

ORDER NO. 87563

IN THE MATTER OF THE ACQUISITION	*	BEFORE THE
OF THE POWER TO EXERCISE	*	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
SUBSTANTIAL INFLUENCE OVER	*	OF MARYLAND
THOMPSON DISTRIBUTION PARTNERS,	*	
LLC BY REDWOOD PROPANE	*	_____
INVESTMENTS, LLC AND	*	
THOMPSONGAS, LLC.	*	CASE NO. 9420
_____	*	_____

Issued: May 20, 2016

On May 18, 2016, pursuant to § 6-105 of the Public Utilities Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland* (“PUA”), Redwood Propane Investments, LLC (“Redwood Propane”), Thompson’s Gas & Electric Service, Inc. (“TGES”), ThompsonGas, LLC (“ThompsonGas”), and Thompson Distribution Partners, LLC (“Thompson Distribution”) (collectively, the “Joint Applicants”) filed, with the Public Service Commission (“Commission”), an application requesting authorization for Redwood Propane and ThompsonGas to acquire the power to exercise substantial influence over the policies and actions of Thompson Distribution (“Application”). The Joint Applicants also filed supporting testimony and exhibits.

According to the Application, the Joint Applicants have agreed to a transaction (the “Transaction”) whereby Redwood Propane and ThompsonGas would acquire the power to exercise substantial influence over Thompson Distribution. Thompson Distribution, a public service company operating in Maryland, operates 15 centralized propane gas distributions systems throughout Central and Western Maryland, serving approximately 1,900 customers. Commission approval is required under § 6-105 of the

PUA because the Transaction will result in ThompsonGas, as the new parent of Thompson Distribution, and Redwood Propane, one of the owners of ThompsonGas, acquiring the power to exercise substantial influence over the policies and actions of Thompson Distribution.

Pursuant § 6-105(g)(6) of the Public Utility Companies Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, unless the Commission finds, based on good cause, that the 180-day period by which the Commission is required to issue an order with respect to the Applicant's application in this matter should be extended for an additional 45 days, a failure by the Commission to issue its order within the 180-day period is considered to be an approval of the underlying acquisition by the Commission. Based on the Application and that this matter is delegated to the Public Utility Law Judge Division to conduct the proceedings, the Commission finds that the proceedings cannot be completed within the 180-day period from the filing of the application. Accordingly, the Commission extends the 180-day period by an additional 45 days, or until December 29, 2016.

IT IS, THEREFORE, this 20th day of May in the year Two Thousand Sixteen, by the Public Service Commission of Maryland,

ORDERED: (1) That pursuant to § 6-105(g) of the Public Utilities, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, a proceeding is hereby initiated by the Commission for examination and investigation of the Application and for the issuance of an Order concerning the transaction after hearings in this matter have been conducted;

(2) That this matter is hereby delegated to the Public Utility Law Judge Division

to conduct the proceedings; and

(3) That, pursuant to §6-105(g)(6) of the Public Utility Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, for good cause, the 180-day period is hereby extended by 45 days, or until December 29, 2016.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ David J. Collins

David J. Collins
Executive Secretary