



**Public Service Commission  
2025 ANNUAL REPORT  
For the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2025**

**Pursuant to Section 2-122 of the Public Utilities  
Article, Annotated Code of Maryland**

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## Table of Contents

Membership of the Commission	3
Overview of the Commission	4
Maryland Public Service Commission Organizational Chart – as of May 1, 2026	6
Commission Membership in Other Regulatory Organizations	7
Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative	10
Supplier Diversity Activities	13
Commission Energy-Related Cases and Activities	17
Energy Efficiency- and Demand Response-Related Cases	17
Electric Distribution Service Quality and Reliability	19
Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard	21
Utility Rate Cases	23
Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) Cases	29
Energy Competition and Standard Offer Service Cases	54
Mergers, Transfers, and Franchise Cases	65
Other Matters	67
Commission Water/Sewer Cases	78
Rulemakings and Regulations – New and Amended	80
Public Conferences and Work Groups	86
Commission Telecommunications Cases and Activities	100
Commission Participation in State and Federal Court Matters	101
Commission Participation in Other Regulatory Commission Matters	111
PJM Interconnection, Inc. — The Reliability Pricing Model	128
Broadened Ownership Act	130
Reports of the Agency’s Departments/Divisions	132
Receipts and Disbursements Fiscal Year 2025	170

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

The **Public Service Commission** (Maryland PSC or Commission) consists of the Chairman and four Commissioners, each appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The term of the Chairman and each of the Commissioners is five years and those terms are staggered. All terms begin on July 1. As of **December 31, 2025**, the following persons were members of the Commission<sup>1</sup>:

	<b>Term Expires</b>
Frederick H. Hoover, Jr., Chair	June 30, 2028
Kumar P. Barve, Commissioner	June 30, 2029
Bonnie A. Suchman, Commissioner	June 30, 2027
Odogwu Obi Linton, Commissioner	June 30, 2026
Ryan C. McLean, Commissioner	June 30, 2030



**Commissioner  
Kumar P. Barve**



**Chair  
Frederick H. Hoover, Jr.**



**Commissioner  
Bonnie A. Suchman**



**Commissioner  
Odogwu Obi Linton**



**Commissioner  
Ryan C. McLean**

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<sup>1</sup> Leadership changes were announced in January 2026 (see organizational chart for current status).

## OVERVIEW OF THE COMMISSION

### General Work of the Commission

IN 1910, THE Maryland General Assembly established the Commission to regulate public utilities and for-hire transportation companies doing business in Maryland. The categories of regulated public service companies and other regulated or licensed entities are:

- electric and gas utilities;
- competitive electric and natural gas suppliers (NOTE: The Commission licenses and investigates complaints against electric suppliers and also regulates residential supply pricing and green power pricing);
- telecommunications companies (landline phone service only);
- privately-owned water and sewage companies;
- bay pilots and docking masters rates;
- passenger motor vehicle carriers (including Transportation Network Companies such as Uber, Lyft, *etc.*, and buses, limousines, sedans); taxicabs operating in the City of Baltimore, Baltimore County, Charles County, Cumberland, and Hagerstown;
- railroad companies (the Commission's authority is limited here: the companies must be organized under Maryland law and jurisdiction extends only over certain conditions and rates for intrastate services);
- hazardous liquid pipelines; and
- private toll bridge companies.

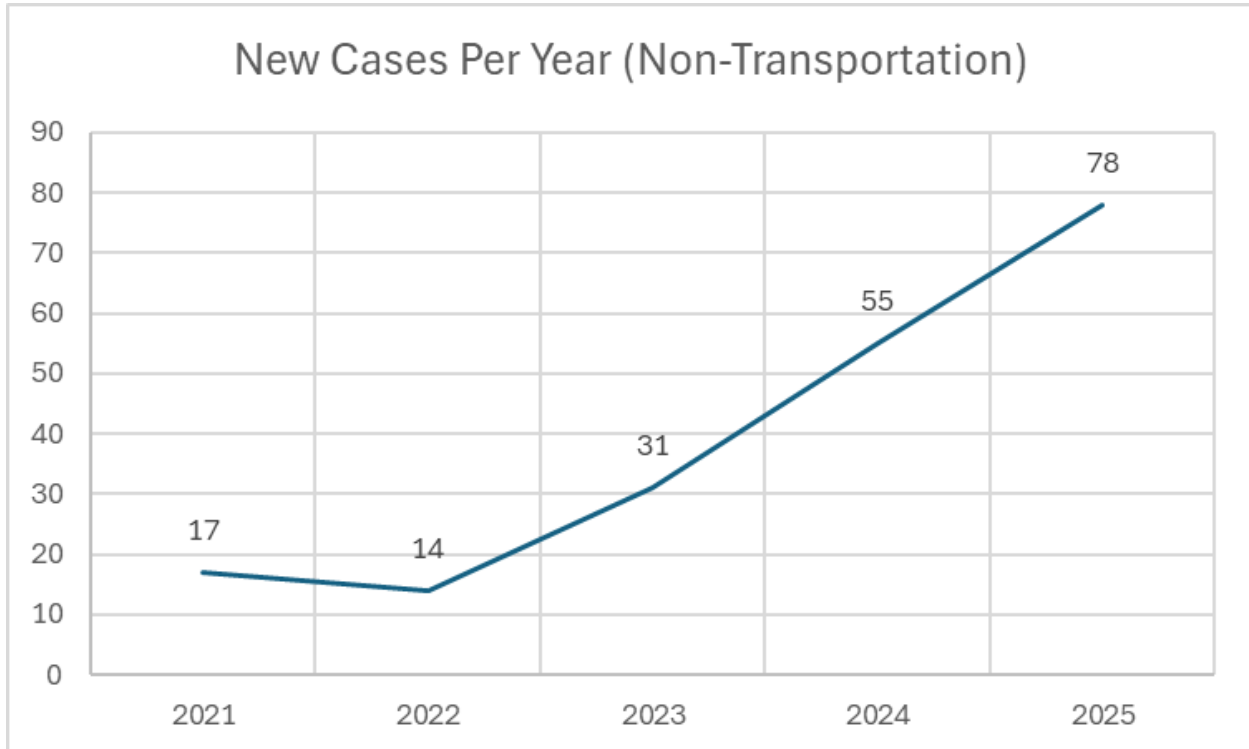
The jurisdiction and powers of the Commission are found in the Public Utilities Article (PUA), *Annotated Code of Maryland*. The Commission's jurisdiction, however, is limited to intrastate service. Interstate transportation is regulated in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation; interstate and wholesale activities of gas and electric utilities are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC); and interstate telephone service, Voice over Internet Protocol and cable services are regulated by the Federal Communications Commission.

Under the PUA, the Commission has broad authority to supervise and regulate the activities of public service companies and for-hire motor carriers and drivers. It is empowered to hear and decide matters relating to, among others, (1) rate adjustments, (2) applications to exercise or abandon franchises, (3) applications to modify the type or scope of service, (4) approval of issuance of securities, (5) promulgation of new rules and regulations, (6) mergers or acquisitions of electric companies or gas companies, and (7) quality of utility and common carrier service.

