

**THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS**

Before Commissioners: Andrew J. French, Chairperson
 Dwight D. Keen
 Annie Kuether

In the Matter of the Application of Golden Gas)
Service Company for a Certificate of)
Convenience and Necessity to Operate an)
Intrastate Natural Gas Storage and Pipeline) Docket No. 25-GGSG-459-COC
Facility in Kiowa County, Kansas and for)
Approval of Initial Terms and Conditions for)
Services and Rates.)

**ORDER GRANTING THE CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD'S PETITION
TO INTERVENE AND PROTECTIVE ORDER**

This matter comes before the State Corporation Commission of the State of Kansas (Commission) for consideration and decision. Having reviewed the pleadings and record, the Commission finds and concludes:

I. Background

1. On June 3, 2025, Golden Gas Service Company (GGSC or Company) filed an application with the Commission seeking a certificate of convenience and necessity for authority to transact business as a natural gas public utility for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining an intrastate natural gas storage and pipeline facility in Kiowa County, Kansas.¹

2. On October 13, 2025, the Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board ("CURB") filed its Petition to Intervene, citing its statutory authority to represent residential and small commercial ratepayers.²

¹ Application for Golden Gas Service Company, Docket No. 25-GGSG-459-COC (June.3, 2025) ("Application").

² CURB Petition to Intervene ¶ 3, (Oct. 13, 2025) ("Petition to Intervene").

II. Order Granting CURB's Petition to Intervene

3. CURB contends that GGSG's application may substantially affect the rates paid and services received by residential and small commercial ratepayers.³ The residential and small commercial ratepayers whose interests CURB represents will be bound by any Commission order or activity in this proceeding.⁴

4. The representation of CURB's interests in this proceeding by existing parties is inadequate; no other party to this proceeding is authorized to specifically represent residential and small commercial ratepayers, function as the statutory official intervenor in cases filed with the Commission, or seek judicial review of Commission orders and decisions on behalf of residential and small commercial ratepayers.⁵ CURB has a substantial and vital interest in the outcome of this proceeding which cannot be adequately represented by any other party.⁶ CURB's intervention is in the interests of justice and will not impair the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings.

5. The Commission has broad discretion to grant a petition for intervention if it is in the interest of justice, if the intervention allows for the orderly and prompt conduct of the proceedings to continue unimpaired, and if the party seeking intervention has factually demonstrated that its legal rights, duties and privileges, immunities or other legal interests may be substantially affected by the proceeding.⁷

6. The Commission finds CURB has demonstrated an interest in this proceeding and meets the above requirements to intervene in this proceeding. Therefore, pursuant to K.S.A. 77-521 the Commission grants CURB's Petition for Intervention.

³ Petition to Intervene, at p.2.

⁴ *Id.*, ¶ 5.

⁵ *Id.*, ¶ 6.

⁶ *Id.*, ¶ 7

⁷ K.S.A. 77-521; K.A.R. 82-1-225.

7. CURB will be added to the official service list. Service of pleadings, communications, and correspondence should be delivered to counsel of record and CURB's other designees, as follows:

Joseph R. Astrab
Consumer Counsel
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
Joseph.Astrab@ks.gov

Todd E. Love
Attorney
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
Todd.Love@ks.gov

Shonda Rabb
Public Service Administrator
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
Shonda.Rabb@ks.gov

Della Smith
Senior Administrative Specialist
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
Della.Smith@ks.gov

John Racy
Attorney
Citizens' Utility Ratepayer Board
1500 SW Arrowhead Road
Topeka, KS 66604
John.Racy@ks.gov

III. Protective Order

8. K.S.A. 66-1220a and K.A.R. 82-1-221a set forth requirements for the designation and treatment of information deemed confidential in Commission proceedings. The Commission finds it appropriate to issue this Protective Order to establish procedures relating to confidential data and information.

