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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

May 16, 2022

RETAIL GAS AND ELECTRIC SUPPLY * Administrative Docket
OFFERS TO LOW INCOME CUSTOMERS * PC 55

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC CONFERENCE AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

On May 30, 2021, Maryland enacted Chapter 637 of the Laws of Maryland (2021), amending Public Utilities Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, § 4-308. Chapter 637 requires the Commission to establish an administrative process to approve supply offers for electricity or gas for households in the State that receive energy assistance through a program administered by the Office of Home Energy Programs (“OHEP”), a unit of the Maryland Department of Human Services. Chapter 637 provides minimum standards for approved supply offers and further provides restrictions on the ability of suppliers without an approved offer to do business with customers who are currently or have within the prior fiscal year received assistance through OHEP-administered programs. Chapter 637 also requires the Commission to publish an annual report that includes, among other things, the total number of submitted supplier enrollments that were denied because the supplier was not approved to service energy assistance households, as reported by the utility.

The Commission hereby initiates Public Conference 55 (“PC 55”) for the limited purpose of receiving written comments from stakeholders and the public regarding the implementation of Chapter 637 by the Commission, including suggestions and concerns, by July 11,

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2022. Commission Staff is directed to participate. Comments should at a minimum address the following:

1. Any issues or procedures that may need to be resolved or established via order or regulation ahead of implementation, including but not limited to definitions of statutory terms, processes for application and approval of supplier offers, customer eligibility requirements and determinations; data sharing, relative valuation of SOS or gas commodity rates and supply offers, reporting procedures, and any other topics necessary to comply with Chapter 637;
2. Suggested procedural timelines necessary for Commission action and stakeholder implementation of the requirements of Chapter 637, and implementation constraints that require coordination among stakeholders; and
3. Other issues about the interpretation of specific language of Chapter 637.

Participants should also raise any other concerns they believe the Commission should consider prior to implementation. Where possible, parties should provide suggested regulatory language or other Commission action necessary to address issues or procedures identified.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ Andrew S. Johnston

Andrew S. Johnston
Executive Secretary