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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

May 11, 2023

2022 Annual Reports – Maryland Supplier
Diversity Program

Administrative Docket
PC52

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NOTICE OF MARYLAND SUPPLIER DIVERSITY PROGRAM HEARING:
PUBLIC CONFERENCE 52

The Commission will continue its annual review of the Maryland Supplier Diversity Program by holding a hearing to begin at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, June 20, 2023, at Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Engineering and Operations Center, 14950 Cooperative Place, Hughesville, MD 20637.

The purpose of the hearing is:

- (1) to consider the upcoming report from the Commission’s Technical Staff (“Staff”) that summarizes the data from the 2022 Maryland Supplier Diversity Program Annual Reports filed with the Commission by the Reporting Companies,¹ including any issues that may have come to Staff’s attention during its review of the 2022 Annual Reports (“Staff Report”);

¹ The companies that have a fully executed Supplier Diversity Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) are as follows: Association of Maryland Pilots; AT&T Corp.; Baltimore Gas and Electric Company; Century Link; Chesapeake Utilities Corporation – Maryland Division; Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.; Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.; Comcast Phone of Northern Maryland Inc. and Comcast Business Communications, LLC; Delmarva Power & Light Company; Easton Utilities; Pivotal Utility Holdings, Inc. d/b/a Elkton Gas (n/k/a Elkton Gas Company); Potomac Electric Power Company; Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc.; The Potomac Edison Company; Verizon Maryland LLC.; Washington Gas Light Company, and Maryland-American Water Company (individually, “Reporting Company”; collectively, “Reporting Companies”).

- (2) to hear comments from each Reporting Company on the Staff Report and to discuss with representatives of each Company² the status of the Company's efforts towards implementing the MOU, including goals, data collection, resolution of disputes, etc.; and
- (3) to hear comments on the theme of this year's conference: "30th Anniversary of the Supplier Diversity Program".

This year, the Commission celebrates the 30th Anniversary of the Supplier Diversity program. In 1993, the Commission created the first of many memoranda of understanding with regulated utilities after receiving encouragement from then-Maryland state delegates Howard Rawlings and Elijah Cummings to establish a specialized supplier diversity program at the Public Service Commission. In its current form, the PC52 Supplier Diversity Program has a stated goal within each MOU for companies to award 25 percent of their total dollars spent on procurement to diverse suppliers (minority-owned enterprises, women-owned enterprises, service-disabled veteran-owned enterprises, veteran-owned enterprises, LGBT-owned enterprises, and not-for-profit workshops). As of 2023, the Commission has received, in total, 20 signed MOUs since the inception of the program. The Commission looks forward to hearing the utilities' perspectives on the history of the Supplier Diversity Program and their outlook for the future.

At the hearing, the Commission will receive limited live testimony from certain parties, including utility companies, minority- and women-owned business enterprises, and Staff.³

Written comments on this matter may also be submitted electronically or by first-class mail by June 20, 2023. Comments submitted electronically must be submitted through the Commission's Public Comment Dropbox, which can be accessed through the Commission's website at www.psc.state.md.us.

Instructions for logging into the Public Comment Dropbox are located under the "Tools" section of the Commission's website under the "Make a Public Comment" tab, which can be accessed via the following link: <https://www.psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/>. Commenters using the Public Comment Dropbox for the first time are required to complete a one-time registration. All comments must include a reference to PC52. If submitted by first-class mail, comments must be addressed to Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, MD 21202.

² The executive that signed the Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of the Company (or the person now holding that position) is not required to appear, but the representative that does appear should be authorized to bind the Company on supplier diversity matters.

³ Participants who wish to speak at the conference virtually must notify Brett Sproul at brett.sproul@maryland.gov prior to the June 20, 2023 conference.

Please direct any questions about the hearing to Brett Sproul at brett.sproul@maryland.gov.

By Direction of the Commission

/s/ Andrew S. Johnston

Andrew S. Johnston
Executive Secretary