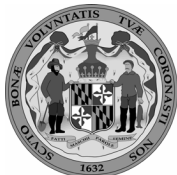


COMMISSIONERS

STATE OF MARYLAND

FREDERICK H. HOOVER, JR.
CHAIR

MICHAEL T. RICHARD
KUMAR P. BARVE
BONNIE A. SUCHMAN



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

June 21, 2024

Office of People’s Counsel’s Petition *
Requesting an Emergency Order to Protect *
Utility Customers from Extreme Heat *

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF MARYLAND

*
*
*
*
*

CASE NO. 9745

NOTICE AND REQUEST FOR COMMENTS

On June 18, 2024, the Office of People’s Counsel (“OPC”) filed a Petition with the Commission stating that weather forecasts call for record-breaking heat in Summer 2024, and requested an emergency order prohibiting utility companies¹ from shutting off service until September 15, 2024 (or in the alternative, requiring shutoffs be accompanied by an affidavit affirming that the shutoff does not pose a threat to health or safety). In its Petition, OPC argued that existing protections against high heat are insufficient to protect Maryland residents; requested that the heat index, in addition to temperature, be incorporated into restrictions on terminations, and requested that the Commission require utilities to temporarily waive fees and deposits for customers wishing to reconnect disconnected service between now and September 15, 2024.

The Commission’s regulations governing service disconnections during periods of extreme heat provide the following protections:

A utility may not terminate, either gas service that is used for cooling if the customer has

¹ Maillog No. 310339 (OPC “Petition”).

notified the gas utility of that usage, or electric service, because of nonpayment, for any customer occupying a residential building, for which the temperature forecast made for the utility's weather station area for that customer at 6 a.m. is 95 degrees Fahrenheit or above in that weather station area during an extreme weather period.²

“Extreme weather period” means a period of 72 hours beginning at 6 a.m. on any given day comprised of three consecutive 24-hour segments during any one of which the temperature, as forecast, is not expected to exceed 32 degrees Fahrenheit or is expected to be 95 degrees Fahrenheit or above during the segments. Determination of the possible existence of an extreme weather period must be repeated every 24 hours at 6 a.m.³

Electric utilities must comply with these regulations during any extreme weather period that may occur this Summer. In addition, the Commission expects utilities to exercise sound judgment before terminating any customer’s service, even if the temperature on the day of termination does not reach the temperature for an extreme weather period.

The Commission hereby docket this matter as Case No. 9745 and gives notice of OPC’s Petition and invites electric utilities and interested stakeholders to file comments. Written comments must be received by June 28, 2024. All filings must be addressed to Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 and reference Case No. 9745. The Commission encourages the parties to use its “eFile” system to submit the electronic version of the filing. Details of the “eFile” system can be found on the Commission’s website, www.psc.state.md.us.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ Andrew S. Johnston

Andrew S. Johnston
Executive Secretary

² Code of Maryland Regulations (“COMAR”) 20.31.03.04.

³ COMAR 20.31.01.02.