The Commission has the authority to issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the construction or modification of a new generating station, a qualified generator lead line, or an overhead transmission line designed to carry a voltage in excess of 69,000 volts. In addition, the Commission collects and maintains records and reports of public service companies, reviews plans for service, inspects equipment, audits financial records, handles consumer complaints, issues passenger-for-hire permits and drivers' licenses, enforces its rules

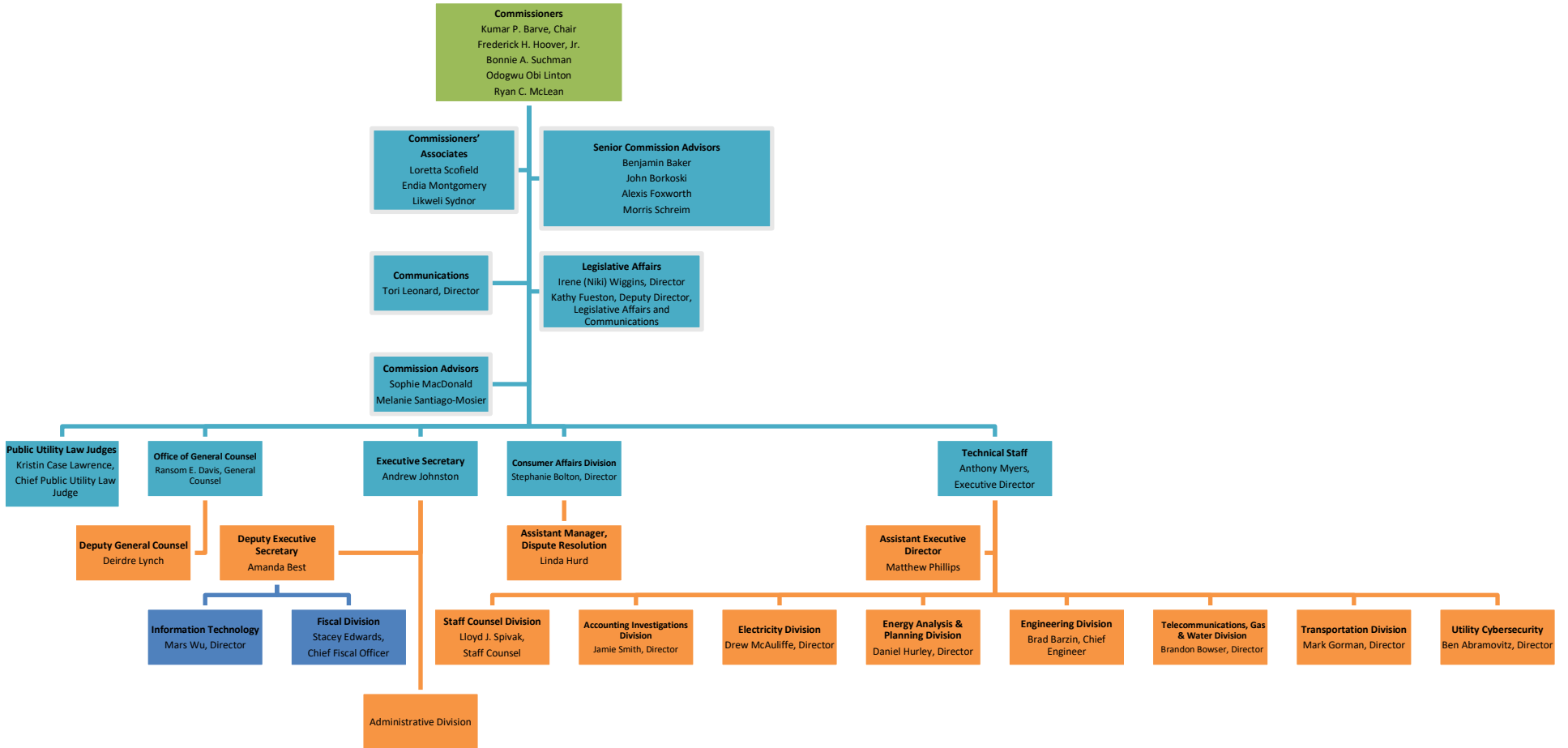
and regulations, defends its decisions on appeal to State courts, and intervenes in relevant cases before federal regulatory commissions and federal courts.

During calendar year 2025, the Commission initiated 78 new non-transportation-related dockets, conducted approximately 33 en banc hearings (legislative-style, evidentiary, or evening hearings for public comments as well as status conferences, discovery disputes, and prehearing conferences), held 16 rulemaking sessions, participated in three public conference sessions, and presided over 43 administrative meetings.



Also, the Commission actively participated in the regular General Assembly legislative session in 2025 by submitting comments on bills affecting public service companies or Commission operations, participating in work groups convened by Senate or House committees or subcommittees, and testifying before various Senate and House committees and subcommittees.

# Maryland Public Service Commission Organizational Chart – as of May 1, 2026



## Commission Membership in Other Regulatory Organizations

### Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission (WMATC)

**WMATC WAS CREATED** in 1960 by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact for the purpose of regulating certain transportation carriers on a coordinated regional basis. The Compact is an interstate agreement among the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia which was approved by Congress in 1960. The Compact was amended in its entirety in 1990 (at Maryland's behest) and again in 2010 (to modify the articles regarding appointment of Commissioners to WMATC). Each amendment was enacted with the concurrence of each of the signatories and Congress' consent. The Compact, as amended, and the WMATC are codified in Title 10, Subtitle 2 of the Transportation Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*.

Today, WMATC regulates private sector passenger carriers, including sightseeing, tour, and charter bus operators; airport shuttle companies; wheelchair van operators; and some sedan and limousine operators, transporting passengers for hire between points in the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit District (Metropolitan District). The Metropolitan District includes the District of Columbia; the Virginia cities of Alexandria and Falls Church; Virginia counties Arlington and Fairfax and the political subdivisions located within those counties; that portion of Loudoun County, Virginia, occupied by the Washington Dulles International Airport; Montgomery County and Prince George's County in Maryland and the political subdivisions located within those counties.

WMATC also sets interstate taxicab rates between signatories in the Metropolitan District, which for this purpose only includes Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport (BWI) (except that this expansion of the Metropolitan District to include BWI does not apply to transportation conducted by a taxicab licensed by the State of Maryland or a political subdivision of the State of Maryland or operated under a contract with the State of Maryland).

A commissioner from the Maryland Public Service Commission is designated to serve on the WMATC. In July 2025, **Governor Wes Moore** appointed **Commissioner Linton** to WMATC, replacing **Commissioner Michael Richard**, whose term ended June 30, 2025.

In fiscal year (FY) 2025 (from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025), the WMATC accepted 281 applications to obtain, transfer, amend, or terminate a WMATC certificate of authority (up from 260 in FY2024). The WMATC also initiated 143 formal investigations of carrier compliance with WMATC rules and regulations (up from 123 in FY24). The WMATC issued 589 orders in formal proceedings in FY2025, as compared to 548 orders in FY24. There were 481 carriers holding a certificate of authority at the end of FY2025—up from 460 at the close of FY24. The number of vehicles operated under WMATC authority was 4,598 as of June 30, 2025, compared to 4,600 vehicles at the end of the previous fiscal year. WMATC staff received 10 informal complaints against WMATC carriers in FY2025. This compares to eight received in FY2024.

The Commission includes its share of the WMATC budget in its own budget. Budget allocations are based upon the population of the Compact signatories in the Compact region. In Maryland, this includes Montgomery and Prince George's counties as noted above. The FY2025 WMATC budget was \$1,126,000, of which Maryland's share was \$531,176 or 47.2 percent.

### **Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI)**

**OPSI WAS INCORPORATED** as a non-profit corporation in May 2005. It is an intergovernmental organization of 14 utility regulatory agencies, including the Commission. OPSI, among other activities, coordinates data/issues analyses and policy formulation related to PJM, its operations, its Independent Market Monitor, and related FERC matters. While the 14 OPSI members interact as a regional body, their collective actions, as OPSI, do not infringe on each of the 14 agencies' individual roles as the statutory regulators within their respective state boundaries. **Chair Barve** serves as the Commission's representative on the OPSI Board of Directors.

### **National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)**

**NARUC IS THE** national association representing the interests of the commissioners from state utility regulatory agencies that regulate essential utility services, including energy, telecommunications, and water. NARUC members are responsible for assuring reliable utility service at fair, just, and reasonable rates. Founded in 1889, NARUC is an invaluable resource for its members and the regulatory community, providing a venue to set and influence public policy, share best practices, and foster innovative solutions to improve regulation.

