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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

For immediate release

Community Solar Pilot Program Draft Regulations Open for Comment

(BALTIMORE-November 19, 2015) – The Staff of the Maryland Public Service Commission has drafted proposed regulations that, if adopted by the Commission, will expand the ability of customers to participate in solar energy projects. Under the draft regulations, customers could subscribe to a community solar energy generation system through a pilot program approved by the Commission. **The public may submit comments on the draft regulations (in the PSC docket under RM56) by Friday, December 4, 2015.**

Written comments should be addressed to David J. Collins, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. In addition to the mailed comments, the public is encouraged to use the Commission's e-file system at www.psc.state.md.us/efile/ to provide an electronic copy of their comments.

The Commission will conduct a rule making session on Monday, December 14, 2015 and Tuesday, December 15, 2015 (if needed) beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission's 16th Floor Hearing Room, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. The purpose of the rule making session is to consider whether to publish the proposed revisions to COMAR 20.62 as drafted by Staff or revised based on comments received. If the Commission approves the proposed regulations for publication, the proposed regulations will be published in the Maryland Register for notice and comment.

A community solar energy generating system, as opposed to a rooftop solar system for one customer, allows many customers to receive a share of the output of a solar energy resource. Customers who are unable to construct rooftop solar because they live in an

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apartment or a home surrounded by trees would be able to contract for similar energy benefits as those with rooftop solar panels on their homes.

Maryland's community solar program was a result of recent legislation authorizing the Commission to develop a program for its electric utilities. The proposed regulations would permit solar facilities up to 2 Megawatts in size, but also would permit smaller systems on community buildings or spread across several townhome roofs.

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About the Public Service Commission:

The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities, telephone companies (land lines), certain water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire (sedans, limousines and buses), taxicab companies (in Baltimore City and County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.

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