2024 ANNUAL REPORT

For the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2024
Pursuant to Section 2-122 of the Public Utilities Article,
Annotated Code of Maryland

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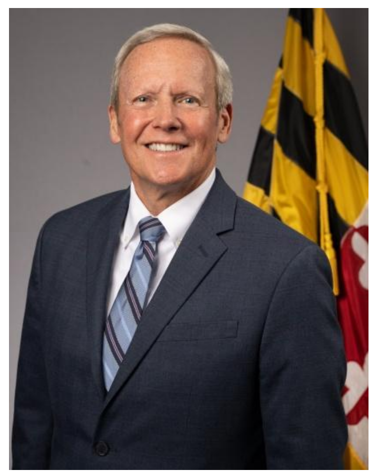
MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

The Public Service Commission (Maryland PSC or Commission) consists of the Chairman and four Commissioners, each appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The term of the Chairman and each of the Commissioners is five years and those terms are staggered. All terms begin on July 1. As of **December 31, 2024**, the following persons were members of the Commission[1]:

	Term Expires
Frederick H. Hoover, Jr., Chair	June 30, 2028
Michael T. Richard, Commissioner	June 30, 2025
Kumar P. Barve, Commissioner	June 30, 2029
Bonnie A. Suchman, Commissioner	June 30, 2027

Chair Frederick H. Hoover, Jr.



Commissioner Michael T. Richard

Commissioner Kumar P. Barve

Commissioner Bonnie A. Suchman

[1] Commissioner Anthony O'Donnell retired from the Commission as of June 1, 2024.

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMISSION

General Work of the Commission

IN 1910, THE Maryland General Assembly established the Commission to regulate public utilities and for-hire transportation companies doing business in Maryland. The categories of regulated public service companies and other regulated or licensed entities are:

- electric and gas utilities;
- competitive electric and natural gas suppliers (NOTE: The Commission licenses and investigates complaints against electric suppliers and also regulates residential supply pricing and green power pricing);
- telecommunications companies (landline phone service only);
- privately-owned water and sewage companies;
- bay pilots and docking masters rates;
- passenger motor vehicle carriers (including Transportation Network Companies such as Uber, Lyft, etc., and buses, limousines, sedans); taxicabs operating in the City of Baltimore, Baltimore County, Charles County, Cumberland, and Hagerstown;
- railroad companies (the Commission's authority is limited here: the companies must be organized under Maryland law and jurisdiction extends only over certain conditions and rates for intrastate services);
- hazardous liquid pipelines; and
- private toll bridge companies

The jurisdiction and powers of the Commission are found in the Public Utilities Article (PUA), *Annotated Code of Maryland*. The Commission's jurisdiction, however, is limited to intrastate service. Interstate transportation is regulated in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation; interstate and wholesale activities of gas and electric utilities are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); and interstate telephone service, Voice over Internet Protocol and cable services are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission.

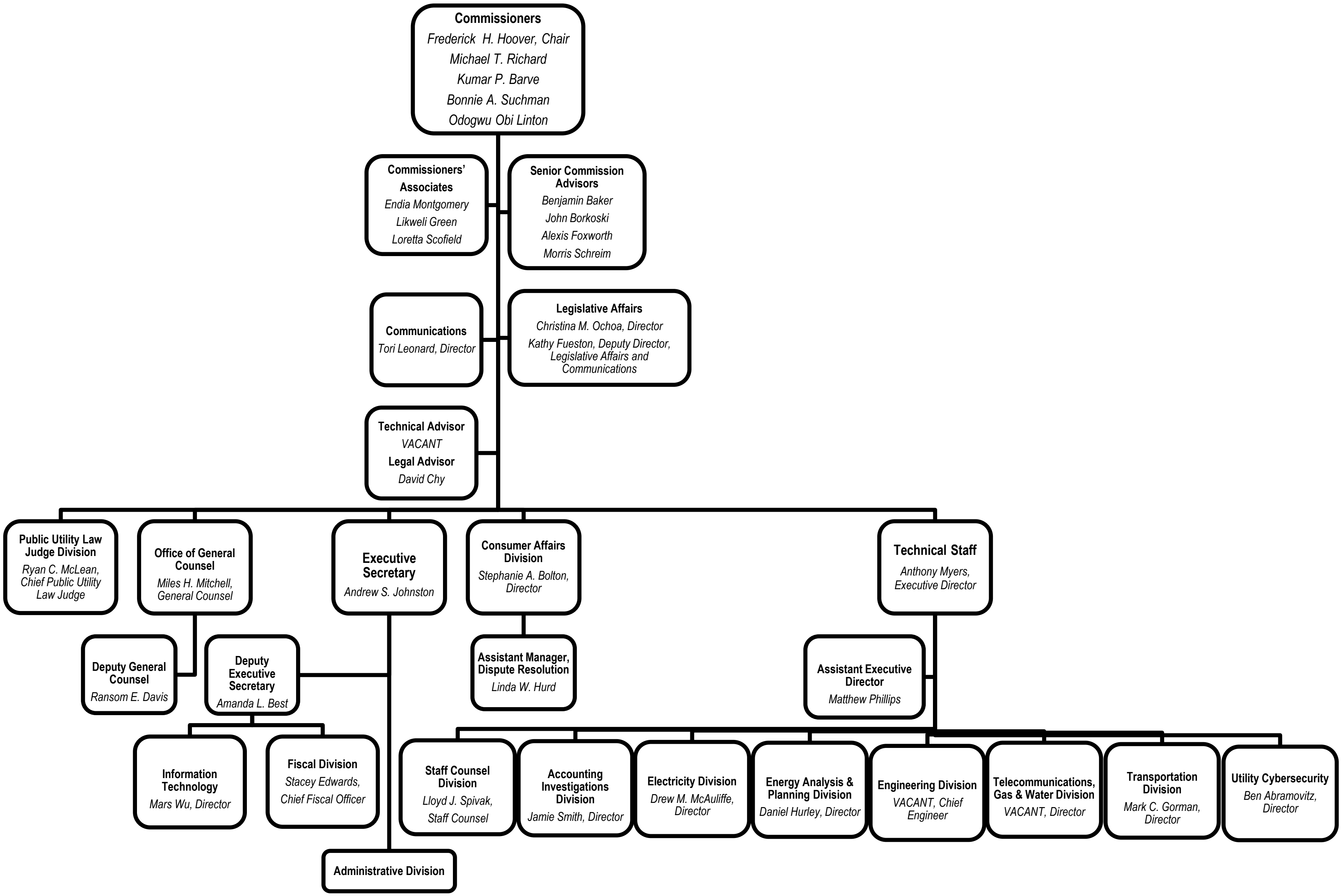
Under the PUA, the Commission has broad authority to supervise and regulate the activities of public service companies and for-hire motor carriers and drivers. It is empowered to hear and decide matters relating to, among others, (1) rate adjustments, (2) applications to exercise or abandon franchises, (3) applications to modify the type or scope of service, (4) approval of issuance of securities, (5) promulgation of new rules and regulations, (6) mergers or acquisitions of electric companies or gas companies, and (7) quality of utility and common carrier service.

The Commission has the authority to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the construction or modification of a new generating station, a qualified generator lead line, or an overhead transmission line designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts. In addition, the Commission collects and maintains records and reports of public service companies, reviews plans for service, inspects equipment, audits financial records, handles consumer complaints, issues passenger-for-hire permits and drivers' licenses, enforces its rules and regulations, defends its decisions on appeal to State courts, and intervenes in relevant cases before federal regulatory commissions and federal courts.

During calendar year 2024, the Commission initiated 55 new non-transportation–related dockets, conducted approximately 39 en banc hearings (legislative-style, evidentiary, or evening hearings for public comments as well as status conferences, discovery disputes, and prehearing conferences), held 18 rulemaking sessions, participated in eight public conference sessions, and presided over 41 administrative meetings.

Also, the Commission actively participated in the regular General Assembly legislative session in 2024 by submitting comments on bills affecting public service companies or Commission operations, participating in work groups convened by Senate or House committees or subcommittees, and testifying before various Senate and House committees and subcommittees.

Maryland Public Service Commission Organizational Chart – as of May 1, 2025



Commission Membership in Other Regulatory Organizations

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission (WMATC)

WMATC WAS CREATED in 1960 by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact for the purpose of regulating certain transportation carriers on a coordinated regional basis. The Compact is an interstate agreement among the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia which was approved by Congress in 1960. The Compact was amended in its entirety in 1990 (at Maryland's behest) and again in 2010 (to modify the articles regarding appointment of Commissioners to WMATC.) Each amendment was enacted with the concurrence of each of the signatories and Congress' consent. The Compact, as amended, and the WMATC are codified in Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the Transportation Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

Today, WMATC regulates private sector passenger carriers, including sightseeing, tour, and charter bus operators; airport shuttle companies; wheelchair van operators; and some sedan and limousine operators, transporting passengers for hire between points in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit District (Metropolitan District.) The Metropolitan District includes the District of Columbia; the Virginia cities of Alexandria and Falls Church; Virginia counties Arlington and Fairfax and the political subdivisions located within those counties; that portion of Loudoun County, Virginia, occupied by the Washington Dulles International Airport; Montgomery County and Prince George's County in Maryland and the political subdivisions located within those counties.

WMATC also sets interstate taxicab rates between signatories in the Metropolitan District, which for this purpose only includes Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) (except that this expansion of the Metropolitan District to include BWI does not apply to transportation conducted by a taxicab licensed by the State of Maryland or a political subdivision of the State of Maryland or operated under a contract with the State of Maryland.)

A commissioner from the Maryland Public Service Commission is designated to serve on the WMATC. In May 2016, **Governor Larry Hogan** appointed **Commissioner Richard** to WMATC where he currently serves as Vice-Chairman.

In fiscal year (FY) 2024 (from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024), the WMATC accepted 260 applications to obtain, transfer, amend, or terminate a WMATC certificate of authority (up from 257 in FY2023.) The WMATC also initiated 123 formal investigations of carrier compliance with WMATC rules and regulations (up from 89 in FY2023.) The WMATC issued 548 orders in formal proceedings in FY2024, as compared to 455 orders in FY2023. There were 460 carriers holding a certificate of authority at the end of FY2024—up from 423 at the close of FY2023. The number of vehicles operated under WMATC authority was approximately 4,600 as of June 30, 2024, compared to 4,324 vehicles operated under WMATC authority as of June 30, 2023. WMATC

staff received eight informal complaints against WMATC carriers in FY2024. This compares to two such complaints received in FY2023.
The Commission includes its share of the WMATC budget in its own budget. Budget allocations are based upon the population of the Compact signatories in the Compact region. In Maryland, this includes Montgomery and Prince George's counties as noted above. The FY2024 WMATC budget was $1,076,000, of which Maryland's share was $509,357 or 47.3 percent.

Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI)

OPSI WAS INCORPORATED as a non-profit corporation in May 2005. It is an intergovernmental organization of 14 utility regulatory agencies, including the Commission. OPSI, among other activities, coordinates data/issues analyses and policy formulation related to PJM, its operations, its Independent Market Monitor, and related FERC matters. While the 14 OPSI members interact as a regional body, their collective actions, as OPSI, do not infringe on each of the 14 agencies' individual roles as the statutory regulators within their respective state boundaries. **Commissioner Richard** serves as the Commission's representative on the OPSI Board of Directors, and is currently its Treasurer, following the completion of a term as President in 2019.

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)

NARUC IS THE national association representing the interests of the commissioners from state utility regulatory agencies that regulate essential utility services, including energy, telecommunications, and water. NARUC members are responsible for assuring reliable utility service at fair, just, and reasonable rates. Founded in 1889, NARUC is an invaluable resource for its members and the regulatory community, providing a venue to set and influence public policy, share best practices, and foster innovative solutions to improve regulation.

Chair Hoover serves on the Committee on Consumers and the Public Interest and the Committee on Electricity. He was also appointed to NARUC's Washington Actions Program, the group that represents NARUC's interests before federal executive and legislative entities. **Commissioner Richard** serves as a member of the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment and the Committee on Critical Infrastructure. **Commissioner Barve** serves as Vice Chair of the Select Committee on Industry and Regulatory Diversity, is a member of the Committee on International Relations, and the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment. **Commissioner Suchman** serves as a member of the Committee on Critical Infrastructure and the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment.

Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (MACRUC)

THE COMMISSION IS a member of MACRUC, a regional division of NARUC comprised of the public utility Commissions of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North

Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

National Council on Electricity Policy (NCEP)

NCEP (FORMERLY THE Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council or EISPC) is a platform for all state-level electricity decision-makers to share and learn from diverse perspectives on the evolving electricity sector. The Council membership includes over 200 representatives from public utility commissions, air and environmental regulatory agencies, governors' staffs and state energy offices, legislatures, and consumer advocates. NCEP is an affiliate of the NARUC Center for Partnerships and Innovation. The EISPC was a historic endeavor initially funded by the U.S. Department of Energy pursuant to a provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The goal of EISPC was to encourage and support collaboration among states in the Eastern Interconnection on critical energy issues, including electric transmission, gas-electric infrastructure, resource diversity, and energy resiliency and reliability.

Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Established in 2009, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is the first market-based regulatory program in the United States designed to stabilize and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, specifically carbon dioxide (CO_2), from the power sector. RGGI, Inc. is a non-profit corporation formed to provide technical advisory and administrative services to participating states in the development and implementation of their respective CO_2 budget trading programs. The RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors is composed of two representatives from each participating state with equal representation from the states' environmental and energy regulatory agencies.

These agency heads also serve as RGGI, Inc. board members and constitute a steering committee that provides direction to the Staff Program Committee and allows in-process projects to be conditioned for Board review. **Chair Hoover** and **Secretary Serena McIlwain** of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) served on the RGGI Board on behalf of Maryland in 2024. The RGGI, Inc. offices are located in New York City, in space co-located with the New York Public Service Commission at 90 Church Street.

The RGGI Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) apportions CO_2 allowances (i.e., a limited permission to emit one short ton of CO_2 per allowance) among signatory states through a process that was based on historical CO_2 emissions and negotiation among the participating signatory states. Together, the emissions budgets of each signatory state comprise the total regional emissions budget or RGGI "cap."

The original RGGI program, jointly designed by 10 Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states, established a cap-and-trade or "cap-and-invest" program that stabilized CO_2 emissions from power plants and then lowered that cap by 10 percent by 2018. The participating states agreed to use an auction as the primary means to distribute CO_2 allowances to electric power plants regulated under the coordinated state CO_2 cap-and-trade programs. All fossil fuel-fired electric power plants with 25 megawatts (MWs) or greater capacity, and connected to the electricity grid, must obtain allowances based on their CO_2 emissions. In 2024, the RGGI states comprised Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Virginia, a prior RGGI participant, did not participate in 2024.

The RGGI participating states are committed to periodic review of their CO_2 budget trading programs to consider the successes, impacts, and any adjustments to program design elements (Program Review.) Following a 2012 RGGI Program Review (as called for in the RGGI MOU), on February 7, 2013, the RGGI participating states announced an aggregate 45 percent reduction in the existing cap.

In addition to announcing a revised regional cap, other programmatic changes included: interim adjustments to the regional cap to account for privately banked allowances; the establishment of a cost containment reserve (i.e., a fixed quantity of CO_2 allowances, in addition to the cap, held in reserve and only made available for sale if allowance prices exceed a predefined price level or trigger price), to serve as a flexibility mechanism in the unanticipated event of short-term price spikes; the addition of a U.S. Forest Offset Protocol; simplification of the minimum reserve price to increase it by 2.5 percent each year; and the creation of interim control periods for compliance entities. Effective January 2014, the regional budget was revised to 91 million short tons—consistent with current regional emissions levels. To lock in the emissions reduction progress to date and to further build upon this progress, the regional emissions cap and each participating state's individual emissions budget declined by 2.5 percent each year from 2015 through 2020. By 2019, the regional emissions budget had decreased from 88.7 million short tons (2015) to 80.3 million short tons. In 2022, the total regional emissions budget decreased to 116.1 million short tons. In 2023, the total regional emissions budget decreased to 112.5 million short tons. Between 2015 and 2024, Maryland's portion of the emissions budget decreased from 19.8 million short tons in 2015 to 15.2 million short tons in 2024.

Table 3: 2024 Regional Emissions Budget[1]

State	CO_2 Allowances (short tons)
Connecticut	4,418,921
Delaware	3,075,739
Maine	2,487,656
Maryland	15,263,882
Massachusetts	10,858,504
New Hampshire	3,604,823
New Jersey	15,840,000
New York	26,414,791
Rhode Island	1,706,986
Vermont	491,482
Total	**84,162,784**

In 2024, RGGI held four auctions of CO_2 allowances with 10 participating states. For Maryland, these auctions raised approximately $254.8 million for the State's Strategic Energy Investment Fund. Maryland's 2024 auction proceeds increased approximately 67 percent compared to 2023 auction proceeds of $152.6 million. As of the final auction of 2024, Maryland has earned over $1.41 billion in cumulative RGGI proceeds over 66 auctions. Pursuant to §9-20B-05(g) of the State Government Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the proceeds received by the Fund from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 were allocated as follows:

(1) at least 50% shall be credited to an energy assistance account to be used for the Electric Universal Service Program and other electric assistance programs in the Department of Human Services;

> (2) at least 20% shall be credited to a low and moderate income efficiency and conservation programs account and to a general efficiency and conservation programs account for energy efficiency and conservation programs, projects, or activities and demand response programs, of which at least one-half shall be targeted to the low and moderate income efficiency and conservation programs account for: (i) the low-income residential sector at no cost to the participants of the programs, projects, or activities; and (ii) the moderate-income residential sector;
>
> (3) at least 20% shall be credited to a renewable and clean energy programs account for: (i) renewable and clean energy programs and initiatives; (ii) energy-related public education and outreach; and (iii) climate change and resiliency programs; and
>
> (4) up to 10%, but not more than $7,500,000, shall be credited to an administrative expense account for costs related to the administration of the Fund, including the review of electric company plans for achieving electricity savings and demand reductions that the electric companies are required under law to submit to the [Maryland Energy] Administration.

Under the current program, the size and trigger price of the cost containment reserve began changing in 2021, increasing by 7 percent annually. A majority of RGGI states also introduced an emissions containment reserve in 2021 wherein the states withhold allowances from circulation to secure additional emissions reductions if prices fall below established trigger prices. In 2019, the RGGI states, including Maryland, undertook state-specific statutory and regulatory processes to propose updates to their CO_2 Budget Trading Programs, consistent with the announced Model Rule, which was completed in 2020.

In February 2021, the RGGI states announced the initiation of a Third Program Review to consider further updates to their CO_2 budget trading programs. To date, the RGGI states have held eight public meetings to solicit comments and feedback on RGGI and Program Review. The states continue to review and consider comments received during Program Review public meetings. To inform the states' decision-making with respect to core program review topics, the RGGI states have also been conducting technical analyses, including electricity sector modeling. Changes to the program will be based on consensus between all participating states. The Third Program Review remained ongoing as of the end of 2024.

[1] *Source: The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Allowance Distribution,* https://www.rggi.org/allowance-tracking/allowance-distribution.

SUPPLIER DIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

Public Conference 52 (PC52): Supplier Diversity

AS NOTED IN prior Annual Reports, 20 regulated entities entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)[2] with the Commission in which each organization voluntarily agreed to develop, implement, and consistently report on its activities and accomplishments in promoting a strategy to support viable and prosperous women-owned, minority-owned, and service-disabled-veteran-owned business enterprises (diverse suppliers.) The MOU expressed each entity's commitment to use its best efforts to achieve a goal of 25 percent diverse supplier contracting (diverse spend); standardize the reporting methodology; and institute uniform annual plans and annual reports in order to track the entity's compliance with the MOU goals.

On July 18, 2024, the Commission held the newly-named Harold D. Williams Supplier Diversity Hearing at the headquarters of Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) to review the results of the 2023 annual reports submitted by 14 of the companies. The conference included a presentation by the Technical Staff on the diverse supplier procurements by companies participating in the program as well as presentations and the signing of a new, uniform Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the Commissioners and companies. Discussions were also held among the companies, elected officials, advocates, and contractors on best practices, lessons learned, and innovative ways to reach diversity goals.

The signatories include: **Association of Maryland Pilots**; **AT&T**; **Baltimore Gas and Electric Company** (BGE); **CenturyLink**; **Chesapeake Utilities–Maryland Division**, which now includes **Elkton Gas** after a 2020 acquisition; **Choptank Electric Cooperative**; **Columbia Gas of Maryland**; **Comcast Phone of Northern Maryland** and **Comcast Business Communications**; **Delmarva Power & Light Company** (DPL); **Easton Utilities**; **Maryland-American Water**; **Potomac Electric Power Company** (Pepco); **Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc.** (SMECO); **Potomac Edison**; **Verizon Maryland**; and **Washington Gas Light Company** (WGL).

Collectively, the companies exceeded the aspirational goal of awarding 25 percent of total procurement to diverse suppliers, achieving an overall diverse spend of slightly more than 40 percent—the highest-recorded diverse spend in the history of the program. Overall, diverse spend increased from more than $1.9 billion in 2022 to $2.15 billion in 2023, an increase of more than $227 million. Diverse spend averaged $1.83 billion over the past three reporting years while total utility procurement averaged $4.66 billion over the same period. Total procurement spend by the reporting signatories increased at an annual rate of 14 percent over the past three years. The average annual growth in diverse spend since 2009 is 7.8 percent.

The total diverse spend consists of seven categories: minority-owned enterprises (MOE), women-owned enterprises (WOE), service-disabled-veteran-owned enterprises (SDVOE),

[2] Originally existing as Public Conference 16.

veteran-owned enterprises (VOE), LGBT-owned enterprises (LGBTOE), not-for-profit workshops (NFPW), and SBA-designated HUB Zones. MOE received $1.33 billion, WOE received $609 million, SDVOE received $66 million, VOE received $46 million, LGBTOE received $140,000, NFPW received $10,000, and HUB Zones received $1.84 million. The category MOE contains four major subgroups: African American-owned businesses, American Indian/Native American-owned businesses, Asian-owned businesses, and Hispanic-owned businesses. All 16 signatories that provided reports for 2022 broke down their MOE spends by ethnicity; African American-owned businesses accounted for the largest proportion of total MOE spend at 51.8 percent.

On September 10, 2024, the Commission issued a public determination, as required under Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 20.08.01.05, which highlighted the positive impact that former Commissioner Harold Williams had on the program, the companies' goals and achievements and the diverse suppliers, and the signing of a new, uniform Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) by the Commissioners and companies.

The Commission commended the companies that have voluntarily committed to the program and continue to work towards the achievement of goals set forth in the MOU. The Commission also thanked the representatives of the business community, supplier diversity advocates, and interested stakeholders for their interest in, and support of, this important initiative. The Commission noted that with 2023 being the program's most successful year to-date, the Commission encouraged program participants to continue their progress toward attaining and exceeding the MOU's goals and toward the continued improvement of the program.

Table 4 (below) shows the program expenditures as reported by the companies and the percentage of spend as compared to each utility's total spend. Certain types of expenses are excluded from the tabulation, being either single-sourced or are inapplicable to the diversity program. Sources of exempted spend are agreed to in advance and can be found in the respective entity's MOU.

In addition to the MOU signatories, offshore wind company US Wind (in Case No. 9666) is required by statute to file a supplier diversity report.

Table 4 – 2023 Diverse Procurement		
Companies	Total diverse supplier procurement ($)	% of diverse supplier procurement to total company procurement
Association of MD Pilots	$582,390	**41.74%**
AT&T	$24,470,000	**27.35%**
BGE	$517,700,000	**40.78%**
Chesapeake Utilities	$537,389	5.71%
Choptank	$5,059,640	7.1%
Columbia Gas	$5,920,000	18.36%
Comcast	$218,470,000	**44.64%**
Delmarva	$190,200,000	**39.6%**
Easton Utilities	$245,992	3.54%
Potomac Edison	$24,960,000	18.88%
Pepco	$386,500,000	**44.18%**
SMECO	$22,100,000	19.56%
Verizon Maryland	$549,900,000	**50.71%**
Washington Gas	$208,400,000	**32.76%**
Total	**$2,156,000,000**	**40.73%**

Table 5 shows expenditures by the top diversity categories for each utility (figures are rounded.)

Table 5 – 2023 Top Diverse Category Spend by Utility						
Companies	Minority-Owned	Women-Owned	LBGT-Owned	Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned	Veteran-Owned	Not-for-Profit Workshops
Association of MD Pilots	7.15%	85.92%				
AT&T	50.49%	41.07%				
BGE	48.31%	43.69%				
Chesapeake Utilities		97.57				
Choptank		82.55				
Columbia Gas	17.16%	71.15%				
Comcast	42.35%	37.72%				
Delmarva	43.43%	47.22%				
Easton Utilities		81.13%			14.38%	
Potomac Edison	35.48%	54.55%				
Pepco	65.15%	28.15%				
SMECO	44.53%	42.2%				
Verizon Maryland	92.26%			5.93%		
WGL	55.11%	24.38%				

COMMISSION ENERGY-RELATED CASES AND ACTIVITIES

Energy Efficiency- and Demand Response-Related Cases:

EmPOWER Maryland—Case No. 9705

UNDER PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE §7-211, as amended and mandated by the EmPOWER Maryland Energy Efficiency Act of 2008, the five largest electric utilities in Maryland (Potomac Edison, BGE, Delmarva Power, Pepco, and SMECO) were responsible for achieving a 10 percent reduction in the state's energy consumption and a 15 percent reduction of peak demand by 2015. In 2017, the Article was amended to set electricity savings targets for the 2018-2020 and the 2021-2023 EmPOWER Maryland program cycles of two percent per year calculated as a percentage of each utility's 2016 weather-normalized gross retail sales and electricity losses. In 2024, HB 864 and Commission Order No. 91175 changed the goals of EmPOWER from an electricity savings goal to a GHG reduction goal for 2025, 2026, and all subsequent program cycles. Both the legislation and Commission Order increased EmPOWER's efforts to low- and moderate-income customers. The Department of Housing and Community Development filed plans approved by the Commission to target efficiency actions to those customers.

The EmPOWER Maryland programs achieved, on a program-to-date basis, the following results through the end of 2024:

- The EmPOWER MD utilities' programs have saved a total of 17,582,578 MWh and 3,589 MW and either encouraged the purchase of or installed approximately 147.1 million energy-efficient measures.
- 85,251 low-income customers have participated in the EmPOWER Limited Income Programs.
- The EmPOWER MD utilities have spent over $4.6 billion on the EmPOWER Maryland programs including over $3.2 billion on energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) programs and over $1.1 billion on demand response (DR) programs.
- The expected savings associated with EmPOWER Maryland programs is approximately $15.8 billion over the life of the installed measures for the EE&C programs.
- The average monthly residential bill impacts of EmPOWER Maryland surcharges for 2024 were as follows:

Table 6: 2024 average monthly residential bill impacts of EmPOWER Maryland surcharges[3]

	EE&C	DR	Dynamic Pricing[4]	Total
BGE	$5.69	$2.75	$0.55	$8.99
DPL	$6.31	$2.07	($0.16)	$8.22
PE	$6.82	N/A	N/A	$6.82
Pepco	$7.42	$4.09	($0.17)	$11.34
SMECO	$9.11	$2.34	N/A	$11.45

- Washington Gas has saved a total of 14,481,288 Therms through its programs since beginning in 2015.

When EmPOWER first launched, the Commission determined that the costs of the program should be phased in over a five-year period. This five-year amortization has continued over the last 14 years with each program-year being recovered over the current and next four calendar years. In effect, the EmPOWER surcharge recovers a rolling five-year average of program costs. Over the years, however, the balance on uncollected (unamortized) program costs has risen to over $800 million and ratepayers pay the utility for the use of this capital.

In August 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90306 requesting utility proposals to eliminate the unrecovered balance by the end of 2029. The EmPOWER utilities provided their plans and, in December 2022, the Commission issued an order requiring the utilities to utilize the plan put forward by SMECO (a non-profit cooperative.) Under this model, there is no change to the amortization length of five years for costs that could be amortized but the amount of costs by year eligible for amortization would decrease through 2026 (33% expensed in 2024 and 67% expensed in 2025.) Any costs incurred in and after 2026 would not be amortized, thus the surcharge would be at its highest in 2026 and lowest in 2029. The Commission selected this method because it was a gradual rate increase to residential and commercial and industrial customers (providing bill manageability), was one of the lowest cumulative cost scenarios considered, and was transparent.

[3] Assumes an average monthly usage of 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) and the figures do not include customer savings.

[4] BGE, Pepco, and Delmarva offered a Peak Time Rebate program in the summer of 2017 for residential customers with activated smart meters. The difference between rebates paid to participants and revenues received from PJM markets are trued-up in the EmPOWER Maryland surcharge.

Electric Distribution Service Quality and Reliability

Review of Annual Performance Reports on Electric Service Reliability Filed Pursuant to COMAR 20.50.12.11–Case No. 9353

IN MAY 2014, the Commission initiated Case No. 9353 to conduct its annual review of the service quality and reliability performance reports filed by subject electric companies by April 1 of each year. By April 1, 2024, subject electric companies filed their annual reports and comments on the reports were due by July 16, 2024.

On July 30, 2024, the Commission held a legislative-style hearing to review the annual reports filed by subject electric companies and comments filed by parties and determine whether each subject electric company met the applicable COMAR service quality and reliability standards. On September 3, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91307 in which it accepted the service quality and reliability annual reports filed by Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco), Delmarva Power & Light (DPL), Potomac Edison (PE), and the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SMECO).

The Commission, in Order No. 91307, also accepted the corrective action plan (CAP) submitted by BGE for failing to meet the Periodic Equipment Inspection standard.[5] In addition, the Commission accepted CAPs filed by BGE and Potomac Edison in response to the Major Outage Events (MOEs) experienced in 2022 and accepted BGE's and SMECO's reports for 2023 MOEs.

Furthermore, the Commission directed: (1) Pepco to provide an action plan about how it plans to address downed wire response[6] performance, abandoned call percentage rate[7] in future events, and include lessons learned from the July 28 - August 1, 2023 Major Outage Event; (2) Staff to file a COMAR Revisions Work Group report and a petition for rulemaking that addresses the Service Interruption Standard, Downed Wire Response, Qualified Line Personnel and Customer Communications Standards for each Major Outage Event by November 1, 2024; (3) Staff to file an interim Electric Resiliency Workgroup report by December 31, 2024 discussing status, highlighting consensus and non-consensus items, and raising any issues requiring Commission direction; and (4) Electric Companies to provide narratives on hurricane preparedness and wildfire mitigation and response in their next annual electric reliability

[5] COMAR 20.50.12.10A, the Periodic Equipment Inspection Standard, requires that each Electric Company adopt and follow written operation and maintenance ("O&M") procedures for its electric plant in order to maintain safe and reliable service.

[6] COMAR 20.50.12.07A, the Downed Wire Response Standard, requires that, considering data for normal and major outage event conditions for a calendar year, each utility shall respond to a government emergency responder guarded downed electric utility wire within 3 hours after notification by a fire department, police department, or 911 emergency dispatcher at least 90 percent of the time.

[7] According to COMAR 20.50.12.08B, Abandoned Call Rate Standard, each utility shall achieve an annual average abandoned call percentage rate of 5 percent or less, calculated by dividing the total number of abandoned calls by the total number of calls offered to the utility for customer service or outage reporting purposes.

performance reports due April 1, 2025; and (5) BGE to provide a CAP to address its failure of the Periodic Inspection Standard in 2023. Additionally, BGE was to provide Staff monthly work down plan reports as described in the order. In the final monthly BGE report, BGE was to report any equipment failures experienced on equipment with missed inspections and the failure's impact.

As directed by the Commission and further discussed below, Staff filed the COMAR Revisions Work Group report and a petition for rulemaking that addresses the Service Interruption Standard, Downed Wire Response, Qualified Line Personnel and Customer Communications Standards for each MOE by November 1, 2024. Staff also filed an interim Electric Resiliency Work Group report by December 31, 2024.

Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard

IN COMPLIANCE WITH the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013, in 2017, the Commission conditionally approved the financing of two offshore wind projects in Case No. 9431. According to COMAR 20.61.06, the projects will be funded with offshore wind renewable energy credits (ORECs). US Wind Inc. planned to construct 248 MW off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland; Skipjack Offshore Energy, LLC planned to construct 120 MW off the coast of Delaware. Approved projects are required to maintain offshore lease sites through the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

In 2019, Case No. 9431 was bifurcated into Case No. 9628 for US Wind and Case No. 9629 for Skipjack to review potential turbine size changes for both projects. The Commission issued Order No. 89622 on August 20, 2020 approving Skipjack's proposal for 12 MW turbines. The turbine issue for US Wind was included in the Revised Round 2 proceeding discussed below.

The Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019 expanded the requirements for offshore wind energy under Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) program. The law required the Commission to establish a second round of review for offshore wind applications or "Round 2" and at least 1,200 MW of offshore wind capacity. (The original review of offshore wind applications is now classified as "Round 1".) On December 22, 2020, the Commission issued a general notice that the Commission's evaluator, ICF Resources, LLC (ICF), had deemed an application to be administratively complete and set a closing date for other interested parties to apply by June 21, 2021. Following the close of the application period, the Commission opened Case No. 9666 and reviewed the five applications submitted by US Wind and Skipjack. Virtual public comment hearings were held on September 28, 2021 and September 30, 2021. Virtual evidentiary hearings were held from October 27, 2021 through November 1, 2021.

On December 17, 2021, the Commission issued Order No. 90011 awarding ORECs to US Wind's bid of 808.5 MW (identified as Bid 2) and Skipjack's bid of 846 MW (identified as Phase 2.1.)[8,9] Due to the combined size and ratepayer impacts of the approved projects, the Commission closed the anticipated final two application periods in Round 2.

On April 21, 2023, the Governor signed into law the Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources (POWER) Act. The POWER Act established a new state goal of 8,500 MW of offshore wind generation. The law also requires the Commission to undertake a transmission study in

[8] US Wind was awarded 2,513,752 ORECs per year at a price schedule equivalent to a levelized price of $54.17 per OREC (2012$) using a 2.0% price escalator, beginning on December 1, 2026, for a duration of 20 years. Skipjack was awarded 3,279,207 ORECs per year at a price schedule equivalent to a levelized price of $71.61 per OREC (2012$) using a 3.0% price escalator, beginning on December 1, 2026, for a duration of 20 years.

[9] Both projects were awarded ORECs with numerous conditions related to siting and project feasibility, minority investment and workforce opportunities, decommissioning, positive net economic benefits to Maryland, positive net environmental benefits to Maryland, projected net ratepayer impacts and OREC price schedules. Both companies accepted the conditions of the Commission's approval.

coordination with PJM and the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and to open an application process to review and approve offshore wind transmission solutions in support of meeting the state's generation goal. The Commission is currently working on implementing the bill.

On January 25, 2024, Skipjack filed a notice withdrawing from its Round 1 and Round 2 OREC awards with the Commission due to economic and supply chain issues impacting the projects.

On May 9, 2024, House Bill 1296 (HB 1296) was signed into law directing the Commission to open a revised Round 2 offshore wind project proceeding limited to evaluating revised project schedules, sizes, or pricing for a previously approved Round 2 offshore wind project. HB 1296 also authorized the Commission to review similar requests for Round 1 offshore wind projects. (The legislation also required the Commission, with the assistance of the Department of General Services (DGS), the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), and other interested state units, to develop a plan for achieving a total of 8,500 MW of offshore wind energy capacity by 2031. The Commission opened Public Conference 63 (PC63) to solicit input from industry and other interested parties.)

On May 10, 2024, the Commission issued a notice of revised Round 2 offshore wind project application review and directed interested developers to apply by August 1, 2024. On July 30, 2024, US Wind submitted its Rebid Application to the Commission including one project constructed in four phases for a total of 1,710 MW. The Commission held a public comment hearing on October 16, 2024 and evidentiary hearings on October 28 and 29, 2024. On January 24, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91496 awarding ORECs to US Wind.

US Wind files updates on its current and planned environmental research initiatives, supplier diversity, and general progress with the Commission.

Utility Rate Cases

Base Rate Cases Decided in 2024

Case	Requested Revenue Requirement	Approved Revenue Requirement	Difference
9702 Pepco MYP	$213.6 million	$44.6 million (1 yr only)	-$169 million
9719 Easton Utilities	$4.4 million (elec); $520,000 (gas)	$4.3 million; $470,000	-$100,000; -$50,000
9722 Chesapeake Utilities	$6.5 million	$2.6 million (Phase 1)	-$3.9 million
9738 SMECO	$37.9 million	$22.8 million	-$15.1 million
9744 Hagerstown Light	$2.4 million	$1.983 million	-$417,000
Total	**$265.3 million**	**$76.8 million**	**-$188.5 million**

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's Application for an Electric and Gas Multi-Year Plan (Final Reconciliation)-Case No. 9645

ON APRIL 18, 2024, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) filed a letter requesting that the Commission schedule an evidentiary hearing to address the final reconciliation of its first multi-year plan (MYP) to be filed by the company and issue an order accepting the procedural schedule proposed. On April 22, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91102 setting the procedural schedule. BGE filed its final reconciliation on April 24, 2024 in which it noted that the company had under-recovered its approved 2023 electric distribution revenue requirement by approximately $78.9 million and its gas distribution revenue requirement by approximately $73.3 million.

Evidentiary hearings were held October 8-9, 2024. After suspending the remainder of the procedural schedule in late October 2024, on November 1, the Commission issued Order No. 91396 finding the prudency analysis provided by BGE was deficient and directed the parties to complete the record in a paper hearing. In their testimony, Staff and OPC both asserted that BGE failed to file testimony demonstrating that its project investments and costs were prudently incurred.

In Order No. 91412, issued on November 13, 2024, the Commission directed the parties to file a settlement status update by December 20, 2024, initial briefs by February 24, 2025, and reply briefs by March 21, 2025. This matter remains pending.

On December 23, 2024, a group of former BGE employees filed a petition to intervene in this case, which the Commission denied in an order on February 10, 2025, noting that the petition was filed more than four years past the intervention deadline in the case (the employees subsequently filed a petition for judicial review in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City which is still pending before the court. *See COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURT MATTERS, p. 87.)*

In the February 10 Order, although it denied intervention to the former employees, the Commission noted serious concerns about the troubling allegations raised by the former employees that a BGE inspector repeatedly failed to conduct proper inspections and submitted false reports. The Commission's order directed Staff to further investigate this matter. The Commission's Engineering Division filed its investigative report on April 11, 2025 in which it identified gaps in BGE's quality assurance and compliance oversight as it related to the inspector in question and made several recommendations as to actions the Commission should take. BGE and OPC filed responses to the report. A status conference was held on April 23, 2025 to review the filed comments. This matter remains pending.

