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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

November 16, 2023

Limited Income Mechanisms for Utility
Customers

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Administrative Docket
PC59

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONFERENCE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

In the 2021 session, the General Assembly enacted Public Utilities Article, Section 4-309 which became law on May 30, 2021.¹ That Section provides, *inter alia*, “Subject to the approval of the Commission, a utility company shall adopt a limited-income mechanism to benefit an eligible limited-income customer.”² To date, only The Potomac Edison Company has filed a proposal for the Commission’s consideration, which has been deferred to Phase II.³ The Commission is aware that inflation in the economy and increases in utility rates have caused a strain on many limited income customers. In light of the mandatory requirement of § 4-309(c)(1), the Commission finds it is time to focus on the development of such limited-income mechanisms.

Accordingly, the Commission initiates Public Conference 59 (“PC59”) to consider comments from the utilities and receive suggestions from interested persons for limited-income mechanisms. Utilities that have not done so to date and interested persons shall e-file comments⁴

¹ Chs. 639 and 639.

² PUA § 4-309(c)(1).

³ Case No. 9695, Phase II.

⁴ Details of the e-File system can be found on the Commission’s website, www.psc.state.md.us.

on limited-income mechanisms for eligible utility customers⁵ by January 31, 2024. All comments should be addressed to Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

Comments may also address broader eligibility criteria and impacts, and any other issues the Commission should consider relating to possible limited-income mechanisms and eligibility, and energy affordability. Any reply comments shall be filed by February 29, 2024. Upon receipt of all written comments and replies, the Commission will consider the next steps.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ Andrew S. Johnston

Andrew S. Johnston
Executive Secretary

⁵ See PUA §4-309(a)(2).