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Public Comment Hearing Set for Columbia Gas Rate Increase Request

For Immediate Release: August 9, 2022

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(BALTIMORE, MD) – The Maryland Public Service Commission will hold a virtual public comment hearing on the request by Columbia Gas of Maryland to increase its rates by more than \$6.7 million. The utility's customers and other interested parties are welcome to take part in the hearing scheduled for **Tuesday, August 23, 2022** at 7:00 p.m. Public Utility Law Judge Jennifer Grace will preside over the hearing which will begin with a presentation by Columbia Gas.

Columbia Gas, a subsidiary of NiSource, Inc., provides retail natural gas distribution service to approximately 34,000 customers in the Maryland counties of Allegany, Garrett and Washington. As proposed, the total bill for an average residential customer would increase by \$10.66 per month, or 11.34%. The company's most recent prior rate case was decided by the Commission in December 2021.

Members of the public who wish to speak at the hearing can sign up by sending an email to psc.pulj@gmail.com by 12 noon the day before. The hearing will be held on the Webex platform and participants will receive an email with the link to join in. For those who just want to watch the hearing, it will be simultaneously livestreamed on the Public Utility Law Judge's YouTube channel (MD PSC PULJs): <https://bit.ly/2X6wLiP>

In addition to the hearing, written comments can be submitted electronically through the Commission's online portal at <https://www.psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/>. Comments can also be sent by mail and should be addressed to: Andrew Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. So that they are noted in the proper case file, all comments should reference Case No. [9680](#) and should be sent by **September 8, 2022**.

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About the Public Service Commission:

The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities and suppliers, telephone companies (land lines), certain water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire (sedans, limousines, buses, Uber, Lyft), taxicab companies (in Baltimore City and County, Charles County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.

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