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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

July 7, 2023

Relocation of Natural Gas Service * Case No. 9711 Regulators in the BGE Service Territory *

NOTICE INITIATING PROCEEDING TO CONSIDER THE RELOCATION OF RESIDENTIAL NATURAL GAS SERVICE REGULATORS IN THE BGE SERVICE <u>TERRITORY</u>

To: All Interested Persons

Pursuant to Public Utilities Article ("PUA"), *Annotated Code of Maryland*, § 2-113, the Maryland Public Service Commission ("Commission") has the duty to regulate gas companies to ensure their operation in the interest of the public and promote adequate, economical, and efficient delivery of services. Customers in the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company ("BGE") service territory have filed numerous individual complaints with the Commission's Consumer Affairs Division and joined a petition to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City on June 23, 2023,¹ related to the ongoing work by BGE to relocate gas service regulators from the interior to the exterior of homes.

In order to ensure that the Commission continues to meet its statutory duty to promote adequate, economical, and efficient delivery of utility services and consider public safety pursuant to PUA § 2-113, the Commission hereby initiates Case No. 9711 to allow affected stakeholders and interested persons to submit information and comments related to BGE's relocation of gas service regulators on issues including but not limited to:

- (1) statutory and other legal authority governing residential gas service regulator relocation;
- (2) public safety, including good engineering practices in the gas industry;²
- (3) economics of the projects in accordance with state law, including PUA 4–102;
- (4) termination of gas service due to lack of access to the Company's equipment³; and

¹ Stephen H. Topping v. Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, Case No. 24-c-23-002872.

² Code of Maryland Regulations ("COMAR") 20.55.02.01.

³ COMAR 20.31.02.02(C).

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(5) BGE's communications and response to related customer concerns and complaints regarding regulator relocation⁴.

Members of the public may e-file comments by August 11, 2023, in the Commission's Public Comment Dropbox by registering and selecting Case Number 9711.⁵ Members of the public may also submit comments by mail addressed to Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, 6 St. Paul St., Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

Technical Staff, the Office of People's Counsel, BGE, and other interested parties shall file comments by August 11, 2023, using the Commission's e-File system.

Thereafter, the Commission will hold a legislative-style hearing on August 15, 2023, beginning at 10 a.m. in the Frank O. Heintz Hearing Room, 16th Floor, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland, to allow for comment and presentations by interested persons, Technical Staff, OPC, and BGE as well as questions from the Commission, following which the Commission will determine what additional proceedings, if any, are needed.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ Andrew S. Johnston

Andrew S. Johnston Executive Secretary

⁴ COMAR 20.55.04.10.

⁵ https://webpsc.psc.state.md.us/Dms/E-file-pc

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