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**CONTACT:** Tori Leonard  
410-767-8054  
443-829-9111 (c)  
[tori.leonard@maryland.gov](mailto:tori.leonard@maryland.gov)



**For Immediate Release**

## **Maryland PSC to Hold Virtual Public Comment Hearings for Elkton Gas System Improvement Plan**

(BALTIMORE, MD-April 21, 2021) – The Maryland Public Service Commission will hold two virtual public comment hearings on the request by Elkton Gas to implement a Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement (STRIDE) Plan and an associated customer surcharge. The hearings, to be conducted by Chief Public Utility Law Judge Ryan C. McLean, will be held **Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 7 p.m.** and **Thursday, May 6, 2021 at 7 p.m.**

Elkton Gas has proposed a \$3.8 million infrastructure improvement plan to replace nearly 4.7 miles of vintage plastic piping by the end of 2023. According to the application, the company's STRIDE plan projects will improve public safety and system reliability by reducing the risk of failure, reducing leak rates and lowering potential greenhouse gas emissions.

To recover the costs of the program, Elkton Gas proposes to implement a five-year STRIDE surcharge for all customer classes to be effective from 2021-2026. The estimated surcharge on the bills of residential customers would be 86 cents per month for the first year of the program. By year two of the program, the surcharge for residential customers is expected to reach the \$2 per month cap set by Maryland's STRIDE statute.

**Members of the public who wish to speak at the first hearing can sign up by sending an email to [psc.pulj@maryland.gov](mailto:psc.pulj@maryland.gov) by 12 noon on Monday, May 3, 2021; to speak at the second hearing, send an email to the same address by 12 noon on Wednesday, May 5, 2021. The hearing will be held on the WebEx platform and participants will receive an email with the link to join the hearing.** The hearing will be simultaneously livestreamed on the Public Utility Law Judge's YouTube channel: <https://bit.ly/2X6wLiP>

Elkton Gas serves approximately 7,000 customer accounts in and around the Town of Elkton in Cecil County. The Elkton Gas distribution system consists of approximately 105 miles of distribution mains and service lines. As of August 2017, the company's distribution system consisted of approximately 44 miles of pipe made of Aldyl-A (a type of polyethylene pipeline material identified as prone to cracks and leaks). Elkton Gas

has been working to replace the piping since 2018. The company's proposed STRIDE plan seeks to accelerate the completion date for 13 of the remaining 16 projects in its pipeline replacement program.

Three other gas utilities in Maryland -- including Baltimore Gas and Electric, Columbia Gas of Maryland and Washington Gas – have similar infrastructure replacement programs.

In addition to the hearings, written comments will also be accepted until June 9, 2021 by using the Commission's online public comments portal, instructions for which can be found at: <https://www.psc.state.md.us/make-a-public-comment/> **Comments should reference Case No 9660.**

If submitted by first-class mail, comments should be addressed to Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary, Maryland Public Service Commission, William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 St. Paul Street, 16th Floor, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. Please reference Case No. 9660.

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***About the Public Service Commission:***

*The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities and suppliers, 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, Charles County, Cumberland and Hagerstown) and bay pilot rates.*

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