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's Application for an Electric and Gas Multi-Year Plan-Case No. 9692

ON FEBRUARY 17, 2023, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) filed an application with the Commission seeking approval of distribution rates under the company's second MYP. The application requested gas and electric rates totaling $602 million, and a return on equity (ROE) of 10.4%, to be effective from January 1, 2024 through 2026.

On December 14, 2023, the Commission issued Order No. 90948 authorizing a revenue requirement of $408 million over three years and approving an ROE of 9.5% for electric distribution services and 9.45% for BGE's gas distribution services. The Commission approved BGE's proposed budget of $120 million associated with the new conduit agreement that the company executed with Baltimore City but determined that it would be subject to a future prudence review at the reconciliation stage of the rate case and all future rate cases until the costs are fully recovered.

The Commission denied OPC's request to terminate the MYP construct altogether finding that switching to a traditional rate case after the start of the proceeding would have denied BGE its due process rights and also that it would not be appropriate to terminate MYPs in the confines of a single utility's rate case.

In January 2024, Amtrak and OPC filed motions for rehearing and Staff filed a request for clarification. Those requests remain pending.

On May 30, 2024, Constellation Energy Generation, LLC and Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. filed a petition to intervene out of time in this case. Although the Commission denied a simultaneous request in Case No. 9645, this request was granted, since the Commission found it distinguishable from the request in that case and noted that there was still considerable time left in the 9692 proceeding with rates that would remain in effect through January 1, 2026 followed by a prudency review during the reconciliation process.

Potomac Electric Power Company's Application for Adjustments to its Retail Rates for the Distribution of Electric Energy (Final Reconciliation)-Case No. 9655

ON AUGUST 20, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91292 adopting the procedural schedule proposed by Pepco and other parties for the final reconciliation proceeding for its first MYP. Pepco's final reconciliation noted it had under-recovered its cumulative revenue requirement by approximately $39.4 million.

On October 11, 2024, the Commission denied a motion by the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA) to dismiss Pepco's reconciliation filing but suspended the procedural schedule noting that it perceived a need for additional time for parties to conduct discovery and evaluate the merits of Pepco's filings. AOBA alleged, and OPC supported its motion, that Pepco failed to demonstrate the prudence of its Rate Year 3 expenditures.

On January 17, 2025, the Commission granted AOBA's request to extend the procedural schedule, in consideration of the additional time parties would need to review a substantial volume of documentation filed with Pepco's surrebuttal testimony. Evidentiary hearings were held March 5-7, and 10, 2025. This matter remains pending.

Potomac Electric Power Company's Application for Adjustments to its Retail Rates for the Distribution of Electric Energy-Case No. 9702

ON MAY 16, 2023, Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) filed a three-year rate plan to increase its revenues by $193.7 million covering the period April 2024 through March 2027.

On June 2, 2023, the Commission's Technical Staff filed a request to postpone litigation of Pepco's case citing Staff's involvement in several other ongoing rate cases including BGE's multi-year plan. On July 21, 2023, Pepco filed a motion for approval of a settlement agreement extending the procedural schedule. The Commission held a hearing on August 2, 2023 to consider the proposed settlement and on August 7, 2023 issued an order approving the settlement agreement.

On November 28, 2023, OPC filed a motion asking the Commission to remove Pepco's $151 million electrification program from the MYP. On March 4, 2024, the Commission granted OPC's motion, agreeing with OPC that it is prudent and consistent with Commission precedent to consider major policy proposals in a separate docket rather than a base rate case where the parties and the Commission must address a myriad of issues in a compressed time frame.

Public comment hearings in this case were held on March 5, 2024 in Prince George's County and March 26, 2024 in Montgomery County. Evidentiary hearings were held March 7-8, 11-14, 2024.

On June 10, 2024, the Commission denied much of Pepco's request, granting a revenue requirement for only year 1 of the MYP-an increase of $44.6 million and authorized an ROE of up to 9.5%.

Historical Oldtown Bridge Preservation, LLC's Application for Rate Increase for Charges and Tolls—Case No. 9712

ON JULY 14, 2023, Historical Oldtown Bridge Preservation, LLC filed an application for a rate increase for charges and tolls. The Commission docketed this matter as Case No. 9712 and delegated the proceedings to the PULJ Division but the proposed rates and charges were not suspended as an effective date was not specified by the applicant. At the August 17, 2023 pre-hearing conference, several deficiencies in the application were noted including the applicant's lack of legal representation. The applicant's request to proceed *pro se* was denied.

On September 29, 2023, Staff's request to waive the requirement to be represented by counsel for good cause was denied but Staff's request to conduct an investigation of whether the applicant's current rates are just and reasonable was granted. On November 6, 2024, Belinda Kiser's petition to intervene was granted. On January 6, 2025, a pre-hearing conference was held and the Historical Oldtown Bridge Preservation, LLC was directed to file an amended application based on 2023 and 2024 data. A procedural schedule and discovery guidelines were issued. A virtual public comment hearing was scheduled for May 28, 2025. This matter remains pending.

Easton Utilities Commission—Case No. 9719

ON JANUARY 25, 2024, Easton Utilities Commission filed applications requesting an increase in rates that would increase its annual revenues for electric service by approximately $4.4 million and $520,000 for gas service. The Commission consolidated the applications, suspended the proposed rates and charges for 180 days from February 23, 2024, and delegated the proceedings to the Public Utility Law Judge Division.

A public comment hearing was held on April 23, 2024 at Easton's Town Hall. On May 10, 2024, the procedural schedule was suspended based upon the Parties' representation that an agreement had been reached in principle and additional time was needed to finalize the settlement. On May 16, 2024, the Parties filed a signed settlement agreement and joint motion to increase Easton's annual revenue requirement by approximately $4.3 million for electric service and $470,000 for gas service for bills rendered after July 1, 2024. All Parties submitted supplemental testimony in support of the settlement and on May 30, 2024, a virtual settlement hearing was conducted to formally enter witness testimony and exhibits into the record.

A proposed order accepting the settlement was issued on June 7, 2024. No party withdrew from the settlement and the proposed order became a final order of the Commission on June 24, 2024 by Order No. 91207.

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, Sandpiper Energy, Inc., and Elkton Gas Company's Joint Petition for Approval of Changes in their Depreciation Rates—Case No. 9721

ON JANUARY 30, 2024, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation – Maryland Division, Sandpiper Energy, Inc., and Elkton Gas Company filed a joint petition requesting approval of changes in depreciation rates. On January 31, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. A pre-hearing conference was held on March 5, 2024 and a procedural schedule was issued on that same date.

Staff and OPC filed direct testimony on April 19, 2024. On May 13, 2024, the Joint Petitioners, OPC, and Staff entered into a joint motion and stipulation and settlement agreement setting forth revised consolidated depreciation rates for the companies. On May 16, 2024, an evidentiary hearing was held for consideration of the settlement. On July 9, 2024, the PULJ issued a proposed order accepting the settlement. On July 12, 2024, the PULJ issued a corrected proposed order. On July 24, 2024, the corrected proposed order became a final order, Order No. 91242.

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, Sandpiper Energy, Inc., and Elkton Gas Company's Application for General Increase in their Natural Gas Rates and for Approval of Certain Other Changes to their Natural Gas Tariffs—Case No. 9722

ON JANUARY 30, 2024, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation – Maryland Division, Sandpiper Energy, Inc., and Elkton Gas Company filed a joint application with the Commission for increases to their base rates for gas distribution service and for certain other changes to their natural gas tariffs. A joint motion for approval of a unanimous stipulation and settlement agreement was filed on August 15, 2024. This settlement was approved in part and denied in part.

Order No. 91333:

(1) approved a total Phase 1 revenue requirement amount of $2,600,000, as set forth in the Phase 1 settlement, with the allocation and distribution thereof to be determined in a Phase 2 of this proceeding;
(2) denied the Phase 2 (incremental) revenue requirement estimate of $881,677 for the CIS because it was not yet used and useful and the amount was not known and measurable;
(3) denied the rate design and revised tariffs set forth in the Phase 1 settlement;
(4) approved a rate of return of 6.88% for regulatory purposes, as set forth in the Phase 1 settlement;
(5) approved a four-year amortization of rate case expenses, as set forth in the settlement, provided the companies:
    (i) agreed to not seek additional rate case expenses related to a Phase 2 and
    (ii) agreed to a four-year rate case stay-out provision;

(6) approved the settlement provisions regarding the system improvement rate, line extension policy, off-system sales margin sharing mechanism, and the energy efficiency rider;
(7) approved the standardization of transportation service programs across the three entities, as set forth in the settlement; and
(8) authorized a Phase 2 of this proceeding to be initiated by the companies' filing of an application pursuant to PUA §5-202 (and any other applicable law) requesting Commission authorization:

(a) to unify the companies' three separate tariffs into one; and
(b) to assign/transfer any applicable franchises as needed, filed once the companies completed an internal corporate reorganization.

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, Sandpiper Energy, Inc., and Elkton Gas Company's Application for General Increase in their Natural Gas Rates and for Approval of Certain Other Changes to their Natural Gas Tariffs—Case No. 9722 – Phase II

On January 30, 2024, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation – Maryland Division, Sandpiper Energy, Inc., and Elkton Gas Company filed a Phase 2 Joint Application to increase the Companies' existing rates and charges and to revise terms and conditions for gas service. The Phase 2 Application requested:

(a) authorization to assign or transfer all franchises held by Maryland Division and Sandpiper to Elkton, pursuant to PUA §5-202;
(b) authorization to unify the Companies' three separate tariffs into one;
(c) incremental revenue requirement of $903,996 per year to reflect the cost of the companies' new customer information and billing system;
(d) approval of recovery of the revenue requirement associated with accounts receivable for unbilled and uncollected revenue of companies' approved Phase 1 annual rate increase of $2.6 million from October 1, 2024 until rates are implemented over a period of four years (estimated at $269,296 per year);
(e) approval of the rate design and revenue allocation proposed in the Phase 2 Application for the total amount of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 revenue requirements; and
(f) approval of a four-year "stay-out" provision relating to the timing of the companies' next rate case.

The parties in the case filed a settlement on February 28, 2025. Order No. 91620 denied the original filing and granted in part and denied in part the proposed settlement and required the following:

(1) The companies were authorized to assign or transfer all franchises held by Maryland Division and Sandpiper to Elkton, pursuant to PUA §5-202.

(2) The companies were authorized to unify the companies' three separate tariffs into one with separate volumetric rates for each legacy service area (Maryland Division, Sandpiper, and Elkton Gas.)
(3) The Phase 2 incremental revenue requirement of $896,806 per year for the companies' new customer information and billing system was approved.
(4) The request to recover additional revenue back to October 1, 2024 was denied.
(5) A total revenue requirement of $3,496,806 was approved with allocation thereof based on Staff's recommended allocation in the case.
(6) A rate design was authorized which included a two-year phase-in of rates for certain Elkton Gas customers, with no carrying charge associated, with the $400,000 deferred to be placed in a regulatory asset to be collected over four years at $100,000 per year (not earn a return.)
(7) The effective date of the revised tariff was subject to acceptance by the Commission.
(8) The companies, once consolidated, would be subject to a four-year "stay-out" relating to the timing of the next rate case.

Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s Application for Adjustments to its Retail Rates and Charges for Electric Distribution Service—Case No. 9738

ON MAY 1, 2024, the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SMECO) filed an application requesting an increase in rates that would increase operating revenues by $37.9 million with a debt-service-cost (DSC) ratio of 2.0 to be effective with bills issued after May 31, 2024. On May 3, 2024, the Commission suspended the proposed rates and charges for 180 days from May 31, 2024 and delegated the proceedings to the PULJ Division. At the pre-hearing conference held on June 13, 2024, the Department of the Navy's petition to intervene was granted and a procedural schedule was issued.

On July 23, 2024, a public comment hearing was held at SMECO's headquarters in Hughesville. Evidentiary hearings were held on August 5, 14 and 15, 2024.

On October 4, 2024, a proposed order was issued authorizing a total revenue increase of $22,794,449 based on a DSC ratio of 1.80 for bills rendered after November 27, 2024. No party filed an appeal of the proposed order which, on November 27, 2024, became a final order of the Commission by Order No. 91430.

Hagerstown Light Department's Application for Authority to Increase its Rates for Electric Service—Case No. 9744

ON JUNE 13, 2024, Hagerstown Light Department filed an application for authority to increase its rates for electric service in which it asked for an increase to its operating revenues by $2,358,618, an 8.7% overall increase for the average customer-member. On June 14, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. On July 10, 2024, a pre-hearing conference was held and a procedural schedule was issued. On August 22, 2024, Staff and OPC filed direct testimony. On September 19, 2024, Hagerstown and OPC filed rebuttal testimony.

On October 7, 2024, a public comment hearing was held at the City Hall in Hagerstown. On October 10, 2024, Hagerstown filed a joint motion to suspend the procedural schedule indicating that the Parties had reached a settlement in principle. On October 10, 2024, Staff and OPC filed surrebuttal testimony. On October 15, 2024, Hagerstown filed a joint motion in support of a unanimous settlement agreement and testimony in support of the settlement.

On October 16, 2024, Hagerstown filed a corrected joint motion in support of the settlement agreement. A proposed order was issued on December 13, 2024. That proposed order became a final order on December 27, 2024, Order No. 91466.

Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.'s Application for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges—Case No. 9754

COLUMBIA GAS OF MARYLAND, INC. filed an application for authority to increase rates and charges for natural gas services on September 24, 2024 asking for an increase to its operating revenues by $8.7 million, a 14.33 percent overall increase for the average customer member. On September 24, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. On October 21, 2024, a pre-hearing conference was held at which time the motion to intervene filed by the Maryland Energy Administration was granted and a procedural schedule was issued. On November 1, 2024, Columbia filed updated exhibits containing actual data through the end of the test year.

On November 22, 2024, Staff, OPC, and MEA filed direct testimony. On December 13, 2024, Columbia filed rebuttal testimony. Public comment hearings were held on December 18, 2024 in Hagerstown and on December 19, 2024 in Cumberland. On January 16, 2025, surrebuttal testimony was filed by Columbia, OPC, Staff, and MEA. On January 22, 2025, an evidentiary hearing was held. On February 14, 2025, briefs were filed by Columbia, MEA, Staff, and OPC. A proposed order was issued on March 18, 2025. The proposed order became final on April 22, 2025 as Order No. 91621.

Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) Cases–Applications, Modifications, and Waivers

The Potomac Edison Company's CPCN Application to Rebuild the Doubs-Goose Creek Transmission Line—Case No. 9669

ON AUGUST 3, 2021, The Potomac Edison Company filed a CPCN application to rebuild the Doubs-Goose Creek transmission line that begins in Frederick County and runs southeast through Montgomery County to the Maryland-Virginia state line. On August 4, 2021, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division to conduct the proceedings. On September 3, 2021, Montgomery County filed a petition to intervene which was granted at the September 14, 2021 pre-hearing conference. After deficiencies in the application were addressed, a procedural schedule was issued on October 5, 2021.

Public comment hearings were held on December 1, 2021 and October 27, 2022. Parties filed testimony in response to the application which was followed by rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony. An evidentiary hearing was held on January 11, 2023. On March 23, 2023, a proposed order was issued granting the CPCN subject to certain conditions. On April 24, 2023, OPC noted an appeal, and on June 27, 2023, the Commission issued an order denying the appeal.

On July 26, 2024, Potomac Edison notified the Commission that it would not proceed with the project and requested the CPCN be canceled.

Rosehip Cleantech, LLC’s CPCN Application to Construct a 4 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Somerset County–Case No. 9684

ON OCTOBER 26, 2022, Rosehip Cleantech, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.0 MW solar generating facility in Somerset County. On November 2, 2022, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated the conduct of the proceedings to the PULJ Division. The Power Plant Research Program (PPRP) of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources filed a final completeness determination on January 4, 2023. On January 31, 2023, the Somerset County Board of Commissioners filed a petition to intervene which was subsequently granted. A pre-hearing conference was held and a procedural schedule was issued on February 6, 2023. On March 22, 2023, a virtual public comment hearing was held. On June 26, 2023, a second public comment hearing was held in person in Princess Anne.

An evidentiary hearing was held on October 22, 2023. The record was held open pending responses from PPRP to bench data requests which were filed on October 27, 2023. A proposed order was issued by the PULJ on December 29, 2023. The Somerset County Board of Commissioners filed a notice of appeal on January 26, 2024 and a memorandum on appeal on February 5, 2024. Rosehip Cleantech and Staff filed reply memorandums on February 23, 2024 and PPRP and OPC filed reply memorandums on February 26, 2024. On May 28, 2024, the

Commission issued Order No. 91167 affirming the PULJ and granting the CPCN. Somerset County appealed to the Circuit Court for Somerset County. After a transfer of venue to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the court affirmed the Commission's grant of a CPCN and dismissed Somerset County's petition.

Community Power Group, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Anne Arundel County—Case No. 9685

ON OCTOBER 28, 2022, Community Power Group, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct an approximately 5.0 MW community solar generating facility in Anne Arundel County intended to serve low-income subscribers. On November 2, 2022, the matter was delegated to the PULJ Division to conduct further hearings.

On December 19, 2022, PPRP noted several deficiencies in the application and requested the parties be given until February 2, 2023 to provide an update on the status. The applicant filed a request acknowledging the deficiencies in the application and requested a scheduling order be issued holding the case in abeyance for 90 days to complete the application and resolve the outstanding issues. On December 29, 2022, an order was issued suspending the proceedings and directing the applicant to file a status update to complete the pre-filing requirements by March 29, 2023.

The procedural schedule was suspended for additional time periods on April 11, July 12, September 13, and November 15, 2023 for the applicant to complete the pre-filing requirements. The applicant filed a revised petition and environmental review document on March 14, 2024.

An initial public comment hearing was held on July 9, 2024. On September 16, 2024, a second public comment hearing was held in Edgewater. On September 23, 2024, the applicant advised it would not contest the recommended license conditions proposed by Staff and PPRP. On October 4, 2024, an evidentiary hearing was held and on October 25, 2024, a proposed order was issued recommending the CPCN be granted subject to Staff and PPRP's proposed licensing conditions. On November 26, 2024, the order became final by Order No. 91427.

Kumquat & Citron Cleantech, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 7.2 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Wicomico County—Case No. 9694

ON MARCH 15, 2023, Kumquat & Citron Cleantech, LLC filed an application for a CPCN to construct an approximate 7.2 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Wicomico County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on March 16, 2023 and the application was deemed administratively complete on May 1, 2023 with a procedural schedule issued on May 2, 2023. A virtual public comment hearing was held on July 10, 2023.

On October 4, 2023, Staff filed a motion to suspend the procedural schedule due to PJM Interconnection, LLC's suspension of the studies for the project's interconnection queue which would not be restarted until 2025. On October 5, 2023, Staff's motion was granted. This matter remains pending.

Porter Mill, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 45.80 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Wicomico County—Case No. 9710

ON JUNE 29, 2023, Porter Mill, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 45.80 MW solar generating facility in Wicomico County. The Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division on June 29, 2023. PPRP deemed the application administratively complete on August 18, 2023. A first public comment hearing was held virtually on November 1, 2023. A second public comment hearing was held on February 27, 2024 in Hebron.

On February 26, 2024, the applicant filed a letter advising that the parties had reached a settlement and that the applicant would not contest the license conditions proposed by PPRP and Staff. On March 5, 2024, a settlement hearing was held. On May 3, 2024, a proposed order was issued which, on May 23, 2024, became final with Order No. 91163.

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's CPCN Application to Construct the Fitzell Third and Fourth Circuits Reconfiguration Project—Case No. 9713

ON JULY 19, 2023, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) filed a CPCN application for the Fitzell Third and Fourth Circuits Reconfiguration Project. The Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division on July 21, 2023. On September 4, 2023, PPRP advised that the application was administratively complete. A public comment hearing was held on January 29, 2024 in Dundalk. The parties filed a settlement agreement on March 5, 2024. A settlement hearing was held on March 6, 2024. A proposed order was issued on May 6, 2024 which became final on May 28, 2024 with Order No. 97766.

Chaberton Solar Snow, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Worcester County—Case No. 9714

ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2023, Chaberton Solar Snow, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct an approximate 4.0 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Worcester County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on September 29, 2023. The application was deemed administratively complete on January 31, 2024 and a procedural schedule was issued on February 20, 2024. A public comment hearing was held virtually on April 30, 2024. PPRP and Staff both filed testimony and proposed license conditions in response to the application. A second in-person public comment hearing was held on August 19, 2024. On August 21, 2024, the Applicant filed a letter advising that it would not contest PPRP's and Staff's proposed license conditions. A settlement hearing was held on September 3, 2024. On October 15, 2024, a proposed order was issued approving the application, subject to PPRP's and Staff's license conditions, and on October 30, 2024, the proposed order became final order by Order No. 91393.

Chaberton Solar Bonneville, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Harford County—Case No. 9716

ON OCTOBER 2, 2023, Chaberton Solar Bonneville, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW solar generating facility in Harford County. On October 3, 2023, the Commission delegated the case to the PULJ Division. On November 30, 2023, PPRP determined that the application was deficient. Chaberton responded to the determination on December 6, 2023 and December 21, 2023. A public comment hearing was scheduled for April 10, 2024. After an evidentiary hearing on August 13, 2024, a proposed order was issued on September 4, 2024 granting the CPCN subject to the recommended license conditions. On September 19, 2024, the proposed order became final order by Order No. 91325.

Chaberton Solar Wild Turkey, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Frederick County—Case No. 9717

ON OCTOBER 13, 2023, Chaberton Solar Wild Turkey, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW community solar facility in Frederick County. On October 13, 2023, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. On October 16, 2023, PPRP determined that Chaberton's application was incomplete and summarized the items that had not been sufficiently addressed. The applicant requested additional time to provide the outstanding information which was granted with a status update to be provided on or before January 5, 2024.

On February 8, 2024, PPRP deemed the application administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held on March 5, 2024 with a procedural schedule issued the next day. An initial public comment hearing was held virtually on May 22, 2024. Two additional public comment hearings were held in Thurmont on October 7, 2024 and December 3, 2024 and the period to receive written comments was extended to December 12, 2024.

On October 9, 2024, the applicant advised it would not contest the recommended license conditions proposed by Staff and PPRP. On December 16, 2024, an evidentiary hearing was held and several bench data requests were issued. On January 7, 2025, a proposed order was issued granting the CPCN subject to revised recommended licensing conditions. On February 7, 2025, the proposed order became final by Order No. 91514.

Crockett Solar I, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 61.20 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Talbot County, Maryland-Case No. 9723

ON JANUARY 31, 2024, Chaberton Solar Pahar, LLC, filed an application for a CPCN to construct a 61.20 MW solar generating facility in Talbot County. On February 1, 2024, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On March 15, 2024, PPRP recommended the application be deemed administratively complete. On April 23, 2024, the

Talbot County Commissioners filed a petition to intervene. On April 25, 2024, the County's petition was granted and a procedural schedule was issued.

On July 15, 2024, an initial public comment hearing was held virtually. PPRP, Staff, and the County filed testimony and proposed license conditions in response to the application. A second in-person public comment hearing was held on November 7, 2024. Also on that date, the applicant filed a letter advising that it would not contest the proposed license conditions. On November 12, 2024, a settlement hearing was held. On December 9, 2024, PPRP filed corrected license conditions, and on December 18, 2024, a proposed order was issued approving the application, subject to PPRP's, Staff's, and the County's license conditions. On January 17, 2025, the proposed order became final by Order No. 91485.

Chaberton Solar Pine Rock LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. 9725

ON FEBRUARY 23, 2024, Chaberton Solar Pine Rock LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 3.0 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Carroll County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on February 27, 2024. Public hearings were held on June 26, 2024 and October 9, 2024. On October 3, 2024, PPRP filed testimony, the DNR/MDE Secretarial letter, initial recommended license conditions, and a project assessment report (PAR). Bench data requests were issued on October 8, 2024 to which PPRP responded on October 15, 2024. On October 11, 2024, Chaberton filed supplemental testimony and presented an updated conceptual site plan. On October 21 and 22, 2024, PPRP filed supplemental testimony. After an evidentiary hearing on October 23, 2024, PPRP filed revised supplemental testimony, revised PAR, updated glare analysis, and revised recommended license conditions. On November 7, 2024, additional bench data requests were issued to PPRP. On November 14, 2024, a bench data request was issued to Staff; Staff responded on November 18, 2024. Responses to bench data requests were received from PPRP and Chaberton on November 22, 2024 and November 26, 2024. This matter remains pending.

Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf I LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Montgomery County, Maryland-Case No. 9726

ON MARCH 4, 2024, Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf I LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.0 MW solar generating facility in Montgomery County. On March 5, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. On April 10, 2024, the application was deemed administratively complete. On May 8, 2024, a pre-hearing conference was held at which time the motions to intervene of Montgomery County and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) were granted and a procedural schedule was set.

On June 19, 2024, the applicant filed direct testimony and a decommissioning plan. On June 25, 2024, a public comment hearing was held virtually. On July 28, 2024, a petition to intervene out of time was filed jointly by the Sugarloaf Citizens Association, the Montgomery Countryside

Alliance, the Montgomery County Farm Bureau, and Montgomery Agricultural Producers—the motion to intervene was granted on August 14, 2024. On August 28, 2024, the applicant filed supplemental direct testimony.

On September 23, 2024, the procedural schedule was amended at the request of the Parties. On January 13, 2025 the applicant filed a revised site plan. On January 15, 2025, the applicant filed an updated decommissioning plan. On January 24, 2025, PPRP, Staff, Montgomery County, the M-NCPPC, and the Montgomery Countryside Alliance filed direct testimony and OPC filed a letter in lieu of direct testimony.

On February 7, 2025 the applicant filed a settlement status update and a new notice of amended procedural schedule. On February 21, 2025, the applicant filed rebuttal testimony. On February 24, 2025, a public comment hearing was held in Beallsville. On March 7, 2025, the Montgomery Countryside Alliance et. al. filed surrebuttal testimony. On April 1, 2025, PPRP filed revised recommended license conditions. An evidentiary hearing was scheduled for April 22, 2025. The matter is still pending.

Bear Branch Solar LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. 9730

ON APRIL 1, 2024, Bear Branch Solar, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.0 MW community solar energy generating system in Carroll County. The Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On May 16, 2024, PPRP recommended the application be deemed administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held on June 13, 2024 and a procedural schedule was issued.

An initial public comment hearing was held virtually on August 20, 2024. A second public comment hearing was held jointly with the President of the Board of Carroll County Commissioners on December 2, 2024 in Westminster.

On December 5, 2024, the Applicant filed a settlement status update advising it would not contest the recommended license conditions proposed by Staff and PPRP. On December 17, 2024, an evidentiary hearing was held and several bench data requests were issued. A proposed order granting the CPCN subject to Staff and PPRP's recommended license conditions was issued on January 31, 2025, which became final on March 4, 2025, by Order No. 91548.

Dry Ridge Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Allegany County, Maryland-Case No. 9731

ON APRIL 8, 2024, Dry Ridge Solar 1, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW solar generating facility in Allegany County. On August 1, 2024, the application was withdrawn and the docket was closed.

Chaberton Solar Ramiere LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.0 Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Montgomery County, Maryland-Case No. 9733

ON APRIL 18, 2024, Chaberton Solar Ramiere, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 3.0 MW solar generating facility in Montgomery County. On April 19, 2024, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On May 29, 2024, PPRP recommended that the application be deemed administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held on June 25, 2024 and a procedural schedule was issued. An initial public comment hearing was held virtually on August 22, 2024.

On September 27, 2024, the procedural schedule was amended pursuant to the parties' request. This matter remains pending.

Oakland Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Garrett County, Maryland-Case No. 9734

ON APRIL 22, 2024, Oakland Solar 1, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW solar generating facility in Garrett County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On June 6, 2024, PPRP recommended that the application be deemed administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held on July 9, 2024 and a procedural schedule was issued.

On July 31, 2024, Oakland Solar 1, LLC filed a request to withdraw the CPCN application due to excessive interconnection costs for the project. On July 31, 2024, the request was granted and the application was withdrawn without prejudice.

Chaberton Solar Sunshine LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. 9735

ON APRIL 22, 2024, Chaberton Solar Sunshine, LLC filed a CPCN Application to construct a 3.0 MW solar generating facility in Carroll County. On April 22, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ division. On June 12, 2024, the application was deemed administratively complete. On June 26, 2024, Carroll County filed a petition to intervene. On July 10, 2024, a virtual pre-hearing conference was held at which time Carroll County's petition to intervene was granted and a procedural schedule was set. On October 30, 2024, the applicant filed direct testimony and a decommissioning plan. On November 13, 2024, a virtual public comment hearing was held. On November 20, 2024, the procedural schedule was amended at the request of the Parties. On March 7, 2025, the applicant filed supplemental direct testimony. On March 12, 2025, the procedural schedule was again amended at the request of the Parties. This matter is still pending.

Spring Valley Solar 1, LLC 's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.25 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. 9736

ON APRIL 23, 2024, Spring Valley Solar 1, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 2.25 MW solar generating facility in Carroll County. On that same day, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On June 6, 2024, PPRP recommended that the application be deemed administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held and a procedural schedule was issued on July 2, 2024.

On September 25, 2024, an initial public comment hearing was held virtually. Carroll County, PPRP, and Staff all filed testimony in response to the application. A second public comment hearing was held in person on January 9, 2025. This matter remains pending.

Chaberton Solar Orchard Hill LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.24 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Queen Anne's County, Maryland-Case No. 9739

ON MAY 10, 2024, Chaberton Solar Orchard Hill LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 3.24 MW solar facility in Queen Anne's County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on May 13, 2024. The application was deemed administratively complete on June 27, 2024. An initial public comment hearing was held on September 18, 2024. On December 20, 2024, PPRP filed testimony, a DNR/MDE Secretarial letter, initial recommended license conditions, and a project assessment report (PAR). This matter remains pending.

Pocomoke City Community Energy Initiative LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Worcester County, Maryland-Case No. 9740

ON MAY 20, 2024, Pocomoke City Community Energy Initiative, LLC filed a CPCN application for the Pocomoke City Solar Project in Worcester County, Maryland. On May 20, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. The application was deemed administratively complete on July 3, 2024. On July 31, 2024, a pre-hearing conference was held and a procedural schedule was issued. The applicant filed direct testimony on September 20, 2024. A virtual public comment hearing was held on October 2, 2024. PPRP and OPC filed direct testimony on January 6, 2025. Staff filed direct testimony on January 13, 2025. The applicant filed a settlement status update on January 21, 2025. A second public comment hearing was held on January 23, 2025 in Worcester County. An evidentiary hearing was held on January 28, 2025. The matter is still pending.

TPE MD KE51, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Kent County, Maryland-Case No. 9742

ON MAY 22, 2024, TPE MD KE51, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW solar generating facility in Kent County. On that same day, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On July 5, 2024, PPRP recommended that the application be deemed administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held and a procedural schedule was issued on August 7, 2024.

On October 3, 2024, an initial public comment hearing was held virtually. Kent County, PPRP, and Staff all filed testimony in response to the application. This matter remains pending.

Croom Road Solar, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Prince George's County, Maryland-Case No. 9743

ON JUNE 11, 2024, Croom Road Solar, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW community solar energy generating system in Prince George's County. On June 12, 2024, the Commission docketed the case and delegated it to the PULJ Division. Public comment hearings were held on October 24, 2024 and on February 3, 2025. On February 4, 2025 in the settlement status, the applicant advised it would not contest the proposed recommended license conditions of PPRP and Staff.

On February 18, 2025, the applicant indicated the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission had not completed the mandatory referral process and therefore the procedural schedule was suspended. Supplemental direct testimony is to be filed by April 25, 2025. The matter remains pending.

Elk Development, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.142 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. 9746

ON JULY 8, 2024, Elk Development, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 2.142 MW community solar energy generating facility and associated interconnection facilities in Carroll County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on July 8, 2024. The application was deemed administratively complete on August 22, 2024. On October 31, 2024, Elk Development filed direct testimony in support of the application which included a decommissioning plan.
This matter remains pending.

Elk Development, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.125 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. 9747

ON JULY 9, 2024, Elk Development, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct the 2.125 MW Cape Horn Solar Project in Carroll County. On July 10, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. The application was deemed administratively complete on August 29, 2024. A pre-hearing conference was held on September 17, 2024. The applicant filed direct testimony on November 5, 2024. A virtual public comment hearing was held on November 12, 2024. An in-person public comment hearing was held on March 5, 2025 in Carroll County. The applicant filed supplemental direct testimony on March 10, 2025. Staff, OPC, and PPRP filed direct testimony on March 24, 2025. A virtual public comment hearing was held on March 26, 2025. An evidentiary hearing is scheduled for April 21, 2025. This matter is still pending.

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's CPCN Application for the Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project-Case No. 9748

BGE FILED ITS CPCN application on July 11, 2024. The Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division on July 15, 2024. On August 19, 2024, a pre-hearing conference was held at which time Constellation Energy Generation, LLC and Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.'s motion to intervene was granted and a procedural schedule was issued. On March 14, 2024, Staff, OPC, and PPRP filed direct testimony. Public comment hearings were held on April 9, 2025 (Harford County), April 10, 2025 in Anne Arundel County, and April 23, 2025 (Baltimore County). This matter is still pending.

Chaberton Solar Beartooth LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.67 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. 9752

ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2024, Chaberton Solar Beartooth, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 2.67 MW solar generating facility in Carroll County. On that same day, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On October 21, 2024, PPRP recommended that the application be deemed administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held and a procedural schedule was issued on November 19, 2024. On January 13, 2025, an initial public comment hearing was held virtually. This matter remains pending.

Econox Renewables Inc.'s CPCN Application to Construct a 2.04 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Somerset County, Maryland-Case No. 9753

ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, Econox Renewables Inc. filed a CPCN application to construct a 2.04 MW community solar energy generating facility and associated interconnection facilities in Somerset County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on September 9, 2024. Updated ERD information was filed on October 1, 2024. The application was deemed administratively complete on November 25, 2024. A prehearing conference was held and a notice of procedural schedule was issued on December 23, 2024. This matter remains pending.

TPE MD PR53, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct 4 Co-located Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facilities Totaling 15 MWAC in Prince George's County, Maryland-Case No. 9755

ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2024, TPE MD PR53, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct four co-located community solar power generating systems with a combined total output of 15 MW. The projects are proposed to be located in Prince George's County. On September 25, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. The application was deemed administratively complete on November 8, 2024. A notice of procedural schedule was issued on December 4, 2024. This matter remains pending.

Chaberton Solar Pahar LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Caroline County, Maryland-Case No. 9759

ON OCTOBER 17, 2024, Chaberton Solar Pahar LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 3.0 MW community solar energy generating system in Caroline County. On October 18, 2024, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division.

On November 27, 2024, the Caroline County Commissioners filed a petition to intervene. On December 2, 2024, PPRP recommended the application be deemed administratively complete and on the same date, the County alleged deficiencies of COMAR's pre-application requirements. The parties filed responses and arguments were heard at the pre-hearing conference on January 31, 2025. Additionally at the hearing, the County's petition to intervene was granted and the PULJ ruled Chaberton Solar Pahar LLC satisfied the COMAR requirements. A procedural schedule was issued.

On March 3, 2025, an initial virtual public comment hearing was held jointly with the President of the Caroline County Commissioners. The matter remains pending.

Elk Development, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.5 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. 9763

ON NOVEMBER 6, 2024, Elk Development, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 2.5 MW solar generating facility in Carroll County. On that same day, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On December 20, 2024, PPRP recommended that the application be deemed administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held and a procedural schedule was issued on February 7, 2025. This matter remains pending.

Ruthsburg Rd Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Community Solar Energy Generating Facility in Queen Anne's County, Maryland-Case No. 9764

RUTHSBURG RD SOLAR 1, LLC filed an application for a CPCN on November 21, 2024. The application was deemed administratively complete on January 15, 2025. A pre-hearing conference was held on February 7, 2025. The applicant filed direct testimony and a decommissioning plan on March 21, 2025. The first public comment hearing was held virtually on March 25, 2025. This matter is still pending.

Halo Colora LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County, Maryland-Case No. 9765

ON DECEMBER 3, 2024, Halo Colora LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW community solar energy generating facility and associated interconnection facilities in Cecil County. On December 3, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

Delmarva Power & Light Company's CPCN Application to Rebuild an Existing 138 KV Overhead Transmission Line on Existing Right-of-Way from the Piney Grove Substation in Wicomico County, Maryland to the Maryland/Virginia State Line-Case No. 9766

ON DECEMBER 4, 2024, Delmarva Power & Light Company filed a CPCN application to rebuild 20.7 miles of the Maryland portion of the Piney Grove-New Church 138kV transmission line that spans from Delmarva Power's Piney Grove Substation in Salisbury to its New Church Substation in New Church, Virginia. On December 6, 2024, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A pre-hearing conference was held on January 9, 2025 to establish a procedural schedule and discovery guidelines. The matter remains pending.

Halo Warwick LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Kent County, Maryland-Case No. 9767

ON DECEMBER 10, 2024, Halo Warwick LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW community solar energy generating system in Kent County. On the same date, the matter was docketed and delegated to the PULJ Division. On February 10, 2025, the application was deemed administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held on March 13, 2025. A procedural schedule and discovery guidelines were established. The matter remains pending.

Jade Meadow III LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 300 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating facilities in Garrett and Allegany Counties, Maryland-Case No. 9769

ON DECEMBER 20, 2024, Jade Meadow III LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 300 MW solar generating facility in Garrett and Allegany counties. On the same date, the matter was docketed and delegated to the PULJ Division. On January 31, 2025, PPRP recommended the application be deemed administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held on February 27, 2025 and a procedural schedule was established. The matter remains pending.

Chaberton Solar Victoria LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.25 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Montgomery County, Maryland-Case No. 9770

ON DECEMBER 20, 2024, Chaberton Solar Victoria LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.25 MW community solar energy generating facility in Montgomery County. The project is anticipated to be constructed on approximately 25.04 acres of a 42-acre property in Germantown. On December 20, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

Wicomico Wilber Solar 1, LLC, Wicomico Wilber Solar 2, LLC, Wicomico Wilber Solar Project 3, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct 3 Co-Located Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facilities Totaling 15.00 MW Wicomico County, Maryland-Case No. 9771

WICOMICO WILBER SOLAR 1, LLC, Wicomico Wilber Solar 2, LLC, Wicomico Wilber Solar Project 3, LLC filed a CPCN application on December 23, 2024 to construct three co-located solar generating facilities totaling 15.0 MW in Wicomico County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on December 23, 2024. The application was deemed administratively complete on February 7, 2025. A pre-hearing conference was held on February 25, 2025 at which time a procedural schedule was issued. This matter is still pending.

