

# **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF MARYLAND**

## **Nuclear Zero Emission Credit Awardee Minority Business Enterprise and Community Benefit Agreement Compliance Report for 2025**

Submitted to the Maryland General Assembly  
Annapolis, Maryland  
Pursuant to the Next Generation Energy Act of 2025  
§7-1217(c) of Public Utilities Article,  
Annotated Code of Maryland

March 1, 2026



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## I. Introduction

The Next Generation Energy Act (Senate Bill 937 / House Bill 1035)<sup>1</sup> created a competitive Zero Emission Credit (ZEC) procurement to support the new or expanded nuclear energy generation facilities serving the State. Pursuant to the Public Utilities Article (PUA) § 7-1217(c), the Commission is required to report to the Governor, Senate Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee, and House Economic Matters Committees, regarding ZEC applicants compliance with the minority business enterprise (MBE) participation goals and community benefit agreement (CBA) requirements. PUA § 7-1217(c) requires the Commission to report on the following:

- (C) On or before March 1 each year, the Commission shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the Senate Committee on Education, Energy, and the Environment and the House Economic Matters Committee on:
  - (1) applicant compliance with the minority business enterprise participation goals under § 7–1215(b) of this subtitle; and
  - (2) with respect to the community benefit agreement under § 7–1202 of this subtitle:
    - (i) the availability and use of opportunities for local businesses and small, minority, women–owned, and veteran–owned businesses;
    - (ii) the success of efforts to promote career training opportunities in the manufacturing, maintenance, and construction industries for local residents, veterans, women, and minorities; and
    - (iii) compliance with the minority workforce goal under § 7–1202 of this subtitle.

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<sup>1</sup> Senate Bill 937, Chap. 625, Acts of the 2025 Session of the Maryland General Assembly.

## II. History of Nuclear Zero Emission Credits in Maryland

In 2025, the General Assembly passed the Next Generation Energy Act<sup>2</sup> which created a competitive ZEC procurement process to support the new or expanded nuclear energy generation facilities serving the State. The Act tasked the Commission with establishing and administering the new ZEC procurement process. PUA § 7-1212 requires the Commission to hold at least three competitive application periods by January 1, 2031, for nuclear energy facilities seeking Commission approval to generate ZECs. The Next Generation Energy Act did not create specific nuclear energy capacity or generation goals, or specify when new nuclear energy generation should become operational.

PUA § 7-1221 requires the Commission to adopt regulations by July 1, 2027, which formalizes the nuclear ZEC procurement process. On June 25, 2026. The Commission initiated Public Conference 71 (PC71) to collect data and establish the Nuclear Working Group to propose nuclear regulations.<sup>3</sup> The Commission directed the Nuclear Working Group to file draft regulations by September 1, 2026. The Nuclear Working Group is committed to developing and adopting nuclear ZEC regulations by the deadlines specified by the Commission and PUA § 7-1221.

## III. MBE Goals and CBA Implementation

The Commission does not have any information to report at this time, regarding nuclear ZEC applicant compliance with MBE participation goals or CBA implementation. The Commission has not approved any nuclear project applications for ZECs as no procurement periods have been held. The Commission is diligently working to develop and adopt nuclear procurement regulations by July 1, 2027, pursuant to PUA § 7-1221. The Commission established Public Conference 71 to initiate development of the nuclear procurement regulations. The Commission will report this required data in compliance with PUA § 7-1217(c) once the data becomes available after a nuclear project application has been selected by the Commission in a future procurement process.

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<sup>2</sup> Senate Bill 937, Chap. 625, Acts of the 2025 Session of the Maryland General Assembly.

<sup>3</sup> Notice Convening A Public Conference And Establishing A Nuclear Procurement Work Group, PC 71, ML 319896 (June 25, 2025).

## **IV. Conclusion**

The Commission remains committed to advancing the nuclear ZEC procurement process created by the Next Generation Energy Act and appreciates the opportunity to provide the General Assembly with a status update on the compliance of the MBE goals and CBA requirements of the nuclear ZEC procurement process. The Commission will establish applicant monitoring and compliance metrics and reporting requirements once nuclear energy projects receive Commission approval to generate ZECs. The Commission will monitor the progress of the approved nuclear energy projects to ensure project completion and compliance with the MBE participation goals and CBA implementation requirements.