

ORDER NO. 88323

IN THE MATTER OF THE INVESTIGATION
BY THE COMMISSION OF THE INTENDED
ABANDONMENT BY CECO UTILITIES, INC.
OF ITS FRANCHISE AND SERVICE TO THE
MANCHESTER PARK SUBDIVISION IN
CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND

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BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF MARYLAND

CASE NO. 9310

Issue Date: July 31, 2017

This case has a long history. Its present phase was initiated on September 15, 2015 by CECO Utilities, Inc. filing a Notice of Request for Authorization and Intent to Abandon its franchise.¹ Since October, 2015, CECO Utilities, Inc. (“CECO”), the Maryland Public Service Commission’s (“Commission”) Technical Staff (“Staff”), representatives of Cecil County, and the Maryland Department of the Environment (“MDE”) have been involved in further discussions of the financial status of the Manchester Park sewer service and the cost and possible sources of funding for Maryland Environmental Service taking over the day-to-day operation of it.

Pursuant to Order No. 88084, on July 14, 2017, Staff filed its fourth letter reporting on the status of the discussions.² Staff’s letter states that Cecil County’s application with MDE for a SRF loan directly related to the Manchester Park subdivision

¹ Case No. 9310 was opened on November 27, 2012 by the Commission’s Technical Staff filing A Petition to Show Cause Regarding CECO Utilities, Inc.’s Notification of Abandonment. CECO withdrew their initial Request in December, 2012, and the matter was referred to the Public Utility Law Judge Division for settlement discussions by the parties.

² ML 216076. See also ML 192445, ML 199285, and ML 206874.

sewer system is “still in the process of evaluation” and “It is unknown at this time whether and to what extent that application will be granted.” As with Staff’s prior reports, Staff again notes the parties “recognize the urgency of this situation” and that “progress continues to be made in this matter.”³ Staff recommends the Commission issue yet another order requiring the Parties to continue to meet and direct CECO to continue to operate its Manchester Park Franchise until at least October 31, 2017.

The Commission is frustrated by the slow pace of progress towards resolution of this matter, and is concerned about the customers of the Manchester Park sewer system. However, the Commission will grant this one further extension so that the Parties may promptly resolve this matter. The Commission is not inclined to grant any further extensions for negotiations.

IT IS THEREFORE, this 31st day of July, in the year Two Thousand and Seventeen, by the Public Service Commission of Maryland,

ORDERED: (1) That the Commission Staff shall continue to meet with the owners of CECO, representatives of Cecil County, the Maryland Department of the Environment, and the Maryland Environmental Services to further discuss and resolve the source of funding for an entity taking over the day to day operation of the Manchester Park sewer service, or any other consensus agreement to address the concerns raised in this matter, and file a final report of the discussions and/or resolution of this matter with the Commission by October 16, 2017; and

(2) That CECO shall continue to operate its franchise for the Manchester Park

³ *Id.*, p. 1.

sewer facility until at least October 31, 2017, unless it is relieved of such obligation
beforehand by order of this Commission.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ David J. Collins

David J. Collins
Executive Secretary