

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1325 G STREET, N.W., SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

ORDER ON DELEGATED AUTHORITY¹

June 24, 2026

FORMAL CASE NO. 1179, IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION INTO WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY'S STRATEGICALLY TARGETED PIPE REPLACEMENT PLAN, Order No. 22887

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By this Order, the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (“Commission”) grants the District of Columbia Government (“DCG”) and Sierra Club’s (jointly: “Movants”) Motion to Modify the Procedural Schedule of this case.²

II. BACKGROUND

2. By Order No. 17431, the Commission approved the first five (5) year phase of WGL’s 40-year Revised Accelerated Pipe Replacement Plan (“PIPES 1”).³ The PIPES 1 plan included proposals to replace aging, leak-prone pipeline infrastructure with the highest risk and leak rates (*i.e.*, cast-iron main lines and bare, unprotected steel mains) at an estimated cost of \$110 million.⁴ The Commission later approved a three-year “PIPES 2” Plan requiring WGL to address distribution system safety and reliability, including more restrictive performance targets for replaced pipes and for compliance with the District of Columbia’s (“District”) climate goals.⁵ By

¹ *Formal Case No. 1179, In the Matter of the Investigation Into Washington Gas Light Company’s Strategically Targeted Pipe Replacement Plan (“Formal Case No. 1179”), Order No. 22003 ¶ 57, rel. June 12, 2024 (“Order No. 22003”). Paragraph 57 states:*

“To ensure that procedural issues do not impede the parties’ hearing preparations, the Commission delegates to its General Counsel, for this case only, decision-making authority for all procedural motions, such as motions for extension of time and for special appearance.”

² *Formal Case No. 1179, Joint Motion of the District of Columbia Government and Sierra Club for Modification of Procedural Schedule, filed June 19, 2026 (“Joint Motion”).*

³ *Formal Case No. 1093, In the Matter of the Investigation Into the Reasonableness of Washington Gas Light Company’s Existing Rates and Charges for Gas Service (“Formal Case No. 1093”), and Formal Case No. 1115, Application of Washington Gas Light Company for Approval of a Revised Accelerated Pipe Replacement Program (“Formal Case No. 1115”), Order No. 17431, ¶ 1, rel. March 31, 2014 (“Order No. 17431”).* The Accelerated Pipes Replacement Plan was renamed as PROJECTpipes.

⁴ *Formal Case No. 1093, Washington Gas Light Company’s Request for Approval of a Revised Accelerated Pipe Replacement Plan (Public Version and Confidential Version), at 2-3, and 6, filed August 15, 2013.*

⁵ *Formal Case No. 1154, Order No. 20671, ¶¶ 35-36, rel. December 11, 2020.*

Order No. 22003, the Commission, among other things, dismissed the subsequent PIPES 3 Application, opened *Formal Case No. 1179*, and directed WGL to file a revised application that strategically targets accelerated pipe replacement.⁶

3. On September 27, 2024, WGL responded with the District Strategic Accelerated Facilities Enhancement Plan (“District SAFE Plan” or “Plan”), targeting the replacement of certain vintage pipe materials and the recovery of the costs associated with the Plan through the previously approved surcharge mechanism for WGL’s accelerated pipe replacement program.⁷

4. After a period of discovery, an evidentiary hearing was held on December 9, 2025, limited to the issue of the JANA Lighthouse model. On March 4, 2026, the Commission issued Order No. 22798 accepting a modified version of the District SAFE Plan.⁸ In response, both OPC and DCG filed Applications for Reconsideration of Order No. 22798 on April 3, 2026, asserting that the Commission was required to hold a comprehensive evidentiary hearing, rather than the type held on December 9, 2025.⁹ WGL filed its response to the other parties’ Applications for Reconsideration on April 17, 2026.¹⁰

5. On May 4, 2026, the Commission issued Order No. 22855, granting the requests for reconsideration and setting the matter for a possible evidentiary hearing on June 29, 2026, with the scope pending acceptance of lists of material issues of fact submitted by the parties.¹¹ On May 20, 2026, the Commission issued Order No. 22687, holding in abeyance the Modified District SAFE Plan to allow for time to review disputed issues and hold a Pre-Hearing Conference.¹² The Pre-Hearing Conference was later held on June 15, 2026.

6. On June 19, 2026, DCG and Sierra Club filed a Motion to alter the *Formal Case No. 1179* procedural Schedule and postpone the Evidentiary Hearing date from June 29 and June

⁶ *Formal Case No. 1179*, Order No. 22003, ¶¶ 7, 54.

⁷ *Formal Case No. 1179*, Washington Gas’s Revised Application for Approval of the District Strategic Accelerated Facility Enhancement Plan, filed September 27, 2024.

⁸ *Formal Case No. 1179*, Order No. 22798, rel. March 4, 2026 (“Order No. 22798”).

⁹ *Formal Case No. 1179*, Office of the People’s Counsel for the District of Columbia’s Application for Reconsideration and Request for Clarification of Order No. 22798, filed April 3, 2026 (“OPC Recon”); *Formal Case No. 1179*, District of Columbia Government and Sierra Club’s Petition for Reconsideration of Order No. 22798, filed April 3, 2026 (“DCG/SC Recon”).

¹⁰ *Formal Case No. 1179*, Washington Gas Light Company’s Response to the Application for Reconsideration and Request for Clarification filed by the Office of People’s Counsel and the Petition for Reconsideration of the District of Columbia Government and Sierra Club, filed April 17, 2026.