**Chair Barve** serves on the Select Committee on Regulatory and Industry Diversity and the Energy Resources and Environment Committee. **Commissioner Hoover** serves as a member of the Committee on Electricity and the Washington Action Program. **Commissioner Suchman** serves on the Committee on Critical Infrastructure and the Committee on Energy Resources and the Environment. **Commissioner Linton** serves on the committee Consumers and the Public Interest and the Committee on Water. **Commissioner McLean** serves as a member of the Committee on Gas.

### **Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (MACRUC)**

**THE COMMISSION IS** a member of MACRUC, a regional division of NARUC comprised of the public utility Commissions of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Virginia, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

### **National Council on Electricity Policy (NCEP)**

**NCEP (FORMERLY THE** Eastern Interconnection States' Planning Council or EISPC) is a platform for all state-level electricity decision-makers to share and learn from diverse perspectives on the evolving electricity sector. The Council membership includes over 200 representatives from public utility commissions, air and environmental regulatory agencies, governors' staffs and state

energy offices, legislatures, and consumer advocates. NCEP is an affiliate of the NARUC Center for Partnerships and Innovation. The EISPC was a historic endeavor initially funded by the U.S. Department of Energy pursuant to a provision of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The goal of EISPC was to encourage and support collaboration among states in the Eastern Interconnection on critical energy issues, including electric transmission, gas-electric infrastructure, resource diversity, and energy resiliency and reliability.

## Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Established in 2009, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) is the first market-based regulatory program in the United States designed to stabilize and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, specifically carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), from the power sector. RGGI, Inc. is a non-profit corporation formed to provide technical advisory and administrative services to participating states in the development and implementation of their respective CO<sub>2</sub> budget trading programs. The RGGI, Inc. Board of Directors is composed of two representatives from each participating state with equal representation from the states' environmental and energy regulatory agencies.

These agency heads also serve as RGGI, Inc. board members and constitute a steering committee that provides direction to the Staff Program Committee and allows in-process projects to be conditioned for Board review. [Commissioner Hoover](#) and [Secretary Serena McIlwain](#) of the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) served on the RGGI Board on behalf of Maryland in 2025. The RGGI, Inc. offices are located in New York City, in space co-located with the New York Public Service Commission at 90 Church Street.

The RGGI Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) apportions CO<sub>2</sub> allowances (*i.e.*, a limited permission to emit one short ton of CO<sub>2</sub> per allowance) among signatory states through a process that was based on historical CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and negotiation among the participating signatory states. Together, the emissions budgets of each signatory state comprise the total regional emissions budget or RGGI "cap."

The original RGGI program, jointly designed by 10 Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states, established a cap-and-trade or "cap-and-invest" program that stabilized CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from power plants and then lowered that cap by 10 percent by 2018. The participating states agreed to use an auction as the primary means to distribute CO<sub>2</sub> allowances to electric power plants regulated under the coordinated state CO<sub>2</sub> cap-and-trade programs. All fossil fuel-fired electric power plants with 25 megawatts (MWs) or greater capacity, and connected to the electricity grid, must obtain allowances based on their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. In 2025, the RGGI states comprised Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Virginia, a prior RGGI participant, did not participate in 2025.

The RGGI participating states are committed to periodic review of their CO<sub>2</sub> budget trading programs to consider the successes, impacts, and any adjustments to program design elements (Program Review.) Following a 2012 RGGI Program Review (as called for in the RGGI MOU), on February 7, 2013, the RGGI participating states announced an aggregate 45 percent reduction in the existing cap.

In addition to announcing a revised regional cap, other programmatic changes included: interim adjustments to the regional cap to account for privately banked allowances; the establishment of a cost containment reserve (*i.e.*, a fixed quantity of CO<sub>2</sub> allowances, in addition to the cap, held in reserve and only made available for sale if allowance prices exceed a predefined price level or trigger price), to serve as a flexibility mechanism in the unanticipated event of short-term price spikes; the addition of a U.S. Forest Offset Protocol; simplification of the minimum reserve price

to increase it by 2.5 percent each year; and the creation of interim control periods for compliance entities. Effective January 2014, the regional budget was revised to 91 million short tons—consistent with current regional emissions levels. To lock in the emissions reduction progress to date and to further build upon this progress, the regional emissions cap and each participating state’s individual emissions budget declined by 2.5 percent each year from 2015 through 2020. In 2022, the total regional emissions budget was 116.1 million short tons. In 2025, the total regional emissions budget decreased to 81.3 million short tons. Between 2015 and 2025, Maryland’s portion of the emissions budget decreased from 19.8 million short tons in 2015 to 14.7 million short tons in 2025.

**Table 3: 2025 Regional Emissions Budget<sup>[1]</sup>**

State	CO <sub>2</sub> Allowances (short tons)
Connecticut	4,271,624
Delaware	2,973,215
Maine	2,405,725
Maryland	14,755,086
Massachusetts	10,496,554
New Hampshire	3,486,098
New Jersey	15,300,000
New York	25,534,298
Rhode Island	1,650,085
Vermont	475,099
Total	81,347,784

In 2025, RGGI held four auctions of CO<sub>2</sub> allowances with 10 participating states. For Maryland, these auctions raised approximately \$275.3 million for the State’s Strategic Energy Investment Fund (the Fund). Maryland’s 2025 auction proceeds increased approximately 8 percent compared to 2024 auction proceeds of \$254.8 million. As of the final auction of 2025, Maryland has earned over \$1.6 billion in cumulative RGGI proceeds over 70 auctions. Pursuant to §9-20B-05(g) of the State Government Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the proceeds received by the Fund from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025 were allocated as follows:

- (1) at least 50% shall be credited to an energy assistance account to be used for the Electric Universal Service Program and other electric assistance programs in the Department of Human Services;
- (2) at least 20% shall be credited to a low- and moderate-income efficiency and conservation programs account and to a general efficiency and conservation programs account for energy efficiency and conservation programs, projects, or activities and demand response programs, of which at least one-half shall be targeted to the low and moderate income efficiency and conservation programs account for: (i) the low-income

residential sector at no cost to the participants of the programs, projects, or activities; and (ii) the moderate-income residential sector;

(3) at least 20% shall be credited to a renewable and clean energy programs account for: (i) renewable and clean energy programs and initiatives; (ii) energy-related public education and outreach; and (iii) climate change and resiliency programs; and

(4) up to 10%, but not more than \$7,500,000, shall be credited to an administrative expense account for costs related to the administration of the Fund, including the review of electric company plans for achieving electricity savings and demand reductions that the electric companies are required under law to submit to the [Maryland Energy] Administration.

Under the current program, the size and trigger price of the cost containment reserve began changing in 2021, increasing by 7 percent annually. A majority of RGGI states also introduced an emissions containment reserve in 2021 wherein the states withhold allowances from circulation to secure additional emissions reductions if prices fall below established trigger prices. In 2019, the RGGI states, including Maryland, undertook state-specific statutory and regulatory processes to propose updates to their CO2 Budget Trading Programs, consistent with the announced Model Rule, which was completed in 2020.

In February 2021, the RGGI states announced the initiation of a Third Program Review to consider further updates to their CO2 budget trading programs. The Third Program Review concluded in July 2025. The RGGI states agreed to launch their next Program Review no later than 2028.

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<sup>1</sup>Source: *The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, Allowance Distribution*, <https://www.rggi.org/allowance-tracking/allowance-distribution>.

## SUPPLIER DIVERSITY ACTIVITIES

### Public Conference 52 ([PC52](#)): Supplier Diversity

AS NOTED IN prior Annual Reports, 20 regulated entities entered into Memoranda of Understanding (MOU)<sup>2</sup> with the Commission in which each organization voluntarily agreed to develop, implement, and consistently report on its activities and accomplishments in promoting a strategy to support viable and prosperous women-owned, minority-owned, and service-disabled-veteran-owned business enterprises (diverse suppliers.) The MOU expressed each entity's commitment to use its best efforts to achieve a goal of 25 percent diverse supplier contracting (diverse spend); standardize the reporting methodology; and institute uniform annual plans and annual reports in order to track the entity's compliance with the MOU goals.

