



**Washington  
Gas**

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September 4, 2024

**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

**PUBLIC**

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

**Re: Formal Case No. 874  
[Public Transcript - Gas Procurement Working Group Meeting  
(08/12/2024)]**

Dear Ms. Westbrook-Sedgwick:

Transmitted for filing is the public transcript for the August 12, 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,

John C. Dodge  
Associate General Counsel  
and Director, Regulatory Matters

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  
JUNE 20, 2024

+ + + + +

The Gas Procurement Working Group met via Videoteleconference, at 10:01 a.m. EDT, Kimberly Lincoln-Stewart, Chairperson, presiding.

## PRESENT:

KIMBERLEY LINCOLN-STEWART, Public Service  
Commission, Chairperson

ROGER FUJIHARA, Public Service Commission

BRYAN HENNING, Public Service Commission

STEPHEN SUNDERHAUF, Public Service Commission

TOM SHETTY, Public Service Commission

YOHANNES MARIAM, Office of the People's  
Counsel

JOHN DODGE, Washington Gas, Office of General  
Counsel

HONORE DZISAM, Washington Gas

DAVID LEWIS, Washington Gas

VICTORIA ABRAHAM PAUL, Washington Gas

MARCEL FORTUNE, Washington Gas

SAMIAH BAHUR, Washington Gas

JIM WAGNER, Washington Gas

ALFRED BALOW, JR., Washington Gas

PHUONG NGUYEN, Washington Gas

DAN WHITTLE, Washington Gas

MARK SHAVER, Washington Gas

SASHA TRaup, Washington Gas

ELIZABETH WOLOHAN, Washington Gas

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

2 (10:01 a.m.)

3 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Good morning,  
4 everyone. And what is - is the court reporter  
5 on?

6 MR. DODGE: Yes. Alex, can you  
7 confirm you're still on?

8 COURT REPORTER: Yes, I'm here.

9 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay,  
10 wonderful. So we can start with the agenda for  
11 today. We're going to start with the FERC  
12 update.

13 Oh, I'm sorry, before we do that, can  
14 everyone introduce themselves for the record so  
15 that the court reporter has it? Starting, can we  
16 start with OPC, then Washington Gas, then  
17 Commission staff.

18 OPC.

19 So it's no one on from OPC. Okay,  
20 wait a second, let's see.

21 MR. MARIAM: I'm here.

22 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay, well,

1 could you introduce yourself, please?

2 MR. MARIAM: Sure, Yohannes Mariam,  
3 Economist with OPC.

4 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay. Do you  
5 know if your counsel is getting on?

6 MR. MARIAM: No, he's, unfortunately  
7 he's not well today, so --

8 (Simultaneous speaking)

9 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay, okay  
10 great. Okay, Washington Gas?

11 MR. DODGE: I'll start off. John  
12 Dodge, Office of General Counsel.

13 MS. PAUL: Good morning, my name is  
14 Victoria Abraham Paul with Energy Acquisition at  
15 Washington Gas.

16 MR. FORTUNE: Good morning, Marcel  
17 Fortune, Washington Gas, Customer Experience  
18 Manager.

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

21 MR. LEWIS: Good morning, David Lewis,  
22 Washington.

1 MS. DZISAM: Good morning, Honore  
2 Dzisam, Washington Gas.

3 MS. BAHHUR: Good morning, Samiah  
4 Bahhur, Washington Gas.

5 MR. WAGNER: Good morning, Jim Wagner,  
6 Rates and Regulatory Affairs.

7 MR. BALOW: Al Balow, Regulatory  
8 Affairs.

9 MS. NGUYEN: Good morning, Phuong  
10 Nguyen from Rates and Regulatory Affairs from  
11 Washington Gas.

12 MR. WHITTLE: Good morning, Dan  
13 Whittle, Key Accounts, Washington Gas.

14 MR. SHAVER: Good morning, Mark  
15 Shaver, Washington Gas.

16 MR. TRAUP: Good morning, Sasha Traup,  
17 Washington Gas.

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

20 MR. DODGE: For my Washington Gas  
21 colleagues, thank you for identifying yourselves.  
22 Please make sure that you're muted unless you're

1 speaking.