9. K.S.A. 66-1220a limits disclosure of trade secrets or confidential commercial information of regulated utilities. Under K.S.A. 66-1220a(a)(4), the Commission is to consider alternatives to disclosure that will serve the public interest and protect the regulated entity. This Protective Order provides an interim procedure under K.S.A. 66-1220a(a)(4) to facilitate the

prompt and orderly conduct of this case. This Protective Order will govern the treatment and handling of confidential information until further order of the Commission.

10. A party may designate as confidential any information that it believes, in good faith, to be a trade secret or other confidential commercial information. The party designating the information as confidential must provide a written statement of the specific grounds for the designation at the time the designation is made.⁸ The party claiming confidentiality has the burden of proving the confidential status of the information. Designating information as confidential does not establish that the information will be kept from disclosure after review by the Commission.⁹

11. This Protective Order applies to all parties in this proceeding, unless specifically stated otherwise. The provisions of the Protective Order apply to Commission Staff (“Staff”), except that Staff is not required to sign nondisclosure certificates or view voluminous materials on site and is not required to return or destroy confidential information upon request at the conclusion of a proceeding. Outside experts and consultants used by Staff shall have access to information and voluminous materials on the same basis as Staff, except that outside Staff experts and consultants are required to read this Protective Order and to sign nondisclosure certificates as contained in Appendix A. Parties who do not sign a nondisclosure certificate will not be granted access to confidential information filed in this docket.

12. The following definitions shall apply:

Information: “Information” refers to all documents, data, including electronic data, studies and other materials furnished pursuant to requests for information or other modes of discovery, or any other information or documents that are otherwise a part of the Commission record.

Confidential Information: “Confidential information” refers to information which, if disclosed, would likely result in harm to a party’s economic or

⁸ K.A.R. 82-1-221a(a)(5).

⁹ See K.S.A. 66-1220a.

competitive interests, or which would result in harm to the public interest, generally, and which is not otherwise available from public sources. “Confidential information” may include, but is not limited to: (1) material or documents that contain information relating directly to specific customers; (2) employee-sensitive information; (3) marketing analyses or other market-specific information relating to services offered in competition with others; (4) reports, work papers or other documentation related to work produced by internal or external auditors or consultants; (5) strategies employed, to be employed, or under consideration; (6) contract negotiations; and, (7) information concerning trade secrets, as well as private technical, financial, and business information.

13. A party designating information as confidential shall make the confidential information available to parties seeking access or discovery under the restrictions in this Protective Order, if such disclosure is not otherwise privileged or objectionable on other evidentiary grounds. Disclosure of confidential information shall be made to attorneys of record and to authorized representatives, including outside experts, who are consulting with parties or intend to file testimony in this proceeding. Attorneys or authorized representatives seeking access to confidential information shall first read this Protective Order and sign a Nondisclosure Certificate as provided in Appendix A. In cases in which a utility’s rates are being reviewed, attorneys and representatives of the utility whose rates are being reviewed are not required to sign nondisclosure certificates in order to receive copies of documents containing the utility’s own confidential information. The Nondisclosure Certificate shall contain the signatory’s name, permanent address, title or position, date signed, and an affirmation that the signer is acting on behalf of a party to this proceeding.

14. The Nondisclosure Certificate shall be filed in the docket. The party claiming confidentiality shall provide legible copies of the confidential information to requesting parties by serving one copy upon counsel for the requesting party. The requesting party may copy the confidential information and make it available to its authorized representatives who have signed and filed nondisclosure certificates. If a response to a discovery request requires the duplication of

voluminous material, or the material is not easily copied because of its binding or size, the furnishing party may require that the voluminous material be viewed on its own premises. If duplication of voluminous material can be accomplished without undue burden on the party disclosing the information, the voluminous material may be copied at the expense of the requesting party. Voluminous material shall include documents or materials comprised of 200 pages or more.

15. A party may designate prefiled testimony and exhibits as confidential pursuant to this Protective Order. The specific grounds for the confidential designation shall be stated in writing at the time the designation is made or the testimony filed. Any party obtaining confidential information may use or refer to such information in prefiled or oral testimony provided that the confidentiality is maintained, unless otherwise ordered by the Commission.