On July 8, 2025, the Commission held the annual Harold D. Williams Supplier Diversity Hearing to review the results of the 2024 annual reports submitted by 16 of the companies. The conference included a presentation by the Commission's Technical Staff on the diverse supplier procurements by companies participating in the program. Companies shared efforts to enhance supplier diversity, such as Empowerment Academies, supplier summits, and collaborations to support smaller and innovative suppliers.

The signatories include: [Association of Maryland Pilots](#); [AT&T\\*](#); [Baltimore Gas and Electric Company](#) (BGE); [CenturyLink](#); [Chesapeake Utilities–Maryland Division](#), which now includes [Elkton Gas](#) after a 2020 acquisition; [Choptank Electric Cooperative](#); [Columbia Gas of Maryland](#); [Comcast Phone of Northern Maryland](#) and [Comcast Business Communications](#); [Delmarva Power & Light Company](#) (DPL); [Easton Utilities](#); [Maryland-American Water](#); [Potomac Electric Power Company](#) (Pepco); [Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc.](#) (SMECO); The [Potomac Edison Company](#); [Verizon Maryland\\*](#); and [Washington Gas Light Company](#) (WGL).

Collectively, the companies exceeded the aspirational goal of awarding 25 percent of total procurement to diverse suppliers, achieving an overall diverse spend of nearly 42.3 percent—the highest-recorded diverse spend in the history of the program. Overall, diverse spend was \$2.15 billion in 2024, while the spend was more than \$2.17 billion in 2023, a decline of just over one percent. Diverse spend averaged \$2.08 billion over the past three reporting years while total utility procurement averaged \$5.09 billion over the same period. Total procurement spend by the reporting signatories increased at an annual rate of 16.1 percent over the past three years. The average annual growth in diverse spend since 2009 is 10.3 percent.

The total diverse spend consists of seven categories: minority-owned enterprises (MOE), women-owned enterprises (WOE), service-disabled-veteran-owned enterprises (SDVOE), veteran-owned enterprises (VOE), LGBT-owned enterprises (LGBT OE), not-for-profit workshops (NFPW), and Small Business Administration-designated HUB Zones. MOE received \$1.36 billion, WOE received \$598 million, SDVOE received \$49 million, VOE received \$143 million, LGBT OE received \$113,815,

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<sup>2</sup> Originally existing as Public Conference 16.

NFPW received \$10,740, and HUB Zones received \$59,454. The category MOE contains four major subgroups: African American-owned businesses, American Indian/Native American-owned businesses, Asian-owned businesses, and Hispanic-owned businesses. The signatories that provided reports for 2024 broke down their MOE spends by ethnicity; African American-owned businesses accounted for the largest proportion of total MOE spend at 63.2 percent.

On September 12, 2025, the Commission issued a public determination, as required under Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) 20.08.01.05, in which it noted that the Maryland Utility Forum, a key resource for vendor coordination, has become inactive; the Commission plans to consider reactivating it. The Commission commended the companies' commitment and stakeholder support, emphasizing ongoing community engagement as vital to program success.

The Commission recognized the program's record achievements in 2024 and encouraged continued progress toward and beyond the established goals, emphasizing the importance of community involvement and program enhancements.

**Table 4** (below) shows the program expenditures as reported by the companies and the percentage of spend as compared to each utility's total spend. Certain types of expenses are excluded from the tabulation, being either single-sourced or are inapplicable to the diversity program. Sources of exempted spend are agreed to in advance and can be found in the respective entity's MOU.

In addition to the MOU signatories, offshore wind company US Wind (in Case No. [9666](#)) is required by statute to file a supplier diversity report. \*AT&T and Verizon withdrew from the MOU in 2025.

**Table 4 – 2024 Diverse Procurement**

Companies	Total diverse supplier procurement (\$)	% of diverse supplier procurement to total company procurement
Association of MD Pilots	\$579,319	37.75%
AT&T	\$16,570,000	27.50%
BGE	\$519,600,000	41.77%
Century Link	\$19,800,000	28.54%
Chesapeake Utilities	\$1,250,000	8.70%
Choptank	\$4,030,000	8.48%
Columbia Gas	\$2,620,000	13.25%
Comcast	*Filed CONFIDENTIALLY*	51.33%
Delmarva	\$165,800,000	35.54%
Easton Utilities	\$260,415	4.32%
Maryland-American Water	\$1,030,000	26.36%
Potomac Edison	\$47,900,000	32.33%
Pepco	\$392,200,000	42.49%
SMECO	\$24,800,000	22.75%
Verizon Maryland	\$590,400,000	52.63%
Washington Gas	\$200,700,000	35.85%
<b>Total</b>		<b>42.27%</b>

**Table 5** shows expenditures by the top diversity categories for each utility (figures are rounded)

<b>Table 5 – 2024 Top Diverse Category Spend by Utility</b>						
<b>Companies</b>	<b>Minority-Owned</b>	<b>Women-Owned</b>	<b>LGBT-Owned</b>	<b>Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned</b>	<b>Veteran-Owned</b>	<b>Not-for-Profit Workshops</b>
Association of MD Pilots	6.97%	90.09%				
AT&T	60.91%	36.68%				
BGE	Check filing					
Century Link	96.5%	6.03%				
Chesapeake Utilities	36.44%	61.63%				
Choptank		94.37%				
Columbia Gas	14.02%	82.64%				
Comcast	40.74%	35.58%				
Delmarva	40.54%	47.32%				
Easton Utilities	25.02%	39.84%				
Maryland-American Water	91.92%					
Potomac Edison	45.84%	42.85%				
Pepco	67.96%	23.69%				
SMECO	46.02%	38.48%				
Verizon Maryland	92.84%			5.52%		
WGL	54.56%	40.77%				

## COMMISSION ENERGY-RELATED CASES AND ACTIVITIES

### Energy Efficiency- and Demand Response-Related Cases:

#### EmPOWER Maryland—Case No. [9705](#)

[UNDER PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE \(PUA\) §§ 7-222 and 7-223](#), as amended by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plans Act of 2024, an electric company shall develop and implement programs to encourage and promote the efficient use and conservation of energy by consumers in support of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction goals and targets. In approval of these programs, the Commission is to adopt rate-making policies that provide, through a surcharge line item on customer bills, full cost recovery of reasonably incurred costs for programs and services that the Commission determines to be appropriate and cost-effective. In determining whether a program or service is adequate and cost-effective in achieving GHG reduction targets, the Commission under PUA § 7-225(d) is to consider, among other factors, the (1) cost-effectiveness of the residential, commercial, and industrial sector portfolios, (2) impact on rates of each ratepayer class, (3) impact on jobs, (4) impact on the environment, and (5) impact on GHG reduction targets. In addition, any costs which are to be included in rates must also comply with the “just and reasonable” standard of PUA § 4-201.

In 2024, HB 864 and Commission Order No. 91175 changed the goals of EmPOWER from an electricity savings goal to a GHG reduction goal for 2025, 2026, and all subsequent program cycles. Both the legislation and Commission Order increased EmPOWER's efforts to low- and moderate-income customers. The Department of Housing and Community Development filed plans approved by the Commission to target efficiency actions to those customers.

When EmPOWER first launched, the Commission determined that the electric and gas charges were to be amortized over five years. Over the years, however, the balance on uncollected (unamortized) program costs had risen to over \$800 million with customers paying the utility for the use of this capital. In 2022, the Commission revised the EmPOWER cost recovery to begin phasing out the amortization of costs and paying down the unamortized balances. In Order No. 90456 (December 29, 2022), the Commission approved, for all EmPOWER utilities, the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc.'s (SMECO), future cost recovery structure and unamortized balance retirement plan detailed in its alternative scenario, which required expensing 33 percent of 2024 program costs, 67 percent of 2025 program costs, and full expensing of program costs beginning in 2026.

