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Public Comment Hearings Set for Columbia Gas Rate Case

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(BALTIMORE, MD) – The Maryland Public Service Commission has scheduled two public comment hearings for the rate increase request filed by Columbia Gas of Maryland. Columbia Gas provides natural gas distribution services to 34,000 customers in the western Maryland counties of Allegany, Garrett and Washington.

Columbia Gas, a subsidiary of NiSource, Inc., has requested an \$8.8 million rate increase which it says is necessary to recover the costs of the company's increased investment in the replacement of leak-prone pipelines, and increased operation and maintenance expenses. The proposed rates would result in an increase of approximately \$14.73 on the monthly bill of an average residential customer (or close to 14 percent).

Chief Public Utility Law Judge Chuck McLean will preside over the hearings which are scheduled as follows:

Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Holiday Inn Express & Suites – Hagerstown (Conference Room)
241 Railway Lane in Hagerstown

Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 7 p.m.

Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott Cumberland (Allegany Meeting Room)
21 N. Wineow Street in Cumberland

Written comments will also be accepted until September 6, 2023, and can be sent by mail or submitted electronically through the online portal at <https://www.psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/> Comments sent by mail 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, comments should reference **Case No. 9701**. Only one copy is necessary.

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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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