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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

For Immediate Release

Maryland Public Service Commission Investigates Apartment Building Explosion in Silver Spring

(BALTIMORE—August 12, 2016) – The Maryland Public Service Commission’s Engineering Division continues to investigate Thursday morning’s explosion at the Flower Branch Apartments in Silver Spring, Maryland. The deadly explosion and fire occurred in the service territory of Washington Gas Light (WGL), a utility regulated by the Commission.

The Commission’s Engineering and Pipeline Safety staff has been on site since shortly after the explosion occurred and is supporting the investigation in cooperation with the National Transportation Safety Board, the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Montgomery County Fire Department, the Maryland State Fire Marshall and other emergency response agencies.

WGL shut off gas to the site soon after the incident. The PSC continues to monitor WGL’s actions in regards to making the site safe and ensuring that no other structures were affected.

After the initial site investigation is complete, PSC staff will conduct a thorough investigation of the incident. A portion of this investigation includes reviewing records associated with the incident site at WGL’s offices. This is done to ensure that all required maintenance activities have been completed as required.

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