Any costs incurred in and after 2026 would not be amortized, thus the surcharge would be at its highest in 2026 and lowest in 2029. The Commission selected this method because it was a gradual rate increase to residential and commercial and industrial customers (providing bill manageability), was one of the lowest cumulative cost scenarios considered, and was transparent.

The EmPOWER programs achieved, on a program-to-date basis, the following results through the end of 2025:

- The EmPOWER utilities’ programs have saved a total of 19,011,547 MWh and 3,952 MW and either encouraged the purchase of or installed approximately 154.5 million energy-efficient measures.
- 103,234 low-income customers have participated in the EmPOWER Limited-Income Programs.
- The EmPOWER utilities have spent over \$5.1 billion on the EmPOWER programs including over \$3.6 billion on energy efficiency and conservation (EE&C) programs and over \$1.2 billion on demand response (DR) programs.
- The expected savings associated with EmPOWER programs is approximately 1.8 million metric tons of lifecycle GHG reduction in 2025.
- The average monthly residential bill impacts of EmPOWER surcharges for 2025 were as follows:

**Table 6: 2025 Average Monthly Residential Bill Impacts of EmPOWER Surcharges<sup>3</sup>**

	EE&C	DR	Dynamic Pricing <sup>4</sup>	Total
BGE	\$7.64	\$2.51	\$0.13	\$10.28
DPL	\$10.64	\$2.02	(\$0.02)	\$12.65
PE	\$10.09	N/A	N/A	\$10.09
Pepco	\$10.40	\$3.41	(\$0.02)	\$13.79
SMECO	\$10.44	\$0.79	N/A	\$11.23

- Washington Gas has saved a total of 16,271,553 Therms through its programs since beginning in 2015.

<sup>3</sup> Assumes an average monthly usage of 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) and the figures do not include customer savings.

<sup>4</sup> BGE, Pepco, and Delmarva offered a Peak Time Rebate program in the summer of 2017 for residential customers with activated smart meters. The difference between rebates paid to participants and revenues received from PJM markets are trued-up in the EmPOWER Maryland surcharge.

## Electric Distribution Service Quality and Reliability

### Review of Annual Performance Reports on Electric Service Reliability Filed Pursuant to COMAR 20.50.12.11–Case No. [9353](#)

IN MAY 2014, the Commission initiated Case No. 9353 to conduct its annual review of the service quality and reliability performance reports filed by subject electric companies by April 1 of each year. By April 1, 2025, subject electric companies filed their annual reports and comments on the reports were due by July 8, 2025.

On July 22, 2025, the Commission held a legislative-style hearing to review the annual reports filed by subject electric companies and comments filed by parties and determine whether each subject electric company met the applicable COMAR service quality and reliability standards. On August 29, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91799 in which it accepted the service quality and reliability annual reports filed by Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco), Delmarva Power & Light (DPL), The Potomac Edison Company (PE), and the Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SMECO).

The Commission, in Order No. 91799, also accepted the corrective action plans (CAP) submitted by PE for failing the Abandoned Call Rate and the Repeat Poorest Performing Feeder (PPF) Standard for its Eylers Valley feeder. The Commission accepted CAPs filed by BGE for failing to meet the Periodic Equipment Inspection standard in 2023 and those CAPs filed by BGE, Pepco, and DPL addressing their failure to comply with the Periodic Equipment Inspections Standard in 2024, including Staff's proposal for amendments to their CAPs. The Commission also accepted Pepco's action plans for its downed wire response performance and abandoned call rate performance during a July 2023 major outage event storm.

Furthermore, the Commission directed:

- (1) that Pepco and Delmarva shall compare their measurement methods for vulnerable individual customers notified in advance of storms with BGE, PE and SMECO to determine if they are measuring this metric differently than other electric companies and, if so, either align their metric measurement methods with the other electric companies or report back on their findings in next year's annual performance report due April 1, 2026;
- (2) that the electric companies shall continue to provide updates on changes to wildfire mitigation plans in annual performance reports including any infrastructure and customer outage impacts; that Potomac Edison is also directed to file an update with the Commission on its wildfire mitigation plan once FirstEnergy completes the plan enterprise-wide, and that Staff is also directed to report annually on any changes to electric company wildfire mitigation plans, including wildfire statistics as described in the Order;
- (3) that BGE shall report quarterly in the Case No. 9353 docket on manhole and conduit matters starting on November 1, 2025, for the third quarter of 2025, including descriptions of BGE's preventive and response measures being contemplated or implemented, including updates on significant interactions and agreements with

Baltimore City, and updates on Baltimore City manhole and conduit events experienced during the quarter, including impacts and response actions, causes and contributing factors, where known;

(4) that BGE shall file with the Commission a plan by December 1, 2025 for the installation of motor-operated switchgear (MOS) devices with automatic restoration capabilities, including the magnitude of the program in terms of cost, schedule and number of devices to be deployed, the benefits projected, and a demonstration that there is no risk to full deployment; in addition, BGE shall describe how these MOS expenditures are being handled in the context of the expenditures already budgeted in BGE's second multi-year rate plan approved in Case No. 9692;

(5) that Staff shall work with the electric companies in Staff's future annual performance report reviews to provide an "apples-to-apples" comparison of electric company reliability-driven capital and operating expenditures;

(6) that reliability plans for SAIFI (system average interruption frequency index) and SAIDI (system average interruption duration index) targets from 2028 to 2031 and in the future pursuant to COMAR 20.50.12.02D(8) shall be included in electric system plans and annual electric system plan updates to be considered at the annual electric system planning technical conferences starting in 2026, instead of in Case No. 9353; and

(7) that the Distribution System Planning Work Group was directed to determine short- and long-term steps necessary to integrate reliability and resilience planning into the electric distribution system planning process and report back to the Commission its recommendations in the Phase III status report due to the Commission by February 1, 2026 pursuant to Order No. 91751.

Additionally, if an electric company desires to voluntarily propose a resilience investment plan (RIP) in the future, these plans shall be included in electric system plans subject to the direction contained herein on metrics, filing requirements, cost recovery and penalties, among other things, and that since RIPs shall be integrated into the electric system planning processes in the future, the Electric Resiliency Work Group has concluded its work and is hereby disbanded.

As directed by the Commission and further discussed below, Staff filed the COMAR Revisions Work Group report and a petition for rulemaking that addresses the Service Interruption Standard, Downed Wire Response, Qualified Line Personnel and Customer Communications Standards for each MOE by November 1, 2024. Staff also filed an interim Electric Resiliency Work Group report by December 31, 2024.

## Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard

IN COMPLIANCE WITH the Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013, the Commission conditionally approved two offshore wind projects during the Round 1 Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Credits (OREC) process in Case No. [9431](#), in 2017. US Wind Inc. planned to construct the 248 MW Maryland Offshore Wind Project off the coast of Ocean City, Maryland and Skipjack Offshore Energy, LLC planned to construct the 120 MW Skipjack Wind Farm off the coast of Rehoboth, Delaware. Approved projects are required to be located in a federal lease area designated by the US Department of Interior's (DOI) Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM).

In 2019, Case No. 9431 was bifurcated into Case No. [9628](#) for US Wind and Case No. [9629](#) for Skipjack to review potential turbine size changes for both projects. The Commission issued Order No. 89622 on August 20, 2020 approving Skipjack's proposal for 12 MW turbines. The turbine issue for US Wind was included in the Revised Round 2 proceeding discussed below.

The Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2019 authorized the Round 2 OREC process under Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) program. The law required the Commission to hold three additional OREC application periods for an additional minimum of 1,200 MW of offshore wind capacity. On December 17, 2021, the Commission issued Order No. 90011 approving US Wind's bid for the 808.5 MW Momentum Wind Project (identified as Bid 2) and Skipjack's bid for the 846 MW Skipjack Wind 2 (identified as Phase 2.1.)<sup>5,6</sup> Due to the combined size and ratepayer impacts of the approved projects, the Commission cancelled the anticipated final two application periods in Round 2.

