



## Sandra Mattavous-Frye, Esq. People's Counsel

June 29, 2020

#### VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick Commission Secretary Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia 1325 G Street, N.W., Suite 800 Washington, D.C. 20005

> Re: Formal Case No. 1162, In the Matter of the Application of Washington Gas Light Company for the Authority to Increase Existing Rates and Charges for Gas Service

Dear Ms. Westbrook-Sedgwick:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced proceeding, please find the *Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia's Motion to Withdraw the May 29, 2020 Motion to Compel Washington Gas Light Company to Respond to Data Request No. 11.* 

If there are any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at (202) 727-3071.

Sincerely,

/s/ Timothy Oberleiton

Timothy Oberleiton Assistant People's Counsel

Enclosure

cc: Parties of record

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE MATTER OF	)	
THE APPLICATION OF WASHINGTON	)	
GAS LIGHT COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR	)	
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE EXISTING	)	Formal Case No. 1162
RATES AND GAS SERVICE	)	

OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S MOTION TO WITHDRAW THE MAY 29, 2020 MOTION TO COMPEL WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY TO RESPOND TO DATA REQUEST NO. 11

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Rule 105.8 of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia's ("Commission" or "PSC") Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia ("OPC" or "Office"), the statutory representative of utility ratepayers and consumers in the District of Columbia, hereby respectfully submits the Office of The People's Counsel for the District of Columbia's Motion to Withdraw the May 29, 2020 Motion to Compel Washington Gas Light to Respond to OPC Data Request No. 11 ("Motion to Withdraw" or "Motion").

#### II. <u>BACKGROUND/PROCEDURAL HISTORY</u>

On May 15, 2020, OPC filed and served the *Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia's Data Request No. 11 to Washington Gas Light Company* ("WGL" or "Company")<sup>3</sup>. In that Data Request Set, OPC sought information from WGL regarding various ratemaking adjustments, costs, and merger compliance issues. On May 21, 2020, WGL issued its *Notice of* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>15 DCMR § 105.8 (Lexis 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> D.C. Code § 34-804(d) (Lexis 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> In the Matter of the Application of Washington Gas Light Company's Request for Authority to Increase Existing Rates and Gas Service, ("Formal Case No. 1162"), OPC's Data Request No. 11, filed May 15, 2020.

Objections to certain data requests of Data Request Set No. 11, including to Data Requests Nos. 11-24(e and g), 11-26(b and e), 11-28(b and e), 11-29(e), 11-30(e), 11-37(a, b, and c), 11-38, 11-39.<sup>4</sup> WGL objected on several grounds, including that certain data requests were irrelevant, outside the scope of the proceeding, required WGL to provide legal conclusions, or otherwise engage in legal research on behalf of OPC.

On May 29, 2020, OPC filed a *Motion to Compel Washington Gas Light Company to Respond to Data Request Set No. 11* ("*Motion to Compel*"),<sup>5</sup> on the grounds that the data requests at issue are directly related to the scope of this case, seek to obtain factual information as opposed to legal conclusions or to have WGL to engage in legal research on OPC's behalf conclusions, and are reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence.

On June 4, 2020, WGL responded to OPC's Data Request Set No. 11,<sup>6</sup> which addressed, inter alia, the Data Requests covered by OPC's Motion to Compel.

#### III. ARGUMENT

Through this pleading, the Office seeks to withdraw the Office's May 29, 2020 *Motion to Compel*. In that pleading, the Office asked the Commission to (a) overrule Washington Gas Light Company's ("WGL" or "Company") May 21, 2020 *Notice of Objections*; (b) grant the Office's *Motion to Compel*; and (c) issue an order compelling WGL to respond fully to OPC Data Requests Nos. 11-24(e and g), 11-26(b and e), 11-28(b and e), 11-29(e), 11-30(e), 11-37(a, b, and c), 11-38, and 11-39.

As noted above, on June 4, 2020, OPC received WGL's confidential and public responses

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Formal Case No. 1162, WGL's Notice of Objections, filed May 21, 2020.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Formal Case No. 1162, OPC's Motion to Compel Washington Gas Light Company to Respond to Data Request Set No. 11, filed May 29, 20202.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Formal Case No. 1162, WGL's Confidential and Public Responses to OPC's Data Request No. 11, June 4, 2020.

to OPC's Data Request Set No. 11. The Office writes to inform the Commission that during the pendency of the *Motion to Compel*, OPC reviewed the June 4, 2020 responses and are satisfied with their contents.

#### IV. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

**WHEREFORE**, the Office requests that the Commission deem OPC's May 29, 2020 *Motion to Compel* withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Sandra Mattavous-Frye

Sandra Mattavous-Frye, Esq. People's Counsel D.C. Bar No. 375833

Karen R. Sistrunk, Esq. Deputy People's Counsel D.C. Bar No. 390153

Laurence C. Daniels, Esq. Director of Litigation D.C. Bar No. 470125

Travis R. Smith, Sr., Esq. Trial Supervisor D.C. Bar No. 481129

Timothy R. Oberleiton, Esq. Assistant People's Counsel D.C. Bar No. 1617107 toberleiton@opc-dc.gov

### OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1133 15th Street, NW, Suite 500 Washington, D.C. 20005-2710 (202) 727-3071

**Dated**: June 29, 2020

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

# Formal Case No. 1162, In the Matter of the Application of Washington Gas Light Company for Authority to Increase Existing Rates and Charges for Gas Service

I certify that on June 29, 2020, a copy of the Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia's Motion to Withdraw the May 29, 2020 Motion to Compel Washington Gas Light Company to Respond to Data Request No. 11 was served on the following parties of record by hand delivery, first class mail, postage prepaid or electronic mail:

Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick Commission Secretary Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia 1325 G Street, NW, Suite 800 Washington, DC 20005 bwestbrook@psc.dc.gov

Christopher Lipscombe Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia 1325 G Street, NW, Suite 800 Washington, DC 20005 clipscombe@psc.dc,gov

Brian R. Caldwell, Esq. Office of the Attorney General Public Integrity Unit 441 4th Street, Suite 600-S Washington, DC 20001 Brian.Caldwell@dc.com

Frann G. Francis, Esq.
Senior Vice President and General Counsel
Apartment and Office Building Association of
Metropolitan Washington
1025 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Suite 1005
Washington, D.C. 20036
ffrancis@aoba-metro.org

Cathy-Thurston-Seignious, Esq.
Washington Gas Light Company
1000 Maine Avenue, S.W., Suite 700
Washington, D.C. 20024
cthurston-seignious@washgas.com
Kristi Singleton Assistant General Counsel

The U.S. General Services Administration 1800 F Street NW #2016 Washington DC, 20405 kristi.singleton@gsa.gov

Michael Converse Assistant General Counsel The U.S. General Services Administration 1800 F Street NW #2012 Washington DC, 20405 michael.converse@gsa.gov

Dennis Goins Potomac Management Group 302255801 Westchester St. Alexandria, Virginia 22310 dgoinspmg@verizon.net

Lariza Sepulveda Economist Public Utility Rates and Regulations Energy Division, U.S. GSA 1800 F Street, NW, Room 5122 Washington, DC 20405 Lariza.Sepulveda@gsa.gov

/s/ Timothy Oberleiton
Timothy Oberleiton
Assistant People's Counsel