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For Immediate Release

SMECO Rate Case Public Hearing Scheduled for October 25

(BALTIMORE, MD-October 12, 2017) – The Maryland Public Service Commission will hold a public comment hearing on **Wednesday, October 25, 2017**, on a request by the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SMECO) to decrease its electric distribution rates by more than \$1.8 million. SMECO provides electricity to 161,000 customer-members in all of Charles and St. Mary's counties, and portions of Calvert and Prince George's counties in Maryland.

The hearing will be held at **7:00 pm at SMECO's headquarters, 15035 Burnt Store Road, Hughesville (Charles County), Maryland**. Members of the public who wish to comment on the matter are encouraged to attend the hearing before Chief Public Utility Law Judge Terry J. Romine. A final decision in the case must be made by February 28, 2018.

SMECO's proposed distribution rates include recovery of increased distribution service costs. The proposed decrease in rates results from SMECO's removal of the costs associated with its 230kV transmission facilities from its distribution rates. The company says it intends to recover transmission costs through rates approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)—in effect broadening the customers who will pay the FERC-approved rates to also include customers located in other parts of the regional electric grid who benefit from SMECO's transmission facilities.

In addition, SMECO is requesting authority to revise certain monthly facilities charges for its commercial and industrial customers to reflect the actual costs of providing service to those customers; it is not proposing any change to the residential facility charge, currently \$9.50 per month.

The application and associated filings in the case are available in the electronic docket for Case No. [9456](#), which may be viewed or downloaded at www.psc.state.md.us.

Written comments referencing Case No. [9456](#) may also be filed by **Tuesday, October 31, 2017**, to:

David J. Collins, Executive Secretary
Maryland Public Service Commission
William Donald Schaefer Tower

6 St. Paul Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

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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, buses, Uber, Lyft), taxicab companies (in Baltimore City and County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.

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