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For Immediate Release

Maryland PSC to Hold Two Public Hearings for Columbia Gas System Improvement Plan

(BALTIMORE, MD-June 14, 2018) – The Maryland Public Service Commission will hold two public hearings this month on the application by Columbia Gas of Maryland to adopt a new gas system infrastructure and improvement plan and the surcharge to fund it. Columbia's program, known as STRIDE (for strategic infrastructure development and enhancement) would result in a monthly surcharge at the \$2.00 rate cap for each residential customer and \$6.95 for small commercial customers, effective January 1, 2019. Columbia serves approximately 33,000 customers in Allegany, Garrett and Washington counties through 658 miles of pipeline.

Columbia's current STRIDE program was implemented as a result of legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2013; the company's program is scheduled to end in late 2018. For 2019-2023, Columbia plans to replace 42.5 miles of bare steel and cast iron mains and associated services, at a cost of \$16-\$19 million per year.

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

Wednesday, June 27, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Hagerstown Community College
Career Programs Building, Room 131
11400 Robinwood Drive in Hagerstown, Maryland

Thursday, June 28, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

Cumberland Ramada, Downtown
Crown South Boardroom
100 South George Street in Cumberland, Maryland

Filings in the case can be viewed or downloaded in the electronic docket for Case No. [9479](#), on the Commission's website, www.psc.state.md.us.

Written comments referencing Case No. [9479](#) may also be mailed (**by Friday, July 27, 2018**) 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, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.

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