

ORDER NO. 90553

The Potomac Edison Company's *
 Application for Adjustments to its Retail *
 Rates for the Distribution of Electric *
 Energy *
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BEFORE THE
 PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
 OF MARYLAND

CASE NO. 9695

Issue Date: March 24, 2023

**ORDER INITIATING DOCKET, SUSPENDING TARIFF REVISIONS, AND
 SCHEDULING PREHEARING CONFERENCE**

On March 22, 2023, The Potomac Edison Company (“PE”) submitted to the Commission an application for authority to adjust its retail rates for the distribution of electric energy in its Maryland service territory pursuant to *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Public Utilities Article (“PUA”) §§ 4-203 and 4-204 (“Application”). In support of its Application, PE also filed supporting testimony, exhibits, and data required by the Commission’s general filing requirements, and proposed rate schedules to be effective April 22, 2023.

PE proposes a \$47.5 million increase in its electric distribution revenue requirement, and an additional approximately \$1 million increase for new low-income assistance programs, for which it also seeks prior approval for the Commission to consider as part of its base rate case. This request, based on a test year for the 12-month period from January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022, would lead to an overall return on investment of 7.54 percent and an overall return on equity of 10.6 percent -- as well as an electric rate increase of 9.7 percent for the average residential customer.

A prehearing conference in this matter is hereby set for Wednesday, May 3, 2023, beginning 10 minutes after the conclusion of the regularly scheduled Administrative Meeting, which begins at 10:00 AM, in the Frank O. Heintz Hearing Room, 16th Floor, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland. 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 Friday, April 28, 2023. Furthermore, discovery commences immediately for PE, the Commission's Technical Staff, and the Maryland Office of People's Counsel.

IT IS, THEREFORE, this 24th day of March in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Three, by the Public Service Commission of Maryland, **ORDERED:**

(1) that proceedings to consider the Application and the justness and reasonableness of Potomac Edison's Application are hereby instituted by the Commission;

(2) that, pursuant to PUA § 4-204(b)(2), the tariff revisions filed by PE are suspended for an initial period of 180 days from April 22, 2023;

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

(4) that interested parties shall file petitions to intervene by April 28, 2023;

(5) that PE 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 April 28, 2023, that includes a description of the matter on which the prehearing conference is being held and the time, date, method, and purpose of the prehearing conference scheduled for May 3, 2023. The notice shall also advise persons who seek to

intervene in this proceeding that any petition to intervene shall be filed¹ by April 28, 2023, with Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202;

(6) that PE shall file a proof of publication on or before the date of the prehearing conference;

(7) that PE also shall 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, method, and purpose of the prehearing conference or the date by which a petition to intervene must be filed; and

(8) that PE Company is directed to employ any routinely used social media platforms, such as Twitter or 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/ Andrew S. Johnston

Andrew S. Johnston
Executive Secretary

¹ The Commission requests that parties use the Commission's E-file system, which eliminates the need to submit paper copies. Details of the E-file system are on the Commission's web page, www.psc.state.md.us (Online Services or Tools).