¹¹ *Formal Case No. 1179*, Order No. 22855 ¶¶ 24-26, rel. May 4, 2026 (“Order No. 22855”).

¹² Order No. 22687 ¶ 6.

30 to July 27 and 28, 2026, respectively.¹³ On June 22, 2026, WGL filed a response to the Movants' joint Motion.¹⁴

III. DISCUSSION

Joint Motion

7. In their Motion, Movants request additional time before holding the Evidentiary Hearing¹⁵ The Movants argue it would prejudice the Parties to *not* grant the relief they request for the following reasons: 1) The issuance of Order No. 22855 caused a sudden and unexpected expansion of the hearings' scope as the number of MIFIDs grew exponentially, and the Movants require adequate time to prepare;¹⁶ 2) the Movants could not prepare for the hearing until they knew which issues, if any, would be considered in dispute;¹⁷ 3) more time is urgently needed to ensure all evidence and testimony can be cogently and meaningfully presented to the Commission in the face of nine WGL witnesses now subject to cross-examination;¹⁸ 4) Sierra Club's lead counsel was on medical leave for three weeks, returning June 12, 2026;¹⁹ and 5) granting the Request would not prejudice the parties or meaningfully delay the proceeding, as the Movants argue the proceeding is already protracted and accept the possibility of a PIPES 2 extension in the interim.²⁰ In addition, the motion requests that the Commission direct the parties to meet and confer regarding witness availability during the week of June 22 to provide mutually available dates in July and August 2026.²¹

WGL Answer

8. WGL states it neither supports nor opposes the Movants' Motion.²² However, WGL does note that it can only confirm availability for July 27, not July 28, 2026, at the date of its Answer, and requests that the Commission set hearing dates on which all WGL personnel are

¹³ Joint Motion at 5.

¹⁴ *Formal Case No. 1179*, Washington Gas Light Company's Answer to the Joint Motion of the District of Columbia Government and Sierra Club to Modify Procedural Schedule, filed June 22, 2026 ("WGL Answer").

¹⁵ Joint Motion at 5.

¹⁶ Joint Motion at 3.

¹⁷ Joint Motion at 3.

¹⁸ Joint Motion at 3-4.

¹⁹ Joint Motion at 4.

²⁰ Joint Motion at 4-5. Note: The PIPES 2 program is slated for sunset on June 30, 2026.

²¹ Joint Motion at 5.

²² WGL Answer at 3.

available to prevent prejudice.²³ WGL reiterates that any delay in the evidentiary hearing strengthens the argument of its June 16, 2026, Motion to extend PIPES 2.²⁴

IV. DECISION

9. The Commission has broad authority in managing its docket. Generally, the Commission will grant a request of this nature if good cause is shown.²⁵ Under the circumstances alleged here, the Commission believes that good cause exists, as doing so will allow for the evidentiary hearing granted by Order No. 22855 to fulfill its intended purpose effectively. By granting this Request, the Commission believes the record will be sufficiently fulsome to substantiate its eventual determination on District SAFE's merits. The Commission does not believe granting this Request will significantly prejudice any parties. WGL did not oppose nor support the Joint Motion,²⁶ and while it has noted it cannot guarantee the availability of its witnesses on July 28, 2026, WGL is free to either schedule all its witnesses for the July 27 hearing date, or elect for virtual means of testimony, if necessary. Accordingly, we direct the Parties to meet and confer regarding scheduling witnesses for the July hearing dates and file an updated cross-examination list by no later than July 17, 2026.

10. The Commission believes that it is imperative that the Evidentiary Hearing in this case be as comprehensive and complete as possible given the Movants' due process arguments on reconsideration of Order 22798.²⁷ Therefore, the Commission grants the Motion and modifies the procedural schedule of this case accordingly. See Attachment A below for the updated procedural schedule, as modified.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

11. The District of Columbia Government ("DCG") and Sierra Club's joint Motion to modify the Procedural Schedule of this case is **GRANTED**; and

12. The Procedural Schedule of *Formal Case No. 1179* is hereby **MODIFIED**.

²³ WGL Answer at 4.

²⁴ WGL Answer at 5, citing *Formal Case No. 1154, In the Matter of Washington Gas Light Company's Application for Approval of PROJECTpipes 2 Plan*, Washington Gas Light Company's Motion for Extension of the PROJECTpipes 2 Plan, filed June 16, 2026.

²⁵ See, e.g., *Formal Case No. 1175, In the Matter of Washington Gas Light Company's Application for Approval of PROJECTpipes 3 Plan*, Order No. 21573, ¶ 10 n.16, rel. February 17, 2023.

²⁶ WGL Answer at 3.

²⁷ See OPC Recon at 17-18; DCG/SC Recon at 10-16.

A TRUE COPY:

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CHIEF CLERK:

**BRINDA WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK
COMMISSION SECRETARY**

ATTACHMENT A**FC1179 District SAFE Plan's Procedural Schedule as Modified by this Order**

	Event	Date prior to Modification	Date as Modified by this Order
1	Pre-hearing Status Conference	June 15, 2026	June 15, 2026
2	Updated Cross-Examination Matrix	June 19, 2026	July 17, 2026
3	Evidentiary Hearing	June 29/30, 2026	July 27/28, 2026
4	Motions to Correct Hearing Transcript	July 21, 2026	August 18, 2026
5	Filing of all Post-hearing Briefs	August 11, 2026	September 8, 2026