2 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay,  
3 Commission staff, this is Kim Lincoln-Stewart,  
4 General Counsel's Office.

5 MR. HENNING: This is Bryan Henning  
6 with the Commission staff.

7 MR. SUNDERHAUF: Steve Sunderhauf with  
8 the Commission staff.

9 MR. SHETTY: Tom Shetty with  
10 Commission staff.

11 MR. FUJIHARA: Roger Fujihara, staff.

12 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay, I  
13 believe that's everyone. So we can go -- turning  
14 back to the agenda, item one, FERC.

15 Can we get the FERC update, please?

16 MR. DODGE: That's Jim Wagner for us,  
17 please.

18 MR. WAGNER: Good morning, all, this  
19 is Jim Wagner.

20 For today's FERC update, I have one  
21 administrative matter to discuss and two other  
22 matters related to either pending or anticipated

1 rate cases that will be coming in the not too  
2 distant future.

3 First off, FERC currently has two  
4 commissioners, Chairman Willy Phillips and  
5 Commissioner Mark Christie, along with Alison  
6 Clements as the third, but her term expires on  
7 June 30, and she did not seek a new term.

8 So earlier this year, three new  
9 commissioners were nominated. And recently, last  
10 week, they were voted on by the Senate, and all  
11 three commissioners were appointed so that we  
12 will have five commissioners.

13 The concern was if not by June 30 and  
14 with only two commissioners, FERC cannot issue  
15 orders with just the two commissioners. So, good  
16 news that FERC will have all five commissioners.

17 Just, the three commissioners, new  
18 ones, Judy Chang. She was former Under Secretary  
19 of Energy and Climate up in Massachusetts, was  
20 one of those nominated and approved.

21 David Rosner. He was a FERC energy  
22 industry analyst who worked at FERC. He was the

1 second nominee. And Lindsay See, she was West  
2 Virginia Solicitor General.

3 So, all three last week were approved  
4 by the Senate. Interesting the votes. You know,  
5 we see a lot of close votes coming out of  
6 Congress, but for Judy Chang, 63-33 was her vote  
7 from the Senate. David Rosner was 68-26. And  
8 Lindsay See was 86-9.

9 So, good news, FERC will be at full  
10 strength with all five commissioners shortly.

11 Okay, next item, Columbia Gas pipeline  
12 has a low pressure system that's over 1000 miles,  
13 runs through West Virginia, Pennsylvania. And  
14 parties have been trying to get resolution to get  
15 this system remediated.

16 There's been four attempts. Columbia  
17 filed a modernization, which is similar to the  
18 accelerated programs of utilities. They wanted  
19 1.8 billion to remediate it. Parties wouldn't  
20 agree in the settlement. The settlement asked  
21 for a work group to go back and look at this.

22 So for a good part of a year, a work

1 group tried to come up with a resolution to this,  
2 one of which was to sell that part of the  
3 pipeline to an outside company, who would come in  
4 and remediate it. But that failed.

5 There's been two different settlement  
6 agreements in the past year that have not failed,  
7 and last week Columbia came, which by my count is  
8 the fifth attempt at remediation. So that is --  
9 that process is ongoing and parties continue to  
10 try to reach a resolution.

11 Not a large number of customers on the  
12 system, so that's why the utilities as a group,  
13 Washington Gas partakes with about 20 other  
14 utilities as part of a customer group in these  
15 pipeline proceedings. So, more to come on that.

16 And then the third item I have is we  
17 will see some pipeline cases coming up, most  
18 likely later this year. One for sure. TransCo  
19 had filed a rate case back in 2018. Parties  
20 settled the rate case.

21 And one of the provisions of the rate  
22 case, usually FERC pipeline cases have a three-

1 or four-year stay-out provision as well as a  
2 come-back provision that requires the pipeline  
3 after a number of years to come back. So in the  
4 TransCo case -- and the original case number was  
5 RP18-1126, there was a come-back that TransCo had  
6 to file a new rate case by August 30 of 2024.

7 So, we are expecting them sometime in  
8 August to file a rate case. At FERC, when a  
9 pipeline files a rate case, there's a six-month  
10 window when after six months the rates go into  
11 effect, subject to refund. So, we would expect  
12 if they file in August early next year we would  
13 see rates put in place, subject to refund.

