks like, maybe, June.

12 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Yeah, let's  
13 shoot for the end of June, like maybe June --  
14 that's a holiday -- maybe June 20?

15 MR. CAIN: Okay, 10:00 o'clock?

16 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Yes.

17 MR. CAIN: Okay.

18 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: And it'll be  
19 virtual again. Robert, can you send out the  
20 invites?

21 MR. CAIN: I will, yes.

22 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: And OPC, if you

1 want something put on the agenda, can you let me  
2 know like, two weeks in advance -- or let us,  
3 let, you know, the group know two weeks in  
4 advance, and the Commission will work on whether  
5 or not it wants to include any additional items  
6 on the agenda at the same time. So we'll have a  
7 --

8 (Simultaneous speaking.)

9 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: So we'll have a,  
10 you know, an idea of what people will want to  
11 discuss besides the normal.

12 MR. CARLESCO: Yes, we can certainly  
13 do that.

14 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: And I think --  
15 let's see, April, so the report will -- let me  
16 see -- the report gets filed at the end of April,  
17 right?

18 MR. CAIN: Yes, April, I believe, 30.

19 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: So we will have  
20 the benefit --

21 (Simultaneous speaking.)

22 PARTICIPANT: That's right.

1 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: We will have had  
2 the benefit of being able to review that  
3 particular section of the report. Because the  
4 other sections of the report have been  
5 streamlined in the past, and so those should be  
6 pretty tight in terms of what we want.

7 This climate stuff is a little newer  
8 and, you know, we just got to figure out what we  
9 really need reported in this report. And so, we  
10 can go, we can discuss whatever was reported and,  
11 you know, see what we think might be missing or  
12 what we might, you know, think we don't need. Or  
13 if everything's just fine, then that's great.

14 MR. CAIN: Okay.

15 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: So, if  
16 everybody, like, two weeks before the meeting if  
17 you have agenda items, just submit them to the  
18 group. That way, we're prepared to discuss the  
19 different items, if there are any.

20 So, I think we're good. June 20 at  
21 10:00 a.m. is the next meeting.

22 MR. CAIN: Okay.

1 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Thank you,  
2 everybody, have a good day.

3 MR. CAIN: You, too.

4 MR. OLMSTEAD: This is Thomas with the  
5 Commission. I have one thing I wanted to bring  
6 up. So, the last meeting was on December 7 and  
7 those meeting minutes were not docketed, from  
8 what I can tell. So, whoever is supposed to  
9 docket the minutes, will you please docket those?  
10 Thank you.

11 MR. CAIN: They will be -- they're  
12 being worked on, they will be docketed.

13 MR. OLMSTEAD: Okay, great. Thank  
14 you.

15 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay, thank you.  
16 Everyone have a good day.

17 MR. CAIN: You, too.

18 MS. LINCOLN-STEWART: Bye-bye.

19 MR. OLMSTEAD: Bye.

20 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
21 went off the record at 10:47 a.m.)  
22

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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

In the matter of: Gas Procurement Group  
Open Session

Before: Washington Gas

Date: 03-07-24

Place: teleconference

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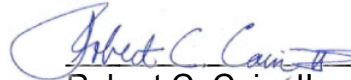
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I, the undersigned counsel, hereby certify that on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of April 2024, I caused copies of the foregoing document to be hand-delivered, mailed, postage prepaid, or electronically delivered to the following:

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