On April 21, 2023, the Governor signed into law the Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources (POWER) Act. The POWER Act established a new state goal of 8,500 MW of offshore wind generation. The law also requires the Commission to undertake a transmission study in coordination with PJM and the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and to open an application process to review and approve offshore wind transmission solutions in support of meeting the state's generation goal. The Commission is currently working on implementing the bill.

On January 25, 2024, Skipjack filed a notice withdrawing from its Round 1 and Round 2 OREC awards with the Commission due to economic and supply chain issues impacting the projects.

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<sup>5</sup> US Wind was awarded 2,513,752 ORECs per year at a price schedule equivalent to a levelized price of \$54.17 per OREC (2012\$) using a 2.0% price escalator, beginning on December 1, 2026, for a duration of 20 years. Skipjack was awarded 3,279,207 ORECs per year at a price schedule equivalent to a levelized price of \$71.61 per OREC (2012\$) using a 3.0% price escalator, beginning on December 1, 2026, for a duration of 20 years.

<sup>6</sup> Both projects were awarded ORECs with numerous conditions related to siting and project feasibility, minority investment and workforce opportunities, decommissioning, positive net economic benefits to Maryland, positive net environmental benefits to Maryland, projected net ratepayer impacts and OREC price schedules. Both companies accepted the conditions of the Commission's approval.

On May 9, 2024, House Bill 1296 (HB 1296) was signed into law directing the Commission to open a revised Round 2 offshore wind project proceeding limited to evaluating revised project schedules, sizes, or pricing for a previously approved Round 2 offshore wind project. HB 1296 also authorized the Commission to review similar requests for Round 1 offshore wind projects. The legislation also required the Commission, with the assistance of the Department of General Services (DGS), MEA, and other interested state units, to develop a plan for achieving a total of 8,500 MW of offshore wind energy capacity by 2031. The Commission opened [Public Conference 63](#) (PC63) to solicit input from industry and other interested parties. The Commission published the "[Maryland Offshore Wind Roadmap to 8.5 GW](#)" in December, 2024.

On May 10, 2024, the Commission issued a notice of revised Round 2 offshore wind project application review and directed interested developers to apply by August 1, 2024. On January 24, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91496 awarding ORECs to US Wind. US Wind files updates on its current and planned environmental research initiatives, supplier diversity, minority business enterprise participation goals, community benefit agreement implementation, and general progress with the Commission.

## Utility Rate Cases

### **Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's Application for an Electric and Gas Multi-Year Plan (Final Reconciliation)-Case No. [9645](#)**

ON APRIL 18, 2024, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) filed a letter requesting that the Commission schedule an evidentiary hearing to address the final reconciliation of its first multi-year plan (MYP) to be filed by the company and issue an order accepting the procedural schedule proposed. On April 22, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91102 setting the procedural schedule. BGE filed its final reconciliation on April 24, 2024 in which it noted that the company had under-recovered its approved 2023 electric distribution revenue requirement by approximately \$78.9 million and its gas distribution revenue requirement by approximately \$73.3 million.

Evidentiary hearings were held October 8-9, 2024. After suspending the remainder of the procedural schedule in late October 2024, on November 1, the Commission issued Order No. 91396 finding the prudency analysis provided by BGE was deficient and directed the parties to complete the record in a paper hearing. In their testimony, Staff and OPC both asserted that BGE failed to file testimony demonstrating that its project investments and costs were prudently incurred.

In Order No. 91412, issued on November 13, 2024, the Commission directed the parties to file a settlement status update by December 20, 2024, initial briefs by February 24, 2025, and reply briefs by March 21, 2025. On December 22, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 92106, granting the company a \$77.2 million true-up. The Commission noted that BGE overspent its budget in a number of program areas, but found that some of the company's spending would provide substantial reliability and other benefits to customers.

### **Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's Application for an Electric and Gas Multi-Year Plan-Case No. [9692](#)**

ON FEBRUARY 17, 2023, Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) filed an application with the Commission seeking approval of distribution rates under the company's second MYP. The application requested gas and electric rates totaling \$602 million, and a return on equity (ROE) of 10.4%, to be effective from January 1, 2024 through 2026.

On December 14, 2023, the Commission issued Order No. 90948 authorizing a revenue requirement of \$408 million over three years and approving an ROE of 9.5% for electric distribution services and 9.45% for BGE's gas distribution services. The Commission approved BGE's proposed budget of \$120 million associated with the new conduit agreement that the company executed with Baltimore City but determined that it would be subject to a future prudence review at the reconciliation stage of the rate case and all future rate cases until the costs are fully recovered.

The Commission denied OPC's request to terminate the MYP construct altogether, finding that switching to a traditional rate case after the start of the proceeding would have denied BGE its due process rights and also that it would not be appropriate to terminate MYPs in the confines of a single utility's rate case.

In January 2024, Amtrak and OPC filed motions for rehearing and Staff filed a request for clarification. On May 23, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91659 which denied OPC's and Amtrak's requests for rehearing, and provided clarification related to Staff's requests.

On May 30, 2024, Constellation Energy Generation, LLC and Constellation NewEnergy, Inc. filed a petition to intervene out of time in this case. Although the Commission denied a simultaneous request in Case No. 9645, this request was granted, since the Commission found it distinguishable from the request in that case and noted that there was still considerable time left in the 9692 proceeding with rates that would remain in effect through January 1, 2026 followed by a prudence review during the reconciliation process.

**Potomac Electric Power Company's Application for Adjustments to its Retail Rates for the Distribution of Electric Energy (Final Reconciliation)-Case No. [9655](#)**

[ON JUNE 28, 2024](#), Pepco filed an annual informational filing for year three of its multi-year rate plan, which stated that the company under-recovered its rate-year three revenue requirement by approximately \$30.6 million. On July 29, 2024, Pepco filed its rate-year three final reconciliation, seeking recovery of the \$30.6 million, and included direct testimony as well as a proposed procedural schedule. On August 20, 2024, the Commission approved the procedural schedule.

On September 20, 2024, AOBA filed a motion requesting that the Commission dismiss the final reconciliation filing and deny Pepco's requested recovery of the \$30.6 million. On October 8, 2024, OPC filed a letter in support of AOBA's motion and requested that the Commission suspend the procedural schedule pending its decision on AOBA's motion. On October 10, 2024, Pepco filed a response to AOBA and OPC, maintaining that the Commission should reject AOBA's motion and OPC's letter.

The Commission issued an order on October 11, 2024, denying AOBA's motion without prejudice and finding that there was not a sufficient record to dismiss Pepco's reconciliation filing. However, the Commission suspended the procedural schedule and directed the parties to file a new consensus procedural schedule. Pepco filed a revised consensus procedural schedule which the Commission approved on October 21, 2024. AOBA, OPC and Staff subsequently filed direct and rebuttal testimony. On January 8, 2025, AOBA filed another motion, to suspend or extend the procedural schedule and strike Pepco's rebuttal exhibits. AOBA requested that the Commission strike all Pepco rebuttal exhibits that were: (1) available to Pepco before the filing of its application for reconciliation and direct testimony on July 29, 2024, (2) other information not included in the July 29 filing, and (3) information offered as support for Pepco's rate year 3 capital expenditures and plant additions.

On January 27, 2025, after considering the motion, Pepco's response and AOBA's reply, the Commission granted AOBA's motion to extend the procedural schedule, and denied, without prejudice, AOBA's request to strike portions of Pepco's rebuttal and exhibits. On February 28, 2025, AOBA, Staff, Pepco and OPC filed their surrebuttal testimony. Hearings were held March 5, 6, 7 and 10, 2025.