16. If information to be disclosed in response to a data request contains confidential information designated by another party in this docket, the furnishing party shall maintain the confidential status by marking the information as confidential and only provide response to parties that have signed nondisclosure certificates. If information that a party intends to use in this proceeding or that would be disclosed in response to a data request contains confidential information obtained from a source outside of this proceeding, the party intending to use or provide the confidential information must notify the original source which claimed confidential status to allow that entity to decide whether to claim confidentiality in this proceeding.

17. When pleadings, prefiled testimony, or exhibits include confidential information, the parties are to follow these procedures¹⁰:

¹⁰ This does not apply to parties who file using e-Filing EXPRESS. See 14-GIMX-280-MIS.

- a. File seven¹¹ copies of the complete document, including all confidential information. The cover is to clearly state “CONFIDENTIAL VERSION.” Confidential pages shall be stamped “CONFIDENTIAL,” and the specific confidential information shall be identified by being underlined.
- b. File one copy with the confidential portions redacted, for use as a public document. The cover is to clearly state “PUBLIC VERSION.”
- c. File one copy of the pages that contain confidential information in a separate envelope marked “CONFIDENTIAL.” This filing will be maintained in the docket room file under seal. If there are multiple pages with confidential information and it is impracticable to separate the pages with the confidential information, the party may file instead one copy of the entire document that is stamped “CONFIDENTIAL.”

18. Confidential testimony may be offered or subject to cross-examination at hearings. Parties have the right to object to the admissibility of confidential information on standard evidentiary grounds such as relevance. Confidential information that is received into evidence will be kept under seal. Confidential information shall be discussed only after the hearing is closed to all persons except the Commission, its Staff, hearing examiners, court reporters, attorneys of record and individuals to whom the designated information is available under the terms of this Protective Order. Parties shall make every effort at hearings to ask and answer questions in such a way as to preserve the confidentiality of the information without the need to close the hearing. The transcript of live testimony or oral argument disclosing confidential information shall be kept under seal and copies provided only to persons entitled to access to confidential information. Neither the parties nor their attorneys shall disclose or provide copies of the contents of such transcripts to anyone other than those who may have access to the designated information under the terms of this Protective Order.

¹¹ Only one copy must be submitted when a party utilizes electronic filing. When a party utilizes the electronic filing system at <https://puc.kcc.ks.gov/e-filing/e-express/>, a copy of the filing must be served via e-mail upon all parties to this docket.

19. If a party disagrees with a claim that information is confidential or should not be disclosed, the parties shall first attempt to resolve the dispute on an informal basis. If the parties cannot resolve the dispute informally, the party contesting the confidential treatment may file a motion with the Commission. Commission Staff should also be prepared to challenge a confidential designation when Staff believes the information does not meet the definition of confidential information. When a dispute concerning confidentiality is brought before the Commission, the Commission will review the matter to determine (1) if the party claiming confidentiality has met its burden of establishing the confidential designation is proper, and (2) whether disclosure is warranted under K.S.A. 66-1220a. The contested information shall not be disclosed pending the Commission's ruling.

20. All persons who are afforded access to confidential information under the terms of this Protective Order shall neither use nor disclose such information for purposes of business or competition or any other purpose other than the purpose of preparation for and litigation of this proceeding. During the course of this proceeding, parties shall keep confidential information secure in accordance with the purposes and intent of this order. At the conclusion of this proceeding, including judicial review, a party claiming that information was confidential may require that other persons in possession of its confidential information return or destroy all such confidential information and all notes, tapes, documents, and any other medium containing, summarizing, or otherwise embodying such confidential information. If the party claiming confidentiality requests destruction, the person destroying the information shall certify its destruction. Counsel shall be entitled to retain memoranda or pleadings including or embodying confidential information to the extent reasonably necessary to preserve a file on this proceeding.

THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- A. CURB's Petition to Intervene is granted.
- B. The provisions of this Protective Order shall govern the treatment and handling of confidential information in this docket.
- C. CURB is also granted intervention in the subsequent compliance docket related to this matter once opened.
- D. Electronic service shall be utilized for serving pleadings/motions and orders.
- E. Any party may file and serve a petition for reconsideration pursuant to the requirements and time limits established by K.S.A. 77-529(a)(1).¹²

BY THE COMMISSION IT IS SO ORDERED.

