IN THE TENNESSEE PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION AT NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

| IN RE: |) | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| |) | |
| CHATTANOOGA GAS COMPANY |) | |
| PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF ITS PIPE |) | DOCKET NO. 25-00021 |
| REPLACEMENT PROGRAM |) | |
| |) | |

PETITION TO INTERVENE

The Consumer Advocate Division of the Office of the Attorney General ("Consumer Advocate"), by and through Jonathan Skrmetti, Attorney General and Reporter for the State of Tennessee, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118, respectfully petitions the Tennessee Public Utility Commission ("TPUC" or the "Commission") to grant the Consumer Advocate's intervention into this proceeding because consumers' interests, rights, duties, or privileges may be determined or affected by the *Chattanooga Gas Company Petition for Extension of Its Pipe Replacement Program* ("Petition") filed by Chattanooga Gas Company ("CGC" or the "Company"). The Consumer Advocate would show as follows:

- 1. The Consumer Advocate is authorized by Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-118 to represent the interests of Tennessee consumers of public utility services by initiating and intervening as a party in proceedings before the Commission in accordance with the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act and Commission rules.
- 2. CGC is a public utility regulated by the Commission and provides natural gas service to residential, commercial, and industrial customers in Tennessee. CGC's principal office and place of business is located at 2207 Olan Mills Drive, Chattanooga, Tennessee

37421.1

- 3. In 2020, CGC filed a Petition for Approval of its Pipeline Replacement Program ("PRP") and sought approval of its targeted plan to continue to replace its aging steel and plastic pipeline infrastructure.²
- 4. CGC sought approval to replace seventy-three miles of mains over seven years at an estimated cost of \$118 million, with the actual costs incurred each year to be recovered through the Company's ARM process.³
- 5. CGC began implementation of the PRP in 2022 and has completed replacement of 24.8 miles of the total 73 miles with a total investment of approximately \$25.9 million of the \$118 million.⁴
- 6. CGC stated that in order to complete the entire 73 miles within the original seven-year timeframe, it would need to accelerate the number of miles replaced each year and its PRP investment. In order to avoid this, they are seeking an extension of the timeframe to complete the original project.
- 7. According to CGC, without this requested extension, an accelerated construction schedule in 2026, 2027, and 2028 will place more than half of the new pipe in service in the next three years, at a cumulative estimated cost in excess of \$80 million
 - 8. CGC stated that such a rapid pace of replacement for customers would result in

Chattanooga Gas Company Petition for Extension of Its Pipe Replacement Program, at ¶ 3, TPUC Docket No. 25-00021 (March 14, 2025).

² Chattanooga Gas Company Petition for Extension of its Pipe Replacement Program, at ¶ 8, TPUC Docket No. 25-00021 (March 14, 2025). Chattanooga Gas Company Petition to for Approval of Its Pipe Replacement Program, TPUC Docket No. 20-00131 (Dec. 2, 2020).

Chattanooga Gas Company Petition for Extension of its Pipe Replacement Program, at ¶ 8, TPUC Docket No. 25-00021 (March 14, 2025).

Id. at $\P 9$.

significantly higher rate impacts through 2028 versus what would be projected if the PRP is

extended for three additional years.⁵

9. CGC is seeking authority to extend the PRP an additional three years, but stated

it is not seeking approval for the recovery of any costs in this Petition. CGC will address

recovery of its actual costs each year in the annual ARM docket.⁶

10. In the instant matter, the Consumer Advocate seeks to represent the interests

of consumers served by CGC. The interests of consumers may be affected by determinations

and orders made by the Commission with respect to: (1) the interpretation, application, and

implementation of Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-5-103(d)(6) and other relevant statutory and

regulatory provisions; and (2) the review and analysis of the supporting schedules and other

documentation, financial spreadsheets, and materials provided by CGC.

11. Only by participating in this proceeding can the Consumer Advocate carry out

its statutory duty to represent the interests of consumers.

WHEREFORE, the Consumer Advocate respectfully requests that the Commission

grant this *Petition to Intervene*.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Attorney General and Reporter

State of Tennessee

Id. at ¶¶ 9-10.

Id. at ¶ 14.

Mulirari Brown

SHILINA B. BROWN (BPR No. 020689)

Senior Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Tennessee Attorney General
Consumer Advocate Division
P.O. Box 20207

Nashville, Tennessee 37202-0207

Phone: (615) 741-2357 Fax: (615) 741-1026

Email: Shilina.Brown@ag.tn.gov

TPUC Docket No. 25-00021 Consumer Advocate's Petition to Intervene

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was served via electronic mail upon:

J.W. Luna, Esq.
Butler Snow LLP
The Pinnacle at Symphony Place
150 3rd Ave S, Ste. 1600
Nashville, TN 37201
Email: jw.luna@butlersnow.com

Floyd R. Self, Esq.

Berger Singerman, LLP 313 North Monroe Street, Suite 301 Tallahassee, FL 32301

Telephone: (850) 521-6727

Email: fself@bergersingerman.com

Jason Willard Director, External Affairs Chattanooga Gas Company 2207 Olan Mills Drive Chattanooga, TN 37421

Email: jrwillar@southernco.com

Elizabeth Wade, Esq. Chief Regulatory Counsel Kasey Chow, Esq. Senior Counsel Southern Company Gas Ten Peachtree Place, NW Atlanta, GA 30309

Telephone: (404) 584-3160
Email: ewade@southernco.com
Email: kchow@southernco.com

This the 10th day of April 2025.

SHILINA B. BROWN

Senior Assistant Attorney General

Abeliaco Brown