

ORDER NO. 88492

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION	*	BEFORE THE
OF BALTIMORE GAS AND ELECTRIC	*	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW	*	OF MARYLAND
GAS SYSTEM STRATEGIC	*	
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT	*	_____
AND ENHANCEMENT PLAN AND	*	
ACCOMPANYING COST RECOVERY	*	CASE NO. 9468
MECHANISM	*	_____

Issue Date: December 4, 2017

On December 1, 2017, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company ("Company" or "BGE") filed an application for approval by the Public Service Commission ("Commission") of a new gas system strategic infrastructure development and enhancement ("STRIDE 2") plan and an accompanying cost recovery mechanism ("Application"). The Company also filed supporting testimony and exhibits, which included applicable revised retail rate schedules for gas service. In its Application, the Company asks the Commission to approve a new plan to invest in eligible accelerated gas system infrastructure replacements (with an estimated cost of the initial five-year period of approximately \$963 million) as well as a cost-recovery mechanism that includes a surcharge ("STRIDE Surcharge") on customer bills to recover the reasonable and prudent costs associated with such infrastructure replacements.

According to its Application, the monthly surcharge becomes effective January 1, 2019. Proposed tariff pages accompanying the testimony of BGE witness John C. Frain

indicate an effective date of January 1, 2018.¹ Therefore, pursuant to the provisions of § 4-204 of the Public Utilities Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, (“PUA”) the Commission concludes that all of the proposed rates and charges and tariff revisions should be suspended for a period of 150 days from January 1, 2018.² The suspension period is necessary to provide the Commission with an opportunity to determine the justness and reasonableness of the proposal.

A prehearing conference in this matter is hereby set for Thursday, January 4, 2018, in the Commission’s 16th Floor Hearing Room, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, beginning at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the hearing is to set a procedural schedule for this proceeding, consider any petitions to intervene that have been filed, and consider any other preliminary matters requested by the parties. Petitions to intervene shall be filed by 5 p.m., EDT, Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

IT IS, THEREFORE, this 4th day of December in the year Two Thousand Seventeen, by the Public Service Commission of Maryland,

ORDERED: (1) That the proposed STRIDE Surcharge terms and conditions filed by Baltimore Gas and Electric Company on December 1, 2017, are suspended for an initial period of 150 days from January 1, 2018;

(2) That proceedings to consider the Application and the justness and reasonableness of the proposed terms and conditions are instituted by the Commission;

¹ See Company Exhibit JCF-3.

² This will coincide with the time period set forth in PUA §4-210(E)(1).

(3) That discovery commences immediately for BGE, Technical Staff of the Commission, and Office of People's Counsel;

(4) That Baltimore Gas and Electric Company is hereby directed to cause a display advertisement to be published in a newspaper(s) in general circulation throughout its service area at least two times prior to January 1, 2018, that includes a description of the matter on which the prehearing is being held and the time, date, place and purpose of the prehearing conference scheduled for January 4, 2018. The notice shall also advise persons who seek to intervene in this proceeding that an original and 17 copies, plus one electronic copy,³ of any petition to intervene, shall be filed with David J. Collins, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202, by Tuesday, January 2, 2018.⁴

(5) That Baltimore Gas and Electric Company shall file a proof of publication on or before the date of the prehearing conference;

(6) That Baltimore Gas and Electric Company shall also place on its home page a notice of the prehearing conference and the date by which petitions to intervene in the matter must be filed in a manner that a customer need not click the link to determine the date, time, location, and purpose of the prehearing conference or the date by which a petition to intervene must be filed; and

³ The Commission encourages parties to use the Commission's "e-file" system for filing the electronic copy. Details of the "e-file" system are on the Commission's web page, www.psc.state.md.us. Additionally, five paper copies of the petition shall be three-hole punched.

⁴ Persons are reminded that if the "e-file" system is used, the original and required paper copies of the filing must be delivered to the Commission's docket room by noon, the next business day after the e-filing is made to retain the filing date of the e-filed document. In the event the paper copies are received after noon of the next business day, the date on which the paper copies are received becomes the official filing date.

(7) That Baltimore Gas and Electric Company is directed to employ any routinely-used social media platforms, such as Twitter and Facebook, and any other means of communication at its disposal to further notify its customers of the prehearing conference, as appropriate.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ David J. Collins

David J. Collins
Executive Secretary