14 The other big pipeline is Columbia.  
15 Their case was filed in 2020, and there was a  
16 stayout provision in that settlement. And that  
17 case was RP20-1060.

18 And in that case, Columbia could not  
19 put new rates into effect until after April 1 of  
20 2025. So, with the six-month period where rates  
21 are suspended and then they can go into effect,  
22 that would mean if -- and again, we have no

1 knowledge of if or when Columbia will be filing.  
2 They're not required to.

3 But we do -- the rumors are that they  
4 will be filing a rate case. So, if they were to  
5 file later this year, new rates, subject to  
6 refund, could start and be put in place after  
7 April 1 of 2025.

8 So, you know, our last three big rate  
9 cases, TransCo, Columbia, and Dominion, now  
10 Eastern Gas Transmission, all settled. And you  
11 know, FERC has a settlement officer. So at any  
12 of these proceedings, when settlement talks are  
13 going on, there is a FERC law judge there who's  
14 more just watching.

15 But what they do is they help, you  
16 know, the train keep running on time. So if a  
17 party commits, we'll get back a counter offer in  
18 a week. Then the law judge makes sure that they  
19 follow those.

20 So you know, all FERC proceedings  
21 recently have been approved. And that is all I  
22 have, and I'm happy to answer any questions if

1 there are any.

2 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Jim, this is  
3 Kim.

4 MR. WAGNER: Yes, hi, Kim.

5 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Can you tell  
6 me, you said the Columbia settlement in the case  
7 was RP2016 or 2060?

8 MR. WAGNER: Yeah, RP20-1060.

9 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay, thank  
10 you.

11 MR. WAGNER: You're welcome.

12 Okay, thanks, all.

13 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay, if there  
14 are no further questions, we'll move on to number  
15 two on the agenda, which is the update on gas  
16 planning and activity.

17 Should this go into closed session, or  
18 confidential, I'm sorry?

19 MR. DODGE: I think we're fine today  
20 -- I think we're fine today, subject to  
21 Victoria's correction.

22 MS. PAUL: Yes, we can go into

1 confidential mode.

2 MR. DODGE: Thank you.

3 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay, thank  
4 you.

5 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
6 went off the record at 10:12 a.m. and resumed at  
7 10:38 a.m.)

8 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay, so we  
9 can come out of closed session now, or  
10 confidential session. I love saying closed. And  
11 we can schedule our actual next gas procurement  
12 working group meeting.

13 MR. DODGE: I propose July 31 at --  
14 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

15 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: No, no, no.

16 MR. DODGE: Oh, you mean the  
17 quarterly, I'm sorry, the quarterly.

18 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: The quarterly.  
19 And the quarterly, let's see, we would be in  
20 what? Let's see, it's June -- September?

21 MR. DODGE: Approximately September 20.

22 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: You got here,

1 give me a second to look at my calendar.

2 September. The 20th looks okay.

3 MR. DODGE: That's a Friday, for  
4 everybody's --

5 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: That's a  
6 Friday, though, no, no, no, no.

7 MR. DODGE: Maybe the 18th?

8 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: So the  
9 following week -- yeah, maybe the 18th. Yeah.

10 MR. DODGE: And do we want to keep it  
11 at 2:00 p.m., or we want to drop back to the  
12 morning time?

13 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Back to the  
14 morning, because I'm thinking I want to say open  
15 agenda stuff for the summer is moved to 11:00,  
16 but I -- let's go ahead with 11:00 -- I mean  
17 10:00, I'm sorry.

18 MR. DODGE: Sure. And we'll block out  
19 the usual four hours and pray we don't need it.

20 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay. That's  
21 good.

22 MR. DODGE: I want to make sure that

1 works for OPC too.

2 MR. MARIAM: Yeah, it does.

3 CHAIR LINCOLN-STEWART: Okay, any  
4 other Commission staff have an issue, or are we  
5 good?

6 Hearing nothing, I will say we're  
7 good. So we have the further meeting on the  
8 impact on July 31 at 2:00 p.m., and we have our  
9 next GPWG meeting on September 18 at 10:00 a.m.

10 Everybody have a good weekend.

11 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
12 went off the record at 10:41 a.m.)

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Open Session

Before: Washington Gas

Date: 06-20-24

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