

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1325 G STREET, NW, SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005

ORDER

February 6, 2017

GT97-3, IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO AMEND ITS RATE SCHEDULE NO. 6,

GT06-1, IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY FOR AUTHORITY TO AMEND GENERAL SERVICE PROVISION NO. 23,

FORMAL CASE NO. 1027, IN THE MATTER OF THE EMERGENCY PETITION OF THE OFFICE OF THE PEOPLE'S COUNSEL FOR AN EXPEDITED INVESTIGATION OF THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OF WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY,

and

FORMAL CASE NO. 1115, IN THE MATTER OF WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY'S REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF A REVISED ACCELERATED PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PLAN, Order No. 18699

I. INTRODUCTION

1. By this Order, the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia ("Commission") grants the unopposed Motion of the Washington Gas Light Company ("WGL" or "Company") for an Extension of Time in which to File a Report on the Technical Conference as Directed in Commission Order No. 18566 ("WGL Second Motion").¹ The second technical conference shall be held at 10:00 a.m. on February 14, 2017 in the Commission Hearing Room. The technical conference report mandated by Order No. 18566² shall be filed by February 24, 2017.

II. BACKGROUND

2. In Order No. 15627, the Commission approved the Settlement Agreement³ between WGL and the Office of the People's Counsel ("OPC") regarding the recovery of hexane

¹ *Formal Case No. 1027, In the Matter of the Emergency Petition of the Office of the People's Counsel for an Expedited Investigation of the Distribution System of Washington Gas Light Company; GT97-3, In the Matter of the Application of Washington Gas Light Company for Authority to Amend its Rate Schedule No. 6; and GT06-1, In the Matter of the Application of Washington Gas Light Company for Authority to Amend General Service Provision No. 23 ("Formal Case No. 1027, GT97-3, GT 06-1") and Formal Case No. 1115, In the Matter of Washington Gas Light Company's Request for Approval of a Revised Accelerated Pipeline Replacement Plan ("Formal Case No. 1115"), Motion of the Washington Gas Light Company for an Extension of Time in which to File a Report on the Technical Conference as Directed in Commission Order No. 18566, filed January 13, 2017.*

² *Formal Case No. 1027, GT97-3, GT06-1 and Formal Case No. 1115, Order No. 18566, rel. October 12, 2016.*

costs, the establishment of the Program, and the creation of a Plant Recovery Adjustment (“PRA”) surcharge to pay for the Program.⁴ The Commission required WGL to file a Master Plan of all Program projects to be completed under the Program and established an annual reporting requirement for the Program in Order No. 15627, to enable the Commission to monitor the progress of the Program.⁵

3. Based on its review of the first three annual reports, the Commission determined that “an audit of the projects and cost assignment processes” for the Program was necessary. In Order No. 17203, the Commission determined that the audit was to cover:

- 1) the processes by which repair and replacement projects are assigned to the Program;
- 2) the processes by which projects are configured and costs are estimated;
- 3) cost experience, including the accuracy of cost estimates, the reasons for cost overruns, and the reasonableness of actual costs; and
- 4) the existence of non-qualifying costs assigned for recovery through the PRA surcharge.⁶

4. In Order No. 18503,⁷ the Commission released findings on the Audit Report⁸ and directed WGL to file additional information about the Program and PROJECTpipes, WGL’s accelerated pipe replacement program. On the same day, the Commission released Order No. 18504,⁹ directing WGL to file additional information on the progress of the Program. On September 22, 2016, WGL filed an application for reconsideration of Order No. 18503, requesting modification of some of the reporting requirements. WGL also requested that the Commission convene a technical conference to discuss some of the Commission’s new requirements.¹⁰ In Order No. 18566, the Commission directed WGL, OPC, Commission Staff, and other interested parties to participate in a technical conference within 45 days of the date of the Order and to file a report on the technical conference within 15 days of the technical conference to discuss some of the new requirements in Order Nos. 18503 and 18504.

³ *Formal Case No. 1027, GT97-3, GT06-1, Joint Motion for Approval of Unanimous Agreement of Stipulation and Full Settlement and Waiver of Commission Rule 130.12 (“Joint Motion”), filed October 2, 2009; Unanimous Agreement of Stipulation and Full Settlement (“Settlement Agreement”), filed October 2, 2009.*

⁴ *Formal Case No. 1027, GT97-3, GT06-1, Order No. 15627, rel. December 16, 2009 (“Order No. 15627”).*

⁵ Order No. 15627, ¶ 24.