TPE MD WO73, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Worcester County, Maryland-Case No. 9772

ON DECEMBER 23, 2024, TPE MD WO73, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW community solar generating facility in Worcester County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On February 6, 2025, PPRP recommended that the application be deemed administratively complete. On March 10, 2025, a pre-hearing conference was held in which the Worcester County Commissioners' petition to intervene was granted and a procedural schedule was established. The matter remains pending.

PSEG Renewable Transmission LLC 's CPCN Application to Construct a New 500 kV Transmission Line in Portions of Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick Counties—Case No. 9773

ON DECEMBER 31, 2024, PSEG Renewable Transmission LLC filed an application for a CPCN to build a 500 kV overhead transmission line through Baltimore, Carroll and Frederick counties. In its application, PSEG RT asserted that the project, known as the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) is "critically needed to prevent severe, extensive, and widespread reliability violations on the existing 500 kV transmission system that serves Maryland and its surrounding states. If unaddressed, these violations could compromise overall system reliability in the PJM region, including for Maryland customers, and could lead to widespread and extreme conditions in 2027, such as system collapse and blackouts."

PSEG RT's application followed a summer of pre-filing public informational meetings held by the applicant in which strong community opposition was organized. After numerous comments and inquiries by members of the public and elected officials—and because there was no case or docket—the Commission established a dedicated email address for inquiries prior to the filing of the application. After the application was filed, those emailed comments were added to the public comments portal for the case.

On January 10, 2025, the Commission issued a notice of intervention deadline of February 17, 2025 and requested that PPRP file its determination of administrative completeness by March 26, 2025. When it was noted that the intervention deadline fell on a holiday, the Commission extended it one week to February 24, 2025.

On March 26, 2025, PPRP filed its determination that the application was not administratively complete because it lacked information required under COMAR 20.79.01.06K(2). On the same day, PSEG filed a motion requesting that the Commission promptly schedule a pre-hearing conference to allow the Commission to rule on the multiple petitions to intervene, address the administrative completeness of the company's application, and adopt a procedural schedule in the case.

On April 1, 2025, the Commission issued a notice and request for comments regarding the intervention requests in which the company asked the Commission to (1) grant the individual landowner's petitions to intervene identified by the company as well as the petitions to intervene filed by the four local governments/elected officials, and Potomac Edison, and (2) designate the individual non-adjacent landowner petitioners identified by the company and the specialty interest organizations referenced in its motion as "interested persons" in this proceeding. (The purpose of this designation as "interested persons" as opposed to intervenors would be to limit these parties' involvement in these proceedings to the filing of written public comments and participation in future public hearings.) The Commission requested comments on the matter be filed by April 11, 2025. This matter remains pending.

Energy Competition and Standard Offer Service Cases

Electric Competition Activity (Energy Choice) – Case No. 8738

Senate Bill 1 Implementation

SENATE BILL 1 of the 2024 Maryland General Assembly session, effective July 1, 2024, enacted major reforms in the retail energy supply marketplace in an effort to strengthen oversight of this industry and provide greater protections for consumers. As a result of these changes, some retail suppliers made the business decision to no longer offer supply to residential customers. Generally, these reforms include:

- Price caps on residential electric and residential gas retail supply contracts entered into, or renewed, on or after January 1, 2025. These price caps are based on the trailing 12-month average residential Standard Offer Service (SOS) rates for electricity and the trailing 12-month average residential Default Gas Commodity rates. The trailing 12-month average rates for each utility are required to be posted on each utility's website.
- Contract Length – a contract between a retail gas or electric supplier and a residential customer may not exceed a 12 month term.
- Do Not Transfer List – customers can ask their utility to place their accounts on a 'Do Not Transfer' list which means that suppliers cannot market to or enroll these customers.
- Salesperson Education, Training and Licensure – persons selling electric or gas supply in Maryland must complete an education course and pass an exam at intervals the Commission determines.
- Company License Renewals – the license of a retail energy supply company will now be up for renewal every three years, so that the Commission can review the company's performance, including complaint history and other compliance matters.
- Green Power pricing – suppliers cannot charge customers more than the Commission-approved price for power supply marketed as clean, green, eco-friendly, environmentally friendly or responsible, carbon-free, renewable, 100% renewable, 100% wind, solar, hydro or emission-free, or similar claims.
  - The Commission has directed retail electricity suppliers in each service territory that offer green power to residential customers to do so at a price not exceeding the service territory's most recent 12-month average SOS rate, along with the 2023 Tier 2 REC price, including the green power premium factor and green product premium as calculated by the Commission's Technical Staff.
  - The Commission retains the discretion to approve a supplier's offer to provide green power at a higher cost than the price cap mentioned above.
  - Suppliers must also make certain disclosures to customers and include specific language in marketing materials.
  - The Commission will determine the green power price cap every year.

Senate Bill 1 implementation activities in 2024:

- **Retail Supply Licensing and Training**

SB1 established new and amended licensing and training requirements for electricity and gas suppliers, energy salespersons, and energy vendors in the retail choice market. The bill established that: 1) the licenses of electricity suppliers and gas suppliers that are licensed by the Commission as of July 1, 2024 shall expire on a staggered basis as determined by the Commission such that equal numbers of licenses shall expire throughout each of the following three years but not later than June 30, 2027; (2) the licenses of energy salespersons who are licensed by the Commission on or before June 30, 2027 shall expire on a staggered basis as determined by the Commission such that equal numbers of licenses shall expire each year; and (3) all new and renewed licenses for electricity suppliers, gas suppliers, and energy salespersons shall be for a term not exceeding 3 years.

On November 8, 2024, the Commission's Technical Staff presented a proposed renewal application for electricity and gas suppliers and the proposed dates for the expiration of the first one-third of the group of expiring suppliers. The Commission issued a notice on December 17, 2024 approving Staff's proposed application forms and its proposed staggered license expiration dates for the first one-third of existing supplier licenses. The notice also established filing deadlines and deadlines for revocation hearing notices for licensees that are at risk of not renewing their licenses in a timely fashion.

Finally, SB1 established a training requirement for licensees. Since the legislation's enactment, Staff has developed and received Commission approval on a training manual for residential suppliers renewing their licenses. The purpose of the training is to provide a thorough understanding of the Commission's laws regarding sales, consumer protection, and other matters the Commission deems appropriate. Training for non-residential suppliers, energy vendors, and salespersons is pending.

- **Price Caps on Residential Supply (Non-Green Power) - PC64**

SB1 established a price cap for residential energy supply other than green power. Under the legislation, residential supply of electric and gas commodity service is prohibited from exceeding the respective trailing 12-month average SOS or default gas commodity price except for green power prices. On July 23, 2024, the Commission docketed PC64 to implement the relevant price cap provisions of the statute.

In Order No. 91237, the Commission required electric and gas utilities with retail choice to submit its calculated 12-month trailing average SOS price and its monthly updated 12-month average SOS price beginning no later than October 1, 2024 and to file the averages prominently on the utility's website.

After Staff issued a report on the trailing 12-month average price caps, outlining areas for Commission direction, the Commission issued a request for comments on December 26, 2024. In Order No. 91562, issued in March 2025, the Commission established that utilities should: submit monthly price comparison data to the Commission by the fifth business day of each month; post the data on websites one business day after; and conform to a uniform template for presenting the data on its websites.

- **Green Product Offerings: Revisions to COMAR 20.53, 20.59, and 20.61 - RM84**

SB1 established requirements for the development of a green power price and associated consumer protections for suppliers who sell and market green products.

On July 11, 2024, Staff submitted a petition for rulemaking for the purpose of revising COMAR provisions associated with green product offerings established under SB1 of 2024. The relevant COMAR provisions include COMAR 20.53, 20.59, and 20.61.

On July 17, 2024, the Commission directed Staff, in consultation with stakeholders, to submit proposed regulations by September 9, 2024 and later directed interested parties to submit comments. The Commission held a rulemaking session on November 8, 2024 to address the proposed regulations and comments. During the rulemaking session, several issues remained non-consensus items and on December 17, 2024, the Commission held a second rulemaking. During the second rulemaking, the Commission adopted the proposed revised regulations that Staff submitted which established requirements for green power disclosures in marketing materials and procedures for establishing a green power price.

- **Green Power Maximum Price - Case No. 9757**

SB1 required the Commission to establish a price for residential “green power” defined as “energy sources or renewable energy credits that are marketed as clean, green, eco-friendly, environmentally friendly or responsible, carbon-free, renewable, 100% renewable, 100% wind, 100% hydro, 100% solar, 100% emission-free, or similar claims.”

On October 9, 2024, Staff submitted a petition to initiate proceedings to establish a green power product price. The Commission requested comments on the matter by October 30, 2024 and held a legislative style hearing on December 11, 2024. During the comment period, Staff and various stakeholders submitted proposals for the maximum green power price, including the following price cap options: a price set at the trailing 12 month average; a price that is a combination of a Tier 2 REC price and the trailing 12 month average, including a green power premium factor and a green power premium that would increase based on the amount of green power included in a product; and a price 150% above the trailing 12 month average.

During the hearing, the Commission considered the various proposals on the maximum green product price. In Order No. 91464, the Commission approved Staff’s proposal for a maximum green power price and required electricity suppliers to offer residential green power at a price not exceeding the service territory's most recent 12-month average standard offer service rate, along with the 2023 Tier 2 REC price, including a green power premium factor and a green power premium.

- **Purchase of Accounts Receivables - PC65**

Under SB1, beginning on January 1, 2025, an electric or gas supplier may not sell to a utility and the utility may not purchase from a supplier, accounts receivable. On July 23, 2024, in Order No. 91238, the Commission docketed PC65 and required briefs and written comments to be filed by August 2, 2024 on whether the purchase of receivables (POR) prohibition of SB1 should apply to all residential retail choice accounts or only to residential retail choice accounts that have agreements entered into or renewed after January 1, 2025.

Additionally, Order No. 91238 required utilities to provide compliance plans and to answer key technical questions by August 9, 2024. The Commission required the compliance plans to contemplate scenarios where POR ends for all residential accounts and another where POR ends only for residential accounts entered into on or after January 1, 2025. The plans were required to address the following: 1) the specific mechanism the utility proposes to use at the end of purchase of receivables; 2) the time for the utility's preferred method of implementation; and 3) key milestones and challenges to implementing the proposed method. In the same order, the Commission required Staff to submit a filing on the parties' compliance plans and to address additional POR-related issues. The Commission held a legislative style hearing on this matter on August 7, 2024.

On September 13, 2024, Staff filed a report on the parties' recommendations regarding acceptance or modification to utility POR compliance plans and submitted approximately 20 general recommendations. The report recommended that: 1) residential retail choice customers should be enrolled in dual billing on and after January 1, 2025 because dual billing is the only non-POR retail choice mechanism that utilities can implement before January 1, 2025; 2) June 1, 2026 be established as the "date certain" for the discontinuation of POR; and 3) the Commission require utilities to implement pro-rata partial payment allocation as the preferred long term utility consolidated billing scheme, absent POR.

On December 4, 2024, the Maryland Energy Advocates Coalition requested clarification on whether month-to-month contracts in effect before December 31, 2024 will be subject to rate rules, including the prohibition on POR, when those contracts are slated for renewal after January 1, 2025.

In Order No. 91463, the Commission determined that new residential choice contracts must be enrolled through dual billing beginning on January 1, 2025. Additionally, the order held that contracts in existence on January 1, 2025 renew upon a change to the contract's term or price, and that retail contracts in existence on or before December 31, 2024 that are subject to renewal and that include POR arrangements must be returned to standard offer service by February 28, 2025, if dual billing is not employed. Under the order, all POR utility consolidated billing is required to end for "grandfathered" contract terms after December 31, 2025 and suppliers and utilities are required to engage in good faith negotiations for its ultimate termination.

On January 27, 2025, the Supplier Coalition suggested that dual billing should not be the only alternative in the interim and on February 6, 2025, the Commission directed utilities and residential suppliers to negotiate and to submit comprehensive proposals detailing how a supplier may enroll and renew a customer under a utility consolidated billing mechanism that does not involve POR. The order required proposals to be submitted by March 7, 2025.

The resolution of this issue is pending.

- **Supplier Consolidated Billing - Case No. 9461**

ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2017, numerous competitive suppliers filed a joint petition requesting that the Commission mandate supplier consolidated billing (SCB) as a billing option by June 30, 2019, adopt specific policy recommendations and elements proposed in the petition, and establish a rulemaking proceeding and work group to facilitate the drafting of any new and revised COMAR provisions needed to implement supplier consolidated billing. By letter order issued on September 15, 2017, the Commission initiated a new docket, Case No. 9461, to consider the petition. It requested comments on the petition with a filing date by November 15, 2017. After review of the filed comments, the Commission held a legislative-style hearing on February 20, 2018, to further consider the petition. Originally, the Commission approved SCB to begin on December 31, 2024.

On June 12, 2024, the Commission considered a recommendation from the Exelon Utilities to pause implementation of SCB as a result of SB1's passage. In Order No. 91220, the Commission denied the Exelon Utilities' request and directed the utilities to continue working towards the implementation of SCB. In the Order, the Commission also directed parties to file comments addressing the following SCB implementation issues: 1) the impacts of the purchase of receivables provisions in SB1 on SCB implementation for residential and non-residential customers; 2) the interest of retail electric and gas suppliers to participate in SCB and related IT system testing following SB1's passage; 3) the status of IT work that utilities conducted for SCB implementation and the potential impacts if a pause on SCB implementation was ordered by the Commission; 4) the current costs of SCB implementation and impacts on the recovery of SCB implementation costs to different entities if suppliers do not participate in SCB or if the Commission ordered a pause in SCB implementation; and 5) additional information related to the impacts of SB1 on SCB implementation. Parties filed comments addressing these issues on August 12, 2024.

One of the largest non-consensus issues resulting from the August 12, 2024 filings was whether the Commission's current SCB regulations expressly require a utility to purchase distribution arrearages from residential suppliers, in the event that a customer is dropped due to a non-payment, in contravention of SB1's prohibition on purchase of receivables. In Order No. 91448, the Commission concluded that SCB involves the transfer of a customer's unpaid regulated distribution charges but does not involve supplier receivables and, thus, does not violate SB1. Finally, the order extended indefinitely the December 21, 2024 SCB implementation date and in an attempt to avoid unnecessary expenses for SCB, required utilities to pause new SCB implementation work until retail suppliers notify the Commission of their intent to participate in SCB testing and of their ongoing commitment to actively participate in SCB.

- **Do Not Transfer List and Supplier Customer Prices Paid Reporting Requirements - PC67**

SB1 established a requirement for the Commission to implement mechanisms for a customer to be placed on a "Do Not Transfer" list if the customer wished to cease receiving retail supply marketing contacts and wished to remain on standard offer service indefinitely. Provisions of SB 1 also require gas or electric utilities or entities that bill retail supply customers to report monthly to the Commission the prices paid by supply customers. Soon after the legislation's enactment, on July 19, 2024, the Commission issued a notice that required: 1) gas and electric utilities to conduct customer education regarding the Do Not Transfer list; 2) gas and electric utilities to submit compliance and process plans for the provisions; and 3) dual gas and electric utilities to inform the Commission of the extent of retail supplier dual billing. Utilities submitted filings in response to the Commission notice in August of 2024.

On December 6, 2024, Staff filed with the Commission, a report on the Do Not Transfer list requirements. The Commission docketed Public Conference 67 to accommodate subsequent filings. In its report, Staff made approximately 20 recommendations, including on: methods for reporting monthly billing data; where to refer a customer seeking to be added to the list; and customer information to be included on the list. The Commission received comments on the report on January 17, 2025 and additional comments from Staff on February 14, 2025. The resolution of this matter is pending.

Consumer Education on Retail Energy Choice

The passage of Senate Bill 517 in the 2019 session of the Maryland General Assembly directed the Commission to create two new residential customer choice shopping websites (for electricity and gas) by October 1, 2020. As noted in prior annual reports, the Commission launched www.MDElectricChoice.com on March 9, 2020 and www.MDGasChoice.com on September 29, 2020. Each website is accompanied by a secure portal for licensed retail energy suppliers to upload their offers.

During 2024, the Commission conducted a multi-media consumer education campaign to address customer concerns regarding frequently-cited complaints against suppliers, including unauthorized enrollments (known as 'slamming'), billing disputes, and misrepresentations by suppliers.

Since September of 2000, Maryland's major investor-owned utilities have been required to file Monthly Electric Customer Choice Reports. The reports are to show the number of residential and non-residential customers served by suppliers, the total number of utility distribution customers, the total megawatts of peak demand served by suppliers, the peak load obligation for all distribution accounts, and the number of electric suppliers serving customers in Maryland.

In 2024, Potomac Edison (PE), Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), Delmarva Power & Light (DPL), Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SMECO) filed electric choice enrollment reports every month. At the end of December 2024, electric suppliers in the state served 369,096 commercial, industrial, and residential customers–down 6.72 percent from 2023 when suppliers served 395,672 customers.

Table 7: Customer accounts enrolled with electric suppliers as of December 31, 2024

	Residential	Non-Residential	Total
Total eligible accounts	2,377,799	270,869	2,648,668
Number of customers enrolled with suppliers	275,272	93,824	369,096
Percentage of customers enrolled with suppliers	11.6%	34.6%	13.9%

At the end of December 2024, the overall demand in megawatts of peak load obligation in the state served by all electric suppliers was 4,997 MW, down 1.13 percent from 5,054 MW in 2023.

Table 8: Peak load obligation in Maryland served by electric suppliers as of December 31, 2024

	Residential	Non-Residential	Total
Total MW peak	6,781 MW	5,579 MW	12,360 MW
MW demand served by suppliers	803 MW	4,194 MW	4,997 MW
Percentage of peak load served by suppliers	11.8%	75.2%	40.4%

BGE had the highest number of residential accounts (177,876), commercial accounts (49,657), and total peak-load (2,830 MW) served by suppliers. At the end of 2024, 386 electric suppliers were licensed in Maryland, down from 391 at the end of 2023 and 251 natural gas suppliers were licensed in Maryland at the end of 2024, up from 250 at the end of 2023.
Most electric suppliers in Maryland are authorized to serve multiple classes. The number serving each class in each utility territory is reflected in the table below.

Table 9: Number of electric suppliers serving enrolled customers by class as of December 31, 2024

	Residential	Small C&I	Mid-Sized	Large C&I
BGE	61	64	53	19
DPL	47	47	43	0
PE	41	44	39	17
Pepco	59	57	55	26
SMECO	7	3	4	1

Results of the Standard Offer Service Solicitations for Residential and Small Commercial (Type I) Customers-Case Nos. 9056 and 9064

THE COMMISSION REVIEWS standard offer service (SOS) rates on an ongoing basis in Case Nos. 9056 and 9064. For the 12-month period beginning June 2024, SOS rates increased for residential customers of BGE, Delmarva Power & Light, and Pepco compared to the previous year. Potomac Edison's[10] SOS rates are decreasing for residential customers compared to the previous year. SOS rates increased for small commercial customers of Delmarva, BGE, Pepco, and Potomac Edison compared with the previous year. With the exception of Potomac Edison, 2024 bids were completed in April 2024. Rate changes expressed as a percentage change in the total annual cost for an average customer are shown below.[11]

Residential Customers		Small Commercial Type 1 (SOS) Customers	
BGE	+4.6%	BGE	+8.8%
DPL	+2.5%	DPL	+3.5%
Pepco	+2.5%	Pepco	+4.6%
Potomac Edison	-2.0% (for 2025/26)	Potomac Edison	+2.5%

[10] Due to PE's bid cycle, bill impacts are shown for one year in advance of the other utilities.
[11] The statistics are taken from the Commission's Staff reports submitted in Case Nos. 9056 and 9064. The annual bill change is determined not only by the newly bid load but also by the proportion of previous year's contracts that expired.

Mergers, Transfers, and Franchise Cases

In the Matter of the Merger of Exelon Corporation and Constellation Energy Group, Inc.-Case No. 9271

On November 30, 2023, the Commission issued a notice continuing its process to enhance compliance with merger conditions in Case Nos. 9271, 9361, and 9449. The Commission indicated that it would require an annual compliance report from each electric or gas company which described how the company either met the corresponding condition or how it is working to meet the corresponding condition. The notice also required that the company provide proof of its compliance and file a final report upon the completion of all conditions. Lastly, the notice stated that the Commission would explicitly ask Staff, OPC, the Maryland Energy Administration and other relevant parties to review and report on electric and gas utility compliance.

On January 25, 2024, the Commission issued its Annual Merger Compliance Reporting and Review which directed BGE to file a status each year on or before April 1 of each commitment from the order approving the Case No. 9271 merger.

Parties made ongoing compliance filings in Case No. 9271 stemming from the merger. Parties did not raise issues with compliance. The Commission continues to monitor the parties' filings for compliance.

In the Matter of the Merger of AltaGas Ltd., and WGL Holdings, Inc.-Case No. 9449

ON APRIL 4, 2018, the Commission issued Order No. 88631 approving the acquisition of WGL Holdings, Inc. by AltaGas Ltd. subject to certain conditions. In the following years, the Commission enforced compliance through various ad hoc orders.

On January 25, 2024, the Commission issued a letter order directing the company to report annually on its status and progress toward each condition of Order No. 88631. The company filed its annual compliance report on April 1, 2024. OPC, Prince George's County, Commission Staff, and the Maryland Energy Administration subsequently filed comments regarding the company's report. The company and OPC then filed replies.

On October 3, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91344 requesting additional information and clarifying the status of Conditions 3, 4, 6A, 10A, 14, 36, 44, and 508. On November 4, 2024, the company and OPC filed comments.

On January 28, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91502 in which it noted that it will continue to monitor the company's compliance with the conditions set forth in Order No. 88631 and as clarified in subsequent orders issued in this proceeding. The Commission provided additional directives in furtherance of the company's ongoing compliance, including that the company and Prince George's County file joint or individual status reports on Condition 4b by

February 17, 2025; that the company include an update and documentary evidence for Condition 6a in its next annual compliance filing on April 1, 2025; and that the company and Prince George's County file a joint or individual status report on Condition 14 by February 17, 2025.

On April 2, 2025, the Commission issued a notice of a comment period until June 2, 2025 for comments on the company's filings regarding merger commitments in compliance with Commission Order No. 91502.

Other Matters

William Steverson v. Potomac Electric Power Company—Case No. 9498

AS NOTED IN prior annual reports, on April 17, 2018, William Steverson filed an appeal of the Commission's Consumer Affairs Division's[12] decision on further review concerning a formal complaint against Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) challenging the termination of his service and alleging unfairness and bias by the Commission's Consumer Affairs Division in handling the dispute.

On November 21, 2018, the Commission issued a letter order that denied the allegations of bias but delegated the remaining issue to the PULJ Division to determine whether Pepco violated COMAR 20.31.03.01. An evidentiary hearing was held on February 7, 2019. A Motion to Stay Proceeding was filed on February 11, 2019, and subsequently granted, based upon Mr. Steverson filing a petition for bankruptcy.

On March 11, 2025, Pepco advised that the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order of Discharge regarding Mr. Steverson's petition and Pepco discharged the arrearage that was the subject of this proceeding. The company indicated that there are no remaining issues in dispute and requested Mr. Steverson's formal complaint be dismissed or deemed satisfied.

On April 8, 2025, the Chief Public Utility Law Judge issued a notice of dismissal and closing of the docket, effective May 8, 2025, unless any party comes forward with any remaining issues.

Complaint of the Staff of the Public Service Commission of Maryland v. SmartEnergy Holdings, LLC d/b/a SmartEnergy—Case No. 9613

ON MAY 10, 2019, Staff filed a complaint against SmartEnergy alleging SmartEnergy had committed fraud and engaged in deceptive practices for failing to comply with the Commission's consumer protection regulations as contained in COMAR 20.51.07 and 20.53.07. The Commission delegated the complaint to the PULJ Division for a finding of whether SmartEnergy engaged in a pattern or practice of systemic violations of the consumer protections contained in the PUA. OPC filed a third-party complaint.

After an evidentiary hearing, a proposed order was issued on December 16, 2020 in which the Public Utility Law Judge made various recommendations including that a moratorium be imposed on SmartEnergy's enrolling or soliciting additional customers in Maryland at least until SmartEnergy completes a communication and refund process as well as an accounting to the Commission after which the Commission can address the appropriate civil monetary penalty.

[12] At the time, the Office of External Relations.

On December 22, 2020, the Commission issued Order No. 89683 imposing a moratorium and directing further proceedings.

On March 31, 2021, the Commission issued Order No. 89795 affirming the PULJ's findings that SmartEnergy violated PUA §7-507(b)(7) by engaging in unfair, false, misleading and deceptive marketing, advertising, and trade practices, and violated associated COMAR Title 20, Subsection 53 provisions. The Commission reversed the PULJ's finding that Commercial Law Article (Com. Law) §14-2203(b) (the Maryland Telephone Solicitation Act or MTSA)—requiring that a contract made pursuant to a telephone solicitation be reduced to writing and signed by the consumer—does not apply to SmartEnergy's contracting with its Maryland customers under the facts of the case.

SmartEnergy objected to the Commission's finding that the MTSA applies to its enrollments and filed a petition for judicial review of the Commission's order in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Along with the Commission, OPC and the Maryland Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division also filed memoranda supporting the Commission's findings in Order No. 89795.

On November 29, 2021, the Circuit Court entered an order affirming the Commission's order in all respects except the Commission's finding that SmartEnergy's access to and ability to edit call recordings violated the Commission's regulations. SmartEnergy filed a notice of appeal to the Appeals Court of Maryland (formerly the Court of Special Appeals) which affirmed the Commission's order. SmartEnergy filed a petition for a writ of certiorari in the Supreme Court of Maryland (formerly the Court of Appeals) which was granted in March 2023. On February 22, 2024, the Supreme Court affirmed the judgment of the appellate court. On April 18, 2024, the Supreme Court of Maryland denied SmartEnergy's motion for reconsideration and issued the mandate with regard to the Court's February 22, 2024 opinion. *(See COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURT MATTERS section on p. 87.)*

On April 28, 2025 the Commission issued Order No. 91626 in which it, among other things, accepted Staff's and OPC's recommendations to enforce compliance with Order No. 89795, holding SmartEnergy in default in the amount of $15.97 million in customer refunds, but suspended all but $6.5 million of that amount if SmartEnergy refunded affected customers within 90 days, and noted that failure to do so would result in further action by the Commission, including the referral of any unrefunded amount of the total liability to the Office of Attorney General for enforcement and the State's collection agency for collection; directed SmartEnergy to retain a Maryland-based independent auditor to confirm the remittance of customer refunds; and deemed forfeited as a civil penalty, SmartEnergy's $250,000 financial security bond.

Complaint of the Staff of the Public Service Commission of Maryland v. Direct Energy Services, LLC—Case No. 9614

On May 15, 2019, Staff filed a complaint against Direct Energy Services, LLC alleging that the company had violated Maryland law governing retail supplier activities. The Commission initiated a new docket and delegated the matter to the PULJ Division for a finding of whether the company engaged in a pattern or practice of systemic violations of the consumer protections in the Public Utilities Article and the Commission's regulations. On April 29, 2021, the parties entered into a settlement agreement. On July 8, 2021, a proposed order was issued approving the settlement and reserving, for further litigation in a Phase II proceeding, issues relating to the Maryland Telephone Solicitations Act (MTSA). The parties filed initial briefs on October 25, 2021 and reply briefs on November 15, 2021. On January 14, 2022, a Phase II proposed order was issued. On February 14, 2022, Direct Energy and OPC both noticed appeals of the proposed order.

On May 4, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90208 affirming in part and reversing in part the PULJ's findings. The Commission affirmed the PULJ's findings that Direct Energy violated the MTSA and, alternatively, COMAR 20.53.07.08(C)(4) and COMAR 20.59.07.08(C)(4) by engaging in marketing, advertising, or trade practices that are unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive. The Commission reversed the PULJ's remedy related to requiring signatures for all future telephone enrollments regardless of the MTSA's statutory exemptions but did not order any additional monetary remedy against Direct Energy finding that the $125,000 penalty previously assessed was sufficient. Direct Energy and OPC filed petitions for judicial review.

The memorandum briefing schedule for the case concluded on January 18, 2023 with an initial hearing scheduled for January 23, 2023. On the eve of the hearing, the circuit court issued an order postponing the hearing for 90 days to April 24, 2023. On May 10, 2023, the court issued an order reversing the Commission's ruling regarding Direct Energy's compliance with the regulations governing contract formation. *(See COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURT MATTERS section on p. 87.)*

Complaint of the Staff of the Public Service Commission of Maryland v. U.S. Gas & Electric d/b/a Maryland Gas & Electric and Energy Services Providers, Inc. d/b/a Maryland Gas & Electric—Case No. 9615

ON MAY 15, 2019, Staff filed a complaint against U.S. Gas & Electric, d/b/a Maryland Gas & Electric alleging that the company had violated Maryland law governing retail supplier activities. The Commission initiated a new docket and delegated the matter to the PULJ Division for a finding of whether the company engaged in a pattern or practice of systemic violations of the consumer protections in the Public Utilities Article and the Commission's regulations. On May 14, 2021, the parties entered into a settlement agreement. On August 30, 2021, a proposed order was issued approving the settlement and, reserving for further litigation in a Phase II proceeding, issues relating to the Maryland Telephone Solicitations Act. On March 18, 2022, a Phase II proposed order was issued.

On August 16, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90311 affirming in part and reversing in part the PULJ's findings. The Commission affirmed the PULJ's findings that U.S. Gas & Electric, Inc. and Energy Service Providers, Inc. d/b/a Maryland Gas & Electric (MDG&E) violated the MTSA and, alternatively, COMAR 20.53.07.08(C)(4) and COMAR 20.59.07.08(C)(4) by engaging in marketing, advertising, or trade practices that are unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive. The Commission reversed the PULJ's remedy related to requiring signatures for all future telephone enrollments regardless of the MTSA's statutory exemptions but did not order any additional monetary remedy against MDG&E finding that the $150,000 penalty previously assessed was sufficient. MDG&E and OPC filed petitions for judicial review.

MDG&E later filed a motion to stay the matter pending the outcome of SmartEnergy's petition for a writ of certiorari in the Supreme Court of Maryland. On February 28, 2023, the motion to stay was denied. Hearing dates for OPC's and MDG&E's petitions were scheduled for May 2023. *(See COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURT MATTERS section on p. 87.)*

In the Matter of Alternative Rate Plans or Methodologies to Establish New Base Rates for an Electric Company or a Gas Company - Case No. 9618 (Lessons Learned)

ON FEBRUARY 4, 2020, the Commission issued an order establishing a framework for a multi-year rate plan pilot. The Commission noted that rapid changes in the economy and energy industry, coupled with changing State policy goals and calls for grid modernization, had impacted utility operations. In response, some states had examined and adopted alternate forms of ratemaking aimed at accelerating utility cost recovery. The Commission sought to explore whether this construct could provide benefits to Maryland ratepayers and utility operations.

BGE was the first utility to file such a plan in May 2020; MYPs were also later filed by Pepco and Delmarva. Each of these utilities subsequently filed second MYPs.

The Commission's 2020 order contemplated a 'lessons-learned' proceeding to allow the utilities, Staff, OPC, other stakeholders, and/or interested persons to submit information and comments on how the MYP construct had fared relative to the goals and potential benefits discussed in the order.

In August 2024, the Commission sought comments from BGE, Staff, OPC, and other interested stakeholders on various topics, including:

(1) what, if any, appreciable improvements in state policy objectives have been achieved under the MRP compared to traditional ratemaking;
(2) whether the potential shortened cost recovery period was achieved and its impact on
customers and other aspects of the ratemaking process such as cost disallowance;

(3) whether rate predictability was achieved and its impact relative to traditional ratemaking;
(4) whether administrative burdens actually decreased on the Commission and other stakeholders;
(5) whether greater transparency into capital spending and improvements in system reliability have been realized compared to standard ratemaking; and
(6) whether more utility innovation and equitable risk distribution have been achieved relative to traditional ratemaking.

The Commission particularly noted that OPC raised several important issues regarding MYPs and whether they are in the best interest of ratepayers and other stakeholders and whether they are in the public interest in general.

In the Lessons Learned proceeding, the Commission requested that parties opine on the issues raised by OPC and provide any comments or recommendations for improvements with the implementation of MYPs should the Commission proceed with promulgating MYP regulations. The Commission noted its intent to utilize this proceeding as a complete analysis of MYP impacts on the companies, all classes of customers, the State's economy, and environment and energy policy goals.

The Commission held legislative-style hearings October 15-16, 2024, in which it heard presentations and arguments from stakeholders on the various topics outlined in the notice. This matter remains pending.

Complaint of the Maryland Office of People's Counsel Against SunSea Energy, LLC—Case No. 9647

ON JANUARY 30, 2023, the Commission's Consumer Affairs Division submitted a memorandum that alleged SunSea Energy, LLC violated State law governing retail suppliers' activities. On February 13, 2023, the Commission reopened this docket and scheduled a Probable Cause Hearing which was held on April 5-6, 2023. On April 11, 2023, the Commission issued an order that SunSea had violated Maryland laws and regulations and delegated the matter to the PULJ Division to determine the full extent of SunSea's violations. The Commission also suspended SunSea's license to supply electric and gas and electric and gas supply services, directed SunSea to return all customers to Standard Offer Service, to cease all current and future marketing and enrollment of electric and gas services, and to double its surety bond to $500,000 for both its electric and gas licenses.

On April 25, 2023, the Public Utility Law Judge ruled that since SunSea had a single $250,000 bond that covered both its electric and gas supplier licenses, it was only required to increase the bond to $500,000. On May 4, 2023, the Commission issued an order with findings from the Probable Cause hearing and clarified that it intended for SunSea to increase its bonds to $1 million based upon information provided during the Probable Cause Hearing. The Commission also denied SunSea's request to provide an alternative financing instrument and that the failure to post a bond by May 10, 2023 would result in a $10,000 per day civil penalty. On May 11, 2023, SunSea filed a Petition for Judicial Review in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

On December 8, 2023, Staff filed a Motion for Summary Judgment or for Partial Summary Judgment based upon SunSea's failure to increase the amount of its bonds and to add language to its bonds as specified by the Public Utility Law Judge and requested that a $112,000 judgment be entered against SunSea which would continue to increase by $10,000 per day until SunSea complies with the Commission's directives. On December 20, 2023, the Public Utility Law Judge denied Staff's Motion based upon SunSea's pending petition and the ongoing Circuit Court case.

On January 28, 2024, the Public Utility Law Judge granted SunSea's motion to stay this matter until the Circuit Court issues a ruling on its petition. *(See COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURT MATTERS section on p. 87.)*

Complaint of the Office of People's Counsel Against Washington Gas Light Company and WGL Energy Services, Inc.-Case No. 9673

ON NOVEMBER 24, 2021, OPC filed a complaint against Washington Gas Light Company and WGL Energy alleging the companies engaged in deceptive marketing based upon information contained in billing statements sent to customers. On that same date, the Commission initiated a new docket and requested comments. On February 7, 2022, in Order No. 90057, the Commission dismissed OPC's complaint and, on April 20, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90175 denying OPC's request for rehearing.

OPC filed a Petition for Judicial Review in Montgomery County Circuit Court. On December 22, 2022, the court affirmed the Commission's dismissal of OPC's complaint. OPC then appealed to the Appellate Court of Maryland. On December 20, 2023, the Appellate Court reversed the Circuit Court and ordered that the Circuit Court vacate the Commission's Order and remand this matter to the Commission.

On July 10, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91217 which initiated discovery and delegated the case to the PULJ Division. On October 3, 2024, OPC voluntarily dismissed its complaint against WGL Energy. On October 22, 2024, a notice of procedural dates was issued.

On December 13, 2024, WGL filed a request for dismissal and OPC filed a motion for summary judgement. On January 10, 2025, WGL, OPC, and Sierra Club filed responses. *(See COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURT MATTERS section on p. 87.)*

Formal Complaint of Terra Firma, LLC v. Delmarva Power & Light Company—Case No. 9693

ON NOVEMBER 30, 2022, Terra Firma filed a formal complaint against Delmarva Power & Light Company which filed its response on December 16, 2022. Pursuant to the parties' request, a mediation session was held on March 21, 2023; however, the mediation was unsuccessful. On April 18, 2024, the parties were informed that since no action had been taken in the case for more than one year, the case would be dismissed in 30 days. No response to that notice was received. The complaint was dismissed on May 20, 2024 and the case was closed on the docket of the Commission.

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's Application for an Electric School Bus Pilot Program-Case No. 9696

ON MARCH 3, 2023, BGE filed a proposal for an electric school bus pilot program to provide electric school bus rebates and related rebates in support of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. BGE requested the Commission's approval before June 2023 so that the company could complete all implementation activities for an October 1, 2023 program launch and develop equitable deployment plans for all jurisdictions.

In its application, BGE proposed a four-year, $79.6 million EVSB Pilot Program consisting of $75.5 million in financial incentives for the purchase of EVSBs, electric vehicle supply equipment, make-ready and installation costs, and general and administrative transition costs for school districts, as well as $4.1 million in program implementation costs which includes administrative, education, and outreach expenses. The company's EVSB Pilot Program aimed to deploy a total of 204 EVSBs over the four-year period.

The Commission held an evidentiary hearing on October 2, 2023. After reviewing testimony and briefs, on January 16, 2024, the Commission deferred its decision on BGE's application until the other investor-owned utilities filed proposals and the 2024 legislative session ended. The Commission directed any remaining investor-owned utilities interested in submitting an electric school bus pilot proposal to do so by May 1, 2024. On January 17, 2024, Potomac Edison filed its electric school bus pilot proposal. *(See below for Case No. 9741.)*

On January 27, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91498 in which it approved BGE's proposal with modifications.

Potomac Electric Power Company Streetlights - Case No. 9703

ON APRIL 7, 2023, The Municipal Corporations (Chevy Chase Village, Chevy Chase Section 3, the City of Gaithersburg, the City of College Park, the Town of North Chevy Chase, and the Town of Washington Grove) filed a letter requesting unresolved issues related to Pepco's streetlighting tariffs be briefed on a schedule agreed to by the parties. On the same day, Pepco filed a joint issues list of outstanding issues and parties efforts to resolve remaining issues.

The topic in the case pertained to proposed revisions to Pepco's street lighting tariffs that were filed April 8, 2022 regarding the sale of the companies streetlighting equipment to a county or municipality upon a written request as contained in §§1-1309(c) and (d) of the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. The issue was addressed throughout 2022 and at the beginning of 2023.

