

W. KEVIN HUGHES
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HAROLD D. WILLIAMS
MICHAEL T. RICHARD
ANTHONY J. O'DONNELL



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

June 13, 2017

In the Matter of the Electric Universal
Service Program

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Case No. 8903

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NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

Section 7-512.1(c)(1) of the Public Utilities Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland* (“PUA”), requires the Public Service Commission (“Commission”) to report annually to the General Assembly regarding the Electric Universal Service Program (“EUSP”) and address the following statutory questions (“Statutory Questions”):

- (i) a recommendation on the total amount of funds for the program, subject to the amounts stated that are to be collected pursuant to § 7-512.1(e) of the PUA, for the following fiscal year based on:
 - 1. the level of participation in and the amounts expended on bill assistance and arrearage retirement during the preceding fiscal year;
 - 2. how bill assistance and arrearage retirement payments were calculated during the preceding fiscal year;
 - 3. the projected needs for the bill assistance and arrearage retirement components for the next fiscal year; and
 - 4. the amount of any bill assistance and arrearage retirement surplus carried over in the electric universal service program fund under § 7-512.1(f)(6)(i) of the PUA;
- (ii) for bill assistance, the total amount of need, as determined by the Commission, for electric customers with annual incomes at or below 175% of the federal poverty level and the basis for this determination;
- (iii) the amount of funds needed, as determined by the Commission, to retire arrearages for electric customers who have not received assistance in retiring arrearages under the electric universal service program within the preceding seven fiscal years, and the basis for this determination;
- (iv) the amount of funds needed, as determined by the Commission, for bill assistance and arrearage retirement, respectively, for customers

- for whom income limitations may be waived under § 7-512.1(a)(7) of the PUA, and the basis for each determination;
- (v) the impact on customer's rates, including the allocation among customer classes, from collecting the total amount recommended by the Commission under item (i) of this paragraph; and
 - (vi) the impact of using other federal poverty level benchmarks on costs and the effectiveness of the electric universal service program.

To assist the Commission in preparation of its report to the General Assembly, the Maryland Department of Human Resources, Family Investment Administration, Office of Home Energy Programs (“OHEP”) is required to report annually to the Commission on a series of questions set forth in the § 7-512.1(c)(2)(i) of the PUA. As required by this subsection, on June 9, 2017, OHEP filed its *FY 2016 Electric Universal Service Program Annual Report to the Maryland Public Service Commission* (“Annual Report”).¹

To further assist the Commission in fulfilling its statutory responsibilities, the Commission requests that interested parties shall file comments on the Annual Report and the Statutory Questions by Thursday, July 13, 2017. Parties shall file an original and seventeen paper copies of their comments, together with an electronic copy, addressed to David J. Collins, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. Five of the paper copies shall be three-hole punched. The Commission encourages parties to use the Commission’s “e-Filing” system for electronic filing. Details of the “e-Filing” system are on the Commission’s web page, www.psc.state.md.us.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ David J. Collins

David J. Collins
Executive Secretary

¹ A copy of the Annual Report may be viewed or downloaded from the electronic case jacket available on the Commission’s website at www.psc.state.md.us.