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For Immediate Release

PSC to Convene Annual Supplier Diversity Hearing

Utilities spent more than \$800 million with diverse suppliers

(BALTIMORE, MD-July 12, 2018) – The Maryland Public Service Commission will hold its annual hearing for utility companies to report on their contracts with diverse suppliers. The hearing will be held on **Tuesday, July 24, 2018 beginning at 10:00 am** in the Frank O. Heintz Hearing Room, 16th Floor, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

The proceeding will review the 2017 diverse supplier procurements, totaling more than \$800 million by participating companies, which include electric, natural gas, transportation and telecommunication providers. The utility companies reported spending nearly \$3.3 billion on all goods and services in 2017. The 24.84% total diverse spend ratio—a key metric of the program--represented a 17% increase over the previous year, and is the highest recorded since the program began in 2009.

The Commission's Public Conference 16 on Supplier Diversity (PC16) is aimed at providing women-, minority- and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, as well as nonprofit organizations, with greater opportunities to compete for contracts and subcontracts with public utilities. Fifteen companies filed annual reports with the Commission detailing their diverse spend for the 2017 calendar year, with a goal of awarding 25% of their total spend to diverse suppliers.

Of the 15 companies which filed reports, six of them met or exceeded that goal in 2017:

- Association of Maryland Pilots (39.5% -- \$448,000 total diverse spend)
- Potomac Edison (34.4% -- \$13.8 million total diverse spend)
- Baltimore Gas & Electric Company (29.7% -- \$251.8 million total diverse spend)
- AT&T (26.75% -- \$18.3 million total diverse spend)
- Comcast (26.71% -- \$102.2 million total diverse spend)
- Potomac Electric Power Company (25.7% -- \$149.8 million total diverse spend)

Utilities, advocates and contractors will share best practices, lessons learned and innovative ways to reach diversity goals. Panelists include:

- Special Secretary Jimmy Rhee, Governor's Office of Small, Minority & Women Business Affairs

- Calvin Butler, CEO, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company
- Wayne Frazier, President, Maryland Washington Minority Companies Association, Inc.
- Krista Green, Interim Director of Cultural Affairs, Baltimore Office of Promotion and The Arts
- Aisha Pew, CEO, Dovecote Café
- Sharon Pinder, President and CEO, Capital Region Minority Supplier Development Council
- Emmett T. Vaughn, President, Maryland Utility Forum

More information on PC 16 and supplier diversity is available on the Commission's website, www.psc.state.md.us, under the [Supplier Diversity link](#) on the homepage.

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About the Public Service Commission:

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

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Utilities and advocates attend the 2017 Maryland Public Service Commission Supplier Diversity Hearing.

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