

ORDER NO. 92123

The Potomac Edison Company’s *
Application for a Certificate of Public *
Convenience and Necessity to Rebuild *
the Messick Road-Ridgely 138 Kilovolt *
Transmission Line in Allegany County, *
MD *
_____ *

BEFORE THE
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF MARYLAND

Case No. 9818

Issue Date: January 7, 2026

ORDER ON PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

On January 6, 2026, the Commission held a pre-hearing conference in the above-captioned proceeding to establish a procedural schedule, consider any petitions to intervene, and address any other pending preliminary matters. The parties to the proceeding are The Potomac Edison Company (“Potomac Edison”), the Department of Natural Resources Power Plant Research Program (“PPRP”), the Maryland Office of People’s Counsel (“OPC”), the Commission’s Technical Staff (“Staff”), and any intervenors granted party status by the Commission. Attorneys representing Potomac Edison, PPRP, OPC, and Staff appeared at the pre-hearing conference.

At the pre-hearing conference, the Commission directed Potomac Edison to file with the Commission supplemental testimony regarding how it considered advanced transmission and grid-enhancing technologies pursuant to the Governor’s Executive Order issued on December 19, 2025—Building an Affordable and Reliable Energy Future.¹ The Commission further adopted a procedural schedule for the matter, except for the schedule for public comment hearings. The parties are directed to work with the Executive Secretary to schedule the date and time of a public comment hearing.

¹ <https://governor.maryland.gov/news/press/pages/Governor-Moore-Signs-Executive-Order-to-Lower-Energy-Costs.-Protect-Maryland-Families.-and-Deliver-Affordable-Energy-Soluti.aspx>.

Further, the Commission adopted the discovery procedure proposed by the parties. Discovery by Potomac Edison, PPRP, OPC, and Staff has already commenced.

The discovery procedure is as follows:

- (1) responses to data requests served before October 2, 2026 (Direct Testimony of Staff, OPC, PPRP and any intervenors) shall be due within ten (10) business days, with objections due within five (5) business days;
- (2) responses to data requests served on and after October 2, 2026, shall be due within seven (7) business days, with objections due within three (3) business days;
- (3) responses to discovery requests shall be provided electronically to all parties, unless a hard copy of the responses is requested to be served;
- (4) the parties will in good faith consult with each other and attempt to resolve all disputes prior to making an objection and again prior to filing a motion seeking relief from the Commission. In the event the parties are unable to resolve a dispute, the aggrieved party may file a motion for relief within three (3) business days from the service of the written objection. The opponent shall respond to the motion within two (2) business days of service of the motion; and
- (5) although Commission proceedings are not governed strictly by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, parties should consider those Rules and the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland's Discovery Guidelines as the principles governing the conduct of discovery in this case. See Local Rules of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland, Appendix A, <https://www.mdd.uscourts.gov/sites/mdd/files/LocalRules.pdf#view=FitH>.

All testimony and discovery shall be served electronically on each of the parties to avoid delay in receipt, unless the parties agree to a different format. Parties shall ensure that the correct email of the person(s) to whom the testimony and discovery should be sent are updated and current on the service list for this matter.

IT IS, THEREFORE, this 7th day of January in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Six, by the Public Service Commission of Maryland, **ORDERED:**

- (1) that parties shall file pleadings in this proceeding as follows:
 - (a) Potomac Edison shall provide requested reports in PPRP's Data Request No. 1 by February 27, 2026;
 - (b) Potomac Edison shall file Supplement Direct Testimony on Advanced Transmission Technologies, Grid-Enhancing Technologies, and Non-Wires Alternatives by February 27, 2026;
 - (c) PPRP shall file a status update (confirming all necessary information is received) by March 27, 2026;
 - (d) Staff, OPC, PPRP, and any intervenors, shall file direct Testimony and Recommended License Conditions by October 2, 2026;

Pleadings shall be submitted to Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202.² The parties are directed to serve all testimony electronically on all parties no later than 5:00 p.m. on the date of the filing;

(2) that the parties shall abide by the discovery procedures set forth in this Order;

(3) that, after consultation with the other parties, Potomac Edison is directed to contact the Executive Secretary to establish the date and time that a Public Comment Hearing will be held in this matter;

(4) that a Settlement Status/Status Update shall be filed by November 3, 2026;

and

² All parties shall use the Commission's e-file system available on its website, www.psc.state.md.us, to file its pleadings.

(5) that an Evidentiary Hearing (if uncontested) will be held on Tuesday, November 17, 2026; beginning at 10:00 a.m., in the Frank O. Heintz Hearing Room, 16th Floor of the William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

All parties will be allowed to present Live Rejoinder Testimony at the evidentiary hearing, as necessary. The Commission reserves the right to revise the hearing schedule, as needed.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ Andrew S. Johnston

Andrew S. Johnston
Executive Secretary