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## For Immediate Release

### Maryland PSC Seeks Public Input on Columbia Gas Rate Increase Request

(BALTIMORE, MD-August 21, 2019) – The Maryland Public Service Commission will hold two public comment hearings on the request by Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. to increase its gas service rates by \$3.89 million. Columbia Gas, a subsidiary of NiSource, Inc., serves 33,000 Maryland customers in Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties.

According to the application, as supplemented July 30, 2019, the total monthly bill for a typical residential customer (using seven dekatherms of gas per month) would increase by \$7.18 (or 8.46 percent). In its application, Columbia Gas states that it requested the rate increase to recover costs associated with replacement of aging pipeline infrastructure and increased operation and maintenance expenses.

Members of the public who wish to comment on the matter are welcome to attend one or both of the hearings before Public Utility Law Judge Kristin Case Lawrence. The hearings are scheduled as follows:

#### **Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

Ramada by Wyndham Cumberland Downtown  
Crown South Boardroom  
100 South George Street in Cumberland (Allegany County)

#### **Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.**

Hagerstown Community College  
Career Programs Building, Room 131  
11400 Robinwood Drive in Hagerstown (Washington County)

Filings in this case are available in the electronic docket file for Case No. [9609](#), which may be viewed or downloaded at [www.psc.state.md.us](http://www.psc.state.md.us).

Written comments may be submitted by **September 18, 2019** using the Commission's public comments electronic filing system, instructions for which can be found at <https://www.psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/>. After completing a one-time registration, comments may be submitted in a variety of formats including PDF, Word, Excel, etc. Photos may also be uploaded with comments.

As an alternative, comments referencing Case No. [9609](#) may also be mailed (by **September 18, 2019**) to:

Terry J. Romine, Executive Secretary  
Maryland Public Service Commission  
William Donald Schaefer Tower  
6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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**About the Public Service Commission:**

*The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities, 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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