



## ***News Release***

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Columbia Gas of Kentucky President Joseph W. Kelly to retire**

LEXINGTON, Ky. – July 31, 2006 – Joseph W. Kelly, president of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, today announced that he plans to retire, effective August 31.

Kelly joined Columbia Gas of Kentucky in 1986 as an economic development consultant. He later served as vice president and chief operating officer, executive vice president and was named president in 2003.

In addition to leading Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Kelly has served on numerous boards and committees supporting business, economic development, education, and human rights initiatives throughout Kentucky and beyond. Kelly is currently the board chairman of Commerce Lexington and recently completed his term as board chairman of the United Way of the Bluegrass. In recent years, Kelly has also served as chairman of the Lexington Industrial Foundation and chairman of The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence.

Robert C. Skaggs, Jr., president and CEO of NiSource Inc., Columbia Gas of Kentucky's parent company, said Kelly's leadership and service will be missed. "As president of Columbia Gas of Kentucky, Joe has provided the ideal balance of commitment to customer service, leadership for employees, and passion for community involvement," Skaggs said. "In his quiet, unassuming way, Joe has touched the lives of countless people across the Commonwealth and beyond. He will be greatly missed by all of us who have had the pleasure of working with him through the years." Skaggs said a search for Kelly's replacement has already begun.

Columbia Gas of Kentucky, headquartered in Lexington, is one of the 10 energy distribution companies of NiSource Inc. (NYSE: NI). NiSource distribution companies serve 3.7 million gas and electric customers primarily in nine states. More information about Columbia Gas of Kentucky is available at [www.columbiagasky.com](http://www.columbiagasky.com). More information about NiSource Inc. is available at [www.nisource.com](http://www.nisource.com).

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