The topics under debate were briefed, discussed, and negotiated over the remainder of 2023 and a final update was provided to the Commission on January 10, 2024 which requested the Commission resolve two outstanding issues (1) if the municipalities needed to coordinate with non-utility who owned poles that Pepco equipment was attached to outside of the process established by the Commission and (2) indemnification. The Commission issued Order No. 91067 which requested briefing from Verizon who owns several of the poles impacted by item (1) regarding their responsibilities under §§1-1309 of the Local Government Article and resolved the indemnification item. The Commission also requested that Pepco identify the other pole owners.

After receiving briefing from Verizon, the Commission determined that the municipality had the same right that the seller had to the space the streetlight is attached to but that did not extend to other terms, agreements, or arrangements between the pole owner and the previous streetlight owner. Also, the Commission determined it did not have jurisdiction over disputes that would arise under §§1-1309 related to non-electric companies. Also, Pepco noted 3,737 poles whose owners were listed as 'unidentified.' The Commission found this unacceptable and required Pepco to include pole owner identification in a survey it is required to complete in Case No. 9706.

Formal Complaint of Alfred C. Carr v. Potomac Electric Power Company—Case No. 9706

ON OCTOBER 21, 2022, **Alfred C. Carr, Jr.** filed a formal complaint with the Commission against Pepco claiming broadly that Pepco had failed to provide street lighting services in a manner that is safe, adequate, just, reasonable, economical, and efficient. On November 21, 2022, Pepco filed its answer to the complaint, motion to dismiss, and, in the alternative, request for mediation.

On January 4, 2023, Mr. Carr filed a response to Pepco's motion to dismiss which amended the complaint. On January 23, 2023, Pepco filed a reply denying the additional allegations and renewing its motion to dismiss. The complaint includes a request that the Commission open an investigation into Pepco's street lighting practices, both its provision of service and its billing.

After a preliminary hearing on June 22, 2023, Pepco's motion to dismiss was denied for the reasons set forth in the ruling on the motion and the procedural schedule notice. Because Pepco's motion to dismiss contained numerous factual allegations, Staff was directed to conduct a preliminary investigation in order to find support for, and verify, such allegations, obtain more specific details where possible and appropriate, and to review Pepco's (standard) procedures and practices. Staff filed its preliminary investigation report on Pepco's streetlight operations on September 8, 2023 concluding that "it is clear from this preliminary investigation and the record in this matter to date that there are significant deficiencies in Pepco's streetlight procedures and practices."

After the filing of testimony, a joint motion for approval of an agreement of unanimous stipulation and settlement was filed on February 28, 2024. Staff filed a brief on March 20, 2024 and Mr. Carr filed comments on March 25, 2024. Bench data requests were served on March 26, 2024. Pepco filed a brief on March 27, 2024. A hearing was held on April 2, 2024. A proposed order was issued on April 22, 2024 which accepted the portions of the stipulation which outlined Pepco's steps to correct its systemic billing issues and to provide streetlight service that is safe, adequate, just, reasonable, economical, and efficient; denied Pepco recovery of certain costs; and authorized a phase 2 proceeding in the event Pepco fails to comply with reporting directives. The proposed order became a final order (91162) on May 23, 2024.

Pepco filed a corrective action plan on August 21, 2024.

Petition of the Office of People's Counsel for Near-Term, Priority Actions and Comprehensive, Long-Term Planning for Maryland's Gas Companies-Case No. 9707

ON FEBRUARY 9, 2023, the Maryland Office of People's Counsel filed a petition related to near term priority actions and comprehensive long-term planning for Maryland's gas companies. On June 14, 2023, the Commission issued a notice requesting comments on the proceeding which were received through December of 2023. The Commission held two hearings—on July 25 and July 31, 2024—to review comments and presentations by various parties, including the Commission's Technical Staff, the Maryland Energy Administration, Maryland's natural gas utilities, environmental advocates, the business community, non-profit organizations, etc. This matter remains pending.

Washington Gas Light Company's Application for Approval of a New Gas System Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement (STRIDE) Plan and Accompanying Cost Recovery Mechanism – Case No. 9708

ON JUNE 16, 2023, Washington Gas Light Company (WGL) filed its application for approval of a new STRIDE plan and an accompanying cost recovery mechanism, pursuant to Section 4-210 of the Public Utilities Article. The application called for the plan to be effective for the years 2024 through 2028.

On July 6, 2023, the Commission instituted proceedings to consider the application and delegated those proceedings to the PULJ Division. A virtual public comment hearing was held on September 12, 2023. An evidentiary hearing was held on September 26, 2023. On October 25, 2023, the PULJ issued a proposed order approving WGL's plan with modifications.

The proposed order modified and approved WGL's application providing for a reduced number of replacement projects equal to a reduction to the five-year budget by at least one-third pending approval by the Commission of actual projects from WGL's November 1, 2023 project list with an anticipated reduction in the associated STRIDE surcharge of at least one-third over the five-year term. Additionally, the proposed order directed WGL to serve notice of the company's request for review and approval of its November 1, 2023 project list to owners of the properties where services are proposed to be replaced, providing in the notice contact information for both OPC and Staff counsel whose appearances were entered in this case.

On November 13, 2023, OPC, the Sierra Club of Maryland, and Chesapeake Climate Action Network (CCAN) filed appeals from the proposed order. WGL and Staff filed responsive memoranda on November 20, 2023 urging the Commission to reject the appeals and affirm the proposed order.

On December 13, 2023, the Commission issued its decision in this matter modifying a directive in the proposed order but otherwise affirming the rest of the proposed order. Order No. 90941 also stated that a memorandum would follow explaining the grounds for the Commission's conclusions. The Commission issued a memorandum opinion on January 10, 2024—together with the December 13, 2023 order—they constitute the Commission's complete order on appeal.

On February 9, 2024, OPC filed a request for rehearing of the Commission's decision on appeal. Responsive comments were filed by Staff and Washington Gas. On April 19, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91099 denying OPC's request for rehearing. *(See COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURT MATTERS section on p. 87.)*

Formal Complaint of Diana Leyden v. Potomac Electric Power Company—Case No. 9718

DIANA LEYDEN FILED an appeal of her formal complaint on May 19, 2023. Pepco filed a response on June 20, 2023. Ms. Leyden filed a reply to Pepco's response on July 3, 2023. The matter was assigned to the PULJ Division on December 18, 2023. A virtual pre-hearing conference was held on January 29, 2024. An evidentiary hearing was scheduled for April 24, 2024. A proposed order was issued on July 15, 2024 and became final on August 15, 2024 by Order No. 91288

Formal Complaint of Mario and Arlene Lopez v. Baltimore Gas and Electric-Case No. 9724

MARIO AND ARLENE LOPEZ filed an appeal of their formal complaint on November 17, 2023. BGE filed a response on December 13, 2023. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on February 22, 2024. On February 29, 2024, a notice to submit evidentiary materials and responses was issued. An evidentiary hearing was held on May 23, 2024. On June 14, 2024, a proposed order was issued which became final on July 16, 2024. Mario and Arlene Lopez filed an appeal. On October 11, 2024, the Commission issued a confidential order on appeal.

Formal Complaint of Robert Stevens v. Delmarva Power and Light Company-Case No. 9727

ON JULY 28, 2023, **Dr. Stevens** filed a formal complaint against Delmarva Power related to returned check fees, late payment fees, credit card fees, mailing costs and fees for his convenience. On August 28, 2023, DPL filed a response. On March 21, 2024, the Commission delegated this matter to the PULJ Division. After Staff filed testimony on May 13, 2024, a settlement was agreed upon and a virtual settlement hearing was held on June 5, 2024.

On July 24, 2024, a proposed order was issued that accepted the settlement and directed Staff to investigate the extent to which DPL improperly collected returned check fees from customers.

On August 8, 2024, a procedural schedule for Phase II was issued. On November 15, 2024, Staff filed testimony related to its investigation and DPL filed its reply testimony on December 13, 2024. The procedural schedule was amended again on January 7, 2025. This matter remains pending.

Complaint of the Staff of the Public Service Commission of Maryland Against Yazam, Inc. d/b/a Empower-Case No. 9732

STAFF FILED A complaint against Yazam, Inc. d/b/a Empower to show cause why it should not be enjoined from continuing to engage in the provision of unlicensed and unauthorized transportation services and operating as a Transportation Network Company without a permit in Maryland and why it should not be subject to civil penalty. On April 8, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ division. On April 29, 2024, a procedural schedule was issued.

On June 7, 2024, Yazam filed an answer to Staff's complaint. On July 12, 2024, Yazam filed a status report. On July 30, 2024, Staff filed a motion to compel. On August 5, 2024, Staff filed a motion for response to a second data request. On August 5, 2024, Staff filed a motion for response to a third data request. On August 7, 2024, Yazam filed a response to the motions to compel data requests 2 and 3. On August 12, 2024, Staff filed direct testimony and exhibits. On September 20, 2024, Yazam filed direct testimony. On October 2, 2024, Staff filed a motion for sanctions and a directive to comply with prior Commission directives. On October 4, 2024, Yazam filed a response to Staff's motion for sanctions. On October 9, 2024, Staff filed a response to Empower's reply. On October 17, 2024, Staff filed rebuttal testimony. On October

20, 2024, an amended procedural schedule was issued. On November 6, 2024, OPC filed a motion to compel a response to OPC's data request No. 2 to Yazam, Inc. d/b/a Empower. The matter is still pending.

Potomac Edison's Electric School Bus Pilot - Case No. 9741

ON JANUARY 17, 2024, Potomac Edison filed a proposal for an electric school bus pilot program to provide electric school bus rebates and related rebates in support of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. Potomac Edison proposed to incentivize 28 electric school buses over five years and provide additional incentives and program costs for about $10.4 million. After issuing Order No. 91215 on procedural schedules and receiving testimony, the Commission held an evidentiary hearing on October 4, 2024. The Commission, on March 21, 2025, approved a modified pilot in Order No. 91571.

Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.'s Application for Authority to Adopt a New Infrastructure Replacement and Improvement Plan and Surcharge Mechanism-Case No. 9751

ON JULY 30, 2024, Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. filed an application for authority to adopt a new STRIDE 3 Plan and associated surcharge mechanism for years 2025-2029 to become effective January 1, 2025. The application proposed replacement of bare steel and pre-1982 "first generation" plastic mains and service lines, costs for in-line inspection, point-of-delivery/district regulator station replacements, and telemetry as eligible for recovery at an estimated $17 million annually. On July 31, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division.

A pre-hearing conference was held on September 4, 2024 and a procedural schedule was adopted. Public comment hearings were held in Cumberland and Hagerstown on October 16 and 17, 2024, respectively. On November 14, 2024, an evidentiary hearing was held and several bench data requests were issued. On November 27, 2024, the parties filed briefs. On December 23, 2024, a proposed order was issued granting the application in part and denying it in part. On December 30, 2024, Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc. withdrew the application.

Formal Complaint of Frank Kamm v. Delmarva Power & Light Company-Case No. 9756

ON APRIL 9, 2024, **Frank Kamm** filed a formal complaint against Delmarva Power. The complainant alleged that he was unable to paint the front of his property because of a Delmarva Power distribution line that was located within six feet of the property as opposed to being at least 10 feet away as required by Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulation 1926.451(f)(6) for uninsulated conductor of voltage less than 50kV. On September 25, 2024, the Commission delegated the formal complaint to the PULJ Division for further proceedings. A procedural schedule was established, notice being issued on October 2, 2024. Bench data requests were served on October 4, 2024.

On October 2 and 4, 2024, Delmarva Power replaced two distribution line poles near the property and reconfigured its distribution lines on the side of the pole furthest away from the property. On October 7 and 15, 2024, the complainant informed the PULJ and the other parties that he believed there was now adequate clearance between Delmarva Power's distribution lines and the property in order to allow the painting work to be conducted without the need to deenergize Delmarva Power's distribution lines. A ruling granting summary judgment and deeming the complaint satisfied was issued on November 1, 2024.

Formal Complaint of Sarah Croxford v. Baltimore Gas and Electric Company-Case No. 9758

ON JULY 8, 2024, **Sarah Croxford** filed a formal complaint against BGE related to service reliability concerns. After BGE filed a response, on October 11, 2024, the Commission docketed this proceeding and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On October 30, 2024, a procedural schedule was issued with an evidentiary hearing to be held on April 3, 2025. On April 1, 2025, BGE filed a motion for summary judgment on the grounds that there was no genuine dispute as to any material fact in this matter and the company was entitled to judgment as a matter of law. On April 7, 2025, Chief PULJ McLean denied BGE's motion noting that even though BGE filed its motion in advance of the evidentiary hearing, it was done so close in time to the hearing that there was insufficient time to appropriately consider the motion and the Croxfords' opposition. Furthermore, the delay in ruling on the motion effectively defeated its intended purpose of avoiding an evidentiary hearing. This matter remains pending.

Formal Complaint of Hassan Ashktorab v. Potomac Electric Power Company-Case No. 9760

ON JUNE 4, 2024, Hassan Ashktorab and Farided Chitsaz filed a formal complaint against Pepco pursuant to Annotated Code of Maryland, Public Utilities Article, §§3-102 and 5-303 regarding a dispute with Pepco related to configuration of Pepco's primary line along Hampden Lane in Bethesda where complainants' service address is located. In a related proceeding, the Commission's Engineering Division recommended that Pepco relocate the primary line from the south side of Hampden Lane to the north side of Hampden Lane. The complainants alleged, among other things, that the proposed reconfiguration would breach a contract they entered into with Pepco in November of 2022. On October 22, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. Bench data requests were issued on December 4, 2024 to Pepco and Staff. On December 16, 2024, Michael Ravitch and Bruce Glassman filed a motion to intervene.

This matter remains pending.

COMMISSION WATER/SEWER CASES

Maryland Water Service, Inc.'s Application for Authority to Revise and Consolidate Rates, Charges, and Tariff Provisions for Water and Sewage Disposal Services—Case No. 9729

ON MARCH 29, 2024, Maryland Water Service, Inc. filed an application to revise and consolidate rates, charges, and tariff provisions for water and sewage disposal services and requested an overall increase of $1,578,501. On April 1, 2024, the Commission docketed this proceeding and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On May 8, 2024, a procedural schedule was issued. On May 14, 2024, the petition to intervene, *pro se*, of David Alan Tibbetts was granted.

In-person public comment hearings were held in Severn (July 24, 2024), La Vale (July 25, 2024), and Edgewood (August 5, 2024). Both OPC and Staff filed testimony and recommended increases of $1,297,109 and $1,281,638, respectively. On August 16, 2024, MWS requested the procedural schedule be suspended as a settlement had been reached with OPC and Staff to increase revenues by $1,317,881 and to consolidate all five water systems under one rate schedule. On August 20, 2024, MWS amended its application such that the effective date of its requested tariff was delayed for an additional 30 days. On September 4, 2024, a hearing was held to consider the settlement.

On September 12, 2024, a ruling was issued that rejected the settlement and, on September 27, 2024, an evidentiary hearing was held. On October 21, 2024, a proposed order was issued that authorized a revenue increase of $1,304,012. On October 24, 2024, Staff appealed the proposed order and challenged the rejection of Staff's position on rate case expenses. On December 30, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91462 affirming the proposed order.

Settlement Agreement for Staff-Assisted Rate Case for Nine Water Utilities Located in Southern Maryland for Authority to Increase its Rates and Charges for Water Services-Case No. 9750

ON JULY 18, 2024, the parties filed a signed settlement agreement to increase rates and charges for nine water companies located in Charles and Calvert counties. The settlement agreement proposed rates designed to increase annual revenues by $425,259 and an additional $13.89 monthly surcharge to comply with the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. Public comment hearings were held on November 26, 2024 and December 11, 2024. An evidentiary hearing was held on December 12, 2024. A proposed order was issued on January 15, 2025 that accepted the proposed annual revenue requirement and monthly surcharge, however, proposed a modified rate design. The nine water companies filed an appeal on February 4, 2025.

On April 18, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91617 reinstating the settlement's original rate design but with additional customer protections.

Rulemakings and Regulations – New and Amended

RM56-Community Solar Energy Generation Systems

On March 25, 2024, the Commission's Technical Staff proposed regulations to implement provisions of House Bill 908 of 2023 which transitioned the Community Solar Pilot Program to a permanent program. HB908 required adoption, by July 1, 2025, of rules to revise interconnection requirements for community solar systems, implement consolidated billing, reporting metrics for billing and crediting, and certain operating requirements for electric utilities and subscriber organizations.

The Commission held a rulemaking session on May 15, 2024 in which the Commission took no action on the proposed regulations noting a number of outstanding issues to be resolved and directed the parties to reconvene to reach consensus.

On July 31, 2024, Staff submitted revised proposed regulations to COMAR 20.50 and COMAR 20.62. The Commission held a rulemaking session on September 5, 2024 at which the Commission approved amendments to the draft regulations and moved to publish in the *Maryland Register* for notice and comment, revised regulations to COMAR 20.50.09 Small Generator Facility Interconnection Standards; COMAR 20.62.01 General; COMAR 20.62.02 Pilot Program; COMAR 20.62.03 Pilot Program Administration; COMAR 20.62.04 Pilot Program Study; and COMAR 20.62.05 Consumer Protection.

On October 10, 2024, at the request of the Net Metering Working Group, the Commission issued a notice for comments on the development of rules to implement consolidated billing for the Community Solar program noting that the workgroup could not reach agreement concerning which of three proposed billing methodologies should be used.
On November 1, 2024, the Coalition for Community Solar Access submitted a request for the Commission to schedule a hearing on the Net Metering Workgroup's petition for policy guidance on consolidated billing. The Commission also received comments on the petition from other interested parties. The Commission held a legislative-style hearing on November 26, 2024 to consider input on the matter.

A rulemaking session was held on February 4, 2025 in which the Commission gave final adoption to proposed implementation regulations that had been published in the *Maryland Register* on December 13, 2024. These regulations did not include rules for implementing consolidated billing.

On February 10, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91524 in which it directed the workgroup to develop a consolidated billing mechanism consistent with the 'Net Crediting 1' methodology supported by solar advocates and organizations. This process provides that a subscription credit is generated that is first applied to the community solar subscription fee and is then applied to the applicable utility charges, similar to the methodology implemented in

New York. The workgroup was further directed to file draft regulations by March 31, 2025. Staff filed the proposed regulations for consolidated billing on March 31, as directed by the PSC. A hearing on this set of proposed regulations is scheduled for April 30, 2025.

RM76–Cybersecurity Regulations

DURING THE 2023 legislative session, the General Assembly enacted House Bill 969—Public Service Commission–Cybersecurity Staffing and Assessments (Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Act of 2023). Specifically, the Act sought to: (1) require the Commission to include one or more cybersecurity experts on its Staff to advise the Commission and perform certain duties; (2) require the Commission to establish minimum cybersecurity standards and best practices for regulated entities and share cybersecurity-related information / best practices with municipal electric utilities; (3) require the Commission to conduct and submit an evaluation of the public service companies' assessments to Maryland Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Office of Security Management, and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM); and (4) require public service companies to adopt and implement cybersecurity standards and conduct assessments, and report cyber security incidents.

HB 969 was codified in PUA §2-108 and §5-306 which was enacted July 1, 2023. To implement HB 969 and conduct compliance and enforcement, among other things, the Commission continues to build its Office of Cybersecurity with two of three staff members hired at the time of this report. In addition, since HB 969 was enacted, the Cybersecurity Reporting Work Group (CSRWG) has met several times to discuss implementation. Accordingly, the CSRWG leader submitted a petition for rulemaking on February 14, 2024. A rulemaking session was held on March 27, 2024; the Commission took no action on the proposed regulations.

Subsequently, on April 17, 2024, the Cybersecurity Reporting Work Group Leader filed a supplemental report with revised regulation proposals and counterproposals. The Commission held another rulemaking session on June 11, 2024 to continue consideration of the proposed revisions. A final rulemaking was held on November 6, 2024 to adopt the draft regulations as published in the September 6, 2024 edition of the *Maryland Register.* The regulations became effective December 12, 2024.

RM86 - Workgroup on Emergency Weather Termination Protections

On June 18, 2024, the Maryland Office of People's Counsel (OPC) petitioned the Commission requesting that it issue an emergency order to protect residential utility customers from extreme heat then-expected to be experienced in the summer of 2024. Following the receipt of the petition from OPC, the Commission initiated Case No. 9745 to docket comments on this issue. The Commission considered parties' comments and on July 23, 2024 issued Order No. 91239 which directed Maryland electric utilities to temporarily add 16 days to any termination notice given to customers before termination for non-payment, with this emergency directive ending on September 1, 2024. Within this order, the Commission found that the additional issues raised by OPC in their petition would be better addressed at a rulemaking proceeding addressing service terminations.

The Commission internally developed proposed regulations making revisions to COMAR 20.31 and subsequently initiated Rulemaking 86 focused on addressing service termination protections. Specifically, the RM86 proceeding seeks to address the concerns raised by parties in Case No. 9745, as well as other issues, such as those related to termination procedures, emergency authorities, payment plans, and protections during both winter and summer extreme weather periods. After receiving comments from parties, the Commission held a rulemaking proceeding on December 5, 2024. Following the rulemaking session, the Commission issued a notice directing a Workgroup to be convened with a goal of submitting a revised draft of proposed regulations for Commission consideration by December 30, 2024 while allowing the Workgroup to defer certain issues to a future rulemaking session.

The Workgroup met three times in December and on December 31, 2024, filed a Workgroup report with revised proposed regulation revisions. The report recommended proposed revisions to COMAR 20.31.01.02 and 20.31.03.04 related to defining a “summer extreme weather period” as it pertains to customer termination protections. The Workgroup report also recommended that the Commission direct it to continue regulation revisions for the additional COMAR changes as proposed in the original RM86 regulations.

On January 22, 2025, the Commission held a rulemaking proceeding to consider the regulations as proposed in the RM86 Workgroup report. In the proceeding, the Commission approved revised regulations that establish a “summer extreme weather” period for customer termination protections as one that uses a three-day forecast period, a 95 degree air temperature threshold, and a 95 degree heat index temperature threshold. In addition, the Commission directed the Workgroup to continue to review additional regulation revisions related to customer protections.

A final rulemaking proceeding to finalize these regulations is to be held in May 2025.

Public Conferences and Workgroups

PC44–Transforming Maryland's Electric Distribution Systems (Grid Modernization)

ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2016, the Commission convened PC44—a proceeding which built on two Commission technical conferences that examined rate-related issues affecting the deployment of distributed energy resources (PC40) and electric vehicles (PC43). It also followed up on a condition of the Commission's May 2015 approval of the merger of Exelon Corporation 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.

Key topics of exploration would 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; and assessing impacts on limited-income Marylanders.

On January 31, 2017, the Commission issued a notice outlining the proceeding's next steps. The notice directed PHI to seek bids for a consultant to study the benefits and costs of distributed solar and also contained a statement of guiding principles, revised the scope/topics of the proceeding, and detailed a proposed timeline. The revised topics of exploration include rate design, electric vehicles, competitive markets and customer choice, interconnection process, energy storage, and distribution system planning (if sufficient funding is available). 2024 activities are described below.

EV Work Group (PC62)/Case No. 9478–In the Matter of the Petition of the Electric Vehicle Work Group for Implementation of a Statewide Electric Vehicle Portfolio

ON JANUARY 14, 2019, the Commission issued Order No. 88997 approving a modified EV charging portfolio across four investor-owned utility service territories—BGE, Delmarva Power & Light, Pepco and Potomac Edison. Summarized briefly, the Commission approved a total of 5,046 smart and DC fast chargers (combined): Rebate incentives for 3,137 residential smart chargers via rebate incentives; Rebate incentives for 1,000 non-residential smart chargers at multi-unit dwelling locations; and 909 utility-owned and operated public chargers. Order No. 88997 also approved time-of-use residential rate offerings (both whole house and EV-specific), demand charge credit programs for non-residential applications, and BGE's managed charging program to control the level of EV charging during peak demand periods.

The Commission further directed the utilities to file detailed, semi-annual reports addressing specific metrics designed to inform the Commission and the public regarding program implementation and impacts on the distribution grid. SMECO filed an application on May 14, 2019 to install up to 60 utility-owned and operated public chargers in a program similar to those approved for the four investor-owned utilities. On July 31, 2019, the Commission approved a modified version of SMECO's request adding an additional 60 public-facing chargers to the state portfolio and raising the total number of approved public chargers to 5,106. BGE and PHI officially launched their programs in July 2019. PE and SMECO began their programs in 2020.

On February 7, 2024, BGE requested modification of its Smart Chart Management Program to repurpose $5,000 from its unspent commercial fleet budget to incentivize vehicle to home technology for Ford F-150 Lightning vehicle owners. The Commission approved the Program modification on March 6, 2024.

On July 25, 2024, the Commission considered an additional request from BGE, filed on June 4, 2024, to expand its Smart Charge Management residential program. BGE proposed expanding the program for three years and modifying incentives and eligibility criteria for participation in the program. In Order No. 91297, discussed further below, the Commission approved BGE's program expansion but noted that it retained the right to require BGE to modify its plan once a report, including benefit-cost analysis and grid impact analysis from the Argonne National Laboratory is final. The Commission directed Technical Staff to file recommendations within 90 days of the report's release.

2023 was the final year of the initial phase of utility programs and on March 1, 2024, the utilities filed reports for the first five years of the pilot.

The Commission held a legislative-style hearing on May 15, 2024 to evaluate Phase 1 programs, including the success of individual programs and issues of broader program design, like cost allocation and cost recovery, and on the appropriate role for the utilities within the EV charging sector moving forward. In Order No. 91297, following the proceeding and comment period, the Commission considered the applicability of the following for utility Phase II proposals: residential rebates, residential data-sharing incentives, EV TOU rates and other load-shifting offerings, managed charging, public charging, multi-unit dwelling rebates and ownership, fleet and workplace charging, and cost recovery.

The Order extended certain Phase I programs and directed utilities to make Phase II filings within 120 days. Additionally, the Order extended BGE's SCM, subject to the above conditions, and required the PC44 Workgroup, by November 15, 2024, to make recommendations on OPC's proposal to include a distribution component to EV-only TOU rates and to expand eligibility to non-SOS customers. The Order also noted that the Workgroup should also provide a recommendation on OPC's suggestions regarding making annual hourly charging data available to stakeholders and the development of cost-benefit analyses of utility TOU programs.

On November 13, 2024, the Commission granted the PC44 EV Workgroup Leader an extension to file the required Report on time-of-use until December 13, 2024. The Report recommended that the Commission accept a compromise proposal for utilities establishing targets and tracking enrollment in EV load shifting programs in lieu of developing distribution EV TOU rates for standard offer service or retail choice customers. The Report noted that the requirement for customers to default on EV-only TOU rates is required by utilities offering smart charge management programs, via Order No. 91297. The Report recommended that the Commission clarify whether the default provision applies to customers on retail choice at the time of enrollment. Finally, the Report recommended that OPC and utilities be permitted to continue negotiations over the hourly charging data that utilities would provide.

On December 20, 2024, utilities submitted their Phase II proposals which are pending before the Commission. A legislative-style hearing on the Phase II proposals was held on April 9, 2025.

On July 28, 2023, the EV Workgroup filed a report identifying consensus and non-consensus issues regarding proposed future reliability and reporting requirements for utility-owned electric vehicle charging stations. In part, the report recommended that the Commission direct EV Pilot Utilities to submit for Commission approval their business process plans for determining if a charging station is considered "down" and any associated improvements in process. In Order No. 90971 on January 10, 2024, the Commission decided that all connectors connected to a port should operate regardless of type for the port to be considered "up." The Commission directed the utilities to address whether the period time that a charger is "down" should begin from when a utility agent inspects and confirms the charger is not functioning as designed, or whether it should begin from the time when the utility first became aware of the issue, in utility business plans. The Commission also concluded that chargers unable to connect to the payment network must be treated as "down" for purposes of reliability and similarly that a charger with a broken interface is treated as "down." The Commission directed other outstanding issues related to electricity costs, charging station costs, and standardized contract language to be negotiated in the Workgroup.

Rate Design Work Group

AFTER CONSIDERATION AT the December 12, 2018 Administrative Meeting, the Commission directed the Joint Utilities to proceed with implementation of residential time-of-use (TOU) pilots. Recruitment for the pilot program began in early 2019. The TOU rates went into effect in the utilities' service territories on April 1, 2019 and remained open to customers for the duration of the pilot (May 31, 2021) and through the evaluation period (end of 2021). Following the Administrative Meeting on November 18, 2020, the Commission received an update from the Brattle Group which provided evaluation, measurement, and verification to the utilities for the pilot results. The update provided preliminary results for the first year of the pilot showing statistically valid findings for the majority of the pilot metrics.

The TOU pilots concluded in April 2021 and the participating utilities provided their Final Pilot Evaluation Report in October 2021. The PC44 TOU Pilot ran from June 2019 through May 31, 2021 and included approximately 3,800 customers across the service territories of BGE, Pepco and Delmarva. The Pilot also established a separate sampling group to determine the specific response of low- and moderate-income (LMI) customers, defined as those making 80 percent or less of the area median income. The results of the pilot were generally encouraging:

- Customers reduced summer peaks between 9.3 to 13.7 percent and non-summer peaks between 4.9 and 5.4 percent;
- LMI customers responded to the rate with statistical significance in the majority of the analyses in a manner similar to the non-LMI customers;
- Customers experienced bill savings averaging 5.3 to 9.7 percent in year one and 2.3 percent to 7.5 percent in year two;
- Customer satisfaction rates were very high (90 percent for both BGE and Pepco, 95 percent for Delmarva).

In Commission Order No. 90298, the Commission authorized the expansion of the pilot TOU rates to a full-scale opt-in roll-out of the rates in an effort to increase enrollment. The participating utilities launched an outreach and recruitment plan to highlight and educate customers on the TOU rate which ran from May 2023 – November 2023 for BGE and July 2023 – November 2023 for Pepco and DPL. In Commission Order No. 91080, the Commission directed the PC44 Time-of-Use Workgroup to provide an assessment and recommended next steps on the success of the utilities' initial outreach and recruitment efforts; the Workgroup continues to monitor the success of customer enrollment in the TOU rate class. Furthermore, the Workgroup received the participating utilities' annual data reporting on the pilot time-of-use rates on December 31, 2024 as outlined in Commission Order No. 90298.

The Workgroup has additionally made recommendations and the Commission has ruled on implementation issues related to net metering customers and their participation in TOU rates which was raised by Commission Staff and OPC. In Commission Order No. 90673, the Commission determined that this implementation issue can and should be reconciled through a rulemaking process and directed the Workgroup to present, for Commission consideration, proposed regulations that would resolve this issue. The Workgroup presented consensus proposed regulations. In Order No. 91080, the Commission directed the Workgroup to submit the proposed regulations for consideration in a rulemaking proceeding (RM83) which was held on May 8, 2024 at which the Commission moved to publish the proposed regulations. A final rulemaking session was held on August 21, 2024 which adopted the proposed regulations that were published to the *Maryland Register* as final.

The Commission also directed BGE and Pepco to issue a request for proposals from the supplier community to undertake innovative load-shaping pilots. After receiving the results of the solicitation and party comments, the Commission directed Pepco and BGE to partner with the selected suppliers in offering two innovative rate offerings designed to shift and shape residential customer load. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the supplier pilots were delayed until door-to-door sales could resume and the pilot could take place during a period with retail conditions more likely to be repeated in the future. During 2020, one of the selected suppliers launched its Pilot while the second supplier notified the Commission that it no longer intended to pursue the pilot offering. In May 2023, BGE contacted the Workgroup stating that their selected Supplier's load-shaping pilot had officially ended. BGE sought further guidance from the Workgroup regarding the evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) results to be provided to the Commission at the conclusion of the load-shaping pilot. The Workgroup's Report submitted on September 29, 2023 recommended that the Commission direct BGE's selected supplier to provide a report on the final results of their load-shaping pilot and direct the consultant group involved in the load-shaping pilot to be disengaged from providing the final EM&V results. The Commission issued Order No. 91080 directing BGE's selected supplier to provide a report on the final results of its load-shaping pilot and relieved the consultant group from providing the final EM&V results. Constellation, (BGE's selected supplier), submitted a final report on the load shaping pilot results to the Commission on June 12, 2024.

On May 9, 2024, Governor Wes Moore signed into law Senate Bill 959 or the Distributed Renewable Integration and Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE) Act. Within this bill, there are specific provisions on time-of-use rates which require investor-owned electric companies to file with the Commission one or more time-of-use rate tariffs for appropriate customer classes to be made available to customers on an opt-in basis by July 1, 2025. The DRIVE Act also requires the investor-owned electric companies to establish enrollment targets for the time-of-use rate tariffs and submit a report by July 1, 2026 that evaluates these time-of-use tariffs, among other provisions. In response to the passage of the DRIVE Act, the Commission issued Order No. 91218 on July 11, 2024 which directed the investor-owned electric companies to consult with the PC44 Time-of-Use Workgroup to assist in developing the required time-of-use tariffs. The PC44 Time-of-Use Workgroup is engaged with the investor-owned electric companies on developing these DRIVE Act time-of-use tariffs and will continue to monitor this development in the future.

The Workgroup continues to conduct work in the following areas: 1) DRIVE Act time-of-use rate class development, 2) monitoring enrollment in TOU rate class with consideration of separately soliciting an SOS rate for TOU customers, 3) studying the feasibility and value of reporting on estimated reductions in energy capacity and transmission costs associated with the TOU rate, 4) monitoring utility TOU rate recruitment efforts, and 5) reviewing the existing "legacy" TOU tariff offerings with consideration of the feasibility of transitioning to the TOU pilot rate.

Interconnection Workgroup

The PC44 Interconnection Work Group proposed regulations in 2023 to expand flexible interconnection options and establish new requirements for hosting capacity upgrade plans, interconnection cost allocation methodologies, meter collar adapters devices, power flow analysis, and dispute resolution, among other things. In response, the Commission initiated the RM81 rulemaking proceeding on October 2, 2023. RM81 involved multiple rulemaking sessions on December 5, 2023, January 9, 2024, June 04, 2024, and November 6, 2024 where the Commission took final action on the proposed regulations that became effective on December 12, 2024.

The Interconnection Work Group also proposed regulations to the Commission on November 1, 2024 to establish expedited processes to interconnect V2G (vehicle-to-grid) and ensure that electric companies have adequate time to ensure electric system reliability in advance of these interconnections. These regulations were approved by the Commission on December 11, 2024 in the RM87 rulemaking proceeding and are expected to become effective in 2025.

Also, during 2024, the workgroup has launched Phase VI efforts to improve interconnection regulations focused on electric utility technical interconnection requirements. In 2024, the work group also developed a set of draft regulations for virtual power plants and to implement FERC Order No. 2222. This work continues into 2025.

PC53–Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Maryland's Gas and Electric Utility Operations and Customer Experiences

AS NOTED IN the 2021 annual report, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Larry Hogan issued a moratorium on utility disconnections in early 2020 set to expire on September 1, 2020. On August 31, 2020, the Commission took action to protect residential customers by extending the Governor's moratorium through October 1, 2020. In addition, the Commission enacted additional customer protections, including extending the disconnection notice period to 45 days, creating more favorable terms, and prohibiting deposit requirements for payment plans.

Throughout 2022, the Maryland utilities made filings requesting the return to normal collection practices. In Order No. 90333, on August 25, 2022, the Commission began a gradual return to normal practices by shortening utility disconnection notices from 45 to 30 days and lifting the requirement that utilities continue to offer payment plans after a customer's failure to pay. On December 28, 2022, in Order No. 90455, the Commission indicated that the remaining COVID-related protections should be lifted on April 1, 2023. The timing allowed utilities to prepare their systems and customers for the return to normal collections activities.

Following the order, the Commission established a workgroup with the goal of improving data reporting, recommending useful metrics, and creating a uniform data template so that utilities can continue to provide valuable data on arrearages, terminations, etc. that were required under the August 2020 orders.

The PC53 Workgroup had meetings throughout 2023 and filed a report with the Commission on June 7, 2023. The report outlined 23 different data metrics developed by the workgroup to be reported monthly by the utilities. Additionally, the report established uniform definitions of the data metrics, developed a uniform data reporting template to be used by the utilities for reporting, and discussed the arrearage and collection timelines across the various different Maryland utilities.

On August 4, 2023, the Commission issued Order No. 90728 which approved various items outlined in the Workgroup report; however, before accepting the 23 data metrics, the Commission directed relevant utilities to file comments detailing the specific cost estimates for compliance with filing all 23 metrics, noting some of the utilities' reservations about the costs of complying with the data reporting requirements. The utilities and other relevant parties filed comments on September 18, 2023 and October 2, 2023, respectively.

On February 20, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91031 which ordered that all electric and gas utilities within Maryland to begin submitting monthly data reports on all 23 of the data metrics by July 1, 2024 unless given other direction or exemption. The workgroup expects to discuss in the future any logistical reporting questions that arise. On July 1, 2024, the Commission began receiving uniform monthly data reporting from all Maryland electric and gas utilities in the Commission's PC53 docket. The Commission has made each utility's reported data downloadable, via CSV format, on the Commission's website.

PC56–Federal Grant Opportunities for Utilities Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act

ON JUNE 29, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90272 in response to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, also commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) and the Maryland Climate Solutions Now Act initiating PC56 for the purpose of having Maryland utilities inform the public of those federal opportunities under the IIJA for which they have sought funding. PC56 serves as a central forum and repository for utilities, government agencies, and other interested persons to file comments identifying IIJA and other federal program opportunities, such as those under the subsequently passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), available to Maryland utilities that may align with state policy goals.

In the order, the Commission directed Maryland utilities to fully and carefully consider applying for available federal funds and financial assistance as well as submit monthly reports describing any funding for which the utility has already applied. The Commission also encouraged utilities to review and fully consider any written comments when pursuing federal funding.

The Commission started receiving the utilities' monthly reports beginning August 1, 2022. That same month, the Commission issued Order No. 90336 which recognized the potential for these new funding programs to support the fortification of Maryland's utility infrastructure and directed its Advisory Staff to develop a series of educational sessions with the Maryland Energy Administration and the U.S. Department of Energy to help facilitate a broader understanding of federal funding opportunities.

On December 12, 2022, the Commission hosted a virtual educational session on funding opportunities available to Maryland utilities, implementation guidelines, and application requirements under the IIJA and the Inflation Reduction Act. The Commission's Advisory Staff held another educational session on May 23, 2023.[13]

During 2023, Exelon, on behalf of Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco), Delmarva Power & Light Company (DPL), and Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE); FirstEnergy on behalf of Potomac Edison; and Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SMECO) applied to the United States Department of Energy (DOE) Grid Deployment Office (GDO) for Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships grant funding under the IIJA. From these applications, DOE recommended SMECO for a final award, and as of the end of 2023, the two remain in negotiation for a final award contract. During 2023, Pepco also applied to the DOE-U.S. Department of Transportation Joint Office of Energy & Transportation as part of the Ride & Drive Electric grant program under the IIJA but was not selected for an award.

