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STATE OF MARYLAND



PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

July 9, 2013

Maryland Supplier Diversity Programs

Administrative Docket  
PC16

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NOTICE

To: All Maryland Regulated Public Service Companies and Interested Persons

**The Maryland Public Service Commission Marks Its  
Twenty-Year Supplier Diversity Milestone**

On the occasion of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Maryland Public Service Commission's Supplier Diversity Memorandum of Understanding for regulated public utility companies, the PSC would like to formally thank and recognize those who have played a role in this endeavor.

The genesis of today's Public Conference 16 began in 1992 as legislation introduced by the late Delegate Howard 'Pete' Rawlings and Congressman Elijah Cummings (then 40<sup>th</sup> District Delegate). Known as HB1197: *Public Service Commission—Women and Minority Business Enterprise Program*, this bill endeavored to create a program for regulated utilities, with oversight by the PSC, to ensure that minority business enterprises had greater opportunities to compete for supplier contracts. This bill, unfortunately, did not pass; however, because of the persistent efforts of these two individuals, along with that of Del. Anne S. Perkins, then Chair of the Constitutional and Administrative Law Committee, the momentum was put in place to establish our current program.

In 1993, the Commission created the first of many Memoranda of Understanding with regulated utilities. Today, the companies that have signed the MOU have made a commitment to work toward awarding 25 percent of their total dollars spent on procurement to diverse suppliers (women-, minority-, and service-disabled veteran-owned businesses). Maryland is now a national leader in this arena, as other states have used our MOU as a model.

We applaud the efforts of Delegate Rawlings and Congressman Cummings, who have left a lasting imprint on the business and regulatory landscape. They started a conversation that needed and deserved the attention of the State of Maryland and that dialogue continues.

Equally important are the businesses that have signed an MOU with the Commission. Their voluntary participation is commendable, and we rely on their cooperation to move forward to achieve the goals of PC 16. Specifically, we have entered into an MOU with the following companies:

- Association of Maryland Pilots
- AT&T Corp.
- Baltimore Gas & Electric Company
- Chesapeake Utilities Corporation—Maryland Division
- Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.
- Comcast Corporation
- Delmarva Power & Light Company
- Easton Utilities
- First Transit BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport Shuttle Bus
- Pivotal Utility Holdings, Inc., d/b/a Elkton Gas
- Potomac Electric Power Company
- Qwest Communications Company, LLC , d/b/a/ Century Link
- Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc.
- Potomac Edison Company, d/b/a Allegheny
- Veolia Transportation Services, Inc.
- Verizon Maryland, Inc.
- Washington Gas Light Company

Thank you to all others who have played instrumental roles in advancing the goals and objectives of this Public Conference. The Commission is hopeful that the State's supplier diversity efforts will continue to develop into an even more robust program that stimulates the economy, encourages broader participation among underrepresented suppliers, and demonstrates Maryland's role as a national leader.

On Behalf of the Commission,

David J. Collins  
Executive Secretary