

ORDER NO. 92177

Washington Gas Light Company’s *
Application for Authority to Increase Rates *
and Charges for Natural Gas Services *
*
*
*
*
*

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF MARYLAND

Case No. 9849

Issue Date: February 6, 2026

PROCEDURAL ORDER

On January 27, 2026, the Commission held a prehearing conference where Washington Gas Light Company (“WGL”), the Technical Staff of the Commission (“Staff”), and the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel (“OPC”), (collectively, the “Parties”), presented slightly different proposed procedural schedules in the above-referenced matter. There were six issues raised by the Parties in the proposed procedural schedules.

1. Filing Date for Staff, OPC and Intervenor Direct Testimony

WGL requested a deadline of Friday, March 27, 2026 for Intervenor Direct Testimony; OPC and Staff requested a deadline of Monday, March 30, 2026 and Tuesday, March 31, 2026, respectively for Intervenor Direct Testimony. During the prehearing conference, Staff stated that Tuesdays are preferable to Mondays, because Tuesdays provide Staff more time to prepare testimony and conduct the necessary internal review. WGL argued that a later filing date would shorten the amount of time WGL would have before filing responsive testimony and that Staff’s reasoning does not provide sufficient justification for adjusting the proposed timeline. During the prehearing conference, OPC and the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington

(“AOBA”) stated that they had no objection to Staff’s proposed deadline for Intervenor Direct Testimony.

2. Filing Date for WGL Rebuttal/Intervenor Cross-Rebuttal Testimony

WGL requested that WGL Rebuttal/Intervenor Cross-Rebuttal Testimony be due on Friday, April 24, 2026, whereas Staff and OPC requested the deadline be moved to Monday, April 27, 2026. AOBA indicated that it had no objection to Staff’s requested deadline.

3. Inclusion of Reply Briefs in the Procedural Schedule

OPC’s proposed procedural schedule includes a deadline of Monday, June 29, 2026 for Reply Briefs. During the hearing, OPC argued that Reply Briefs should be permitted to give the Parties an opportunity to address any new issues raised for the first time in the Brief. Neither Staff nor OPC proposed including Reply Briefs. Staff argued during the prehearing conference that Reply Briefs offer little value and proposed alternatively that the Parties be permitted to request leave from the Commission to file responses to Briefs for the limited purpose of responding to issues raised for the first time on Brief. During the prehearing conference, WGL, AOBA, and the Chesapeake Climate Action Network (“CCAN”) indicated that they had no objections to Staff’s alternative.

4. Start Date of Evidentiary Hearings

WGL proposed that the Evidentiary Hearings begin on Monday, May 18, 2026, because any time later in that week might cause hearings to continue after the Memorial Day holiday weekend (Monday, May 25, 2026). Staff initially proposed that Evidentiary Hearings begin on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 with no objections from OPC or AOBA. During the prehearing conference, after considering WGL’s concerns, Staff agreed with WGL’s

proposed start date but asked whether the hearing could begin at 11:00 am rather than 10:00 am, to give the Parties time to prepare that morning.

5. Filing Date of the Initial Brief

OPC initially requested a filing date of Monday, June 15, 2026 for the Initial Brief, whereas Staff and WGL requested Wednesday, June 17, 2026. During the prehearing conference, OPC indicated that it did not object to the Initial Brief filing date proposed by Staff and WGL.

6. Time Permitted for Objecting to Discovery Requests

WGL requested that the Parties be given five business days to object to discovery requests, which is consistent with the amount of time granted in WGL’s last rate case and the amount of time WGL claims it would need to determine whether objections are necessary. Staff differed with WGL and requested that the Parties be given three days to object to discovery requests, which it argues will allow for quicker resolution of discovery disputes.

Commission Decision

After considering the proposed procedural schedules put forth by the Parties and the issues raised during the January 27, 2026 prehearing conference, and having reviewed the summary¹ of issues submitted by Staff, the Commission, pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Public Utilities Article (“PUA”) § 2-112(b)(2) and § 2-112(c), adopts the following procedural schedule in the above-referenced matter:

¹ Maillog No. 326601.