French, Chairperson; Keen, Commissioner; Kuether, Commissioner

Dated: 10/21/2025



Celeste Chaney-Tucker
Executive Director

¹² K.S.A. 66-118b; K.S.A. 77-503(c); K.S.A. 77-531(b).

APPENDIX A

Docket No. 25-GGSG-459-COC
THE STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF KANSAS
NONDISCLOSURE CERTIFICATE

I, _____, have been presented with a copy of the
Protective Order issued in Docket No. 25-GGSG-459-COC on the ____ day of
_____, 20__.

I have requested review of confidential information produced in the above-mentioned
docket on behalf of _____.

I hereby certify that I have read the above-mentioned Protective Order and agree to abide
by its terms and conditions.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Printed name and title

Signature

Party/Employer

Address (City, State and ZIP)

Telephone

E-mail Address

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

25-GGSG-459-COC

I, the undersigned, certify that a true copy of the attached Order has been served to the following by means of electronic service on 10/21/2025.

JOSEPH R. ASTRAB, CONSUMER COUNSEL
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
joseph.astrab@ks.gov

CATHRYN J. DINGES, SR DIRECTOR & REGULATORY
AFFAIRS COUNSEL
EVERGY KANSAS CENTRAL, INC
818 S KANSAS AVE
PO BOX 889
TOPEKA, KS 66601-0889
cathy.dinges@evergy.com

LORNA EATON, MANAGER OF RATES AND REGULATORY
AFFAIRS
KANSAS GAS SERVICE, A DIVISION OF ONE GAS, INC.
7421 W 129TH STREET
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213
lorna.eaton@onegas.com

JAMES G. FLAHERTY, ATTORNEY
ANDERSON & BYRD, L.L.P.
216 S HICKORY
PO BOX 17
OTTAWA, KS 66067-0017
jflaherty@andersonbyrd.com

STEPHANIE FLEMING, LEGAL ASSISTANT
KANSAS GAS SERVICE, A DIVISION OF ONE GAS, INC.
7421 W 129TH STREET
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213
stephanie.fleming@onegas.com

PATRICK HURLEY, CHIEF LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
patrick.hurley@ks.gov

AHSAN LATIF, LITIGATION COUNSEL
KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
ahsan.latif@ks.gov

TODD E. LOVE, ATTORNEY
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
todd.love@ks.gov

J. P. MEITNER, DIRECTOR, MARKETING OPERATIONS
EVERGY KANSAS CENTRAL, INC
818 S KANSAS AVE
PO BOX 889
TOPEKA, KS 66601-0889
james.meitner@evergy.com

SHONDA RABB
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
shonda.rabb@ks.gov

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

25-GGSG-459-COC

JOHN I. RACY, ATTORNEY
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
john.i.racy@ks.gov

DELLA SMITH
CITIZENS' UTILITY RATEPAYER BOARD
1500 SW ARROWHEAD RD
TOPEKA, KS 66604
della.smith@ks.gov

ALAN R. STAAB, PRESIDENT
Golden Gas Service Company
2502 East 21st Street
Suite B
Tulsa, OK 74114
astaab@ggsctulsa.com

ALAN R. STAAB, PRESIDENT
VOSKUHL STAAB FAMILY FARMS, LLC
2502 East 21st Street
Suite B
Tulsa, OK 74114
astaab@ggsctulsa.com

ROBERT E. VINCENT, MANAGING ATTORNEY
KANSAS GAS SERVICE, A DIVISION OF ONE GAS, INC.
7421 W. 129TH STREET
OVERLAND PARK, KS 66213
robert.vincent@onegas.com

LESLIE WINES, SR. EXEC. ADMIN. ASST.
EVERGY KANSAS CENTRAL, INC
818 S KANSAS AVE
PO BOX 889
TOPEKA, KS 66601-0889
leslie.wines@evergy.com

/S/ KCC Docket Room

KCC Docket Room