The utilities' monthly reports may be viewed in the PC56 docket on the Commission's website.

The Maryland General Assembly's passage of House Bill 1393, effective October 1, 2024, required the Commission to adopt regulations or issue orders expressly requiring electric companies to apply for available federal funds in a timely manner and "to ensure that least-cost debt is used."

On June 12, 2024, the Commission held a legislative-style hearing to consider next steps and to determine how best to comply with HB 1393.

On November 4, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91399 in which it stated that it did not find it necessary to initiate a rulemaking but directed the electric companies to: (1) diligently pursue and apply for federal and other available funds; (2) comply with the reporting requirements as ordered in Order No. 90272 and updated to include additional disclosures; and (3) engage with MEA on federal funding pursuits and ensure the use of least-cost debt when considering such federal funding options.

PC57– Modernizing the Commission's Staffing and Resources

AS HIGHLIGHTED THROUGHOUT this report, the Commission manages or implements many of Maryland's energy and climate policies. This is in addition to its other regulatory responsibilities over public service companies and other regulated entities. In recognition of its need to meet the needs of the State, ratepayers, and the regulated entities, the Commission established Public Conference 57 (PC57)—a broad stakeholder process to review how the Commission should augment and enhance its staffing and resources to meet its statutory charges.

[13] A recording of the Commission's second educational session on federal funding opportunities may be viewed on the Commission's YouTube channel at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfZWtLZvA_4.

The PC57 Work Group consists of electric and gas utilities, the Office of People's Counsel, retail energy suppliers, environmental advocates, and the Commission's Technical Staff. The issues reviewed and discussed by the PC57 Work Group include:

1. Recommendations on the appropriate staffing and resources required for the Commission to meet its current statutory charges;
2. Recommendations on additional information services or technology that could enable the Commission to more easily meet its current statutory charges;
3. The willingness of stakeholders to ensure adequate funding for Commission staff and resources;
4. How a Commission enhanced with additional staff and resources could lead to better public policy outcomes;
5. How the Commission could more effectively fund, attract, and retain staff and resources; and
6. Other staffing and resource issues the Commission should consider as part of any workforce enhancement effort.

On December 22, 2022, the PC57 Work Group filed a summary report including consensus recommendations for the Commission's consideration and other non-consensus ideas for future discussions. All parties support the Commission pursuing all means within its authority to ensure adequate funding for staff and resources.

On June 23, 2023, the Commission issued Order No. 90682 approving the elimination of several reports. The PC57 Work Group filed a summary report on December 19, 2023 requesting a rulemaking to implement the approved changes. The Commission held a rulemaking session on March 6, 2024 in RM82. The Commission voted to adopt the proposed regulations and publish them in the *Maryland Register*. A final rulemaking session was held on June 6, 2024 in which the Commission gave final adoption to the proposed regulations.

PC59-Limited Income Mechanisms for Utility Customers

Pursuant to Public Utilities Article §4-309, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the Commission initiated Public Conference 59 (PC59) in late 2023 to explore and develop mechanisms to benefit limited-income utility customers. Early in 2024, Commission Technical Staff, the Office of People's Counsel, local governments, utilities, and consumer advocates filed public comments suggesting various mechanisms the Commission could consider such as income-based discount programs and percentage-of-income payment programs.

The Commission subsequently held hearings to further explore the suggested mechanisms as well as explore the causes of low-income energy burdens in Maryland. The Commission then convened a Work Group on Energy Burdens to further refine and propose a model discount mechanism for limited-income utility customers that could be implemented statewide. The

Work Group consists of the aforementioned stakeholders and anticipates putting forward an initial proposal in 2025.

PC61 Co-Location Study

Senate Bill 1 of 2024 required the Commission to study and make recommendations by December 15, 2024 to the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Economic Matters Committee on issues related to the utilization of end-use electricity customer load that is physically connected to the facilities of an existing or planned electric generation facility, also known as co-located load configuration.
In the June 21, 2024 notice convening PC61, the Commission stated that its findings would address potential impacts on: (i) the reliability of the electric transmission and distribution systems (ii) PJM Interconnection, LLC's (PJM) markets and planning functions, and (iii) Maryland ratepayers and mitigating measures to address any of these impacts. The notice requested comments from interested stakeholders, including utilities and the energy industry, the regional grid operator and its Market Monitor, elected officials, environmental groups, consumer advocates, business organizations, trade associations, etc. The comment period closed on July 26, 2024.

On September 24, 2024, the Commission held a Technical Conference to consider the comments from a number of stakeholders that would help inform its report and recommendations.

On December 17, 2024 (the report's actual due date occurred on a weekend), the Commission submitted its report to the General Assembly in which the Commission observed that some forms of co-location represented novel approaches to connecting load to the grid. However, certain other co-location proposals had the potential to create immediate and significant challenges to the grid, impacting overall resource adequacy and rates charged to customers. The Commission further noted that these approaches could warrant changes in the PUA and future consideration as variations on those approaches develop. The report emphasized the importance of understanding the potential benefits to co-location along with its implications, including impacts on ratepayers and State policy in general. The Commission committed to continue to monitor activities on the federal and regional level and is prepared to assist the General Assembly as these activities and policies evolve. On January 14, 2025, the Commissioners and Senior Advisors briefed members of the House Economic Matters Committee on the report.

PC66-Resource Adequacy

The Commission, noting concerns related to resource adequacy it heard during the PC61 co-location Technical Conference, issued a notice convening Public Conference 66 and requested comments from interested persons that included advice, suggestions, innovative approaches from key stakeholders, or any other relevant information.

The Commission noted a number of issues as factors in this concern—the increasing demand for electricity due to electrification and the influx of large loads such as data centers, the deactivation of historic generating resources, challenges related to the transition to a clean energy grid, the impact of increased capacity market prices, and Maryland's status as a net energy importer.

The Commission held a Technical Conference on December 3, 2024 which was followed shortly after by a request for further comments. This matter is ongoing.

Commission Work Groups

STAKEHOLDER PROCESSES ARE important to the mission and work of the Commission. There are approximately 80 different work groups that the Commission either oversees or participates in via Staff representation.

Work groups are often formed by Commission directives but can also be legislatively mandated or requested by various stakeholders that participate in Commission proceedings.

Table 1 below shows the number of work groups at the Commission by topic.

Table 2 summarizes the number of stakeholder processes in which representatives from the Commission participate.

Table 1 Summary of Work Groups at the Commission

	Energy Efficiency/ Demand Response	Grid Modernization/ PC44	Customer Choice/ Energy Supply	Utilities (Electric, Gas, Water, Telecom)	Transportation
Total	19	8	6	11	3

Table 2 Summary of Stakeholder Processes with Commission Representation

	Federal Agencies	Other State Agencies	PJM	NARUC	Other Organizations
Total	2	8	3	7	9

Unified Benefit Cost Analysis (UBCA) Work Group

In May 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90212 which established a Workgroup to develop a Maryland-specific UBCA framework for distributed energy resources (DERs) based on the principles established in the National Standard Practice Manual (NSPM) for Benefit Cost Analysis of Distributed Energy Resources. The purpose of this Workgroup is to prepare a report that establishes a common framework for assessing the cost-effectiveness of all DERs and to allow DERs to be evaluated holistically under common assumptions and evaluation criteria. The Workgroup is led by an expert consultant team in order to provide technical and facilitation support to the Workgroup as they establish this UBCA framework.

The Workgroup held meetings throughout 2023 and 2024 and has received input from other Commission Workgroups to assist in the development of this UBCA framework. A final Workgroup report was filed with the Commission on May 17, 2024. This Workgroup report made various recommendations to the Commission regarding:

- the primary and secondary tests associated with the UBCA;
- the applicability and materiality of UBCA impacts;
- discount rates utilized for a UBCA;
- the geographic scope of a UBCA;
- the DER aggregation level in a UBCA; and
- the applicability of a UBCA to different regulatory contexts.

Following review of the Workgroup report, on November 22, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91424 which largely approved the UBCA framework established in the report as well as the total resource cost test and the utility cost test as recommended in the report. Within this Order, the Commission also initiated a "Phase II" of the Workgroup to focus on identifying appropriate methodologies for accounting for DER impacts to include in the UBCA, amongst other topics. The "Phase II" of the UBCA Workgroup is expected to begin in Q2 of 2025.

DRIVE Act

During its 2024 session, the Maryland General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 959 (SB959), the Distributed Renewable Integration and Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE) Act. The DRIVE Act requires investor-owned electric companies to implement certain pilot programs or temporary tariffs in 2025 and authorizes the Public Service Commission to approve or require an investor-owned electric company to offer up-front incentives or rebates to customers enrolled in one of these pilots or tariffs to acquire and install renewable on-site generating systems including enhanced incentives or rebates for low or moderate-income customers.

In particular, the DRIVE Act requires Maryland's investor-owned electric companies to file with the Commission temporary tariffs and certain reports for time-of-use rate (TOU), vehicle-to-grid (V2G), and virtual power plant (VPPs) pilot programs. In addition, the Commission is required to adopt regulations by May 1, 2025 establishing expedited processes to interconnect bidirectional electric vehicle systems and ensure that electric companies have adequate time to ensure electric system reliability in advance of these interconnections. Furthermore, the DRIVE Act requires the Commission to consult with the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) when approving or requiring an incentive or rebate for renewable on-site generating systems in order to supplement other available state and federal incentives. Incentives and rebates should be established to coordinate with the effective date for a pilot program or temporary tariff for electric distribution system support services.

To implement the DRIVE Act, the Commission issued Order No. 91218 on July 11, 2024 directing that on or before July 1, 2025, each investor-owned electric company must file with the Commission proposals for time-of-use rates (TOU), vehicle-to-grid pilot programs (V2G), and virtual power plant pilot programs (VPPs). The Commission also directed that on or before November 1, 2024, the PC44 Interconnection Work Group must propose regulations to the Commission to establish expedited processes to interconnect V2G and ensure that electric companies have adequate time to ensure electric system reliability in advance of these interconnections. The regulations were proposed on schedule and approved by the Commission on December 11, 2024 in the RM87 rulemaking proceeding and are expected to become effective in 2025.

In addition, the Commission issued Order No. 91391 on October 25, 2024 directing Commission Technical Staff to propose a license application form for distributed energy resource aggregators that will be further deliberated in 2025. The Commission also authorized utilities or other entities proposing DRIVE Act pilot programs for renewable on-site generating systems[14] that they can also propose incentive programs subject to requirements for low- or moderate-income customers, among other things, but the Commission did not mandate an incentive program.

Maryland Energy Storage Program

On May 8, 2023, the Maryland General Assembly enacted House Bill (HB) 910 amending §7-216 and promulgating §7-216.1 of the Public Utilities Article (PUA) of the Annotated Code of Maryland. Those changes directed the Public Service Commission (Commission) to establish a Maryland Energy Storage Program (MESP) that provides a competitive energy storage procurement program with annual deployment targets for energy storage devices in Maryland.

[14] The DRIVE Act defines a renewable on-site generating system as an energy system located on a customer's premises that generates or stores electricity from a non-greenhouse-gas-emitting renewable source that is capable of providing electricity for customer use and the electric distribution system, is paired with an energy storage device configured to charge from the renewable source and from the electric distribution system unless, for the purpose of eligibility for net energy metering, the energy storage device is required to be charged only from the renewable source. A renewable on-site generating system may include bidirectional electric vehicle service equipment.

To that end, the Commission issued Order No. 90823 establishing Case No. 9715[15] and the Maryland Energy Storage Program Work Group on October 2, 2023. The Work Group was directed to develop a consensus proposal for the establishment of MESP in line with the requirements of §7-216.1. The Work Group was also directed to file its final report by October 1, 2024 accompanied by a petition for rulemaking with proposed regulations to implement the MESP no later than July 1, 2025.

As directed by the Commission, the Work Group filed its final report and petition for rulemaking on October 1, 2024. The Commission also opened the RM85 rulemaking proceeding on October 1, 2025. The Commission approved these RM85 regulations on February 5, 2025. In addition, the Commission has scheduled hearings in 2025 to consider various competitive energy storage procurement program proposals submitted by investor-owned electric utilities and other stakeholders to implement the MESP by July 1, 2025.

[15] Case No. 9715, Maryland Energy Storage Program.

COMMISSION TELECOMMUNICATIONS CASES AND ACTIVITIES

There were no telecommunications cases in 2024.

COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURT MATTERS

BELOW IS A summary of selected matters in which the Commission's Office of General Counsel (OGC) represented the Commission before the State and federal courts during 2024.

***Retail Energy Advancement League et al v. Brown et al*, Case No. 1:24-cv-02820 (D. Md.); 4th Cir. Case No. 25-1012 (SB1)**

ON OCTOBER 10, 2024, the Retail Energy Advancement League et al (a retail electricity supplier trade association and one of its members) filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland against the State of Maryland (Attorney General Anthony Brown) and the Commissioners. That lawsuit challenged the recently enacted SB1 (2024), specifically the Green Power provisions, arguing that they violated the First Amendment and Dormant Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution. The plaintiffs filed with their complaint a motion for a preliminary injunction of SB1.

The State and the Commission filed a joint opposition to the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction. On November 18, 2024, the Court denied plaintiffs' motion. On December 13, 2024, plaintiffs filed an interlocutory appeal of that denial with the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. Briefing is presently ongoing.

***In the Matter of Petition for Judicial Review by Maryland Office of People's Counsel*, Circuit Court for Baltimore City—Case No. 24C21003749 (PSC Case No. 9651)**

ON APRIL 9, 2021, the Commission issued Order No. 89799 affirming the proposed order of the Public Utility Law Judge authorizing an increase in rates by Washington Gas Light Company. The Maryland Office of People's Counsel (OPC) requested rehearing, arguing that Washington Gas failed to meet its burden in this case as to (i) the prudency of the projects that OPC challenged and (ii) the synergy savings that Commitment 44 of the Commission's order in Case No. 9449 (the merger of Washington Gas and AltaGas) requires. After denying rehearing, OPC filed a petition for judicial review of the Commission's decision in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

Circuit Court Judge Kendra Ausby reversed the Commission, concluding that the Commission wrongly interpreted Commitment 44 in its order approving AltaGas's acquisition of WGL Holdings, Inc. The Court also held that the Commission must do a full prudency review before accepting WGL's costs related to 14 capital projects.

On March 10, 2022, the Commission filed a Motion to Alter or Amend the Judgment. The Court granted the Commission's motion to alter on May 27, 2022. OPC filed a notice of appeal and the case was heard by the Appellate Court of Maryland (formerly, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals) for oral argument on March 6, 2023. The Appellate Court of Maryland affirmed the Commission and OPC filed a petition for *certiorari* to the Maryland Supreme Court. On March

21, 2024, the Maryland Supreme Court issued a published decision, affirming the decision of the Commission. In particular, the Court found that the Commission's interpretation of its own merger order and conditions was entitled to deference and that the Commission's interpretation of its merger order was not arbitrary or capricious.

***In the Matter of SmartEnergy Holdings, LLC d/b/a SmartEnergy,* Circuit Court for Montgomery County—Case No. 485338V (PSC Case No. 9613); United States District Court for the District of Maryland, Case No. 1:24-cv-02336-ABA**

ON MARCH 31, 2021, the Commission issued Order No. 89795 affirming the Public Utility Law Judge's (PULJ) findings that SmartEnergy violated Public Utility Article (PUA) §7-507(b)(7) by engaging in unfair, false, misleading and deceptive marketing, advertising and trade practices, and associated Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) Title 20, Subsection 53 provisions. The Commission reversed the PULJ's finding that Com. Law §14-2203(b) (the Maryland Telephone Solicitation Act—MTSA, which requires that a contract made pursuant to a telephone solicitation be reduced to writing and be signed by the consumer) does not apply to SmartEnergy's contracting with its Maryland customers under the facts in this case.

SmartEnergy objected to the Commission's finding that the MTSA applies to its enrollments and filed a petition for judicial review of the Commission's Order in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Along with the Commission, the Maryland Office of People's Counsel and the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division also filed memoranda supporting the Commission's findings in Order No. 89795.

On November 29, 2021, the Court entered an order affirming the Commission's Order in all respects, except the Commission's finding that SmartEnergy's access to and ability to edit call recordings violated the Commission's regulations. SmartEnergy filed a Notice of Appeal to the Appellate Court of Maryland.

In a published opinion issued on October 31, 2022, the Appellate Court of Maryland affirmed the Commission's Order holding that: (1) PUA §7-507(k) expressly authorizes the Commission to impose penalties on licensed retail suppliers for violating a provision of the PUA or any other applicable consumer protection laws of the State; (2) SmartEnergy violated the MTSA; and (3) SmartEnergy's inbound telephone call customer enrollments were not exempt pursuant to either the MTSA's "marketing materials" or "preexisting customer" exemption.

SmartEnergy filed a petition for a writ of *certiorari* in the Supreme Court of Maryland. The petition was supported by amicus curiae briefs filed by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce and Maryland Retailers Association, Retail Energy Suppliers Association, and Vistra Corp. On February 8, 2023, the Commission and OPC filed answering briefs opposing the petition.

The Supreme Court of Maryland granted SmartEnergy's petition for *certiorari* on March 7, 2023 and, after briefing and oral argument, rendered a decision affirming the Commission's decision on February 22, 2024. The Court held that the Commission correctly concluded that the MTSA applies to SmartEnergy's business practices, that SmartEnergy's business practices violated the PUA and the Commission's regulations, and that the remedies imposed by the Commission were within its discretion and were not arbitrary or capricious.

SmartEnergy filed a motion for reconsideration on March 25, 2024. Counsel for SmartEnergy also proposed an amendment to HB 1228 (2024) in the Senate Finance Committee on March 27, 2024 proposing to amend the MTSA to explicitly exempt consumer calls to merchants. On April 18, 2024, the Supreme Court of Maryland denied SmartEnergy's motion for reconsideration and issued the mandate with regard to the Court's February 22, 2024 opinion.

Following the issuance of the Maryland Supreme Court's mandate and renewed motions before the Commission to enforce/modify the remedy ordered, SmartEnergy filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland on August 12, 2024 (Case No. 1:24-cv-02336-AB) challenging the constitutionality of the Commission's order on two grounds: (1) that the remedy ordered was an excessive fine under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution; and (2) that the Commission's order violated SmartEnergy's rights under the Sixth Amendment concerning the right to a jury trial. The Commission filed a motion to dismiss SmartEnergy's complaint. The Court has not ruled on that motion.

***In the Matter of Direct Energy Services, LLC,* Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County—Case No. C-02-CV-22-000856 (PSC Case No. 9614)**

ON MAY 4, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90208 affirming in part and reversing in part the PULJ's decision. In particular, the Commission affirmed the PULJ's finding that Direct Energy violated the MTSA, and alternatively, COMAR 20.53.07.08(C)(4) and COMAR 20.59.07.08(C)(4) by engaging in marketing, advertising, or trade practices that are unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive. The Commission reversed the PULJ's remedy related to requiring signatures for all future telephone enrollments regardless of the MTSA's statutory exemptions but did not order additional monetary remedies against Direct Energy, finding that the $125,000 penalty previously assessed was sufficient. Direct Energy and OPC filed petitions for judicial review; Direct Energy filed in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County and OPC filed in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

The Commission and OPC both filed motions in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County requesting the court transfer Direct Energy's petition to Baltimore City pursuant to PUA §3-204. Although Direct Energy is a retail supplier and not a "public service company" which can select as its venue a circuit court in a county in which it operates or the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the Court denied the motions to transfer—without comment. The Court did, however, grant the Commission's motion to bifurcate the schedule for filing memoranda regarding Direct Energy's MTSA-related issues, deferring memoranda until after the Appellate Court of Maryland issued its decision in *SmartEnergy*.

At the conclusion of the April 24, 2023 hearing at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, the judge decided to take all issues—except for contract formation—under advisement pending the SmartEnergy ruling with the intention of promptly issuing a ruling on the contract issue. On May 11, 2023, the court issued an order reversing the Commission's ruling regarding Direct Energy's compliance with the regulations governing contract formation. The court's May 11, 2023 ruling was not served on the parties until a year later. On February 22, 2024, the Maryland Supreme Court issued its decision in the *SmartEnergy* matter upholding the Commission Order.

On April 18, 2024, the Supreme Court of Maryland denied SmartEnergy's motion for reconsideration and issued its mandate. Both the *SmartEnergy* Decision and the SCM's Mandate were lodged with the Circuit Court. On May 16, 2024, the Commission filed a Motion for Reconsideration requesting the Court reconsider and reverse its Contracts Order. Subsequently, the Commission and Direct Energy agreed to settle the remaining issues in the Direct Energy matter, except for the OPC remedies appeal. Under the settlement, Direct Energy agreed to withdraw its MTSA claim, and the Commission agreed to withdraw its Motion for Reconsideration and not appeal the Circuit Court's ruling on the contract formation issue. The settlement was presented to the Circuit Court on July 19 2024 and the Court issued an Order accepting the settlement and staying the matter pending the resolution of the OPC appeal on July 24, 2024. To date, the Court has not ruled on the OPC appeal.

***In the Matter of U.S. Gas & Electric, Inc. and Energy Service Providers, Inc. d/b/a Maryland Gas & Electric,* Circuit Court for Baltimore City—Case Nos. 24-C-22-004651 and 24-22-C-003561 (PSC Case No. 9615)**

ON AUGUST 16, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90311 affirming in part and reversing in part the PULJ's decision. The Commission affirmed the PULJ's finding that U.S. Gas & Electric, Inc. and Energy Service Providers, Inc. d/b/a Maryland Gas & Electric (MDG&E) violated the MTSA, and alternatively, COMAR 20.53.07.08(C)(4) and COMAR 20.59.07.08(C)(4) by engaging in marketing, advertising, or trade practices that are unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive. The Commission reversed the PULJ's remedy related to requiring signatures for all future telephone enrollments regardless of the MTSA's statutory exemptions but did not order additional monetary remedies against MDG&E, finding that the $150,000 penalty previously assessed was sufficient. MDG&E and OPC filed petitions for judicial review; OPC filed a petition for judicial review in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and MDG&E filed in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County.

MDG&E filed a motion in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City requesting the court transfer OPC's petition to Anne Arundel County. However, with OPC being the first to file its petition in Baltimore City, the Court denied MDG&E's motion. Both OPC and MDG&E filed their initial memoranda on February 2, 2023. MDG&E later filed a motion to stay the matter pending the outcome of SmartEnergy's petition for a writ of certiorari in the Supreme Court of Maryland. On February 28, 2023, the Motion to Stay was denied. However, on April 25, 2023, the Court ordered that the two petitions be consolidated, and that the matter be stayed pending the completion of the *SmartEnergy* appeal.

After the SmartEnergy Order and Mandate were lodged in this matter, oral argument was scheduled for December 3, 2024. Prior to the hearing, MDGE and the Commission reached a settlement resolving the MTSA and contract formation issues. MDGE agreed to withdraw its Petition and either comply with the remedies provisions in the Commission Order that was the subject of the MTSA portion of the petition or return the impacted customers to utility Standard Offer Service. The Commission agreed to the application of and continued adherence to the contract formation decision issued by the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court in the *Direct Energy* case. Both parties agreed that OPC's remedies appeal would remain a litigated issue that the Commission and MDGE would oppose. By order dated November 15, 2024, the Baltimore City Circuit Court approved the above-described settlement agreement.

The December 3, 2024 hearing proceeded with arguments heard from the parties on OPC's remedies appeal. The Court on January 8, 2025 issued a decision upholding the Commission's Order, finding that the Commission had the authority and discretion to render its remedies decision in Order No. 90311. The Court relied substantially on the Maryland Supreme Court's decision in the *SmartEnergy* matter in finding that the Commission not only had the authority to make its remedies decision in Order No. 90311 but was not required to justify its exercise of discretion with specific reasons for imposing the remedies.

***In the Matter of Maryland Office of People's Counsel v. Maryland Public Service Commission,* Circuit Court for Montgomery County—Case No. C-15-CV-22-001977 (PSC Case No. 9673)**

ON FEBRUARY 7, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90057 which dismissed the complaint filed by OPC that alleged that certain marketing statements made by Washington Gas Light Company (WGL) and included in its billing statements were deceptive and misleading in violation of the PUA and COMAR. Order No. 90175 denied OPC's request for a rehearing on the dismissal of the complaint. On May 20, 2022, OPC and Sierra Club filed petitions for judicial review of the Commission's decision to refrain from initiating a complaint proceeding regarding these marketing materials. On December 22, 2022, the Circuit Court for Montgomery County (Lease J.) affirmed that the Commission has discretion to open or deny a requested proceeding, reasoning that the issues involved broadly affected national gas issues that were inappropriate for a complaint against only one company. On January 25, 2023, OPC filed a notice of appeal of the Circuit Court's decision to the Appellate Court of Maryland.

On December 20, 2023, the Appellate Court of Maryland reversed the Circuit Court for Montgomery County's decision and ruled that the Commission had improperly refused to open a proceeding regarding WGL's marketing of natural gas. On February 21, 2024, WGL requested certiorari to the Maryland Supreme Court. The Maryland Supreme Court denied WGL's Petition for *Certiorari* on April 19, 2024.

***Petition of SunSea Energy, LLC for Judicial Review of the Decision of the Maryland Public Service Commission*, Circuit Court for Baltimore City—Case No. 24-C-23-002289 (PSC Case No. 9647)**

ON JANUARY 30, 2023, the Commission's Consumer Affairs Division (CAD) provided the Commission with a memorandum summarizing the findings of CAD's Compliance and Enforcement Unit (CEU) relating to its investigation of SunSea. The memorandum provided that after SunSea paid a $400,000 penalty for previous violations in separate complaint proceedings and after SunSea's sales moratorium was lifted, SunSea resumed soliciting Maryland customers door-to-door on or about June 19, 2022. CAD subsequently received 41 customer complaints against SunSea from July 1, 2022 through January 27, 2023 (the "complaint period") with 27 disputes involving unauthorized enrollment/slamming, 11 involving agent misrepresentation, two involving billing disputes, and one pertaining to an issue with starting or stopping service.

CAD resolved 30 complaints in favor of the customer and two in favor of SunSea with nine complaints unresolved as of the date of CAD's memorandum. The resulting CEU review of the consumer complaints found violations related to defective contracting practices, unauthorized enrollments, supplier misrepresentation, and inaccessibility. CAD recommended that the Commission initiate proceedings and consider a number of actions against SunSea including reinstatement of the sales moratorium and additional penalties.

The Commission held a probable cause hearing on April 5-6, 2023 and issued an order finding evidence of violation of several regulations and the Public Utilities Article. The Commission also delegated the matter to the PULJ for further, expedited evidentiary proceedings. On April 11, 2023, the Commission issued Order No. 90581 which directed the following immediate interim protections to be implemented: (i) that SunSea's electric and gas supply licenses were suspended as of 5 p.m., April 6, 2023; (ii) that SunSea return all of its current Maryland customers to default utility standard offer service (SOS) by 5 p.m., April 10, 2023; (iii) that SunSea cease all current and future marketing and enrollments of its electric and gas services in Maryland during the remainder of the proceeding; and (iv) that SunSea, by 5 p.m. on April 20, 2023, double the amount of its current surety bonds with the Commission—from $250,000 for both its electric and gas licenses to $500,000—totaling $1 million in bonds to be filed with the Commission.

On May 4, 2023, the Commission issued a second order—Order No. 90614—detailing its findings from the Probable Cause Hearing and responding to Staff's Motion for Clarification. The Commission found that CAD met its burden of proof that SunSea violated several consumer protection laws and Commission regulations. The Commission directed SunSea to file evidence that it has secured a bond or bonds with a total face value of $1 million by 5 p.m. on May 10, 2023 or face a penalty assessment pursuant to PUA §7-507(l) of $10,000 per day for every day that the bonding requirement is not met beginning on May 11, 2023.

On May 10, 2023, SunSea filed with the Commission a status update on the bond increase explaining that SunSea paid for the increased bond and the bond surety company approved the increase then requested to speak with Commission representatives to confirm the form of the bond and the amount. To date, SunSea has not filed evidence of the $1 million bond.

On May 11, 2023, SunSea filed a Petition for Judicial Review of the Commission Orders in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. All briefs have been filed. On April 19, 2024, Sunsea filed a motion to stay the Commission Order pending the resolution of the Judicial Review. The Commission and OPC filed responses in opposition to the motion. The hearing on the petition and motion was held on April 25, 2024 and the judge took the matter under advisement. No order has been issued to date. The PULJ Division has stayed its proceedings pending a decision by the Court in this matter.

Rosehip Cleantech, LLC's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 4 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Somerset County, Maryland, **Circuit Court for Somerset County—Case No. C-19-CV-24-000079 (PSC Case No. 9684)**

On May 28, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91167 affirming the PULJ and granting a CPCN to Rosehip Cleantech, LLC. Somerset County appealed to the Circuit Court for Somerset County. After a transfer of venue to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City (Case No. C-24-CV-24-003067), on May 5, 2025, Judge Levi Zaslow affirmed the Commission's grant of a CPCN and dismissed Somerset County's petition.

In the Matter of The Potomac Edison Company, **Circuit Court for Washington County—Case No. C-21-CV-24-000383 (PSC Case No. 9705)**

On June 28, 2024, The Potomac Edison Company filed with the Commission proposed updates to its EmPOWER Maryland surcharge in compliance with Commission Order No. 91175. As part of its filing, Potomac Edison objected to the Commission's implementation of HB 864 (2024) which provided for utility compensation for unpaid and unamortized costs at no more than each electric or gas company's average cost of outstanding debt rather than at the utility's weighted average cost of capital. HB 864 also provided for the elimination of any unpaid costs and unamortized costs by December 31, 2032 that (1) existed on December 31, 2024 or were incurred before January 1, 2028, and (2) were accrued for the purposes of achieving EmPOWER goals.

The Commission accepted Potomac Edison's proposed surcharge update and denied Potomac Edison's request for a hearing regarding the legality of the relevant provisions of HB 864. Potomac Edison filed a petition for judicial review of the Commission's July 31, 2024 letter order in the Circuit Court for Washington County. A decision by the court is pending.

***In the Matter of Washington Gas Light Company*, Circuit Court for Frederick County—Case No. C-10-CV-24-000866 (PSC Case No. 9708)**

On November 15, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91416 regarding requests for clarification and reconsideration of the Commission's prior order on WGL's STRIDE customer notification which required WGL to give customers notice and an opportunity to cancel service before performing STRIDE replacement work at their properties. On reconsideration, the Commission denied WGL's request that it rescind that customer notification requirement.

On December 16, 2024, WGL filed a petition for judicial review of Order No. 91416 and related orders with the Circuit Court for Frederick County. The Commission subsequently denied a request by WGL to stay the effect of Order No. 91416 pending the resolution of that petition.

Briefing is currently ongoing. The Court has scheduled oral argument for August 15, 2025.

***In the Matter of Matthew Harris. v. Delmarva Light and Power Company,* Circuit Court for Kent County—Case No. C-14-CV-24-000202**

On June 17, 2024, Matthew Harris, owner of Delmarva Blockchain, Inc., filed a Formal Complaint with the Commission against Delmarva Power & Light Company (DPL) disputing DPL's billing of his business and alleging a meter installation error, erroneous notification of Delmarva Blockchain's qualification for Hourly Priced Service (HPS), and billing errors. DPL responded that after replacing the business's problematic meter, the utility found that the first meter had been accurately measuring Delmarva Blockchain's usage but not communicating the usage to DPL. DPL was able to calculate estimated bills.

DPL argued that at the time Delmarva Blockchain established service with the utility, the business, as a new customer, did not meet all of the HPS program criteria but acknowledged that the utility initially estimated Delmarva Blockchain's bills at an incorrect rate. Those estimated bills were later corrected and reissued. Then DPL determined that the utility's Economic Development Rider credit should have been applied to the bills and the utility adjusted the bills once again. The Commission dismissed the Formal Complaint finding that DPL addressed the billing errors by recalculating the affected bills, replacing the business's meter, and estimating usage after determining the meter was recording usage properly.

Mr. Harris filed a Petition for Judicial Review on November 21, 2024 in the Circuit Court for Kent County, on behalf of Delmarva Blockchain, representing the business. On January 7, 2024, DPL and the Commission filed a joint motion to correct the case caption and to dismiss the petition as Mr. Harris did not adhere to the procedural requirements of Maryland Rule 7-202 in filing his petition and did not adhere to Maryland Rule 2-131 by attempting to represent his corporation without counsel. Mr. Harris did not respond to the motion. A hearing on the motion was scheduled for March 5, 2025.

On March 4, 2025, attorneys retained by Mr. Harris entered their appearance on behalf of Delmarva Blockchain and simultaneously filed a motion for continuance of the March 5, 2025 hearing. The circuit court judge denied the Delmarva Blockchain's motion at the March 5 hearing and ordered Delmarva Blockchain to correct the petition's deficiencies within 30 days. The parties will have 30 days to respond to the refiled petition.

***In the Matter of Lauren Logan v. Baltimore Gas and Electric Company,* Circuit Court for Baltimore City—Case No. C-24-CV-24-001327**

On March 27, 2024, Lauren Logan filed a Formal Complaint with the Commission against Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) alleging that BGE inaccurately billed her for electric service. BGE responded that Ms. Logan did not challenge her meter functionality, her reported usage, or BGE's billing calculations, but rather that BGE would not consider an "accepted for value" letter provided by Ms. Logan as payment. The Commission dismissed the Formal Complaint finding that Ms. Logan is responsible for payment of her account balance in accordance with BGE's Electric Tariff and COMAR.

Ms. Logan filed a Petition for Judicial Review on July 2, 2024 in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. On November 20, 2024, the Commission received a Notice of Petition from the Circuit Court but did not receive a copy of the Petition. On February 19, 2025, after inquiry by the Commission, the Circuit Court served the Commission with a copy of Ms. Logan's Petition for Judicial Review.

On February 20, 2025, the Commission issued written notice that it was served with the Petition for Judicial Review. On March 4, 2025, the Commission filed its Response to the Petition indicating its intention to participate as a party in the action for judicial review. On March 11, 2025, an attorney for BGE also filed a Response to the Petition indicating BGE's intent to participate in the matter. The Commission will file the record in this matter with the circuit court by April 18, 2025. This matter remains pending.

***In the Matter of Veronica Asiedu v. The Potomac Edison Company,* Circuit Court for Frederick County—Case No. C-10-CV-25-000180**

On October 23, 2024, Veronica Asiedu filed a Formal Complaint with the Commission against The Potomac Edison Company (Potomac Edison), alleging that Potomac Edison inaccurately billed her for electric service. Potomac Edison responded that Ms. Asiedu was billed appropriately, and that her account balance was the result of consistent underpayments made by Ms. Asiedu rather than inaccurate billing as alleged. The Commission dismissed the Formal Complaint, finding that Ms. Asiedu is responsible for payment of her account balance in accordance with COMAR.

Ms. Asiedu filed a Petition for Judicial Review on February 19, 2025 in the Circuit Court for Frederick County. On February 19, 2025, the Commission received a Notice from the Circuit Court and a copy of Ms. Asiedu's Petition for Judicial Review.

On March 6, 2025, the Commission issued written notice that it was served with the Petition for Judicial Review. On March 19, 2025, the Commission filed its Response to the Petition, indicating its intention to participate as a party in the action for judicial review. This matter remains pending.

***In the Matter of Jaime Acevedo et al.,* Circuit Court for Baltimore City—Case No. C-24-CV-25-001899 (PSC Case No. 9645 (Denial of Intervention))**

On December 23, 2024, certain former BGE employees (Jaime Acevedo et al.) filed a petition to intervene in BGE's multi-year rate case, Case No. 9645. The Commission denied that intervention on February 10, 2025 in Order No. 91518. Mr. Acevedo filed a petition for judicial review in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Mr. Acevedo also filed an emergency motion to stay the 9645 proceeding during the pendency of the appeal. On March 13, 2025, the Commission filed a Notice of Intent to Participate in the judicial review. The Commission also opposed the motion for emergency stay. On March 24, 2025, the Circuit Court denied the emergency motion for stay. The petition for judicial review is still pending before the court.

COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN OTHER REGULATORY COMMISSION MATTERS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY of selected matters in which the Commission's Office of General Counsel (OGC) represented the Commission before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) during 2024.

State Policies and Wholesale Capacity Markets

Revisions to Address Impacts of State Public Policies on the PJM Capacity Market (Expanded MOPR)—FERC Dockets ER18-1314, EL16-49 and EL18-178

ON FEBRUARY 18, 2021, FERC issued an Order on Rehearing modifying its October 15, 2020 order, in part,—an order establishing a "replacement rate" for PJM's Reliable Pricing Model (RPM), Base Residual Auction (BRA) Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR)—by vacating footnote 134 relating to state default service auctions, in light of inconsistency between the language in the footnote and language in the Commission-accepted rate. The Order on Rehearing holds that state default service auctions are not subsidies and capacity resource procurements responsive to such state auctions are not subject to MOPR. Petitions for judicial review challenging FERC's orders pertaining to what is referred to as the PJM "Expanded MOPR" were filed in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. The Seventh Circuit proceedings were held in abeyance pending the resolution of appeals filed in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in 2023 pertaining to PJM's Focused MOPR tariff. Following the resolution of the Focused MOPR litigation in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and in the U.S. Supreme Court, petitioners–including the Maryland Commission—filed motions for voluntary dismissal of their Expanded MOPR appeals on November 15, 2024. The petitioners' Expanded MOPR appeals were dismissed by the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals on November 19, 2024.

Revisions to Application of Minimum Offer Price Rule (Focused MOPR)—FERC Docket ER21-2582

IN JULY 2021, after an extensive stakeholder process, while FERC's orders in Dockets ER18-1314, EL16-49, and EL18-178 relating to PJM tariff provisions pertaining to the so-called Expanded Minimum Offer Price Rule (MOPR) were pending on appeal in the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, PJM filed with FERC capacity market mitigation rules—replacing the Expanded MOPR with what is referred to as the Focused MOPR. On August 20, 2021, the Maryland Commission filed in support of the Focused MOPR, noting that the replacement rule would accommodate longstanding state policies. On December 21, 2021, PJM's Focused MOPR tariff provisions went into effect by operation of law when FERC gave notice of a two-two split among the FERC commissioners; two favoring adoption of PJM's proposed tariff revisions and two opposing.

Subsequently, PJM Power Providers Group (P3) filed a petition for judicial review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit seeking reversal of FERC's December 21 notice of decision. Docket Nos. 21-3068, 21-3205, and 21-3243. The Maryland PSC and the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (NJ BPU) intervened in support of FERC and numerous other parties have either filed additional petitions for review or motions to intervene. The Maryland PSC joined the NJ BPU and other state agencies in an appellate brief filed on August 12, 2022. Oral argument was heard in the Third Circuit on January 9, 2023. On December 1, 2023, the Court rendered its opinion denying P3's petition for judicial review and affirming FERC's acceptance of PJM's Focused MOPR.

