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For Immediate Release

Maryland PSC Launches Proceeding on Transforming Electric Distribution Systems in Maryland

(BALTIMORE, MD-September 26, 2016) – The Maryland Public Service Commission has initiated a proceeding to launch a targeted review of electric distribution systems in Maryland to ensure that they are customer-centered, affordable, reliable and environmentally sustainable. This proceeding builds on two Commission technical conferences held in the past year that examined rate-related issues affecting the deployment of distributed energy resources (such as solar) and electric vehicles. It also follows up on a condition of the Commission’s May 2015 approval of the merger of Exelon and Pepco Holdings, Inc. (PHI), which required PHI to file a plan for transforming its distribution system and fund up to \$500,000 to retain a consultant to the Commission on the matter.

The proceeding will consider specific opportunities to transform Maryland’s electric distribution systems. Key topics of exploration will include:

- Enhancing **Rate Design** options, particularly for electric vehicles
- Calculating **Benefits and Costs of Distributed Energy Resources**, including solar energy
- Maximizing **Advanced Metering Infrastructure** (Smart Meters) benefits
- Valuing **Energy Storage** properly
- Streamlining the **Interconnection Process** for distributed energy resources
- Evaluating **Distribution System Planning**
- Protecting **Limited-Income Marylanders**

“The Commission’s recent technical conferences, PHI’s filing and initiatives of state regulators across the country on similar issues demonstrate that Marylanders could benefit from a targeted review of key aspects of Maryland’s electric distribution systems,” said W. Kevin Hughes, PSC Chairman. “Some of our goals with this public conference include exploring issues that will maximize benefits and choice to Maryland electric customers and, in particular, assess how the evolving electric grid impacts low and moderate income ratepayers.”

In convening Public Conference 44, the Commission invites all interested stakeholders to participate and submit comments by **Friday, October 28, 2016** on the issues and also on a suggested timeline and format for the public conference.

Comments can be e-filed using the Commission's e-file system at www.psc.state.md.us/efile/ Please be sure to reference PC44 with all comments.

Comments may also be sent by mail to:
David J. Collins, Executive Secretary
Maryland Public Service Commission
William Donald Schaefer Tower
6 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

After reviewing the public comments, the Commission will publish an agenda for the first public meeting, which will be held in early December.

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About the Public Service Commission:

The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities, telephone companies (land lines), certain water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire (sedans, limousines, buses, Uber, Lyft), taxicab companies (in Baltimore City and County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.

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