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For Immediate Release

Public Hearings Aug. 26 and Sept. 7 for Columbia Gas Rate Increase Request

For Immediate Release: August 25, 2021

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Baltimore, MD – The Maryland Public Service Commission will hold virtual public comment hearings on the request by Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. to increase its gas distribution rates by \$6.1 million. Customers and other interested parties are welcome to take part in the hearings, scheduled for **Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 7 p.m.** and **Tuesday, September 7, 2021 at 7 p.m.** Public Utility Law Judge Christine Burke will preside.

Columbia Gas, a subsidiary of NiSource, Inc., provides natural gas distribution service to approximately 33,000 customers in the Maryland counties of Allegany, Garrett and Washington. As proposed, the total bill for an average residential customer would increase from \$97.65 per month to \$108.47 per month, or by 11.1%. According to Columbia's application, the rate increase is necessary due to increasing investment in the replacement of leak-prone pipeline infrastructure and higher operation and maintenance expenses. The company's most recent prior rate case was decided by the Commission in November 2020.

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 on the day of each hearing. The hearings will be held on the Webex platform and participants will receive an email with the link to join in. Each hearing will be simultaneously livestreamed on the Public Utility Law Judge's YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/2X6wLiP>

In addition to the hearings, written comments can be submitted electronically until October 22, 2021 through the Commission's online portal at <https://www.psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/> Comments may also be sent by mail to: Andrew Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202. All comments should reference Case. No [9664](#).

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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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