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STATE OF MARYLAND

ML 221909

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

August 30, 2018

Regulations Governing Staff-Assisted Rate	*	Administrative Docket
Cases for Certain Water and Sewage Disposal	*	RM66
Companies—COMAR 20.70.09 and COMAR	*	
20.75.08	*	

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NOTICE INITIATING RULE MAKING AND NOTICE OF RULE MAKING SESSION

The Public Service Commission ("Commission") hereby initiates an Administrative Docket, RM66, to consider adding a new Chapter 09 to the Code of Maryland Regulations ("COMAR") 20.70 (Service Supplied be Water Companies) and a new Chapter 08 to COMAR 20.75 (Service Supplied by Sewage Disposal Companies). Each of the new chapters establish regulations for Staff-assisted rate proceedings applicable to small water and sewage disposal companies.

On August 28, 2018, the Commission's Technical Staff ("Staff") filed a Petition to Establish a Rulemaking for the Adoption of Regulations Governing Staff-Assisted Rate Cases for Certain Water and Sewage Disposal Companies ("Petition").[1] In its Petition, Staff explained that Governor Hogan signed Senate Bill 218 on May 4, 2017, modifying Public Utilities Article ("PUA"), *Annotated Code of Maryland*, § 4-203 and codifying the Commission's Policy 14, an option procedure for water and sewage disposal companies to request assistance from Staff in the preparation of rate change applications. Pursuant to PUA § 4-203(d), the Commission was

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[1] A copy of the Petition, which includes the proposed regulations, may be viewed or downloaded from the electronic administrative docket, RM66, via the Commission's website, www.psc.state.md.us.

directed to adopt regulations to establish formal rules for staff-assisted rate cases as authorized under the provision. Staff has filed the proposed regulations (Attachment A to the Petition) along with a form and general instructions for completion by the applicant (Attachment B to the Petition) to provide Staff with necessary information for Staff's review associated with a Staff-assisted rate case for small water and sewage disposal companies.

Comments on the proposed regulations COMAR 20.70.09 and 20.75.08 shall be filed by October 17, 2018. The comments should be addressed to Terry J. Romine, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. Each filing should consist of an original and seventeen two-sided paper copies, and include an electronic version of the filing.[2] The applicable Administrative Docket number (RM66) must appear in the subject line of the cover letter. Five paper copies of the filing should be three-hole punched.

The Commission also gives notice that it will conduct a rule making session on October 31, 2018, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Frank O. Heintz Hearing Room, 16th Floor, 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 COMAR 20.70.09 and COMAR 20.75.08, as initially submitted, or as revised based on comments received. If the Commission approves the proposed regulations for publication, the proposed regulations will be published in

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[2] The Commission encourages the parties to use its e-File system to submit the electronic version of the filing. Details of the e-File system can be found on the Commission's website, www.psc.state.md.us (Online Services).

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the *Maryland Register* for notice and comment as provided for by the Maryland Administrative

Procedures Act.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ Terry J. Romine

Terry J. Romine
Executive Secretary

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