On March 31, 2026, the Commission issued Order No. 92264 substantially denying much of Pepco's reconciliation request, approving \$13.36 million to be effective April 1, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

**Historical Oldtown Bridge Preservation, LLC's Application for Rate Increase for Charges and Tolls—Case No. [9712](#)**

**ON JULY 14, 2023**, Historical Oldtown Bridge Preservation, LLC filed an application for a rate increase for charges and tolls. The Commission docketed this matter as Case No. 9712 and delegated the proceedings to the PULJ Division but the proposed rates and charges were not suspended as an effective date was not specified by the applicant. At the August 17, 2023 pre-hearing conference, several deficiencies in the application were noted including the applicant's lack of legal representation. The applicant's request to proceed *pro se* was denied.

On September 29, 2023, Staff's request to waive the requirement to be represented by counsel for good cause was denied but Staff's request to conduct an investigation of whether the applicant's current rates are just and reasonable was granted. A virtual public comment hearing was held on May 28, 2025. On July 10, 2025 a contested evidentiary hearing was held. The parties filed initial briefs on August 8, 2025 and reply briefs on August 22, 2025. A proposed order was issued on September 25, 2025, authorizing the Historical Oldtown Bridge Preservation, LLC to collect an additional \$91,288 in annual toll revenues contingent on making outstanding repairs and compliance with certain reporting requirements. On October 16, 2025, Staff filed an appeal of the proposed order. The parties filed reply memoranda to Staff's appeal on November 5, 2025. The matter remains pending.

**Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, Sandpiper Energy, Inc., and Elkton Gas Company's Application for General Increase in their Natural Gas Rates and for Approval of Certain Other Changes to their Natural Gas Tariffs—Case No. [9722](#) – Phase II**

**ON JANUARY 30, 2024**, Chesapeake Utilities Corporation – Maryland Division, Sandpiper Energy, Inc., and Elkton Gas Company filed a Phase 2 Joint Application to increase the Companies' existing rates and charges and to revise terms and conditions for gas service. The Phase 2 Application requested:

- (a) authorization to assign or transfer all franchises held by Maryland Division and Sandpiper to Elkton, pursuant to PUA § 5-202;
- (b) authorization to unify the Companies' three separate tariffs into one;

- (c) incremental revenue requirement of \$903,996 per year to reflect the cost of the companies' new customer information and billing system;
- (d) approval of recovery of the revenue requirement associated with accounts receivable for unbilled and uncollected revenue of companies' approved Phase 1 annual rate increase of \$2.6 million from October 1, 2024 until rates are implemented over a period of four years (estimated at \$269,296 per year);
- (e) approval of the rate design and revenue allocation proposed in the Phase 2 Application for the total amount of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 revenue requirements; and
- (f) approval of a four-year "stay-out" provision relating to the timing of the companies' next rate case.

The parties in the case filed a settlement on February 28, 2025. Order No. 91620 denied the original filing and granted in part and denied in part the proposed settlement and required the following:

- (1) The companies were authorized to assign or transfer all franchises held by Maryland Division and Sandpiper to Elkton, pursuant to PUA § 5-202.
- (2) The companies were authorized to unify the companies' three separate tariffs into one with separate volumetric rates for each legacy service area (Maryland Division, Sandpiper, and Elkton Gas).
- (3) The Phase 2 incremental revenue requirement of \$896,806 per year for the companies' new customer information and billing system was approved.
- (4) The request to recover additional revenue back to October 1, 2024 was denied.
- (5) A total revenue requirement of \$3,496,806 was approved with allocation thereof based on Staff's recommended allocation in the case.
- (6) A rate design was authorized which included a two-year phase-in of rates for certain Elkton Gas customers, with no carrying charge associated, with the \$400,000 deferred to be placed in a regulatory asset to be collected over four years at \$100,000 per year (not earn a return).
- (7) The effective date of the revised tariff was subject to acceptance by the Commission.
- (8) The companies, once consolidated, would be subject to a four-year "stay-out" relating to the timing of the next rate case.

**Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.'s Application for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges—Case No. [9754](#)**

[COLUMBIA GAS OF MARYLAND, INC.](#) filed an application for authority to increase rates and charges for natural gas services on September 24, 2024 asking for an increase to its operating revenues by \$8.7 million, a 14.33 percent overall increase for the average customer. On September 24, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. On October 21, 2024, a pre-hearing conference was held at which time the motion to intervene filed by the Maryland Energy Administration was granted and a procedural schedule was issued. On

November 1, 2024, Columbia filed updated exhibits containing actual data through the end of the test year.

On November 22, 2024, Staff, OPC, and MEA filed direct testimony. On December 13, 2024, Columbia filed rebuttal testimony. Public comment hearings were held on December 18, 2024 in Hagerstown and on December 19, 2024 in Cumberland. On January 16, 2025, surrebuttal testimony was filed by Columbia, OPC, Staff, and MEA. On January 22, 2025, an evidentiary hearing was held. On February 14, 2025, briefs were filed by Columbia, MEA, Staff, and OPC. A proposed order was issued on March 18, 2025, granting the company a revenue requirement of \$7,819,559. The proposed order became final on April 22, 2025 as Order No. 91621.

**Maryland-American Water Company's Application for Authority to Revise its Rates, Charges, and Tariff Provisions for Water Service-Case No. [9808](#)**

[ON AUGUST 1, 2025](#), Maryland-American Water filed an application for authority to revise its rates, charges, and tariff provisions for water service in its Bel Air and Severn districts. The company requested an initial incremental revenue requirement of \$2,869,596 for the Bel Air District (a 47.5 percent increase) and \$129,722 for the Severn District (a 37 percent increase).

The Commission held a pre-hearing conference on September 8, 2025, and adopted a procedural schedule. Public comment hearings were held December 8, 2025 in Bel Air, and December 15, 2025 in Severn.

On January 8, 2026, Maryland-American Water filed a notice indicating that the company, OPC and Staff reached a settlement in principle that resolved all contested issues, and requested a suspension of the procedural schedule. The settlement agreement was filed on January 22, 2026; parties filed testimony in support of the settlement soon after. On February 5, 2026, the Commission held a settlement hearing to enter the parties' pre-filed testimony and the settlement into the record.

On February 26, 2026, the Commission issued an order approving the settlement and authorizing the company to increase base rate revenue for the Bel Air District by \$1,950,000 (to be phased in over two years, per the settlement agreement) and to increase the revenue requirement for the Severn District by \$29,866.

**Potomac Electric Power Company's Application for Adjustments to its Retail Rates for the Distribution of Electric Energy-Case No. [9820](#)**

[ON OCTOBER 14, 2025](#), Pepco filed a request seeking to increase the company's revenue requirement by \$133 million – based on a fully-forecasted test year. The company also sought a return on equity (ROE) of 10.5 percent. At a pre-hearing conference on November 18, 2025, the Commission considered a proposed procedural schedule, a motion to dismiss by the Apartment and Office Building Association of Metropolitan Washington (AOBA), and a petition by the Office of People's Counsel to convert the case into a historic test year proceeding. In a December 8,

2025 order, the Commission adopted a procedural schedule and denied AOBA's motion and OPC's request. Public comment hearings are scheduled for April 14 and 17, 2026; evidentiary hearings are scheduled to begin April 27, 2026. This matter remains pending.

**The Town of Thurmont, Maryland's Application for the Authority to Increase its Rates for Electric Service - Case No. [9833](#)**

[THE TOWN OF THURMONT](#) filed an application for authority to increase rates for electric service on November 14, 2025, asking to increase its electric revenues through distribution rates by \$1,114,138. On November 17, 2025, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. On December 8, 2025, a pre-hearing conference was held. On February 4, 2026, Staff and OPC filed direct testimony. On February 24, 2026, Thurmont and OPC filed rebuttal testimony and Staff filed supplemental direct testimony. On March 10, 2026, OPC and Staff filed surrebuttal testimony. On March 11, 2026, a public comment hearing was held at the Thurmont Town Hall. This matter remains pending.