⁶ *Formal Case No. 1027, GT97-3, GT 06-1, Order No. 17203, ¶ 54.*

⁷ *Formal Case No. 1027, GT97-3, GT 06-1, Order No. 18503, rel. August 23, 2016.*

⁸ *Formal Case No. 1027, GT97-3, GT 06-1, Washington Gas Light Company (“WGL”) Vintage Mechanical Coupling Replacement and Encapsulation Program (“Program”) Management Audit (“Audit Report”), filed February 8, 2016.*

⁹ *Formal Case No. 1027, GT97-3, GT 06-1, Order No. 18504, rel. August 23, 2016.*

¹⁰ *Formal Case No. 1027, GT97-3, GT 06-1, Washington Gas Light Company Application for Reconsideration of Order No. 18503, filed September 22, 2016.*

5. On November 8, 2016, WGL filed its First Motion, seeking an extension of time to convene the technical conference until the first week of January 2017 and to modify the filing date for the technical conference report to 11 business days after the technical conference.¹¹ The Commission granted this Motion in Order No. 18612.¹²

6. On January 13, 2017, WGL filed its Second Motion, seeking an extension of time until February 24, 2017 in which to file the report on the technical conference. In support of its Second Motion, WGL represents that representatives of WGL, OPC, the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (“AOBA”), and Commission staff met on January 6, 2017 for an extensive discussion of the issues. However, all parties agree that a second technical conference is necessary to continue the discussions. WGL seeks an extension of time of 30 days beyond the due date established in Order No. 18612, or February 24, 2017, to file the report on the technical conference to be able to hold the second technical conference.¹³ WGL represents that all parties support the request for extension of time.¹⁴

III. DISCUSSION

7. The standard for granting a Motion for an Extension of Time is whether the proponent of the motion provided good cause¹⁵ or whether granting the motion would be reasonable,¹⁶ would prejudice any party to the proceeding,¹⁷ would cause inordinate delay,¹⁸ or would create a more complete record for Commission action.¹⁹ After considering the Company’s

¹¹ *Formal Case No. 1027, GT97-3, GT06-1 and Formal Case No. 1115*, Motion of the Washington Gas Light Company for an Extension of Time in which to Hold the Technical Conference and to File a Report Thereon as Directed in Commission Order No. 18566 (“WGL First Motion”), filed November 8, 2016.

¹² *Formal Case No. 1027, GT97-3, GT06-1 and Formal Case No. 1115*, Order No. 18612, rel. November 21, 2016.

¹³ WGL Second Motion at 3.

¹⁴ WGL Second Motion at 4.

¹⁵ *See, e.g., Formal Case No. 962, In the Matter of the Implementation of the District of Columbia Telecommunications Competition Act of 1996 and Implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, Order No. 12428, ¶ 13, rel. July 2, 2002.

¹⁶ *See, e.g., Formal Case No. 1041, In the Matter of the Investigation into Washington Gas Light’s Compliance with its Tariffs*, Order No. 14571 at 3, n.7, rel. September 12, 2007; *Formal Case No. 712, In the Matter of the Investigation into the Public Service Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure*, Order No. 15353, ¶ 2, rel. August 10, 2009.

¹⁷ *See, e.g., TAC 19, Petition of Verizon Washington, DC Inc. for Arbitration Pursuant to Section 252(b) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, Order No. 13873, rel. February 7, 2006; *see also Gas Tariff 01-1, In the Matter of the Application of Washington Gas Light Company, District of Columbia Division, For Authority to Amend its General Service Provisions (“GT 01-1”)*, Order No. 15293, rel. June 4, 2009.

¹⁸ *See, e.g., Formal Case No. 945, In the Matter of the Investigation into Electric Service Market Competition and Regulatory Practices (“Formal Case No. 945”)*, Order No. 14305 at 2, ¶ 5, rel. May 24, 2007; *Formal Case No. 945*, Order No. 14811, ¶ 4, rel. May 13, 2008.

¹⁹ *See, e.g., Order No. 14811, ¶ 4; Formal Case No. 1090, In the Matter of the Investigation into the Reliability of Verizon Washington, DC’s Telecommunications Infrastructure*, Order No. 17143, rel. May 30, 2013 (opposed); *See also GT 01-1*, Order No. 15319, rel. July 1, 2009 (unopposed).

request, the Commission finds that good cause has been shown to grant WGL's Second Motion. WGL indicates that the parties need additional time to hold a second technical conference to fully discuss the issues. OPC and AOBA, the other two parties in this proceeding, support the request. Thus, the Commission grants WGL's Second Motion, requiring the filing of the technical conference report by February 24, 2017. The Commission also schedules a second technical conference for February 14, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

8. The Motion of the Washington Gas Light Company for an Extension of Time in which to File a Report on the Technical Conference as Directed in Commission Order No. 18566 is **GRANTED**;

9. A technical conference shall be held on February 14, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room; and

10. The technical conference report shall be filed by February 24, 2017.

A TRUE COPY:

BY DIRECTION OF THE COMMISSION:



CHIEF CLERK:

**BRINDA WESTBROOK-SEDGWICK
COMMISSION SECRETARY**