



December 15, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick
Commission Secretary
Public Service Commission
of the District of Columbia
1325 G Street, NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20005

Re: Formal Case No. 1167,
In the Matter of the Implementation of Electric and Natural Gas Climate
Change Proposals.

Dear Brinda Westbrook-Sedgwick:

Attached for filing please find Sierra Club's Petition to Intervene in the above-referenced matter. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at smiller@earthjustice.org.

Sincerely,

Susan Stevens Miller
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**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

IN THE MATTER OF)	
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ELECTRIC)	Formal Case No. 1167
AND NATURAL GAS CLIMATE)	
CHANGE PROPOSALS)	

PETITION TO INTERVENE OF SIERRA CLUB

1. The Sierra Club respectfully submits this Petition to Intervene in the above-referenced proceeding pursuant to the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia's ("Commission") Rules of Practice and Procedure set forth in Chapter 1, Sections 106 and 110 of Title 15 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (15 DCMR Section 106 and 110). In support of this Petition, Sierra Club states as follows:
2. On November 18, 2020, the Commission issued Order No. 20662.¹ Pursuant to this order, the Commission, among other things, opened a new climate policy proceeding to consider whether and to what extent utility or energy companies under the Commission's purview are meeting and advancing the District of Columbia's energy and climate goals as well as determining which actions might be necessary to guide the companies in the right direction.² Order No. 20662 did not establish a deadline for petitions to intervene.
3. Sierra Club is a national grassroots environmental organization founded in 1892

¹ Formal Case No. 1167 ("Formal Case No. 1167"), *In the Matter of the Implementation of Electric and Natural Gas Climate Change Proposals*, Order No. 20662 ¶ 1 (Nov. 18, 2020) ("Order No. 20662").

² *Id.* ¶ 1. Originally, the Commission captioned this proceeding as *In the Matter of the Implementation of the Climate Business Plan*. However, on November 20, 2020, the Commission issued an Erratum correcting the caption. The correct caption is *In the Matter of the Implementation of Electric and Natural Gas Climate Change Proposals*.

with approximately 800,000 members nationwide and approximately 2,800 members in the District of Columbia. Its purpose is to explore, enjoy, and protect the wild places of the earth; to practice and promote the responsible use of the earth's ecosystems and resources; and to educate and enlist humanity to protect and restore the quality of the natural and human environments.

4. Sierra Club is a not-for-profit membership organization under 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(4). It is headquartered in California at 2101 Webster Street, Suite 1300, Oakland, CA 94612 and the D.C. Chapter's office is located at 50 F Street NW, 8th Floor, Washington, DC 20001. Sierra Club qualifies as a person within the meaning of Rules 15-199.1 and 15-106.1.

Interest of Sierra Club

5. Sierra Club has a substantial interest in this proceeding based both on the interests of its local members who seek to achieve the goals of the CleanEnergy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018 ("Clean Energy Act"), as well as broader organizational interest in reducing the adverse climate and environmental impacts of the use of gas in the District.
6. Sierra Club works throughout the country to promote a cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable natural environment by rapidly replacing fossil-fuel generation with carbon-free renewable generation and energy efficiency, while at the same time increasing the use of electrification for transportation and buildings to mitigate the adverse climate impacts of those sectors. Sierra Club routinely engages at the state level and then participates before public service commissions and in other forums to support strategies to cost-effectively achieve these goals.

7. In the District, Sierra Club is actively working to effectively implement the District's climate and clean energy goals. Sierra Club has supported legislation that now requires the District to invest more into clean energy use in buildings, including electrification.
8. Sierra Club actively participated in the Commission's consideration of the AltaGas Climate Business Plan ("CPB"), filing an expert report as well as initial and reply comments. The Commission's consideration of the CBP directly led to its decision to institute Formal Case No. 1167. The general issues to be considered in Formal Case No. 1167, whether utility or energy companies are meeting and advancing the District of Columbia's energy and climate goals, are issues which Sierra Club has consistently addressed before the Commission. Sierra Club actively participated not only in Formal Case No. 1142³, but in the Commission's consideration of PROJECTpipes2⁴ and the requested extension of WGL's Multi-Family Piping Program.⁵
9. No other party is representing or can adequately represent the unique interests Sierra Club has in this proceeding, which include considerations of climate, environmental sustainability, ratepayer impacts and equity. Those interests are best represented by Sierra Club appearing as a party in this proceeding. The Sierra Club's participation will also provide relevant and necessary information

³ See Formal Case No. 1142 ("Formal Case No. 1142"), *In the Matter of the Merger of AltaGas Ltd. and WGL Holdings, Inc.*

⁴ See Formal Case No. 1154, *In the Matter of Washington Gas Light Company's Application for Approval of PROJECTpipes2 Plan.*

⁵ See Formal Case No. 1137, *In the Matter of the Application of Washington Gas Light Company for Authority to Increase Existing Rates and Charges for Gas Service.*

related to the mandate established in the Clean Energy Act that the Commission uphold “the preservation of environmental quality, including effects on global climate change and the District’s public climate commitments.”⁶

Preliminary Position of Sierra Club

10. Sierra Club strongly supports this Commission’s opening of Formal Case No. 1167.

While there are no new plans or proposals at this juncture, Sierra Club intends to thoroughly analyze any proposals submitted and will support proposals which advance the District of Columbia’s climate and energy goals.

11. Further, in Order No. 20662, the Commission explained that: “This new proceeding could include the development of a comprehensive plan for how utility or energy companies can help the District achieve its 2032/2050 goals and satisfy the directives of the Clean Energy Act.”⁷ The Sierra Club strongly supports the use of this docket to develop a comprehensive plan for utilities and energy companies to satisfy these directives, particularly given Sierra Club’s concerns that the AltaGas CBP is not a feasible or cost-effective plan designed to achieve the District’s aggressive climate commitments.⁸

⁶ D.C. Code § 34-808.02 (2018).

⁷ Order No. 20662 ¶ 11.

⁸ Comments and analysis provided by a myriad of parties in Formal Case No. 1142 demonstrates that 1) the CBP does not comport with the District’s climate commitments and fails on its face to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and that the ICF Technical Studies are not credible and are rife with flawed analyses as well as being plagued with unrealistic and overly-optimistic projections. *See, e.g.*, Formal Case No. 1142, Comments and Request to Institute An Evidentiary Proceeding of Sierra Club (June 15, 2020); Formal Case No. 1142, Reply Comments of Sierra Club (Sept. 25, 2020); Formal Case No. 1142, Comments by the Department of Energy and Environment on behalf of the District of Columbia Government Concerning AltaGas Ltd.’s CBP (June 26, 2020); Formal Case No. 1142, Comments of the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (June 26, 2020); Formal Case No. 1142, Office of People’s Counsel for the District of Columbia’s Initial Comments on AtlaGas Ltd.’s Filing Regarding Merger

Party Representative

12. All filings, pleadings, documents, and correspondence in this matter should be addressed to Susan Stevens Miller and additional representatives, on behalf of Sierra Club, whose names and addresses are listed below:

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WHEREFORE, for the reasons set forth above, Sierra Club respectfully requests that the Commission grant this petition to intervene.

Respectfully submitted,



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Counsel on Behalf of Sierra Club

Term Nos. 6 and 79 (June 26, 2020).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 15th day of December 2020, a copy of the foregoing was served on the following parties by electronically mail:

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