Party Filings / Procedure	Filing Date
Direct Testimony for Staff, OPC, and other intervenors shall be filed by:	Tuesday, March 31, 2026
Rebuttal Testimony for WGL and Cross-Rebuttal for intervenors shall be filed by:	Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Public comments shall be filed by:	Thursday, April 30, 2026
Reply/Surrebuttal Testimony for intervenors shall be filed by:	Wednesday, May 13, 2026
Evidentiary hearings shall be conducted each day at 10:00 a.m., unless otherwise specified, beginning on:	Monday, May 18, 2026; Tuesday, May 19, 2026; Wednesday, May 20, 2026 beginning after the Administrative Meeting; Thursday, May 21, 2026 (if needed); and Friday, May 22, 2026 (if needed)
Initial Briefs shall be filed by:	Wednesday, June 17, 2026
Reply Briefs shall be filed by:	Monday, June 29, 2026

Discovery continues for all parties. Regarding the time permitted for objecting to discovery requests, the Commission finds that WGL’s request to allow five business days to object to discovery requests is appropriate and not unduly time-consuming such that it would cause delays in the proceeding. The discovery procedure is as follows:

- (1) prior to the filing of direct testimony, Washington Gas shall have ten (10) business days to respond to discovery requests, with five (5) business days permitted for written objections;
- (2) between the filing of direct and rebuttal testimony, parties shall have seven (7) business days to respond to discovery requests, with three (3) business days permitted for written objections; and
- (3) following the filing of rebuttal testimony, parties shall have three (3) business days to respond to discovery requests, with two (2) business days permitted for written objections; and

- (4) any discovery requests with respect to rebuttal testimony served later than 12:00 p.m. shall be deemed served on the following business day.

All testimony and discovery shall be served electronically to each of the Parties to avoid delay in receipt, unless the Parties agree to a different format. Parties shall ensure that the correct email of the person(s) to whom the testimony and discovery should be sent are updated on the service list for this matter.

The Petitions to Intervene of AOBA, the United States General Services Administration (“USGS”), the Maryland Energy Administration (“MEA”), Montgomery County, Maryland, and CCAN are granted.

IT IS, THEREFORE, this 6th day of February, in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Six, by the Public Service Commission of Maryland, **ORDERED:**

- (1) that the Parties shall file pleadings² in this proceeding as follows:
 - (a) parties, excluding Washington Gas, shall file Direct Testimony by Tuesday, March 31, 2026;
 - (b) Rebuttal Testimony for WGL and Cross-Rebuttal for Intervenors shall be filed by Tuesday, April 28, 2026;
 - (c) Public Comments shall be filed by Thursday, April 30, 2026.
 - (d) Reply/Surrebuttal Testimony for intervenors shall be filed by Wednesday, May 13, 2026;
 - (e) Initial Briefs shall be filed by Wednesday, June 17, 2026; and
 - (f) Reply Briefs shall be filed by Monday, June 29, 2026.

Pleadings shall be submitted to Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schafer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, and reference “Case No. 9849” in the subject line. The Parties are

² Details of the e-File system can be found on the Commission’s website, psc.state.md.us.

directed to serve all testimony electronically³ on all Parties no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the filing.

(2) that the Parties shall abide by the discovery procedures set forth in this Order;

(3) that evidentiary hearings will be held in the Frank O. Heintz Hearing Room, 16th Floor, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 on the dates and times as follows:

(a) Monday, May 18, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m.;

(b) Tuesday, May 19, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m.;

(c) Wednesday, May 20, 2026, beginning 10 minutes after the conclusion of the Administrative Meeting, which begins at 10:00 a.m.;

(d) Thursday, May 21, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. (if needed);
and

(e) Friday, May 22, 2026, beginning at 10:00 a.m. (if needed).

All parties will be allowed to present Live Rejoinder Testimony at the evidentiary hearings, as necessary. The Commission reserves the right to revise the hearing schedule, as needed; and

(4) that after consultation with the other parties, Washington Gas Light Company is directed to contact the Executive Secretary to establish the dates and times of the public comment hearings in this matter.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ Andrew S. Johnston

Andrew S. Johnston
Executive Secretary

³ *Id.*