

STATE OF NEW YORK  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

CASE 24-E-0461 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and Regulations of Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation for Electric Service.

CASE 24-G-0462 - Proceeding on Motion of the Commission as to the Rates, Charges, Rules and Regulations of Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation for Gas Service.

RULING FURTHER POSTPONING EVIDENTIARY HEARING

(Issued February 25, 2025)

LEAH SOULE AMYOT and ERIKA BERGEN, Administrative Law Judges:

At the request of Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation (Company), we previously adjourned the evidentiary hearing in these proceedings from January 7, 2025, to March 4, 2025, to accommodate settlement negotiations. The prior request was accompanied by the Company's consent to extend the suspension period by 62 days to August 31, 2025, subject to a make-whole provision. In our ruling granting that request, we advised the parties that no further adjournment of the hearing would be granted unless the negotiating parties consented to the assignment of a settlement judge.

On February 20, 2025, the Company moved to further adjourn the evidentiary hearing for 30 days. The request was accompanied by the Company's consent to further extend the suspension period by 30 days to September 30, 2025, subject to a make-whole provision. In an email dated February 20, 2025, counsel for the Company represented to us that, after consulting with Staff counsel, the Company believes that "it would be possible for a joint proposal to be filed 30 days from the current scheduled hearing date (i.e., by April 4)", but also

cautioned "that negotiations are continuing and the filing of a joint proposal could slip a week or two" beyond April 4, 2025.

To further support the parties' settlement efforts, we will postpone the evidentiary hearing to April 28, 2025, subject to the following conditions. First, a joint proposal must be filed no later than April 11, 2025. On April 3, 2025, the settling parties should report to us via email whether they have reached an agreement in principle or whether negotiations are continuing. If a settlement in principle has not been reached by April 3 or we receive no such notification, we will presume that a joint proposal will not be filed by April 11.

Second, if a joint proposal is not filed by April 11, 2025, we will require the evidentiary hearing scheduled for April 28 to be held as a fully litigated hearing. This will be necessary to maintain a litigation schedule that includes sufficient time for preparation of a recommended decision and responsive briefing to the Commission prior to the expiration of the suspension period in September.

Should the parties indicate on April 3 that they still intend to file a joint proposal but that the filing will be delayed beyond April 11, any request to further adjourn the evidentiary hearing beyond April 28 must be limited to a maximum of 21 days (i.e., no later than May 19, 2025) and accompanied by the Company's consent to extend the suspension period for a minimum of 17 days, to October 17, 2025. No adjournment beyond April 28 will be considered absent such consent to extend the suspension period.

Finally, we conclude that assignment of a settlement judge is necessary. Our December 30, 2024, ruling explicitly stated that, if the parties requested an adjournment of the hearing beyond March 4, 2025, such request would not be granted absent the assignment of a settlement judge. Therefore, we have

referred this matter to the Chief Administrative Law Judge, who will assign a settlement judge to the proceedings.

The settlement judge will contact the parties to obtain the information needed for the judge to facilitate the parties' settlement process moving forward. However, the parties should not delay their settlement efforts in the meantime - any currently scheduled negotiation sessions should occur as planned.

We will establish deadlines for pre-hearing submissions in a separate ruling closer to the hearing date.

(SIGNED)

LEAH SOULE AMYOT

(SIGNED)

ERIKA BERGEN