On March 28, 2024, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) filed a petition for a writ of *certiorari* in the U.S. Supreme Court seeking review of the Third Circuit decision. The question presented in PUCO's petition for certiorari asks "Should courts apply the same deferential standard of review that they apply to rules that become effective by order of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to rules that lack majority support and instead take effect by operation of law?" On October 7, 2024, the Supreme Court denied PUCO's petition for *certiorari*, thus ending the Focused MOPR litigation in the Third Circuit and the Expanded MOPR litigation in the Seventh Circuit.

***Transource PA and MD Revisions to OATT to add Attachments H-29 and H-30*—FERC Docket ER17-419**

TRANSOURCE'S MARYLAND CPCN application was granted on June 30, 2020 by the Maryland Commission in Case No. 9471 (Order No. 89571.) The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PAPUC) denied Transource's CPCN application. Transource filed a complaint for declaratory relief before the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania as well as an appeal to the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court. On August 26, 2021, the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania denied PAPUC's motion to dismiss Transource's complaint, finding pursuant to the doctrine of abstention that the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court should first resolve the matter in state court. The PA Commonwealth Court affirmed PAPUC's decision on May 6, 2022, holding that the PAPUC's findings are backed "by substantial evidence and support the commission's conclusion that Transource did not meet its burden of proof" in the matter.

PJM has suspended Transource Project 9A in its transmission planning process but the project has not been canceled. For planning purposes, the project remains part of PJM's Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (the RTEP); however, since capacity needs have changed on the system, PJM has since opened a new window for reliability proposals for Project 9A in the event the Transource project fails to proceed on its original schedule. Transource has re-submitted its IEC-East and IEC-West projects in the reopened Project 9A reliability window. Subsets of the project—as indicated in PJM's 2022 RTEP—have been selected by PJM to address reliability needs. PJM anticipates selecting further subsets of the project to address future reliability needs.

On December 6, 2023, the District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania filed a declaratory judgment finding that the PAPUC's decision violated the Supremacy Clause and the dormant Commerce Clause. PAPUC has filed an appeal of the Middle District Court's opinion in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. NARUC filed an amicus brief arguing that the judge's finding on declaratory judgment was unnecessarily broad—restricting state regulatory commissions of their legitimate authority to condition siting in matters involving RTO-approved transmission facilities in their states and disregarding the notion of federal-state cooperation in these areas.

On November 13, 2024, Transource, BGE and Potomac Edison filed with the Maryland PSC a joint request for additional extensions of their respective construction or rebuild commencement deadlines until December 31, 2025 stating that good cause exists for extension because commencement of the projects is delayed due to external factors outside of any company's control, namely the PA PUC's pending federal appeal concerning the PA PUC's adverse decision on Transource PA's CPCN application, and PJM's anticipated forthcoming decision regarding the project's status at PJM going forward. On January 30, 2025, the Commission temporarily extended all deadlines for an additional 60 days to April 2, 2025. On March 19, the Commission granted a further temporary extension to May 31, 2025 of the project construction/rebuild deadlines in this case.

***Notice of Proposed Rulemaking re Electric Transmission Incentives Policy under Section 2019 of the Federal Power Act – Transmission Incentives*—FERC Docket No. RM20-10**

ON JULY 1, 2020, the Maryland Commission filed comments on FERC's proposed rulemaking that would provide incentives to transmission owners for constructing certain transmission projects. The Maryland Commission's comments recommended that any incentives consider project risks, challenges, cost, and benefits. The Maryland Commission also recommended a technical conference to examine incentives for transmission that would facilitate the integration of clean energy resources and promote innovative technologies. In April 2021, FERC issued a supplemental proposed rulemaking addressing the application of a return on equity (ROE) adder for entities joining RTOs. On June 23, 2021, the Commission joined with OPSI in filing comments with FERC recommending that the current practice of applying the ROE adder in perpetuity is not just and reasonable and noting that transmission entities should never have earned bonus returns on assets that would have likely been built regardless of RTO membership. FERC has yet to issue a final rule.

***White Paper re Cybersecurity Incentives Policy*—FERC Docket No. AD20-19**

ON AUGUST 19, 2020, the Maryland Commission filed comments on a FERC staff white paper that recommended providing incentives to utilities for implementing certain cybersecurity measures. The Commission's comments recommended a more thorough review of FERC's existing requirements against generally accepted cybersecurity frameworks. Comments also cautioned against any incentive payments that would extend federal reach beyond portions of the grid within interstate commerce to systems beyond FERC's jurisdiction including state jurisdictional matters which, in some cases, may already be reflected in retail rates.

On November 7, 2022, the Maryland Commission joined the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PAPUC) in comments responding to FERC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) which proposed incentive-based treatments to encourage investments by utilities in advanced cybersecurity technology and participation by utilities in cybersecurity threat information sharing programs as directed by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA).

The Maryland Commission and PAPUC agreed with FERC staff about the importance of addressing cybersecurity challenges; however, they did not agree that incentives should be necessary to encourage cybersecurity initiatives—noting that cybersecurity is not new and implementation of common-sense measures, such as those outlined in the NOPR, is good cybersecurity practice which public utilities serving the bulk power system should already be implementing. FERC has yet to issue a final rule.

***PJM Tariff Revisions to Implement Transmission Owners' Funding of Network – Network Upgrades Funding*—FERC Docket No. ER21-2282**

IN JUNE 2021, PJM filed a proposed plan with FERC that would provide transmission owners the right to fund the capital costs of network upgrades that are necessary to accommodate generator interconnections to the transmission system and to earn a rate of return on those costs. On July 28, 2021, the Maryland Commission joined OPSI in protesting the PJM filing with FERC demonstrating that the plan would be anticompetitive and calling attention to features of the plan that could place the risk of default or under recovery of revenue requirements on transmission ratepayers. On November 19, 2021, FERC found that the proposed plan may be unjust and unreasonable and established a paper hearing to further inform its decision making process. On December 20, 2022, FERC issued a letter order accepting PJM Transmission Owners' (TO) June 14, 2022 filing of proposed revisions to the Tariff under Docket ER22-2114. FERC's acceptance of the TO's filing was made subject to refund and subject to the outcome of the proceedings in Docket ER21-2282 where FERC continues to evaluate the justness and reasonableness of PJM's proposal.

***Notice of Proposed Rulemaking re Electric Storage Participation in Markets Operated by Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators – Removing Barriers to Distributed Energy Resources*—FERC Docket No. RM18-9**

ON APRIL 5, 2018, the Maryland Commission filed comments on FERC's proposed rulemaking to remove barriers to the participation of distributed energy resource (DER) aggregation in regional transmission organizations (RTOs). The Commission identified the benefits of aggregation including the advancement of the state's renewable energy policies and the prospect for lower electricity costs for ratepayers. The Commission cautioned that aggregation rules should respect state jurisdiction over the electric distribution system and the utilities that operate that system. On September 17, 2020, FERC issued Order No. 2222 requiring RTOs to revise their market rules to facilitate the participation of DER aggregations. Order No. 2222 defines DERs as electric storage resources, distributed generation, demand response, energy efficiency, thermal storage, and electric vehicles and their supply equipment. The RTOs were required to file their revised market rules including provisions for coordination between RTOs, aggregators, state regulatory commissions, and electric distribution companies with FERC by early 2022.

After granting extensions to the RTO/ISOs to submit compliance filings, PJM submitted its compliance filing in Docket No. ER22-962 on February 1, 2022—requesting an effective date of February 2, 2026 for proposed Tariff, Operating Agreement and Reliability Assurance Agreement revisions. On March 16, 2022, the Maryland Commission filed a notice of intervention to ensure that wholesale-related demand response resources interfacing with retail grid operations connect to and/or deliver electric power in PJM is consistent with the public interest and promote adequate, economical and efficient delivery of utility services in the state. On March 1, 2023, FERC found that PJM's filing partially complies with the requirements of Order No. 2222 and accepted it subject to further compliance filings to be submitted within 30 and 60 days of its order.

On July 25, 2024, FERC accepted PJM's Order No. 2222 compliance filings in Docket No. ER22-962 subject to further compliance filings. In the interim, FERC concluded that PJM's proposal complies with some provisions of the First Compliance Order in that PJM addresses how it will resolve disputes that it determines are within its authority and subject to its tariff and partially complies with others.

Among other findings, FERC concluded that PJM's proposals only partially complies with provisions relating to the requirement of the First Compliance Order to explain how its proposal is narrowly designed, and if necessary, to revise its restriction to generally exclude from the PJM energy and capacity markets "Component DER that are not participating in net energy metering retail programs but are located at sites where at least one resource is participating in a net energy metering retail program," and partially complies with the directives of the First Compliance Order regarding metering and telemetry system requirements. On October 23, 2024, PJM submitted a further compliance filing as directed by FERC's July 25, 2024 Compliance Order requesting an effective date of February 2, 2026 to align with the effective date currently accepted by the Commission in Docket No. ER22-962.

***Transmission Planning, Cost Allocation and Generator Interconnection*—FERC Docket No. RM21-17, 4th Cir. Case No. 24-1650**

IN JULY 2021, FERC issued an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking presenting potential reforms to improve transmission planning, cost allocation and generator interconnection. On October 12, 2021, the Maryland Commission joined with NARUC in filing comments with FERC recommending the exploration of reforms to better align regional planning with state policy needs. The filing also recommended increased transparency in transmission planning, integrating generation interconnection with transmission planning, and the consideration of transmission alternatives and methods of cost containment. On November 24, 2021, the Maryland Commission filed reply comments in support of the Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) comments recommending a hybrid beneficiary pays-participant funding approach to developing transmission upgrades for the purpose of delivering electricity from renewable energy zones such as offshore wind areas. On August 17, 2022, the Maryland Commission joined with OPSI to file further comments in support of long-term planning initiatives and recommending that regional and local planning processes produce the most cost effective set of transmission projects.

On May 13, 2024, FERC issued Order No. 1920, its final rule in this matter, requiring that transmission providers "conduct Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning that will ensure the identification, evaluation, and selection, as well as the allocation of the costs, of more efficient or cost-effective regional transmission solutions to address Long-Term Transmission Needs." The Final Rule also directed other reforms to improve coordination of regional transmission planning and generator interconnection processes, require consideration of certain alternative transmission technologies in regional transmission planning processes, and improve transparency of local transmission planning processes and coordination between regional and local transmission planning processes. In Order No. 1920, FERC states that these reforms are intended to ensure that existing regional and local transmission planning and cost allocation requirements are just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential.

On June 12, 2024, the Maryland Commission joined OPSI in filing comments and seeking clarification from FERC requesting explicit deference to states' agreed-to decisions to provide certainty that state input will result in the appropriate development of scenarios and cost allocation associated with transmission planning. On July 3, 2024, the Maryland Commission also joined OPSI in clarifying to FERC that, contrary to a PJM filing in this docket, states had not agreed to any long-term regional transmission planning process that PJM proposed to be the foundation for meeting FERC's order.

Numerous requests for rehearing were filed. On July 15, 2024, FERC issued a Notice of Denial of Rehearing by Operation of Law, Providing for Further Consideration. On November 21, 2024, FERC issued Order No. 1920-A bolstering the ability of state regulators to participate in the long-term regional transmission planning process.

On December 20, 2024, PJM filed a motion requesting a six-month extension of time, until December 12, 2025, to make a compliance filing to meet all requirements of Order No. 1920 except those related to interregional transmission coordination. PJM TOs and OPSI filed comments in support of PJM's extension request. On January 24, 2025, the PJM Area Relevant State Entities Committee (PARSEC) and PJM TOs filed a joint motion requesting a six-month extension of the Engagement Period, until October 7, 2025. PJM TOs also requested a six-month extension, until December 12, 2025, for the deadline for PJM TOs to file their portion of the Order No. 1920 regional compliance filing, specifically one or more *ex ante* Long-Term Regional Transmission Cost Allocation Methods to allocate the costs of selected Long-Term Regional Transmission Facilities.

On February 6, 2025, FERC granted (1) PJM's request for an extension to submit its compliance filing to meet all requirements of Order No. 1920, except those related to interregional transmission coordination, to December 12, 2025, (2) PARSEC's request for extension of time that the transmission provider must provide during the Engagement Period to October 7, 2025, and (3) PJM TOs request for extension of time to submit its compliance filing to meet the cost allocation requirements of Order No. 1920 to December 12, 2025.

Numerous parties filed petitions for review in various federal circuit courts of appeals, including in the District of Columbia Circuit, the Fourth Circuit, the Sixth Circuit and others. The Federal Multi-District Litigation Panel designated the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals as the circuit in which appellate litigation regarding FERC Order No. 1920 should proceed. The Maryland Commission filed a petition to intervene and is a party in this proceeding.

***Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission*—FERC Docket No. AD21-15**

IN JUNE 2021, FERC appointed a group of state public service commissioners from across the country to a joint federal-state task force on electric transmission with the purpose of exploring transmission-related issues to identify and realize the benefits that transmission can provide while ensuring that the costs are allocated efficiently and fairly. Then-Maryland Commission **Chairman Jason Stanek** was selected to co-chair the task force along with then-FERC **Chairman Richard Glick**. On November 10, 2021, the task force held its first meeting to discuss transmission planning principles. The task force has subsequently met periodically to guide FERC's transmission planning, cost allocation and generator interconnection improvement efforts in RM21-17.

With the role for states set forth by FERC in the orders, OPSI formed the PJM Area Relevant State Entity Committee (PARSEC) represented by applicable agencies across the PJM region. PARSEC's charter is to provide PJM, its stakeholders and transmission owners with the necessary input to comply with the FERC order and participate in the process of developing and evaluating selection criteria, benefit metrics, planning scenarios and cost allocation. **Commissioner Michael Richard** is the Maryland representative on the PARSEC. Since its formation, Maryland has invited representatives from MEA, PPRP, OPC and the Governor's office to participate in PARSEC meetings in order to be inclusive in advocating for the State's best interests.

The Task Force met on February 16, 2022, July 20, 2022, November 15, 2022 and February 15, 2023, respectively to discuss: (i) categories of transmission benefits and cost allocations on generator interconnection queue backlogs and cost allocation of interconnection-related transmission enhancements; (ii) interregional transmission planning; (iii) regulatory gaps in oversight of transmission development; and (iv) physical security of the transmission system.

On March 21, 2024, FERC issued an Order Establishing the Federal and State Current Issues Collaborative to build upon the success of the Task Force and provide a venue for federal and state regulators to share perspectives, increase understanding, and where appropriate, identify potential solutions regarding challenges and coordination on matters that impact specific state and federal jurisdiction. On July 19, 2024, NARUC submitted two state commission representative nominations from each of the five NARUC regions to serve a one-year term on the Collaborative. The Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC) nominees were **PAPUC Vice Chair Kimberly M. Barrow** and **PUCO Commissioner Dennis P. Deters**.

***NRG Power Marketing LLC (NRG) Reliability Must-Run Rate Schedule, Electric Rate Schedule FERC No. 3 NRG Petition for RMR Contract*—FERC No. ER22-1539**

ON JUNE 29, 2021, NRG Power Marketing LLC (NRG) notified PJM that it intended to retire its 410 MW coal-fired generation unit at Indian River which was commissioned in 1980 (Unit 4) and that the retirement would be effective on May 31, 2022. PJM responded on July 30, 2021 that reliability violations would result from the proposed deactivation of Unit 4 absent certain upgrades to the transmission system which will likely take five years to complete. NRG informed PJM that it would be willing to continue operating Unit 4 in the interim subject to a Reliability Must-Run Rate Schedule (RMR) agreement.

On April 1, 2022, NRG filed an application with FERC for acceptance of the RMR which provides for continued operation of Unit 4 under cost of service ratemaking principles in lieu of market based rates. On May 6, 2022, the Maryland Commission filed a protest of NRG's filing arguing that the RMR as proposed was not just and reasonable. In particular, the Maryland Commission argued that (i) the cost impacts to ratepayers of NRG's proposed RMR rate schedule would be excessive especially given that they would be imposed exclusively within the Delmarva Zone's relatively small customer base; (ii) NRG provided insufficient information to justify its proposed operational expenditures; (iii) NRG's proposal to make project investments below a certain threshold unreviewable was unreasonable; and (iv) NRG's proposal to relieve itself of liability for nonperformance improperly imposed the risk of nonperformance on ratepayers.

On May 31, 2022, FERC issued an order establishing settlement judge proceedings. The Maryland Commission participated in those settlement negotiations. On April 2, 2024, a settlement agreement was filed with FERC including a $20 million annual cost saving for ratepayers compared to NRG's proposed cost recovery and a novel package of conditions that provides for both performance certainty and a path towards reducing the amount of time ratepayers will need to pay to keep the generator available to support system reliability. Such conditions go beyond the limited provisions in PJM's Tariff and would not have been considered had this case gone to trial. The Maryland Commission did not oppose the settlement. On January 25, 2025, FERC approved the settlement. Upon conclusion of its RMR obligations, the coal plant was deactivated on February 23, 2025.

***Notice of Proposed Rulemaking re Improvements to Generator Interconnection Procedures and Agreements / FERC Interconnection Queue Reform NOPR*—FERC Docket No. RM22-14**

ON JUNE 16, 2022, FERC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing reforms to its *pro forma* generator interconnection procedures and *pro forma* interconnection agreements to address interconnection queue backlogs, improve certainty, and prevent undue discrimination for new technologies. The Maryland Commission intervened in the case and submitted comments with NARUC. Those comments focused on methods for working collaboratively with FERC on generator interconnection reforms that would improve efficiency, reduce cost, and reduce the backlog of interconnection applications. The comments discussed reforms to implement a "first-ready, first-served" cluster study process; reforms to increase the speed of interconnection queue processing; and reforms to incorporate technological advancements into the interconnection process.

On October 13, 2022, the Maryland Commission joined OPSI in filing comments specifically addressing interconnection in PJM—noting PJM's filing in ER22-2110 to improve its interconnection process and recommending that any rulemaking not impede PJM's proposal to accelerate interconnection reviews and approvals. OPSI's filing also stressed many of the comments it filed in ER22-2110. On July 28, 2023, FERC issued Order No. 2023 setting forth rules that would improve the interconnection process. The rule is aimed to ensure that interconnection queues include only projects that are likely to be built and imposes firm deadlines and penalties if transmission providers fail to complete interconnection studies on time. On March 31, 2024, in Order No. 2023-A, FERC affirmed the Interconnection Order.

On May 20, 2024, PJM and other parties filed petitions for review of FERC's order in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit which remains pending.

***Complaint of American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP), Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia, et al. v. PJM - PJM Transmission Projects*—FERC Docket No. EL22-80**

ON JULY 22, 2022, several PJM stakeholders filed a complaint with FERC alleging that PJM was not properly following its operating rules that require it to reevaluate projects, and potentially identify other projects, in cases where the approved projects are not completed timely or economically. On August 19, 2022, the Maryland Commission joined OPSI in filing with FERC in support of the complaint. On July 25, 2024, FERC issued an order granting in part and denying in part the AMP and DCOPC complaint and established paper hearing procedures to develop a further record to determine PJM's going-forward responsibilities regarding Designated Entity Agreement requirements for certain in-progress RTEP projects. Certain Indicated Transmission Owners filed a request for rehearing on August 26, 2024. On September 26, 2024, FERC issued a Notice of Denial of Rehearing by Operation of Law, Providing for Further Consideration.

Petitions for judicial review were filed in the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals while paper hearing proceedings remain pending with FERC.

***FERC NOPR on Backstop Siting Authority in Conjunction with IIJA*—FERC Docket No. *RM22-7; PJM Capacity Marke*t—FERC No. ER22-2984**

ON DECEMBER 15, 2022, FERC issued a notice of proposed rulemaking to implement certain electric transmission backstop siting authority that was provided to it through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021. The proposed regulations would enable FERC to exercise transmission siting authority contemporaneously with state public utility commissions like the Maryland Commission under certain circumstances and to overrule state commission denials of CPCN applications in other circumstances. The proposed rules would also authorize FERC to exercise jurisdiction where state commissions have imposed conditions that are not economically feasible or that result in transmission facilities that would not significantly reduce transmission constraints or congestion in interstate commerce.

On May 17, 2024, the Maryland Commission filed comments generally supporting the construction of transmission to meet regional reliability needs and to achieve renewable goals. However, the Maryland Commission cautioned FERC against using its backstop authority to invade state transmission siting jurisdiction in states like Maryland that have a comprehensive process for efficiently siting electric transmission facilities. The Maryland Commission also worked with NARUC on its response to FERC's NOPR which urged FERC to respect the primacy and history of state commission decision-making in transmission siting proceedings.

On October 17, 2024, FERC issued Order No. 1977-A addressing arguments raised on rehearing and setting aside its prior order (in part), taking final action on Order No. 1977, the rule implementing its limited authority over siting electricity transmission lines, by requiring applicants seeking rights of way on Tribal lands for their projects to include their proposals in their Tribal engagement plans.

***PJM Proposed Amendment to the Locational Deliverability Area Reliability Requirement – Federal Power Act §§ 205 and 206 Filing re DPL-South*—FERC Docket No. ER23-729; 3rd Cir. Case No. 23-2544 and DC Cir. Case No. 24-1353**

ON DECEMBER 23, 2022, PJM made Federal Power Act (FPA) Section 205 and Section 206 filings proposing to amend the Locational Deliverability Area (LDA) reliability requirements in the Delmarva Power and Light-South (DPL-S) Zone alleging that the 2024/2025 Base Residual Auction results produced anomalously high, and unjust and unreasonable prices. Specifically, PJM stated that application of the existing rules would result in an "aberrant auction outcome," with prices not reflecting the actual reliability requirements of the DPL-S Zone resulting in severe price impacts to DPL customers. The Maryland Commission joined with state commissions and consumer advocate organizations from Delaware and Virginia to support PJM's filing and to advocate for a resolution that protected Delmarva ratepayers, filing supporting comments on January 20, 2023. On February 21, 2023, FERC issued an order accepting PJM's tariff revisions to ameliorate anomalous capacity price spike in DPL-S.

On March 12, 2024, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit filed its opinion in the case vacating FERC's decision in part, concluding that as to the 2024/2025 capacity auction, FERC's acceptance of PJM's RPM Tariff amendment violated the filed rate doctrine. The mandate was issued by the Court on March 28, 2024 placing the matter back at the FERC for subsequent action by PJM. On March 29, 2024, PJM filed with FERC seeking approval to re-run the Base Residual Auction in accordance with its pre-amended reliability requirements. The filing also seeks to re-run an incremental auction PJM had conducted that is reliant upon the results of the Base Residual Auction.

On April 11, 2024, the Maryland Commission and other parties, including Maryland Office of People's Counsel, Delaware Public Service Commission, American Municipal Power, Inc., Delaware Division of the Public Advocate, Delaware Municipal Electric Corp. Inc., Delaware USERS GROUP, and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, filed protests against PJM's filing requesting that FERC retain the results of the Base Residual Auction and the Third Incremental Auction for the 2024/2025 Delivery Year, in lieu of adopting rates that the protesters argued would be unjust and unreasonable. Additionally, the Maryland Commission moved FERC to reinstate the FPA Section 206 proceeding PJM had filed in Docket No. EL23-19 to further ensure just and reasonable rates in DPL-South.

On May 6, 2024, FERC denied these protests and granted PJM's petition requesting confirmation that, as a result of the *PJM Power Providers* decision, the Tariff provisions governing the conduct of the BRA for the 2024/2025 delivery year are those that were in effect prior to the LDA Reliability Requirement Orders, and that the capacity commitments that would result from applying those Tariff provisions are binding and effective for the 2024/2025 delivery year, holding that the filed rate doctrine, as articulated by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals prohibited PJM's use of amended tariff provisions to calculate rates for the 2024/2025 BRA Delivery Year. FERC also declined the Maryland Commission's request to reopen PJM's section 206 proceeding, concluding that reopening the complaint proceeding under FPA section 206 would not allow the Commission to arrive at a different outcome.

On May 13, 2024, protesters (including the Maryland Commission) filed a request for expedited rehearing and an emergency motion for stay. FERC denied these requests on May 24, 2024.

On June 20, 2024, the Maryland Commission joined with other protesters of FERC's orders in a petition for review in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. The petition for review was later withdrawn from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and refiled in the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals.

***Atlantic City Electric Company, Delmarva Power & Light Company, PECO Energy Company, PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. – FPA §205 Rate Filing*—FERC Docket No. ER21-2965**

ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2021, Atlantic City Electric Company (ACE), Delmarva Power & Light Company (DPL), and PECO Energy Company filed proposed changes in formula rates to reflect revisions to each utility's wages and salaries (W&S) allocator to include labor they receive and will receive from their affiliated Exelon utility services companies. The revisions are associated with the operating companies' consolidation of transmission control center operations. The Maryland Commission intervened in the docket to ensure that the interests of Maryland ratepayers are protected. Based on protests, FERC established evidentiary proceedings, preceded by settlement judge procedures.

In December 2023, the parties reached a settlement agreement involving modifications to the companies' formula rates, revising the transmission W&S allocators for the companies to include labor they receive from their affiliated Exelon utility services companies. The case was protested by the Maryland Office of People's Counsel (OPC), the New Jersey Rate Counsel, ODEC, and the Philadelphia Area Industrial Energy Users Group. Among other things, the settlement agreement requires a refund of $250,000 back to Delmarva's transmission customers, and subjected ACE, Delmarva and PECO's W&S allocator to a 200 basis points cap above each company's respective 2022 baselines, effective beginning rate year 2023 and ending rate year 2026. Each year, the cap will be compared to each company's actual annual service company transmission non-TSO labor percentage. If the cap is exceeded, the transmission W&S allocator for that company, in that year, will be reduced by the number of basis points by which the cap is exceeded. The 2022 baselines shall be subject to review and challenge in the 2022 rate year true-up. The Maryland Commission joined as a non-opposing settling party. On May 2, 2024, FERC issued an order accepting the settlement agreement.

***Potomac Electric Power Company and Baltimore Gas and Electric – FPA §205 Rate Filing*—FERC Docket Nos. ER21-2020/2023**

ON MAY 27, 2021, Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) filed proposed formula rate changes to reflect revisions to each utility's wages and salaries (W&S) allocator to include labor they receive and will receive from their affiliated Exelon utility services companies. The revisions are associated with the operating companies' consolidation of transmission control center operations. The Maryland Commission intervened in the docket to ensure that the interests of Maryland ratepayers are protected. Based on protests, FERC established evidentiary proceedings preceded by settlement judge procedures.

In June 2023, the parties reached a settlement agreement involving a black box monetary settlement in which the companies have agreed to make one-time payments in the form of credits to network integration transmission service customers in the next annual update following the date of FERC's approval of the settlement: $700,000 to BGE's transmission customers and $200,000 to Pepco's transmission customers. In addition, Pepco agreed to a payment of $200,000 to SMECO.

With respect to symmetrical recovery of common costs in transmission and distribution rates, under the settlement agreement, the parties agree that the Maryland and District of Columbia's multi-year plan (MYP) reconciliation processes would address the final W&S allocators' impact on distribution rates. This ensures appropriate alignment of the W&S allocators used respectively by transmission and distribution such that recovery of common costs is aligned for the same cost recovery period in both transmission and distribution rates for periods in which MYP reconciliations are applicable and ensures that FERC's approval of the companies' transmission rates does not infringe upon state commission ratemaking authority regarding distribution rates.

Finally, with respect to transparency regarding data, under the settlement agreement, the parties agreed on a cap on the W&S allocator through 2026 to ensure the companies are not shifting dollars to transmission to earn a higher return and recording of the TSO as general plant to ensure consistent treatment of all buildings (*i.e.,* not functionalizing some buildings and not others.) On November 30, 2023, FERC approved the settlement.

***Complaint of West Virginia Public Service Commission v. PJM*—FERC Docket No. EL23-45**

ON MARCH 8, 2023, the Public Service Commission of West Virginia (PSC WV) filed a complaint against PJM, requesting relief from FERC, and requesting that FERC direct PJM to allow all PJM states—and the District of Columbia—to observe and attend the meetings between the PJM Liaison Committee and the PJM Board of Managers. PSC WV contends that PJM is required to permit state commissions to observe and attend these meetings pursuant to PJM's Operating Agreement, its business practices manual, FERC orders, rules, regulations and policies. The Maryland Commission intervened in the docket with the intention to join in OPSI's comments. On March 31, 2024, FERC denied the complaint explaining that the Liaison Committee is not designated a Standing Committee in PJM's Operating Agreement and does not have the authority to vote on or to decide any matters or to act as a substitute for the normal decision-making processes of the Members Committee or the Board of Managers.

***Brandon Shores Replacement Transmission*—FERC No. ER23-2619**

ON AUGUST 11, 2023 and August 14, 2023, PJM filed cost responsibility assignments for transmission upgrades approved by the PJM Board associated with the planned retirement of the Brandon Shores plant on June 1, 2025. On September 19, 2023, the Maryland Commission protested the filing asserting that PJM did not consider non-transmission alternatives to address the regional reliability implications of the plant's deactivation. The Maryland Commission's filing reasoned that PJM was required to consider load and capacity forecasts and reductions in demand, provide alternative means for meeting transmission needs in the region, and avoid the imposition of unreasonable costs to ratepayers. However, PJM never considered the possibility that states, within their jurisdiction, can approve the placement of energy storage on the electric distribution system in a manner that could reduce demand and negate the need for costly transmission.

Furthermore, PJM never sought to avoid unnecessary and costly Reliability Must Run (RMR) arrangements since it would need to rely on Brandon Shores to continue operating through 2028 while the transmission upgrades are being constructed. On November 8, 2023, FERC denied the protest finding it to be beyond the scope of the proceeding. However, FERC remarked on PJM's efforts to examine PJM's existing generation retirement and transmission planning processes in order to more timely address potential reliability issues associated with resource retirements.

***PJM Day Ahead Energy Market*—FERC Docket No. ER24-1387**

On March 1, 2024, PJM filed at FERC proposing to simplify its approach in selecting among multiple supply schedules provided by offer-capped resources in the Day Ahead Energy Market. PJM proposed to select the schedule reflective of the lowest dispatch cost at a resource's economic minimum as opposed to lowest overall system production costs. On March 22, 2024, the Commission joined OPSI in protesting the filing because the proposed process could allow the exercise of market power. On April 30, 2024, FERC rejected PJM's proposed market changes.

***Consolidate Transmission Owners Agreement*—FERC Docket Nos. EL24-119, ER24-2336 and ER24-2338**

On June 21, 2024, PJM and PJM's Transmission Owners (TOs) filed at FERC to amend the Consolidated Transmission Owners Agreement (CTOA) and allow PJM to move its regional transmission planning protocol from its Operating Agreement to its Tariff. Allowing this change would give PJM a unilateral right to amend its planning protocol. However, the proposed change was tied to amendments to the CTOA that include other, unrelated provisions, including allowing the TOs to expand their local planning in a manner that could displace regional planning and the benefits comprehensive regional planning brings. Furthermore, the TOs included language in the proposed CTOA revisions that would raise the bar for FERC to effect any subsequent changes, effectively limiting FERC's powers over the TOs. On July 22, 2024, the Commission joined OPSI in opposing the filings as being unjust and unreasonable. On September 9, 2024, FERC issued deficiency letters requesting additional information from the applicants regarding the filings. On October 30, 2024, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments on the responses to the deficiency letters. The comments requested FERC to establish a paper hearing to develop the record and determine the just and reasonable and nondiscriminatory replacement rules if FERC were to allow PJM to move the planning protocol. On December 6, 2024, FERC rejected PJM's and the TOs' proposed changes. On February 14, 2025, the TOs filed a Petition for Review in the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals.

***Wagner and Brandon Shores Reliability Must Run*—FERC Docket Nos. ER24-1877 and ER24-1790**

ON APRIL 18, 2024, Talen filed at FERC Continuing Operations Rate Schedules proposing compensation for continuing to operate the Wagner and Brandon Shores power plants until replacement facilities can be built. On May 16, 2024, the Commission protested the filing reasoning that the proposed rates were not just and reasonable. On June 17, 2024, FERC issued an order accepting Talen's filings, suspending the rate schedules, and establishing hearing and settlement judge procedures. The Commission subsequently met with Talen and other intervenors on an expedited basis to reach consensus on a just and reasonable outcome. On January 27, 2025, Talen filed, and the Commission supported, a settlement agreement that would compensate Talen 17% less than its proposed rates. The agreement also has the prospect of directing market revenues to ratepayers to further reduce costs. As of the date of the filing, under tight market conditions, the estimated net effect of the settlement agreement was that ratepayers would save at least $90 million annually over a three-year period from capacity market revenues alone with FERC's approval of PJM's proposed tariff changes to reform its capacity market (FERC Docket No. ER25-682.) The agreement also included monetary performance assurances, cost containment provisions, administrative cost caps, and further reduced ratepayer payments as the need for the plants winds down. On February 26, 2025, the Commission filed reply comments addressing protests from nonsettling parties reiterating the reasonableness of and support for the settlement.

***RMR Resources in the PJM Capacity Market*—FERC Docket Nos. EL24-148 and ER24-118**

On September 27, 2024, Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Public Citizen, Sustainable FERC Project and the Union of Concerned Scientists filed a complaint at FERC in Docket No. EL24-148 indicating that PJM's capacity market rules are unjust and unreasonable since they fail to account for the resource adequacy contributions of RMR units in PJM's capacity auctions. The Commission joined OPSI in filing comments at FERC in support of the complaint on October 8, 2024 and separately on October 17, 2025. The Commission requested FERC to delay PJM's capacity auction for the 2026/2027 Delivery Year until PJM revises its capacity market construct. On October 15, 2024, PJM filed in the Complaint docket and in FERC Docket No. ER25-118 seeking to delay its capacity auction. PJM also informed FERC that it was embarking on an effort to reform its capacity market construct, not limited to the RMR issue in the Complaint. On November 8, 2024, FERC approved the request to delay the auction by approximately six months.

***PJM Capacity Market Reforms*—FERC Docket Nos. ER25-682, ER25-712, ER25-778, ER25-785 and EL24-46**

PJM filed a series of proposed Tariff changes at FERC to reform its capacity market structure following concerns expressed by the Commission and OPSI states with the results of the capacity auction for the 2025/2026 Delivery Year.

On December 9, 2024, PJM filed at FERC proposed changes in FERC Docket No. ER25-682 to, among other things, change the reference generator PJM relies upon to set prices in its capacity demand curve and to account for RMR units in its capacity market. The reference generator change has the prospect of reducing capacity prices under tight market conditions by almost 30%. Accounting for RMR units in the capacity market ensures that ratepayers do not pay twice for capacity—once through the RMR rate schedule and again through the capacity market. FERC's acceptance of this reform would also facilitate the RMR settlement agreement for the Wagner and Brandon Shores plants under FERC Docket Nos. ER24-1787 and ER24-1790, respectively. On January 6, 2025, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments at FERC in support of these reforms. On February 14, 2025, FERC accepted PJM's proposed Tariff changes.

On December 13, 2024, PJM filed at FERC proposed changes in FERC Docket No. ER25-712 to give priority to a limited amount of resources to move quickly through the interconnection queue if they can help address more immediate reliability needs. On January 8, 2025, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments at FERC in support of these reforms. On February 11, 2025, FERC accepted PJM's proposed Tariff changes.

On December 20, 2024, PJM filed at FERC proposed changes in FERC Docket No. ER25-778 to allow new interconnection customers to utilize the unused portion of existing interconnection customers' interconnection service. Making this headroom on the transmission system available has the prospect of facilitating the addition of storage to the system, complementing system use by intermittent resources. On January 10, 2025, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments at FERC in support of these reforms. On February 11, 2025, FERC accepted PJM's proposed Tariff changes.

On December 20, 2024, PJM filed at FERC proposed changes in FERC Docket No. ER25-785 to require all existing generation capacity resources to offer into the capacity market. This reform would help address supply scarcity in the region and preclude the ability for resource owners to exercise market power. On January 10, 2025, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments at FERC in support of these reforms and in answers to other parties' comments on January 27, 2025. On February 20, 2025, FERC accepted PJM's proposed Tariff changes.

On December 30, 2024, Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro filed a complaint at FERC in Docket No. EL25-46 indicating that PJM's capacity market cap is unjust and unreasonable and requesting the cap to be lowered from the cost of new entry of the reference generator to 1.5 times the cost of net cost of new entry when accounting for energy and ancillary services revenues that generators receive in other markets. The complaint reasoned that the current maximum price formula, coupled with restricted new entry in the PJM region, would require ratepayers to pay prices that do not reflect the actual value of the incremental reliability additional capacity provides. On January 17, 2025, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments at FERC in support of the complaint.

***NextEra Energy Transmission MidAtlantic, Inc. proposed revisions to increase the base return on equity*—FERC Docket No. ER24-2255-000**

On June 12, 2024, NextEra Energy Transmission MidAtlantic, Inc filed a petition with FERC to increase its return on equity (ROE) per its formula rate. The Commission intervened, along with other stakeholders, including the Maryland OPC which filed a protest and request for hearing. FERC sent the matter to a settlement proceeding before FERC Judge Jeremy Hessler. Settlement negotiations are ongoing.

***PSEG Renewable Transmission LLC, Petition for Declaratory Order on Transmission Incentives*—FERC Docket No. EL24-103-000**

On April 15, 2024, PSEG Renewable Transmission LLC (PSEG RT) filed a petition for declaratory order for authorization to use certain transmission rate incentives for its investment in a new approximately 70-mile 500 kV AC transmission line in Maryland. PSEG RT requested that FERC grant three transmission rate incentives for the project: (i) the ability to recover 100% of all prudently incurred costs if the Project is abandoned for reasons outside of PSEG RT's control; (ii) deferral of prudently incurred precommercial costs through the creation of a regulatory asset; and (iii) use of a hypothetical capital structure of 45% equity and 55% debt until the project is placed into service. The Maryland PSC intervened in the proceeding. On August 29, 2024, FERC issued an order granting PSEG RT's petition, effective August 30, 2024.

***PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., PJM Designated Entity Agreement*—FERC Docket No. ER24-1990-001**

On May 10, 2024, PJM submitted a designated entity agreement (DEA) between PJM as a transmission provider and PSEG Renewable Transmission LLC (PSEG RT) as a designated entity. Under the terms of the DEA, PSEG RT is responsible for construction, ownership and financing of certain baseline upgrades. Pursuant to the terms of the DEA, PSEG RT has agreed to be responsible for construction, ownership and financing of 31.6 miles of 500 kV overhead alternating current (AC) line between the Conastone vicinity and the Doubs substations (within the Allegheny Power zone); and 35.8 miles of 500 kV overhead AC line between the Conastone vicinity and the Doubs substations (within the Baltimore Gas and Electric zone.) The Maryland PSC intervened in this proceeding on May 28, 2024. On September 10, 2024, FERC accepted the filing by letter order.

***PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., Exelon Companies, Revised Rate Schedules Related to Colocation*—FERC Docket No. ER24-2889 (BGE); FERC Docket No. ER24-2891 (DPL); FERC Docket No. ER24-2894 (Pepco)**

On August 28, 2024, pursuant to Section 205 the Federal Power Act, PJM, on behalf of the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), Delmarva Power Power & Light Company (DPL), and Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) (Exelon Companies) submitted filings of revised rate schedules reflecting updates to Attachment H-2 of the PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff which governs transmission service to a subset of Network Integration Transmission Service, otherwise known as "co-located load." BGE, DPL and Pepco requested that the Commission accept, without condition or modification, the proposed Tariff sheets to be effective December 2, 2024. The Maryland PSC intervened in this proceeding on September 5, 2024. On February 20, 2025, FERC rejected the Exelon Companies filings (and related filings) finding that the proposed revisions exceeded the Exelon Companies' filing rights under Federal Power Act section 205.

***Joint Consumer Advocates v. PJM Interconnection, L.L.C*—FERC Docket No. EL25-18**

On November 18, 2024, the Joint Consumer Advocates filed a complaint against PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. stating that the current PJM Reliability Pricing Model (RPM) is not producing just and reasonable rates and that the Base Residual Auction (BRA) results have set new record high prices. The Advocates requested that the Commission establish a refund with an effective date pursuant to the date of the complaint, find that PJM's existing capacity market rules are unjust and unreasonable because they fail to mitigate market power and result in excessive capacity charges upon consumers, and that the Commission establish just and reasonable replacement rates. The Advocates further outlined requests that PJM be directed to revise its rules so that all eligible capacity resources that contribute to resource adequacy be included in the auction, that PJM establish Reliability Must Run standards to retain needed resources, and that PJM be directed to undertake changes related to the management of its interconnection queue. The Maryland Commission filed a notice of intervention on December 10, 2024. The matter remains pending.

***PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.*—FERC Docket No. Docket No. ER24-2172**

On June 1, 2024, pursuant to section 205 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. submitted for filing an amended Interconnection Service Agreement (ISA) by and among PJM as Transmission Provider, Susquehanna Nuclear, LLC as Interconnection Customer, and PPL Electric Utilities Corporation as Interconnected Transmission Owner (PJM, Susquehanna, and PPL EU are each referred to individually as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties"), designated as Service Agreement No. 1442 and associated with PJM Queue No. NQ-123 (Amended Susquehanna ISA.) The Amended Susquehanna ISA proposed to amend an existing ISA among the Parties in order to increase from 300 MW to 480 MW, the amount of co-located load under the ISA, make revisions related to the treatment of this co-located load, and make other changes. The Maryland Commission intervened in this matter on July 3, 2024. On November 1, 2024, FERC issued an order rejecting the proposed ISA amendments with former Chairman Phillips dissenting and current Chairman Christie concurring with a separate statement. Susquehanna Nuclear, LLC filed a petition for review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on January 17, 2025. The matter remains pending.

PJM INTERCONNECTION, INC. — THE RELIABILITY PRICING MODEL

2025/2026 Delivery Year Base Residual Auction Results

PJM CONDUCTED THE auction for the 2025/2026 Delivery Year in July 2024. The resource clearing prices for the 2025/2026 Delivery Year were $466.35/MW-day for BGE and $269.92/MW-day for PEPCO and DPL- South. The clearing price for the unconstrained portion of the RTO, including the Allegheny zone (APS), was also $269.92/MW-day. Clearing prices in BGE and Pepco increased 540% and 445%, respectively with prices in BGE reaching the price cap level that signals the need for new entry. While DPL-South prices cleared 37% lower than the previous auction, those previous auction prices reflected erroneous modeling that the Commission challenged at FERC and has since appealed to the 3rd Circuit. Had FERC allowed the previous year's auction to clear with the correct modeling, the 2025/2026 auction would have cleared approximately 200% higher in DPL-South. The capacity price increase in Allegheny was approximately 830%.

Clearing prices were more significantly affected by a new modeling methodology adopted by PJM, and RTOs across the country, that value capacity based on reliability risk and accredit resources based on performance risk during extreme weather conditions. These changes were necessitated after experiencing poor generator performance region-wide during recent severe winter storms. High prices region-wide are also attributed, in part, to a marked increase in plant retirements.

Regarding renewables in PJM, 1471 MW cleared from wind resources or 16% more than in the previous auction. Additionally, 1333 MW of solar resources cleared representing 52% less than the amount that cleared in the 2024/2025 BRA. Each of these resource types accounted for 1% of cleared resources. The mix of other capacity resources secured in the auction amounted to 48% natural gas, 21% nuclear, 18% coal, 5% demand response, and 4% hydropower. As with all resources in this auction, their capacity value is risk-informed.

BROADENED OWNERSHIP ACT

IN COMPLIANCE WITH §14-102 of the Economic Development Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, entitled the "Broadened Ownership Act," the Commission communicated with the largest gas, electric, and telephone companies in Maryland to ensure that they were aware of this law. The law establishes the need for affected companies to institute programs and campaigns encouraging the public and employees to purchase stocks and bonds in these companies, thus benefiting the community, the economy, the companies, and the general welfare of the State.

The following companies submitted reports outlining various efforts to encourage public and employee participation in the stock purchase program:

NiSource, Inc. owns all the common stock of the NiSource Gas Distribution Group, Inc. which in turn owns all of the common stock of **Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc**. NiSource, Inc. has two plans to encourage broadened employee stock ownership: the Employee Stock Purchase (ESP) Plan and the NiSource Retirement Savings Plan. In addition, NiSource, Inc. maintains a Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan that broadens stock capital ownership by all stockholders, including employees, by enabling them to reinvest their dividends to acquire additional shares of common stock.

On August 31, 2024, NiSource, Inc. had 448,532,358 shares of its common stock outstanding of which 230,403 were acquired by employees during the previous 12 months through the ESP Plan and 347,506 through the NiSource Inc. Retirement Savings Plan. As of August 31, 2024, NiSource, Inc. had approximately 288 registered stockholders with Maryland addresses holding approximately 99,016 shares of NiSource, Inc. common stock.

As of September 30, 2024, **Exelon Corporation**, the parent company of **Baltimore Gas and Electric Company**, **Potomac Electric Power Company**, and **Delmarva Power & Light Company** reported that 8,775 Maryland residents, representing approximately 12 percent of Exelon's total registered shareholders, owned 3,683,923 (approximately 0.4 percent) of the outstanding shares of common stock. Of these Maryland shareholders, 4,537 (approximately six percent of Exelon's total registered shareholders owning 1,730,833 or 0.2 percent of the legal outstanding shares of common stock) were participants in the Direct Stock Purchase Plan. As of September 30, 2024, 1,101 current or former employees, who are Maryland residents, held an aggregate of 955,362 equivalent shares of Exelon common stock in their 401(k) accounts in the Employee Savings Plan. In addition, 380,344 shares were held by 2,306 current or former employees who are Maryland residents and participate in the Exelon Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

The **Potomac Edison Company** was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Allegheny Energy, Inc. (AE) through February 25, 2011 at which point it became a subsidiary of **FirstEnergy Corporation** (FE). In April 2012, the Allegheny Employee Stock Purchase Plan was merged into the FE Employee Savings Plan (FE Plan). Approximately 95 percent of FE's employees were contributing to the FE Plan as of December 31, 2023 and 15,275 participants had FE stock as part of their account balance within the FE Plan. As of December 31, 2023, 1,266 Maryland residents held approximately 438,943 shares of FE stock as stockholders of record which represents approximately 2.21 percent of all FE registered stockholders and approximately 0.08 percent of all shares. In addition, as of December 31, 2023, three AE stockholders living in Maryland, owning the equivalent of 17 FE shares, had not yet exchanged their AE shares for FE shares.

Verizon Maryland, LLC is a wholly owned subsidiary of Verizon Communications Inc. Public stockholder ownership in the Maryland company is obtained through the purchase of Verizon Capital Stock. The Verizon Savings Plan enables employees to purchase stock in Verizon Communications, Inc. As of September 30, 2024, 12,283 Maryland residents held Verizon stock.

REPORTS OF THE AGENCY'S DEPARTMENTS/DIVISIONS

Office of Executive Secretary (*Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary*)

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY is responsible for the daily operations of the Commission and for keeping the records of the Commission including a record of all proceedings, filed documents, orders, regulation decisions, dockets, and files. The Executive Secretary is an author of, and the official signatory to, minutes, decisions and orders of the Commission that are not signed by the Commission directly. The Executive Secretary is also a member of a team of policy advisors to the Commission.

The Office of Executive Secretary (OES) is responsible for the Commission's case management, expert services procurement, order preparation, purchasing and procurement, regulation development and coordination, tariff maintenance, the Equal Employment Opportunity Program, operations, fiscal and budget management, the Commission's information technology system, including databases and the official website and intranet website.

The Commission is authorized to employ 165 full-time employees and 10 contractual employees. The five Commissioners are the collective head of the agency with their employees generally divided into direct reports and Technical Staff. The Commission's direct reports include the Executive Secretary's Office, the General Counsel's Office, the Public Utility Law Judges, Consumer Affairs Division, and others. Technical Staff is a party to every case and includes the Executive Director's Office, Accounting Investigations Division, Electricity Division, Telecommunications, Gas, and Water Division, Engineering Division, Energy Analysis and Planning Division, Transportation Division, Office of Utility Cybersecurity, and Staff Counsel.

The OES contains the following divisions:

Administrative Division

- Case Management Unit

The Case Management Unit creates and maintains formal dockets associated with proceedings before the Commission. In maintaining the Commission's formal docket, this unit must ensure the security and integrity of the materials on file while permitting access to the general public. Included within this security function is the maintenance of confidential/proprietary information relating to the conduct of utility regulation and required compliance with detailed access procedures. During 2024, this unit established 55 new non-transportation-related dockets and processed 3,621 non-transportation-related case items. This unit is also responsible for archiving the formal dockets based on the record retention policies of the Commission.

- Document Management Unit

The Document Management Unit is responsible for developing the Commission's Administrative Meeting Agenda, the official open meeting action agenda mandated by law. During 2024, this unit scheduled 41 Commission administrative meetings at which 683 administrative items were considered and decided upon pursuant to the Commission's authority. Additionally, this unit is responsible for docketing public conferences held by the Commission. Eight administrative docket public conferences were initiated in 2024. This unit also processed 7,225 filings, including 2,320 memoranda.

- Regulation Management Unit

This unit is responsible for providing expert drafting consultation, establishing, and managing the Commission's rulemaking docket and coordinating the adoption process with the Secretary of State's Division of State Documents. During 2024, this unit managed five rulemaking dockets that resulted in final adoption of regulation changes to COMAR Title 20–Public Service Commission and five additional rulemaking dockets that remained active at the end of 2024.

- Operations Unit

This unit is responsible for managing the Commission's telecommunications needs and its motor vehicle fleet, as well as being the liaison for building maintenance, repairs and construction needs of the Commission. In addition, this unit is responsible for the Equal Employment Opportunity Program. The Commission purchased its second electric vehicle for its fleet in 2023.

Fiscal Division

- Fiscal and Budget Management Unit

This unit manages the financial aspects of the daily operations of the Commission. The operating budget totaled $23,720,205 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. This budget consisted of $22,365,003 in special funds and $701,562 in federal funds. Included within the normal State functions are two unique governmental accounting responsibilities. The first function allocates the Commission's cost of operation to the various public service companies subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. The second function allocates the budget associated with the Department of Natural Resources' Power Plant Research Program to electric companies distributing electricity to retail customers within Maryland. This unit also administers the financial accountability of the Pipeline Safety Program and the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Program which are partially reimbursed by the federal Department of Transportation by maintaining all associated financial records consistent with federal program rules, regulations, and guidelines requiring additional record keeping.

- Purchasing and Procurement Management

This section is responsible for expert services procurement and all other procurements required by the Commission as well as the overall control of supplies and equipment. This section is also responsible for agency forms management and record retention management. This section's staff maintained and distributed the fixed and disposable assets, maintained all related records, purchased all necessary supplies and equipment, and coordinated all equipment maintenance. As of June 30, 2024, this section maintained fixed assets totaling $2,856,942.

Information Technology Division

The IT Division functions as the technical staff for the Commission's network and computer systems. IT is responsible for computer hardware and software selection, installation, administration, training, and maintenance. IT manages and maintains the content and technical components of the Commission's internal and external websites.

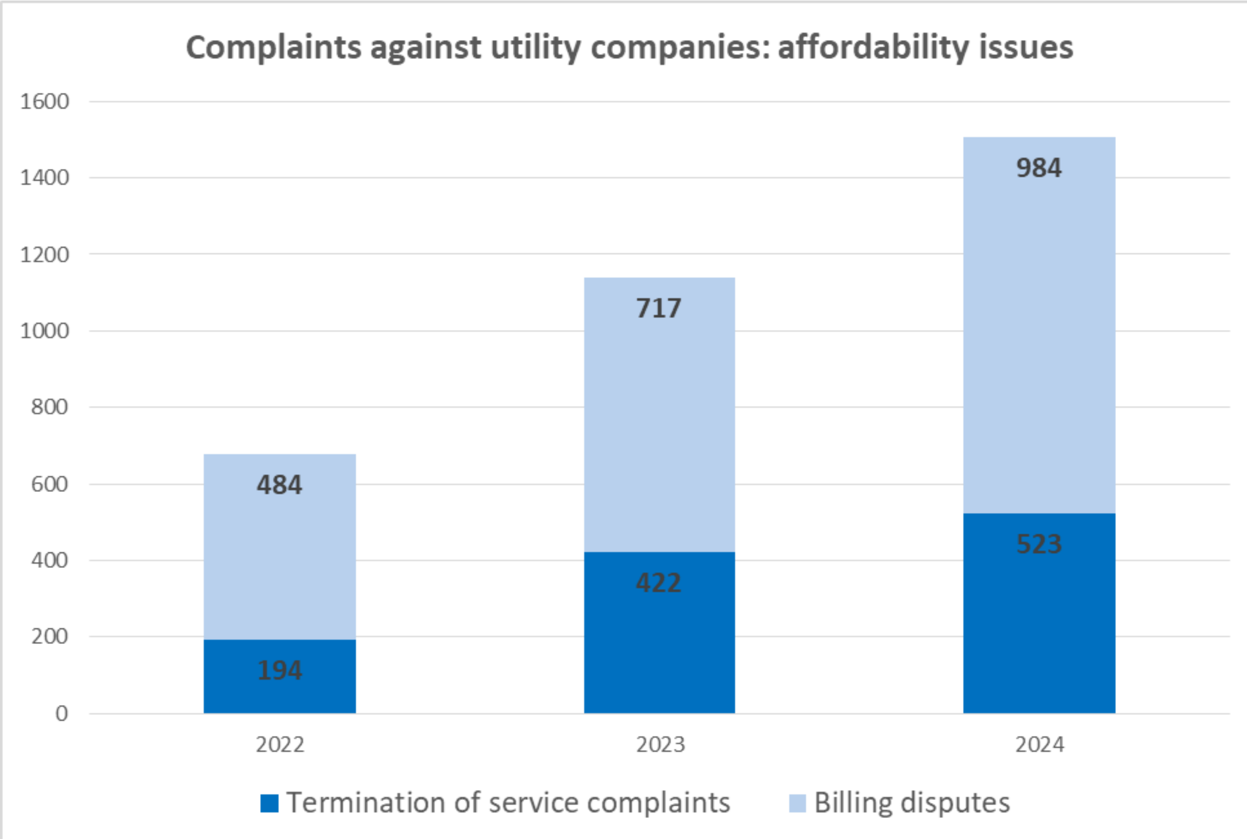
In 2024, IT accomplishments included: (a) Phase 1 of the PSC Network migration project was initiated—DMS (Document Management), Bucksheet and mission critical online services were migrated to the PSC xByte Cloud; (b) the PSC achieved a 100% completion rate for PSAT (Proofpoint IT Security Awareness Training); (c) a new FMIS connection with improved bandwidth was established for the PSC Annapolis Satellite Office; (d) completed an IT audit conducted by the Office of Legislative Audits (OLA); (e) established Drop Box secure cloud solution for the PSC; and (f) decommissioned legacy Windows Active Directory Servers (AD).

Consumer Affairs Division (*Stephanie A. Bolton, Director*)

THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS DIVISION (CAD) investigates and resolves complaints made by Maryland ratepayers against utilities and other regulated entities in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and utility tariffs. CAD collects and tracks information regarding complaints received to identify potential patterns of regulatory noncompliance.

In 2024, CAD received 2,656 total complaints, reflecting an increase of 7.27% over last year. Of the complaints received, 2,251 were against gas and electric utilities, 76 were telecommunication complaints, 101 were complaints against water utility companies, and 33 complaints involved other issues. The most frequently cited issues with gas and electric, telephone, and water utilities concerned billing disputes (984), termination of service issues (523), other or miscellaneous issues with electric utility service (166), payment disputes (127), meter concerns (108), unable to start/stop service (97), security deposit issues (92), reporting of safety concerns (65), other or miscellaneous issues with gas utility service (64), and outages (63).

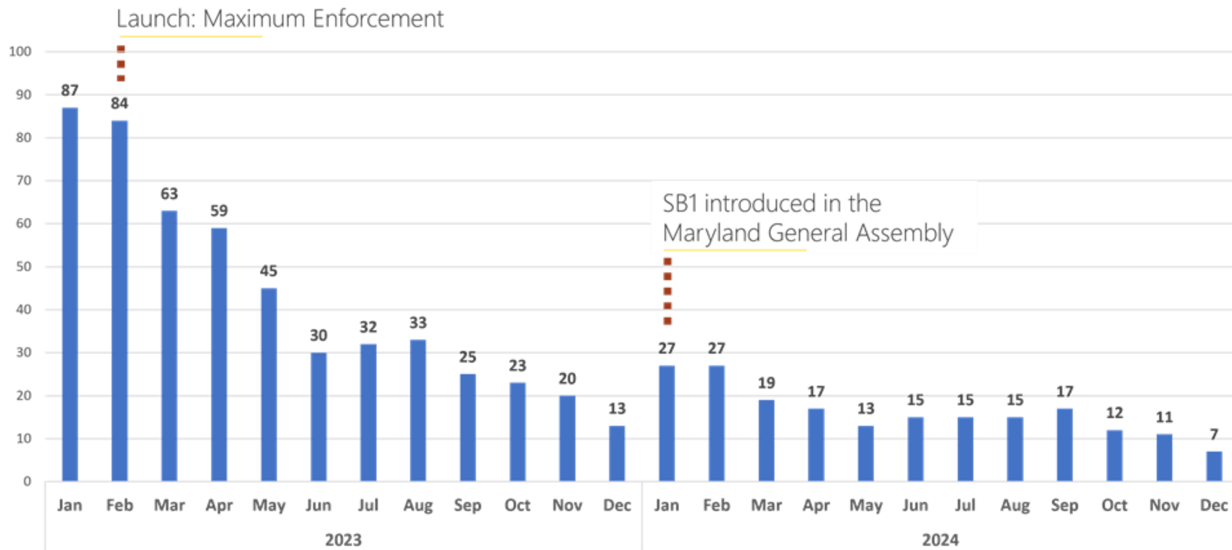
Utility complaint drivers include affordability issues with a 37.24% increase in billing disputes and a 23.93% increase in termination of service complaints over last year.



Complaints against third-party retail energy suppliers have continued to decline following the Commission's 2023 Maximum Enforcement initiative[16] and the 2024 introduction of Senate Bill 1 in the Maryland General Assembly. Senate Bill 1 passed and was signed into law, enacting major reforms in the retail energy supply marketplace in an effort to strengthen oversight of this industry and provide greater protections for consumers.

[16] The Commission launched its Maximum Enforcement initiative on February 1, 2023 in response to an influx of consumer complaints against retail energy suppliers. The Commission marshaled its internal resources to prioritize and expedite supplier matters resulting in a significant reduction in supplier complaints.

Complaints against retail energy suppliers: 2023 - 2024



In 2024, CAD received 195 complaints against retail energy suppliers. The most frequently cited issues with suppliers concerned unauthorized enrollment/slamming[17] (82), billing disputes (47), misrepresentation by supplier (25), and start/stop service issues (20).

In addition to its investigatory activities, CAD is a trusted source of utility-related information to the public. Its staff participated in a variety of events in the community such as town halls and neighborhood association meetings, conferences and webinars, as well as "Power in the Park" events and other resource fairs sponsored by local elected officials and nonprofit organizations. Throughout 2024, the CAD team had meetings with utility and supplier representatives and other stakeholders to share information, learn more about company operations, answer questions, and discuss concerns.

Office of General Counsel (*Miles H. Mitchell, General Counsel*)

THE OFFICE OF General Counsel (OGC) provides legal advice and assistance to the Commission on questions concerning the jurisdiction, rights, duties or powers of the Commission, defends Commission orders in court, represents the Commission in federal and state administrative proceedings, and initiates and defends other legal actions on the Commission's behalf as needed. OGC also supervises enforcement of the Commission's rules, regulations, and filing requirements as applied to utilities, common carriers, retail suppliers, and other entities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction and leads or participates in special projects as directed by the Commission.

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[17] Slamming is an illegal practice of switching a customer's electricity or gas supply service without the customer's permission.

During 2024, OGC assisted the Commission in numerous matters including the evaluation and decision of traditional rate case proceedings filed by Washington Gas Light Company (WGL) as well as multi-year rate plans (MRPs) filed by Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) and Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco). OGC assisted the Commission in addressing new EmPOWER Maryland energy efficiency, conservation, and demand response goals and plans for the 2024-2026 program cycle; evaluating the location of BGE gas regulators; considering Montgomery County's Community Choice Aggregation plan; 2024 and 2025 General Assembly legislative initiatives; reviewing the Revised Round 2 offshore wind proposals; and addressing utility electric service reliability. OGC also assisted the Commission in drafting the data center colocation study report in addressing applications for development of new electricity generation plants and cyber security reporting.

OGC also assisted the Commission in implementing General Assembly legislation, including, for example, assisting in the development of new regulations and requirements related to Senate Bill 1 (2024) relating to the protection of consumers in the retail energy market and establishing new standards for marketing clean energy. Additionally, OGC provides legal support to the Commission as a state agency participant in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. OGC also routinely provides legal support to the Commission by responding to requests for information pursuant to the Maryland Public Information Act and by addressing customer complaints related to public service companies and retail energy suppliers. Finally, OGC represented the Commission in several matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) which are described elsewhere in this report.

Office of the Executive Director (*Anthony Myers, Executive Director*):

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and an Assistant Executive Director manage the Commission's Technical Staff. The Executive Director's major managerial responsibility consists of directing and coordinating the work of the Technical Staff relating to the analysis of utility filings and operations, the presentation of testimony in Commission proceedings, and support of the Commission's regulatory oversight activities.

The Executive Director administers the formulation of Staff policy positions and legislative reviews and serves as the liaison between Staff and the Commission. The Executive Director is also the principal contact between the Staff and other state agencies, commissions and utilities. Reports of the Technical Staff divisions:

Accounting Investigations Division (*Jamie Smith, Director*)

THE ACCOUNTING INVESTIGATIONS Division is responsible for auditing utility books and records and providing expertise on a variety of accounting, taxation, and financial issues. The Division's primary function includes developing utility revenue requirements, auditing fuel costs, auditing the application of rates and charges assessed by utilities, monitoring utility earnings, examining

the effectiveness of cost allocations, analyzing the financial integrity of alternative suppliers seeking licenses to provide services, and assisting other divisions and State agencies.
Historically, Accounting Investigations has also been responsible for project management of Commission-ordered utility management audits. Accounting Investigations personnel provide expertise and guidance in the form of expert testimony, formal comments on utility filings, independent analyses on specific topics, advisory services, and responses to surveys or other communication with the Commission. Accounting Investigations keeps up to date with the most recent changes in accounting pronouncements and tax law and applies its expertise to electric, gas, telecommunications, water, wastewater, taxicabs, maritime pilots, and toll bridge matters.

During 2024, the Accounting Investigations Division's work responsibilities included assisting other divisions, conducting audits of utility fuel programs and other rate adjustments, ongoing evaluation of utility base rates, STRIDE rates, and providing appropriate analysis of utility filings and rate initiatives. Division personnel provided expert testimony and recommendations relating to the performance of ongoing audits of 14 utility fuel programs and 11 other rate adjustments and provided appropriate analyses and comments with respect to 77 filings submitted by utilities.

In addition, Division personnel participated in 13 formal proceedings, including two multi-year rate plan cases, and a number of special assignments. The Division also provided analyses for a variety of legislative bills that have the potential to impact the utility industry.

Electricity Division (*Drew M. McAuliffe, Director*)

THE ELECTRICITY DIVISION conducts economic, financial and policy analyses relevant to the regulation of electric utilities, electricity retail markets, low income concerns, and other related issues. The Division prepares the results of these analyses in written testimony, recommendations to the Commission, and various reports. This work includes: retail competition policy and implementation related to restructuring in the electric utility industry, rate of return on equity and capital structure, pricing structure and design, load forecasting, low-income customer policy and statistical analysis, consumer protection regulations, consumer education, codes of conduct, mergers, and jurisdictional and customer class cost-of-service determinations. The Division's analyses and recommendations may appear as expert testimony in formal proceedings, special topical studies requested by the Commission, leadership of or participation in work group processes established by the Commission, or formal comments on other filings made with the Commission.

As part of rate proceedings, the Division's work lies in three main areas: (1) rate design, the setting of electricity prices to recover the cost (as annual revenue) of providing service to a specific class of customers (e.g., residential); (2) cost of service studies, the classification of utility operating costs and plant investments and the allocation of those costs to the customer classes that cause them; and (3) cost of capital, the financial analysis that determines the appropriate return to allow on a utility's plant investment given the returns observed from the utility industry regionally and nationally. In multi-year rate plan proceedings, the Division also reviews, validates and submits testimony regarding utility projections of customers, sales, and billed maximum demand.

In addition to traditional rate-of-return expertise, the Electricity Division's technical and analytical professionals also identify and analyze emerging issues in Maryland's retail energy market. Division analysts research methods of electricity procurement, retail energy market models, energy and natural resource price trends, annual electricity cost data, renewable energy issues, economic modeling of electricity usage, and other areas that reflect characteristics of electricity costs.

During 2024, the Electricity Division's work included expert testimony and/or policy recommendations in approximately 71 administrative proceedings, nine formal proceedings, four rate cases including the fifth multi-year rate plan case filed with the Commission.

In addition to traditional regulatory analysis, Electricity Division personnel facilitated and participated in several stakeholder work groups covering net energy metering, community solar, retail market electronic data exchange, retail market supplier coordination, electric vehicles, electric rates, and electrification. The Electricity Division also evaluated legislation on distributed energy resources, community solar, net metering, retail supply, and electric vehicle infrastructure.

Energy Analysis and Planning Division *(Daniel Hurley, Director)*

THE ENERGY ANALYSIS and Planning Division (EAP) is primarily responsible for evaluating and reporting to the Commission on the results of the EmPOWER Maryland energy efficiency and demand response programs which are operated by the electric utilities in accordance with the EmPOWER Maryland legislation. EAP reviews the annual compliance of electricity suppliers and electric utilities to the Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements. Finally, EAP will assess the environmental impact, in accordance with the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, on all filings that fall under the division's responsibility.

Division members have analytical and/or oversight responsibilities on a wide range of subjects: energy efficiency and demand response programs, regional power supply and transmission planning through participation in PJM work groups and committees, advanced metering infrastructure and smart grid implementation, the SOS competitive solicitations, the wholesale energy markets focusing on prices and availability, Maryland's renewable energy portfolio standard, wholesale market demand response programs, applications for retail natural gas and electricity suppliers, applications for community solar projects and applications for small generator exemptions to the CPCN process.

During 2024, EAP was directly responsible for, or involved in, several significant initiatives including:

- EmPOWER Maryland—

  - Preparing semi-annual reports for the utilities' energy efficiency and demand response programs;
  - Preparing the 2024-2026 EmPOWER Maryland plans report for the utilities' energy efficiency and demand response programs, specifically revised plans for the 2025 and 2026 program years;
  - Assisting in the development of the Commission's annual report to the General Assembly;
  - Direct oversight of the evaluation, measurement and verification process of an independent evaluator producing annual impact and cost-effectiveness evaluation;
  - Conducting work groups related to the 2024-2026 EmPOWER Maryland energy efficiency and demand response plans;
  - Reviewing the annual EmPOWER Maryland surcharge filings for cost recovery of the EmPOWER Maryland programs;
- Preparing the Ten-Year Plan (2024-2033) of Electric Companies in Maryland;
- Preparing the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Report of 2023;
- Monitoring several PJM committees and work groups;
- Monitoring the SOS procurement processes to ensure they were conducted according to codified procedures consistent with the Maryland restructuring law;
- Processing applications for the Community Solar Pilot program;
- Continuing to work with electricity and natural gas suppliers to bring retail choice to the residential and small commercial markets; and
- Participating in NARUC activities.

Engineering Division (*John Clementson, Assistant Chief Engineer and DeAndre Wilson, Acting Manager of Grid Reliability and Modernization*)

THE ENGINEERING DIVISION monitors the operations of public service companies for safety, efficiency, reliability and quality of service. The Division's primary areas of responsibility include electric distribution and transmission, gas and electric metering, private water and sewer distribution systems, certification of solar renewable energy facilities, natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline safety.

Workgroups

The Engineering Division led or actively participated in several Commission established workgroups in 2024, including, but not limited to:

Distribution System Planning Work Group

In March of 2021, the Commission held a legislative-style hearing to discuss the application of the recommendations contained in the NARUC/NASEO-founded Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning in Maryland. On June 23, 2021, the Commission issued Order No. 89865 that initiated a Distribution System Planning Work Group (DSPWG), docketed in Case No. 9665 and PC44 with a goal of exploring and developing a Maryland-specific distribution system planning process to increase opportunities for early, meaningful stakeholder engagement through increased transparency and coordination.

The Commission contracted with Silver Point LLC at the beginning of 2022 to facilitate the DSP Work Group. Several parties including Staff, OPC, MEA, utilities in Maryland, industry representatives, environmental groups and concerned citizens participated in the effort. In February 2023, Silverpoint filed a status report with the Commission, and on February 9, 2023, the Commission issued a notice of opportunity to comment, in which several parties, including Staff, provided comments.

In addition, effective June 1, 2022, the Maryland General Assembly enacted the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) which was codified in Public Utilities Article (PUA), Annotated Code of Maryland, Subtitle 8 (Electric Distribution System Planning). Section 7-801 specifically requires that the Commission adopt regulations or issue orders, by July 1, 2025, to implement specific policies for electric distribution system planning and improvements in order to promote a set of 12 state policy goals. Subsequently, in 2024, the General Assembly enacted House Bill 1393 for Electric System Planning—Scope and Funding (HB1393)—which modified Subtitle 8 to now focus on electric system planning in place of electric distribution planning. HB1393 also modified the July 1, 2025 deadline specified in §7-804 for developing regulations that promote State policy goals to December 31, 2025.

Furthermore, §7-802 requires the Commission to submit a report to the General Assembly, on or before December 1, 2024, and each December 1 thereafter, information regarding the current status of projects designed to promote the goals identified in this section, including information on planning processes and implementation that promote, as specific goals, the following: (1) measures to decrease greenhouse gas emissions incident to electric distribution, including high levels of distributed energy resources and electric vehicles; (2) giving priority to vulnerable communities in the development of distributed energy resources and electric vehicle infrastructure; (3) energy efficiency; (4) meeting anticipated increases in load; (5) incorporation of energy storage technology as appropriate and prudent to: (i) support efficiency and reliability of the electric system; and (ii) provide additional capacity to accommodate increased distributed renewable electricity generation in connection with electric transmission and distribution system modernization; (6) efficient management of load variability; (7) electric system resiliency and reliability; (8) bidirectional power flows; (9) demand response and other non-wire and noncapital alternatives; (10) increased use of distributed energy resources, including electric vehicles; (11) transparent stakeholder participation in ongoing electric system planning processes; and (12) any other issues the Commission considers appropriate.

On August 24, 2023, the Commission issued Order No. 90777 in response to the work group report, filed on February 6, 2023, and stakeholder comments. The Commission appointed Chief Public Utility Law Judge Chuck McLean to lead the work group and directed the work group to file a final report on April 30, 2024 addressing, among other things, how well each utility's current distribution system planning (DSP) practices promote State policy goals set forth in PUA §7-802 and how to further those policies within the utilities' DSP practices. The work group leader filed the final report presenting components of the Jade Process Map[18] and parties' positions on how to address each component and OPC's and the electric utilities' proposals. Staff also filed comments on the work group report.

On January 4, 2024, the Commission held a Technical Conference at which stakeholders were invited to address best practices in distribution system planning.

After considering the work group's final report and stakeholder comments on the report, on July 30, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91256 which provided guidance to the work group on the non-consensus items and directed the work group to provide a status report on its progress and requiring each electric company to file a report with the Commission on or before November 15, 2024 and by November 15 each year thereafter. Staff prepared the Commission's report due to the General Assembly on December 1, 2024.

The Commission later issued Order No. 91490 on January 21, 2025 directing the work group to file proposed regulations consistent with the direction provided in Order No. 91256 while also addressing the requirements of PUA §7-801. Engineering Staff is leveraging the U.S. Department of Energy's Technical Assistance to inform its position regarding the different aspects of electric system planning and its contributions towards the development of energy system planning regulations.

Interconnection Work Group

Engineering Staff continued to participate in the PC44 Interconnection Work Group in 2024. Phase IV of the Interconnection Work Group's efforts culminated in a filing of the Phase IV final report on June 28, 2022 which recommended a Maryland smart inverter requirement, among other things. An RM81 rulemaking session was held on August 2, 2022 with a final rulemaking session held on February 22, 2023 with the regulations effective March 20, 2023. Notably, the regulation implements a Maryland smart inverter requirement compliant with the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) 1547-2018 Standard, effective January 1, 2024. All subject electric utilities in Maryland filed their Smart Inverter Setting Profiles by October 10, 2023 and parties including OPC and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council provided

[18] The Jade Process Map is a representation of a state's electric utility structure in which the state's investor-owned utilities do not own generation assets, the state is located within an RTO/ISO market, and the state is seeking to increase transparency around distribution system planning and is responsive to State policy. Maryland's structure was best represented in this Jade Roadmap classification. Jade Process Map contains blocks or components including Considerations Feeding into Types of Projections; Goals/Objectives; DER and Load Forecasts; Hosting Capacity Analysis/System Assessment; Grid Needs & Locational Value Assessment; Identify Possible Solutions to Grid Needs; Screen/Evaluate Possible Solutions; Choose Solutions and Publish Plan; Program/Project Design; and Assess Results.

comments on the utilities' filings. Staff reviewed the smart inverter setting profiles filed by each utility and after working with the utilities, recommended approval of their filings meeting the January 1, 2024 compliance date. The Commission approved proposed smart inverter setting profiles on November 21, 2023 for PE, Pepco, BGE, Delmarva, and SMECO. Maryland became one of the first states to act on the NARUC Board of Directors' February 12, 2020 resolution that recommended state commissions adopt and implement IEEE 1547-2018.

In addition, the leader of the Interconnection Work Group filed the Phase V final report and a petition for rulemaking on September 28, 2023. On December 5, 2023, the Commission held a RM81 rulemaking session and reviewed the Interconnection Workgroup's Phase V report and regulations proposals. At the conclusion of the rulemaking session, the Commission remanded several issues back to the work group encouraging all parties to reach consensus on the outstanding issues raised at the hearing. On January 5, 2024, the work group leader filed a Phase V supplemental report indicating that the workgroup had reached consensus on the outstanding issues raised at the hearing.

The Commission held a supplemental RM81 hearing on January 9, 2024 to discuss the changes included in the supplemental report. The Commission held a final rulemaking session on June 4, 2024 to consider whether to finally adopt the proposed regulations that were published; the RM81 regulations became effective on December 12, 2024 and covered the Maryland Cost Allocation Method, Hosting Capacity Upgrade Plans, Use of Power Flow Analysis to Evaluate Interconnection Requests, Certified and Approved Equipment, Meter Collar Adapters, Flexible Interconnection Options, Hosting Capacity Framework Issues, and Dispute Resolution in addition to a recommendation for additional issues for carryover into a Phase VI Workgroup effort.

Maryland Energy Storage Program Work Group

On May 13, 2019, the Governor signed Senate Bill 573 (Energy Storage Pilot Project Act) into law. The Act required the Commission to establish an energy storage pilot program which the Commission did on August 23, 2019 and docketed in Case No. 9619. Each Maryland investor-owned electric company was ordered to solicit offers to develop energy storage projects and submit applications for those projects to the Commission for approval. The Engineering Division continues to monitor the progress of these pilot projects and submit filings to the Commission associated with requested changes by the utilities.

In 2022, Engineering submitted recommendations to the Commission associated with changing the Potomac Edison Urbana Project location to Myersville Park-and-Ride and extending its construction operation date (COD), extending the CODs for the Town Hill, Elk Neck, National Harbor/Livingston Road, Chesapeake and Fairhaven energy storage projects, in addition to a petition by SMECO to establish an energy storage pilot project. On September 11, 2023, Pepco filed a request to amend Commission Order No. 89664 to reject its National Harbor/Livingston Road Energy Storage Pilot Project and allow Pepco to file an application for an alternative energy storage project by the 4th Quarter of 2023. On October 17, 2023, Pepco filed the Fairmount

Heights Microgrid project as an alternative to the National Harbor/Livingston Road project. The Project was approved. To date, the Commission has approved 27.2 MWh of energy storage capacity:

- Potomac Edison's Myersville 1.328 MWh park-and-ride facility is currently operational.
- Potomac Edison's Town Hill 8.4 MWh project is expected to be operational by the end of September 2025.
- BGE's 2.0 MWh Chesapeake project was energized on January 25, 2023.
- BGE's 7.1 MWh Fairhaven project, which the company will own and operate, was energized on January 25, 2023.
- Pepco's 3.0 MWh Montgomery County Electric Bus Depot project was placed into service on October 18, 2022.
- Pepco's 292.2 kWh Fairmount Heights Microgrid project was approved by the Commission as an alternative to the National Harbor/Livingston Road project after consideration of the matter on June 12, 2024. On November 26, 2024, the Project was granted an extension of the operational date. The currently approved operational start date for the project is May 31, 2025.
- Delmarva's 1.5 MWh Elk Neck Virtual Power Plant met its operational deadline of 1 MW of in-service capacity on October 13, 2023.
- Delmarva's 3.6 MWh Ocean City project has encountered issues that have delayed the operational date of the battery and was granted an extension of the operational date by the Commission after consideration of the matter on November 26, 2024.The currently approved operational start date for the project is April 30, 2025.
- SMECO was approved by the Commission on October 26, 2022 to pursue an energy storage project. The Company has not yet filed an energy storage project for Commission approval.

