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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

April 8, 2019

2018 Annual Reports – Maryland Supplier	*	Administrative Docket
Diversity Programs	*	PC16
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NOTICE OF HEARING AND COMMENT DUE DATE

The Commission hereby schedules a hearing to begin at 10:00 a.m., on Tuesday, July 9, 2019, at the Reginald F. Lewis Museum, 830 E. Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.

The purpose of the hearing is:

- (1) to consider the report from the Commission’s Technical Staff (“Staff”) that summarizes the data from the 2018 Maryland Supplier Diversity Program Annual Reports (“2018 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 2018 Annual Reports (“Staff Report”);
- (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.;

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; 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; First Transit’s Baltimore Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport Shuttle Bus Contract; 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; Veolia Transportation Services, Inc.; Verizon Maryland LLC.; and Washington Gas Light Company (individually, “Reporting Company”; collectively, “Reporting Companies”).

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 and to make policy decisions on supplier diversity matters.

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- (3) to hear comments from interested persons on the theme of this year's conference, "Economic Inclusion." While significant achievements in the Supplier Diversity program has been made, the Commission recognizes the importance of attracting diverse suppliers outside of the energy and utilities industries to participate in supplier diversity programs. Persons may wish to identify the hurdles that diverse suppliers face as part of the bidding/contracting process and address methods to assist Reporting Companies that have not reached their 25 percent goal and to encourage non-participating utilities to participate in the program; and
- (4) to review the data the Commission requested in its October 5, 2019 Public Determination that the Reporting Companies continue to collect data regarding indirect spend and contracts with veteran-owned Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender-owned ("VOBE and LGBT") businesses, and to revisit the recommendations the Utility Forum made in 2017 that the MOU be amended to include Tier II indirect spend and to expand the diverse spend categories to include VOBE or LGBT-owned firms.

The Staff shall submit an original and seventeen paper copies, and an electronic copy, of its Staff Report to Terry J. Romine, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202 by June 25, 2019. Five of the paper copies shall be three-hole punched.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ Terry J. Romine

Terry J. Romine
Executive Secretary