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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

September 2, 2016

In the Matter of the Current Status of the
Market for Attachments to Utility Poles in
Maryland

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Administrative Docket
PC 38

NOTICE

To: All Interested Persons

On June 10, 2015, the Public Service Commission of Maryland (“Commission”) initiated Public Conference 38 (“PC38”) to review the current status of the market for attachments to utility poles in Maryland and whether regulation of pole attachment agreements at the State level is in the public interest. On May 12, 2016, the Maryland Public Service Commission’s (“Commission”) Technical Staff (“Staff”) filed a Petition Regarding the Adoption of Statewide Communication System to Facilitate Transfer of Utility Pole Attachments (“Petition”).¹ The Petition requested that the Commission require the adoption of a statewide communications system to facilitate the transfer of utility pole attachments and removal of double utility poles. Specifically, Staff recommended implementation of the National Joint Utilities Notification System (“NJUNS”) on a statewide basis and that the NJUNS fees be paid by the four largest electric utilities in the State, prorated by the number of customers.

¹ A copy of Staff’s Petition may be reviewed or downloaded from the electronic case jacket for this docket, which may be accessed via the Commission’s website, www.psc.state.md.us.

In response to Staff's Petition, on May 26, 2016, the Commission issued a Notice of Request for Comments by June 27, 2016 on Staff's recommendation. Comments were received from Baltimore Gas and Electric Company; Verizon Maryland, LLC; Potomac Electric Power Company and Delmarva Power & Light Company; The Potomac Edison Company; Maryland's Electric Cooperatives, Office of People's Counsel; Wind Lake Solutions; and Maryland Delegate Jimmy Tarlau (collectively, the "Parties").

After review and consideration of Staff's Petition and the Parties comments, the Commission directs the Commission Staff to draft proposed regulations that would require implementation of a statewide NJUNS; provide under what conditions, if any, a waiver from NJUNS would be appropriate; and provide how to allocate the costs of such system. Staff shall file the proposed regulations by November 1, 2016. Subsequent to receipt of the draft regulations, the Commission will make a determination whether to initiate a rule making and schedule a rule making session to consider the proposed regulations.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ David J. Collins

David J. Collins
Executive Secretary