On May 8, 2023, the Maryland General Assembly enacted HB910, amending §7-216 and promulgating §7-216.1 of the PUA. These changes directed the Commission to establish a Maryland Energy Storage Program that provides a competitive energy storage procurement program with annual deployment targets for energy storage devices in Maryland. The statute as amended also directed the Commission to file a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2023 on pending designs for the Maryland Energy Storage Program and any additional statutory changes required to fully implement an effective energy storage program to meet the minimum targets for the deployment of new energy storage devices under §7–216.1.[19]

Pursuant to the statue, the Commission issued Order No. 90823 on October 2, 2023 establishing Case No. 9715 and initiating the PC44 Maryland Energy Storage Program Work Group to develop

[19] In accordance with PUA §7–216.1(b)(1), the Commission shall establish targets for the cost-effective deployment of new energy storage devices in the State with a goal of achieving: (1) 750 MWs of cumulative energy storage capacity by the end of delivery year 2027; (ii) 1,500 MWs of cumulative energy storage capacity by the end of delivery year 2030; and (iii) 3,000 MWs of cumulative energy storage capacity by the end of delivery year 2033.

a consensus proposal for the establishment of an energy storage program in line with the requirements of §7-216.1. The work group was further directed to file, by December 15, 2023, an interim report that should contain a status update on the work group's progress; identify any non-consensus issues requiring immediate Commission resolution; and identify any additional statutory changes required to fully implement the program, followed by a final report by October 1, 2024, accompanied by a petition for rulemaking with proposed regulations to implement the Maryland Energy Storage Program no later than July 1, 2025.[20]

In accordance with Order No. 90823, with the assistance of the Energy Policy Design Institute, the MESP Work Group filed an interim report on December 15, 2023 addressing its progress and identifying areas of non-consensus from the work group that could benefit from Commission direction to produce a thoroughly considered and consensus-based program proposal. Following its review of the Workgroup's interim report, in compliance with HB910 of the PUA, on December 27, 2023, the Commission submitted its Maryland Energy Storage Program (MESP) 2023 Status Report to the Maryland General Assembly. On March 18, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91064 providing direction to the work group on several areas of non-consensus.

On October 1, 2024, pursuant to Order No. 90823, and in consideration of Commission Order No. 91064, the MESP Work Group Leader filed the Maryland Energy Storage Initiative (MESI) Work Group Phase I final report in Case No. 9715 recommending energy storage programs to meet the statutory energy storage deployment targets for future delivery years, a request to launch a rulemaking proceeding to consider the work group's regulation proposals, and several non-consensus areas in need of Commission direction.

On October 1, 2024, the Commission issued a notice requesting comments on the report, and a notice initiating a rulemaking and rulemaking session (RM85) to consider draft regulations proposed by the work group. On November 7, 2024, Staff filed its comments on the work group's report. On February 5, 2025, the Commission conducted RM85 to consider publishing the revised draft regulations proposed by the MESP Work Group to comply with the July 1, 2025 statutory deadline. At the conclusion of RM85, the Commission unanimously passed a motion to publish the proposed regulations with a few edits, adding a new chapter and new regulations establishing the Maryland Energy Storage Program.[21]

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[20] The Commission also ordered BGE, Delmarva, Pepco and Potomac Edison to file interim reports on preliminary lessons learned from their approved energy storage pilot projects by November 15, 2023 that address lessons learned regarding the energy storage technology deployed; cost estimation; schedule development; construction; operations; maintenance; environmental impacts; safety; benefit estimation; third-party ownership/operating models; and gaining community and customer acceptance. On November 15, 2023, the utilities each filed interim reports in Case No. 9715.

[21] COMAR 20.50.14 *Maryland Energy Storage Program* has been submitted to the *Maryland Register* and is expected to be in place by July 1, 2025.

On January 22, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91495 in Case No. 9715, establishing a narrow-scope proceeding to determine a cost-effective energy storage procurement allocation toward the first MESP goal of 750 MW of energy storage capacity by May 31, 2028, directing the investor-owned electric companies to file proposals for an initial set of cost-effective energy storage initiatives with the Commission by February 21, 2025, and invited public comments on the companies' and stakeholder proposals by March 28, 2025.

Resilience Work Group

After reviewing resilience investment plans proposed by BGE and Pepco in their multi-year rate plan applications (Case Nos. 9692 and 9702), and recommendations of Staff and other parties, the Commission disallowed proposed investments because there were no agreed-upon resiliency standards and objectives and no agreed-upon metrics by which to measure a utility's success in meeting those standards and objectives. The Commission, in Order Nos. 90948 and 91181 declared its "plan to establish an administrative docket to consider the implementation of resiliency standards and objectives, metrics by which to measure the effectiveness of resiliency investments, resiliency reporting requirements, and penalties for failure to meet any agreed upon resiliency standards or objectives."

In addition, the CSNA added Subtitle 8 (Electric Distribution System Planning) to Title 7 of the PUA. PUA §7-801 states that it is the goal of the State that the electric distribution system support, in a cost-effective manner, the State's policy goals with regard to greenhouse gas reduction, renewable energy, decreasing dependence on electricity imported from other states, and achieving distribution system resiliency, efficiency and reliability.

On March 25, 2024, the Commission issued a letter order in Case No. 9353 directing Staff to convene a work group to consider: the implementation of resiliency standards and objectives, metrics by which to measure the effectiveness of resiliency investments, resiliency reporting requirements, and penalties for failure to meet any agreed upon resiliency standards or objectives. The Electric Distribution System Resiliency Work Group first convened on May 31, 2024 and had 10 meetings with representatives from five electric companies, MEA, Montgomery Country, OPC, the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management.

Staff filed a work group status report as directed by the Commission. The report included agreed upon resilience definitions, proposed resiliency objectives, resiliency standards from the perspective of what a utility filed resilience investment plan should include, utility proposed metrics, and Staff-proposed reporting requirements. The work group resumed meetings in January of 2025 with discussion of resilience metrics and review of Staff's proposed reporting requirements.

COMAR Revision Work Group

In Order No. 90782 regarding the electric utilities' annual reliability reports in Case No. 9353, the Commission shared Staff's comments about improvement opportunities in utility response during major outage events. The Commission accepted Staff's recommendations to make revisions to the existing Downed Wire Response and Service Interruption Standards in COMAR 20.50.12 so that there are also standards that apply on an event basis.

In addition, in Order No. 90782, the Commission also accepted Staff's recommendations to propose new COMAR standards regarding the availability of qualified line personnel during major outage events. Furthermore, the Commission directed Staff to lead the COMAR Revisions Workgroup to propose revisions to the existing COMAR Service Interruption and Downed Wire Standards and for qualified line personnel available during storm restoration for Major Outage Events "to consider this issue and to propose a new COMAR standard related to the availability of qualified line personnel."[22] The Commission in Order No. 91307, regarding the 2023 annual reliability performance reports, also directed the COMAR Revisions Workgroup to "make recommendations to apply the existing Customer Communications Standards to each MOE, rather than using an average on a calendar year basis to improve customer communications accountability during MOEs."

Staff led the COMAR Revisions Workgroup and held several meetings on its proposed COMAR revisions and additions to the existing reliability regulations in COMAR 20.50.12. Staff also sent out discovery requests to subject electric companies and collected data to inform its proposal. The work group reached consensus on proposed modifications to the Service Interruption Standard,[23] the Downed Wire Response Standard, and the Customer Communications Standard.[24] There was non-consensus on Staff's proposed regulations regarding Qualified Line Personnel.

On March 25, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91583 regarding proposed major outage event regulations and provided additional guidance on the Workgroup recommendations as well as non-consensus items. The Commission ordered: (1) Staff to reconvene the workgroup and file a petition for rulemaking within 90 days that incorporates the Commission's direction in the order; (2) Staff to file its future electric company MOE report performance reviews within 90 days of an electric company's MOE report filing pursuant to COMAR 20.50.12.13A; and (3)

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[22] The work group defined 'qualified line personnel' to mean electric company's full-time employees who are fit for duty, qualified to perform service restoration involving electric primary distribution systems and secondary distribution systems. This does not include employees who are unable to work due to injury, disability, sickness, unexpected military leave, or otherwise absent due to unexpected circumstances.

[23] The revised proposed regulation requires utilities to restore 90 percent of sustained customer outages within 50 hours for individual MOEs.

[24] The revised proposed regulation now requires utilities to respond to a government emergency responder guarded downed electric utility wire within 3 hours after notification by a fire department, police department, or 911 emergency dispatcher at least 75 percent of the time for individual MOEs.

electric companies to establish and file written policies for the availability of qualified line personnel within their companies with the Commission within 90 days.

Rate Cases

In 2024, Staff continued to review filings associated with BGE's first multi-year rate plan (MRP) (Case No. 9645), Pepco's first multi-year rate plan (Case No. 9655), and Delmarva Power's first multi-year rate plan (Case No. 9681). Both BGE and Pepco also filed their second multi-year rate plans in 2023 which Staff continued to review and provide written and oral testimony in 2024. Overall, the Engineering Division participated as witnesses in rate cases that were initiated, were ongoing, or completed in 2024. Those cases are detailed in the Utility Rate Case section of this report, beginning on page 23.

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCNs)

The Engineering Division provides testimony regarding applications for solar and non-solar CPCNs filed with the Commission. Those cases are detailed in the CPCN section of this report, beginning on page 31.

Emergency Response and Preparedness

The Engineering Division participates in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) emergency preparedness and response efforts. The Power Infrastructure State Coordinating Function (SCF-12) supports MDEM's emergency preparedness and response efforts. Staff's Engineering team and the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) are jointly responsible for leading SCF-12, specifically, for utility coordination related to electric service outages and fuel supply coordination during fuel disruptions. SCF-12 participates in training, drills, coordination meetings and statewide emergency management conference calls for establishing situational awareness and management of state emergencies.

Large customer outage events in 2024 required Power Infrastructure SCF roster activation or special monitoring, including: severe winter weather on January 6, 2024, winter storms from January 9-10, 2024, winter weather January 15–16; the Francis Scott Key Bridge collapse on March 26, 2024; and Tropical Storm Debby from August 8-10. The Engineering Division routinely analyzes major outage event reports and makes recommendations to the Commission, where appropriate.

In addition to responding to actual emergency events, the Engineering Division also participated in emergency response exercises and drills in 2024. On October 29, 2024, the Engineering Division participated in PJM's grid security exercise. PJM Grid Security Drill is a biennial event that is similar to the national grid security exercise known as GridEx that allows the electric industry, government agencies, and other relevant organizations the opportunity to simulate, drill, and coordinate emergency response and recovery plans in the event of cyber and physical security attacks and other contingencies that may affect the PJM system. Unlike GridEx, which is national in scope, participation in the PJM Grid Security Drill is limited to just PJM members and other interested entities within the PJM footprint, including the PJM states.

Customer Complaints

In 2024, Engineering Staff continued to work on formal complaint cases. Those cases are detailed in the Other Matters section of this report, beginning on page 54.

Miscellaneous

On May 9, 2024, Governor Wes Moore signed Senate Bill 783 into law, with an effective date of July 1, 2024. This bill amends several sections of the PUA, specifically §7-306, §7-709, §7-712, and §7-714. SB 783 includes provisions impacting solar energy systems in Maryland, most notably the creation of a "Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program," which will be administered by the Commission. Under this program, eligible solar systems can apply to become a “certified system" and earn certified **solar renewable energy credits (SRECs)**. These Certified SRECs will carry a compliance value of 150% which electric suppliers can use to help meet the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) set forth in PUA §7-703.

The Commission received 8,175 new applications for in-state photovoltaic (PV) solar renewable energy credits (SRECs) in 2024, up from the 7,554 new applications filed in 2023. A capacity of approximately 279 MWs in direct current were approved in 2024, compared to 216 MWs the previous year. The approved capacity figures provided consider requests for approval of new systems, amendments to existing systems, ownership changes, and de-certifications. Electric utilities in Maryland purchase SRECs generated in Maryland to comply with the RPS. A registry of RECs is also maintained in the PJM Interconnection, LLC Generator Attribute Tracking System Environmental Information Service (GATS-EIS).[25] Revenue from RECs is in addition to power sales into the wholesale market or by power purchase agreements. Aggregators combine the resources of smaller residential systems as explained on the GATS-EIS website. The weighted average price per Maryland REC was about $58.60 in 2024.

PV solar is complemented by power from other **renewable sources** like wind, landfill gas, geothermal, and heat recovery in Maryland to meet State policy goals. House Bill 1007 (passed in 2021) created a carveout in RPS Tier 1 for post-2022 residential and commercial geothermal heating and cooling systems (0.05 percent - 2023, 0.15 percent - 2024, 0.25 percent - 2025, 0.5 percent - 2026, 0.75 percent - 2027, 0.1 percent - 2028 and later). It also sets Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) amounts and alters the methods by which the PSC must measure

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[25] Note: PJM Environmental Information Services, Inc. will provide hourly, time-stamped certificates for PJM generation starting in March 2023, answering the growing demand for procuring and tracking carbon-free energy around the clock.

energy savings. At least 25 percent of the post–2022 geothermal carve out must come from systems installed to serve low-income customers.

On April 21, 2023, the Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act (POWER Act) was signed into law committing the state to develop 8.5 gigawatts (GW) of **offshore wind** energy by 2031. The POWER Act requires that state agencies collaborate with PJM Interconnection to build the necessary transmission infrastructure to deliver offshore wind energy to key onshore locations. Additionally, the Act requires the Commission to direct PJM to conduct an analysis of both onshore and offshore transmission upgrades and expansions. In support of the state's offshore wind (OSW) policy and objectives, Staff has been working closely with PJM to discuss the approach for analyzing transmission infrastructure needs for both onshore and offshore projects.

In 2024, PJM held various meetings with Staff, MEA, and PPRP to initiate the study effort. Staff participated in discussions of various scenarios, examining potential interconnection points and different offshore wind generation totals. Three scenarios were proposed, each involving 8,500 MW of offshore wind energy distributed across a range of potential injection points for analysis. On December 5, 2024, Staff formally requested PJM to conduct an informational study to support public policy planning for offshore wind development.

The Engineering Division continues to advise the Commission through written comments (**bucksheets**) for Administrative Meetings on various engineering matters filed with the Commission, or in Commissioners Meetings for various compliance filings. In 2024, the Engineering Division completed three gas and water and 40 electric bucksheets and supported 11 bucksheets assigned to other Staff divisions.

Twelve **electrical accident reports** were also filed with the Engineering Division in 2024 as compared to eight the previous year. Staff reviews these reports for possible code violations and operation improvements.

In 2018, BGE, Columbia Gas, and Washington Gas reapplied for their second Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement Plan (**STRIDE**) plans also known as STRIDE 2. All three companies were approved to continue with STRIDE 2 programs from 2019–2023, subject to certain conditions.

In 2021, Elkton Gas Company filed for authority to implement a STRIDE 1 plan and cost recovery mechanism in Case No. 9660. Elkton Gas proposed to replace 6.1 miles of Aldyl-A pipe (vintage plastic pipe susceptible to brittle-like cracking) in its distribution system by the end of 2023. On August 20, 2021, the Commission approved the Elkton Gas STRIDE 1 Plan and recovery mechanism.

In 2023, the Engineering Division's Pipeline Safety Group participated in the review of the related STRIDE filings for the Commission and is currently monitoring the companies' progress in the implementation of each STRIDE 1 plan, STRIDE 2 plan, and STRIDE 3 plan (Washington Gas).

In 2024, Columbia Gas reapplied again for their Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement Plan (STRIDE) which was approved by the Commission on December 23, 2024.

In 2024, the **Pipeline Safety Group** continued inspection of jurisdictional gas and hazardous liquid pipeline operators to ensure compliance with applicable pipeline safety regulations. The Commission's Pipeline Safety Group conducted two jurisdictional pipeline incident investigations in 2024:

- **BGE:** on the morning of **August 11, 2024,** an explosion occurred at a residential structure at 2300 Arthur Woods Drive in Bel Air. The explosion resulted in the complete loss of the residential structure and two fatalities. The homeowner and a contractor working for BGE lost their lives. The incident is currently under investigation by the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).
- **BGE:** at 8:15 p.m. on **November 6, 2024,** a commercial vehicle ran off the road and struck the gas meter of a residence at 1702 Woodhome Drive in Bel Air. BGE's gas service mechanic arrived on the scene at 8:38 p.m. He met with the Incident Commander for Harford County's Fire Department. The mechanic then began to canvass the homes in the immediate area of the incident. No gas was discovered at any of the homes. BGE was able to stop the flow of gas by excavating the gas service in the front yard and pinching off the service line. The gas was off at approximately 10:30 p.m. on November 7, 2024. BGE later cut and capped the service in the same location as the pinch-off occurred. The driver of the commercial vehicle, after striking the gas meter, left the scene prior to the Fire Department's arrival. The police were able to track the driver down and talk with him. He indicated that he had blacked out prior to running off the road.

On August 16, 2016, Washington Gas was involved in an apartment building explosion at the Flower Branch Apartments in Silver Spring. As a result of the explosion and subsequent deaths and injuries, the Commission initiated Case No. 9622 to investigate the incident and the company's actions. As a result of the investigation, Washington Gas proposed a program to replace **mercury service regulators**. The Commission approved the company's plan and required Washington Gas to file annual reports detailing progress made in the previous calendar year. On February 10, 2025, Washington Gas filed its annual report, in which it indicated that in its first five years of implementing the plan it has replaced 13,607 mercury regulators, of which 9,917 were through the company's replacement program. The remainder of the mercury regulators were replaced through routine maintenance work and other programs.

In 2021, House Bill 345 (the Flower Branch Act) was passed which required operators with regulators located inside multi-family structures to relocate those regulators to an outside location. The Act required those operators to file a plan for approval by the Commission detailing the estimated number of regulators located inside multi-family structures and the plan for relocating those regulators. Three of Maryland's eight jurisdictional natural gas companies had regulators within multi-family structures—Easton Utilities with one location, BGE with 11,811 identified sites, and Washington Gas with approximately 1,104 identified sites. In 2022, Easton completed its one relocation. In 2024, BGE managed to relocate 675 regulators and Washington Gas was able to relocate 245 regulators.

Every year, the Engineering Division's **Pipeline Safety Program** is audited by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation as part of its agreement with PHMSA. The Commission's senior pipeline and hazardous liquid safety engineers must be fully trained for their roles by PHMSA for enforcement of federal pipeline safety regulations within the State. The audit is conducted by PHMSA to ensure that the Pipeline Safety Group is conducting inspections of its jurisdictional operators according to PHMSA's State Guidelines and the Pipeline Safety Group's own procedures. In 2024, the Pipeline Safety Group was audited on its 2023 inspections—the group received a score of 97 percent for its State Gas Program and 100 percent for its State Hazardous Liquids Program.

The Pipeline Safety Group was active throughout the state conducting routine pipeline safety inspections and continues to evaluate the progress of mitigation of leaks caused by failed mechanical gas couplings in Prince George's County.

Meter referee tests are performed at a customer's request to verify meter accuracy. In 2024, Engineering performed referee tests for 42 electric meters and six gas meters.

The Engineering Division performs **annual inspections** of the operations and maintenance records of Maryland public service companies to ensure their compliance with applicable Commission regulations. Engineering Division inspections performed in 2024:

- Meter shop – 20
- Private water systems – 34
- Sewerage collection systems – 1
- LPG/Propane Operator meter testing – 9
- Electric companies – 5
- Gas system inspection days – 580
- Hazardous liquid system inspection days – 18.5

Staff Counsel Division (*Lloyd J. Spivak, Staff Counsel*)

THE STAFF COUNSEL Division directs and coordinates the preparation and presentation of the Technical Staff's position in matters pending before the Commission under the supervision of the Executive Director. In performing its duties, the Staff Counsel Division identifies issues in public service company applications and evaluates the applications for legal sufficiency and compliance with the Public Utilities Article, the Code of Maryland Regulations, utility tariffs, and other applicable law. In addition, the Staff Counsel may support Staff in initiating investigations or complaints. The Staff Counsel Division attorneys are the final reviewers of the Technical Staff's testimony, reports, proposed legislation analysis, and comments before submission to the Executive Director. Additionally, the attorneys draft and coordinate the promulgation and issuance of regulations, review and comment on items handled administratively, provide legal services to each division under the Office of Executive Director, and handle inquiries from utilities, legislators, regulators and consumers.

During 2024, Staff Counsel attorneys participated in a wide variety of matters involving all types of public service companies. The Staff Counsel Division's work included review of rates charged by public service companies, consideration of numerous requests for CPCNs, review of SOS matters, telecommunications filings, supplier regulatory and enforcement issues, transportation matters, and electric reliability matters. The Staff Counsel Division also was involved in a variety of efforts intended to address the EmPOWER Maryland Act of 2008, climate change issues and the continued implementation of the Maryland RPS Program.

Telecommunications, Gas, and Water Division *(Drew M. McAuliffe, Acting Director)*

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, GAS, and Water Division assists the Commission in regulating the delivery of wholesale and retail telecommunications services, retail natural gas services, and water services in the state of Maryland. The Division's output generally constitutes recommendations to the Commission but also includes publication of industry status reports and responses to inquiries from elected officials, media representatives, members of the public, and industry stakeholders. In addition, similar to other Technical Staff divisions, this Division assists the Commission's Consumer Affairs Division in the resolution of consumer complaints, on an as-needed basis, and leads or participates in industry work groups. The Division's analyses and recommendations to the Commission may appear as written comments, expert testimony in formal proceedings, special topical studies requested by the Commission, formal comments on filings submitted by the utilities or by other parties, comments on proposed legislation, proposed regulations, and public presentations. Finally, the Division aids other divisions as needed.

In 2024, the Division received approximately 56 administrative filings consisting of tariff changes, compliance filings from rate cases, annual revisions, and related matters.

Of the administrative filings received, 33 were telecommunications, 19 were natural gas, and four were water. The Division also developed or presented testimony in 15 cases, rulemakings, and public conferences before the Commission. These included three natural gas base rate proceedings, eight natural gas purchased gas adjustment charge proceedings, one STRIDE case, one water case, one case regarding the future of natural gas in Maryland, and one public conference regarding an income mechanism to assist low-and-moderate-income customers.

In **telecommunications**, the Division reviews applications for authority to provide telephone services from local and intrastate toll service providers, reviews tariff filings from such providers, monitors the administration of telephone numbering resources for the State, is responsible for reviewing FCC compliance filings by carriers, administers the certification of all payphone providers in the State, and monitors the provision of low income services, E911 (Enhanced 9-1-1) and telecommunications relay services.

In the **natural gas** industry, the Division focuses on retail natural gas competition policy and implementation of customer choice. The Division participates as a party in contested cases before the Commission to ensure that safe, reliable and economical gas service is provided throughout the State. Staff contributes to formal cases by providing testimony on rate of return, capital structure, rate design, and cost of service. In addition, the Division provides recommendations to the Commission on consumer protections, consumer education, codes of conduct, mergers, debt and equity issuances, and other issues related to natural gas. The Division also conducts research and analysis on the procurement of natural gas for distribution to retail customers.

In the **water** industry, the Division focuses on retail prices and other retail issues arising in the provision of safe and economical water services in the State. While only one water company made a filing with the Commission in 2024, Staff was actively engaged with the State's regulated water companies and related issues.

Finally, Division Staff supported the Commission with comments on various pending legislation, as requested.

Transportation Division (*Mark C. Gorman, Director*)

THE TRANSPORTATION DIVISION enforces the laws and regulations of the Commission pertaining to the safety, rates, and service of transportation companies operating in intrastate commerce in Maryland. The Commission's jurisdiction extends to most intrastate passenger for-hire carriers by motor vehicle (total 1,356); intrastate for-hire railroads; and taxicabs in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Charles County, Cumberland, and Hagerstown (total 1,042).

The Commission is also responsible for licensing drivers of **taxicabs** in Baltimore City, Charles County, Cumberland, Hagerstown, and other **passenger-for-hire vehicles** that carry 15 or fewer passengers (total 3,585). The Commission is also responsible for regulating **Transportation Network Operators** (TNOs) who provide transportation network services (total 175,242).

The Transportation Division monitors the safety of vehicles operated (total 6,575 non-TNO vehicles, including taxicabs, and 264,584 TNO vehicles), limits of liability insurance, schedules of operation, rates, and service provided for all regulated carriers, except railroads (only entry, exit, service and rates are regulated for railroads that provide intrastate service.) If problems arise in any of these areas that cannot be resolved at the staff level, the Division requests proceedings by the Commission which may result in the suspension or revocation of operating authority or permits or the institution of civil penalties.

During 2024, Transportation Division staff continued to conduct vehicle inspections and report results via on-site recording of inspection data and electronic transmission of information to the Commission's databases and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Safety and Fitness Electronic Records (SAFER) System. SAFER provides online carrier safety data and related services to the industry and the public.

Transportation Division staff continued their investigation involving a company, Yazam, Inc. d/b/a Empower, believed to be providing passenger for-hire transportation without the proper Commission permits. The company asserts that the Commission has no regulatory authority over its operations and is therefore contesting the requirement to be permitted in the state. Commission Staff filed a complaint against the company resulting in the Commission initiating Case No. 9732. In the complaint, Commission staff requested that the Commission determine the jurisdictional dispute in addition to requesting sanctions against the company for denying multiple requests to obtain the permits and continuing to operate without the proper permits.

During the investigation of the complaint, Transportation Division staff and the company provided numerous pages of testimony and evidence related to the case. A hearing was held on November 6, 2024 and the case is pending a ruling from the PULJ.

Office of Utility Cybersecurity (*Ben Abramovitz, Director*)

During the 2023 legislative session, the Maryland General Assembly enacted House Bill 969 entitled 'Public Service Commission – Cybersecurity Staffing and Assessments,' known as the Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Act of 2023. As introduced, the Act was focused on establishing minimum cybersecurity standards for public service companies and hiring cybersecurity experts on the Commission staff to advise the Commission and perform certain duties. The Commission established an Office of Cybersecurity in 2023 and fully staffed it in 2024.

In 2024, the Commission implemented the Act's requirements to establish minimum cybersecurity standards and best practices for regulated entities by implementing new Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 20.06 Cybersecurity regulations in 2024 that became effective December 12, 2024. In addition to establishing various cybersecurity definitions, these regulations establish standards for good cybersecurity practice, cybersecurity periodic briefings, cybersecurity incident reporting, zero trust implementation, periodic assessments of cybersecurity devices and supply chain risk, cybersecurity contacts, and specific information requests related to cybersecurity incidents or other information reasonably related to cybersecurity. The regulations also establish compliance requirements and enforcement measures including notice of proposed violations, consent orders, civil penalties, stays of enforcement, and confidentiality requirements.

The Act also required the Commission to conduct and submit an evaluation of the public service companies' assessments to the State Chief Information Security Officer by January 1, 2025 which was completed successfully. In addition, the 2023 Maryland General Assembly Joint Chairmen's Report also required a report from the Commission by July 1, 2024 on cybersecurity protections for utilities which was successfully completed.

To implement other requirements of the Act, the Commission's Office of Cybersecurity has also established a public service company inspection process to assess compliance with COMAR 20.06 and provide other information for the Office of Cybersecurity to comply with its statutory requirement to advise the Commission on utility cybersecurity. The Office of Cybersecurity completed 22 cybersecurity inspections in 2024.

In 2017, the Commission also established a Cybersecurity Reporting Work Group that, among other things, continued to meet regularly in 2024 to maintain regular dialogue with public service companies on general cybersecurity-related matters.

Also in 2024, HopSkipDrive, a Commission-permitted Transportation Network Company, filed a request to waive the fingerprint-based background check requirement for their Transportation Network Operators which is allowed by PUA §10-404. Transportation Division staff investigated the request to ensure the third-party background check company contracted by HopSkipDrive meets the minimum statutory and regulatory requirements. After considering this matter at the January 8, 2024 Administrative Meeting, the Commission granted the company a waiver of the fingerprint-based background check required by PUA §10-104(b) and approved an alternative background check process for the company.

Additionally, the Transportation Division maintained its regular enforcement of for-hire operations in 2024 through field investigations and joint enforcement projects with local law enforcement officials and regulators in other jurisdictions.

Administratively, the Transportation Division continued its search for a State-approved vendor to assist with the plan to design a streamlined and updated IT process through automation that will accept electronic filings from the industry and allow for better intra-agency communication among the Commission's staff. Transportation Division staff were involved in many meetings with various IT companies to discuss the necessary requirements to completely overhaul their current databases and systems with a new system capable of accepting electronic applications in addition to managing and reviewing data.

Finally, Division Staff supported the Commission with comments on various pending legislation, as requested.

Public Utility Law Judge Division (*Ryan C. "Chuck" McLean, Chief Public Utility Law Judge*)

AS REQUIRED BY the Public Utilities Article, the Division is a separate organizational unit reporting directly to the Commission and includes four attorney Public Utility Law Judges (PULJs) including the Chief Public Utility Law Judge. Typically, the Commission delegates to the Division proceedings pertaining to the following: applications for construction of power plants and high-voltage transmission lines; rates and other matters for gas, electric, and telephone companies; purchased gas and electric fuel rate adjustments reviews; bus, passenger common carrier, water, and sewage disposal company proceedings; plant and equipment depreciation proceedings; and consumer complaints, as well as other complaints not resolved at the administrative level. In addition, the Division hears matters pertaining to certain taxicab permit holders and matters regarding Baltimore City, Cumberland, and Hagerstown taxicab drivers, as well as passenger-for-hire drivers, including transportation network operators (TNO).

While most of the Division's activities concern delegated cases from the Commission, the Commission also may conduct its proceedings in three-member panels which may include one PULJ. As a panel member, a PULJ participates as a voting member in the hearings and in the panel's final decision. The decision of a three-member panel constitutes the final order of the Commission.

In delegated cases, the PULJs conduct formal proceedings in the matters referred to the Division and file proposed orders which contain findings of fact and conclusions of law. During 2024, the Commission delegated 89 cases to the Division: 61 non-transportation-related matters and 28 transportation matters of which seven were taxicab-related and 21 were for-hire related; none were TNO-related. These transportation matters include license applications and disciplinary proceedings involving requests for imposition of fines or civil penalties against carriers for violations of applicable statutes or regulations.

The PULJ Division held 166 hearings and issued 50 proposed orders in 2024. Unless an appeal is noted with the Commission or the Commission takes action on its own motion, a proposed order becomes the final order of the Commission after the specified time period for appeal as noted in the proposed order which may be no less than seven days and no more than 30 days. There were three appeals/requests for reconsideration filed with the Commission resulting from a proposed order: two related to non-transportation matters; and one related to a for-hire matter. The Commission did not issue any orders on appeal that reversed a proposed order or any orders remanding a matter back to the PULJs for further proceedings.

Work Groups led by Public Utility Law Judges:

Montgomery County Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program–PC54

PUA §7-510.3 created a Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program and required the Commission to establish a work group, adopt regulations on or before December 31, 2023, and create a pilot program to begin on the earlier of the date that a county gives notice to the

Commission of its intention to initiate a process to form a community choice aggregator or April 1, 2024. The Commission initiated PC54 on July 22, 2021 to establish a Community Choice Aggregation Work Group and to receive comments and inquiries. The work group began meeting on September 20, 2021.

The work group filed a report on January 24, 2023 with draft regulations. On January 25, 2023, the Commission initiated a rulemaking, RM80, and held a session on February 23, 2023. On March 15, 2023, the Commission issued an order directing the work group to revise the proposed regulations to be filed by April 25, 2023.

The work group filed revised draft regulations on April 25, 2023 and then filed proposed regulations on June 30, 2023. The Commission conducted a hearing on August 8, 2023. The proposed regulations were published for notice and comment in the *Maryland Register* dated November 17, 2023. The Commission conducted a rulemaking session on January 10, 2024 adopting the proposed regulations.

Distribution System Planning – Case No. 9665/PC44

AS PART OF PC44 and Case No. 9665, on August 24, 2023, the Commission issued Order No. 90777 which directed the work group to continue to work towards developing a consensus set of Maryland Distribution System Planning practices. On January 14, 2024, the work group filed an interim report and provided a status update on the work group's progress.

The work group continued to meet and filed its final report on April 30, 2024. The final report indicated that while consensus was reached on several issues, many other issues remained unresolved and provided the Commission with the stakeholders' relevant positions and options for consideration. After requesting comments on the final report, on July 30, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91256 which addressed several core issues and provided guidance to the work group in an effort to focus future discussions and resolve non-consensus items.

The work group filed its Phase IIA status report on November 15, 2024 which indicated that the number of non-consensus items had been significantly reduced but several issues remained unresolved. On January 21, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91490 which adopted the consensus positions, resolved the non-consensus items, and directed the work group to file proposed regulations consistent with Order No. 91490 by May 1, 2025. This matter remains pending.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FISCAL YEAR 2024			
C90G001 – General Administration and Hearings			
Salaries and Wages			$10,251,331
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$10,251,331	
Technical and Special Fees			$78,767
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$78,767	
Operating Expenses			$2,685,081
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$2,334,481	
	Retail Choice Customer Education and Protection Fund	$350,600	
Total Disbursements for FY 2024			**$13,015,179**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$12,664,579	
	Retail Choice Customer Education and Protection Fund	$350,600	
Reverted Appropriation			$2,429,510
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$2,429,510	
Total Appropriation for FY 2024			**$15,444,689**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$15,094,089	
	Retail Choice Customer Education and Protection Fund	$350,600	
C90G002 – Telecommunications, Gas and Water Division			
Salaries and Wages			$321,991

	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$321,991	
Operating Expenses			$32,671
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$32,671	
Total Disbursements for FY 2024			**$354,662**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$354,662	
Reverted Appropriation			$256,503
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$256,503	
Total Appropriation for FY 2024			**$611,165**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$611,165	
C90G003 – Engineering Division			
Salaries and Wages			$2,738,092
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$2,137,585	
	Federal Fund	$600,507	
Operating Expenses			$177,835
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$76,780	
	Federal Fund	$101,055	
Total Disbursements for FY 2024			**$2,915,927**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$2,214,365	
	Federal Fund	$701,562	

Reverted Appropriation			$191,957
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$0	
	Federal Fund	$191,957	
Total Appropriation for FY 2024			**$3,107,884**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$2,214,365	
	Federal Fund	$893,519	
C90G004 – Accounting Investigations Division			
Salaries and Wages			$987,345
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$987,345	
Operating Expenses			$1,962
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$1,962	
Total Disbursements for FY 2024			**$989,307**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$989,307	
Reverted Appropriation			$0
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$0	
Total Appropriation for FY 2024			**$989,307**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$989,307	
C90G005 – Common Carrier Investigations Division (Transportation)			
Salaries and Wages			$1,805,394
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$1,702,339	

	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$103,056	
Technical and Special Fees			$169,782
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$0	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$169,782	
Operating Expenses			$122,423
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$92,221	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$30,202	
Total Disbursements for FY 2024			**$2,097,599**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$1,794,559	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$303,040	
Reverted Appropriation			$183,430
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$183,430	
Total Appropriation for FY 2024			**$2,281,029**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$1,977,989	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$303,040	
C90G006 – Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission			
Operating Expenses			$304,445
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$304,445	

Total Disbursements for FY 2024			**$304,445**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$304,445	
Reverted Appropriation			$204,912
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$204,912	
Total Appropriation for FY 2024			**$509,357**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$509,357	
C90G007 – Electricity Division			
Salaries and Wages			$496,489
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$496,489	
Operating Expenses			$3,994
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$3,994	
Total Disbursements for FY 2024			**$500,482**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$500,482	
Reverted Appropriation			$113,000
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$113,000	
Total Appropriation for FY 2024			**$613,482**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$613,482	
C90G008 – Public Utility Law Judge Division			

Salaries and Wages			$1,129,426
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$1,129,426	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$0	
Operating Expenses			$4,430
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$4,430	
Total Disbursements for FY 2024			**$1,133,856**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$1,133,856	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$0	
Reverted Appropriation			$0
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$0	
Total Appropriation for FY 2024			**$1,133,856**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$1,113,856	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$0	
C90G009 – Staff Counsel Division			
Salaries and Wages			$1,489,667
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$1,489,667	
Operating Expenses			$1,315
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$1,315	
Total Disbursements for FY 2024			**$1,490,982**

	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$1,490,982	
Reverted Appropriation			$64,754
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$64,754	
Total Appropriation for FY 2024			**$1,555,736**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$1,555,736	
C90G0010 – Energy Analysis and Planning Division			
Salaries and Wages			$916,891
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$916,891	
Operating Expenses			$875
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$875	
Total Disbursements for FY 2024			**$917,766**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$917,766	
Reverted Appropriation			$83,538
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$83,538	
Total Appropriation for FY 2024			**$1,001,304**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$1,001,304	
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION			
FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2024:			

Salaries and Wages			$20,136,627
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$19,433,063	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$103,056	
	Federal Fund	$600,507	
Technical and Special Fees			$248,549
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$78,767	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$169,782	
Operating Expenses			$3,335,029
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$2,853,172	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$350,600	
	Retail Choice Customer Education and Protection Fund	$30,202	
	Federal Fund	$101,055	
Total Disbursements for FY 2024			**$23,720,205**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$22,365,003	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$350,600	
	Retail Choice Customer Education and Protection Fund	$303,040	
	Federal Fund	$701,562	
Reverted Appropriation			$3,527,604
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$3,335,647	

	Federal Fund	$191,957	
Total Appropriations for FY 2024			**$27,247,809**
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	$25,700,650	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	$350,600	
	Retail Choice Customer Education and Protection Fund	$303,040	
	Federal Fund	$893,519	
Assessments collected during Fiscal Year 2024:			$28,242,996
Other Fees and Revenues collected during Fiscal Year 2024:			
	1) Fines and Citations		
	General Fund		$228,100
	Retail Choice Customer Education & Protection Fund		$333,088
	2) For-Hire Driving Services Permit Fees		$213
	3) Meter Test		$550
	4) Filing Fees		$373,101
	5) Miscellaneous Fees		$1,348
	6) Administrative Support		$750
	Total other fees and revenues:		$937,150
Interest Earned on Customer Investment Fund balance			$12,049
Interest Earned on Offshore Wind Energy Fund balance			$24,725
Assessments collected that were remitted to other state agencies during Fiscal Year 2024 from the Public Utility Regulation Fund:			
	1) Office of People's Counsel		$6,992,880
	2) Railroad Safety Program		$596,212