**Washington Gas Light Company's Application for Authority to Increase Rates and Charges for Natural Gas Services-Case No. [9849](#)**

[ON DECEMBER 29, 2025](#), Washington Gas Light filed a request to increase its annual base rate revenues by \$82.5 million, with an incremental increase of \$67.1 million after the inclusion of the company's Commission-approved Strategic Infrastructure Development and Enhancement (STRIDE) revenue requirements. Washington Gas' proposed rate design would result in a total bill increase of about 5.3% for the average residential customer.

Following a pre-hearing conference on January 27, 2026, the Commission issued a procedural schedule. Public comment hearings are scheduled for March 24, 2026, and April 7, 2026. Evidentiary hearings are scheduled to begin May 18, 2026. This matter remains pending.

## **Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) Cases—Applications, Modifications, and Waivers**

### **Kumquat & Citron Cleantech, LLC’s CPCN Application to Construct a 7.2 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Wicomico County-Case No. [9694](#)**

ON MARCH 15, 2023, Kumquat & Citron Cleantech, LLC filed an application for a CPCN to construct an approximate 7.2 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Wicomico County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on March 16, 2023 and the application was deemed administratively complete on May 1, 2023 with a procedural schedule issued on May 2, 2023. A virtual public comment hearing was held on July 10, 2023.

On October 4, 2023, Staff filed a motion to suspend the procedural schedule due to PJM Interconnection, LLC’s suspension of the studies for the project’s interconnection queue which would not be restarted until 2025. On October 5, 2023, Staff’s motion was granted.

On November 6, 2025, Kumquat filed a request to resume proceedings, and on December 8, 2025, a notice of procedural schedule was issued. This matter remains pending.

### **Chaberton Solar Wild Turkey, LLC’s CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Frederick County-Case No. [9717](#)**

ON OCTOBER 13, 2023, Chaberton Solar Wild Turkey, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW community solar facility in Frederick County. On October 13, 2023, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. An initial public comment hearing was held virtually on May 22, 2024. Two additional public comment hearings were held in Thurmont on October 7, 2024 and December 3, 2024 and the period to receive written comments was extended to December 12, 2024.

On December 16, 2024, an evidentiary hearing was held and several bench data requests were issued. On January 7, 2025, a proposed order was issued granting the CPCN subject to revised recommended licensing conditions. On February 7, 2025, the proposed order became final by Order No. 91514.

### **Crockett Solar I, LLC’s CPCN Application to Construct a 61.20 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Talbot County, Maryland-Case No. [9723](#)**

ON JANUARY 31, 2024, Chaberton Solar Pahar, LLC, filed an application for a CPCN to construct a 61.20 MW solar generating facility in Talbot County. On February 1, 2024, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On March 15, 2024, PPRP recommended the application be deemed administratively complete. On April 23, 2024, the Talbot County Commissioners filed a petition to intervene. On April 25, 2024, the County’s petition was granted and a procedural schedule was issued.

On July 15, 2024, an initial public comment hearing was held virtually. PPRP, Staff, and the County filed testimony and proposed license conditions in response to the application. A second in-person public comment hearing was held on November 7, 2024. Also on that date, the applicant filed a letter advising that it would not contest the proposed license conditions. On November 12, 2024, a settlement hearing was held. On December 9, 2024, PPRP filed corrected license conditions, and on December 18, 2024, a proposed order was issued approving the application, subject to PPRP's, Staff's, and the County's license conditions. On January 17, 2025, the proposed order became final by Order No. 91485.

**Chaberton Solar Pine Rock LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9725](#)**

[ON FEBRUARY 23, 2024](#), Chaberton Solar Pine Rock LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 3.0 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Carroll County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on February 27, 2024. Public hearings were held on June 26, 2024 and October 9, 2024. On October 3, 2024, PPRP filed testimony, the DNR/MDE Secretarial letter, initial recommended license conditions, and a project assessment report (PAR). Bench data requests were issued on October 8, 2024 to which PPRP responded on October 15, 2024. On October 11, 2024, Chaberton filed supplemental testimony and presented an updated conceptual site plan. On October 21 and 22, 2024, PPRP filed supplemental testimony. After an evidentiary hearing on October 23, 2024, PPRP filed revised supplemental testimony, revised PAR, updated glare analysis, and revised recommended license conditions. On November 7, 2024, additional bench data requests were issued to PPRP. On November 14, 2024, a bench data request was issued to Staff; Staff responded on November 18, 2024. Responses to bench data requests were received from PPRP and Chaberton on November 22, 2024 and November 26, 2024.

On January 8, 2025, a proposed order was issued denying the application with leave to amend. Chaberton filed a Motion for Leave to Amend and File Supplemental Testimony. By Order No. 91520, the Commission remanded the matter for further proceedings. Supplemental testimony was filed, and a proposed order was issued on April 8, 2025 granting the CPCN subject to license conditions. On April 23, 2025, the proposed order became final by Order No. 91622.

**Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf I LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Montgomery County, Maryland-Case No. [9726](#)**

[ON MARCH 4, 2024](#), Chaberton Solar Sugarloaf I LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.0 MW solar generating facility in Montgomery County. On March 5, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. On April 10, 2024, the application was deemed administratively complete. On May 8, 2024, a pre-hearing conference was held at which time the motions to intervene of Montgomery County and The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) were granted and a procedural schedule was set.

On June 19, 2024, the applicant filed direct testimony and a decommissioning plan. On June 25, 2024, a public comment hearing was held virtually. On July 28, 2024, a petition to intervene out

of time was filed jointly by the Sugarloaf Citizens Association, the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, the Montgomery County Farm Bureau, and Montgomery Agricultural Producers—the motion to intervene was granted on August 14, 2024. On August 28, 2024, the applicant filed supplemental direct testimony.

On September 23, 2024, the procedural schedule was amended at the request of the Parties. On January 13, 2025 the applicant filed a revised site plan. On January 15, 2025, the applicant filed an updated decommissioning plan. On January 24, 2025, PPRP, Staff, Montgomery County, the M-NCPPC, and the Montgomery Countryside Alliance filed direct testimony and OPC filed a letter in lieu of direct testimony.

On February 7, 2025 the applicant filed a settlement status update and a new notice of amended procedural schedule. On February 21, 2025, the applicant filed rebuttal testimony. On February 24, 2025, a public comment hearing was held in Beallsville. On March 7, 2025, the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, *et. al.* filed surrebuttal testimony. On April 1, 2025, PPRP filed revised recommended license conditions. On March 11, 2025, the Commission granted the Applicant's request for an extension of time to render a decision on the application.

On April 22, 2025, an evidentiary hearing was held. On May 5, 2025, Montgomery County filed a response to bench data request number 1. On May 16, 2025, PPRP filed a letter in lieu of post-hearing brief. On May 20, 2025, the applicant, Montgomery Countryside Alliance, *et. al.*, and Staff filed post-hearing briefs and Montgomery County and M-NCPPC filed a letter in lieu of post-hearing brief. On November 12, 2025, a proposed order was issued granting the CPCN subject to Staff, PPRP, and M-NCPPC's recommended license conditions. On December 12, 2025, Montgomery Countryside Alliance, *et. al.* filed a notice of appeal and brief. On December 23, 2025, the applicant filed a reply memorandum. On March 24, 2026, the Commission issued Order No. 92255, affirming the PULJ's proposed order.

**Bear Branch Solar LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9730](#)**

**ON APRIL 1, 2024**, Bear Branch Solar, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.0 MW community solar energy generating system in Carroll County. The Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On May 16, 2024, PPRP recommended the application be deemed administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held on June 13, 2024 and a procedural schedule was issued.

An initial public comment hearing was held virtually on August 20, 2024. A second public comment hearing was held jointly with the President of the Board of Carroll County Commissioners on December 2, 2024 in Westminster.

On December 5, 2024, the applicant filed a settlement status update advising it would not contest the recommended license conditions proposed by Staff and PPRP. On December 17, 2024, an evidentiary hearing was held and several bench data requests were issued. A proposed order

granting the CPCN subject to Staff and PPRP's recommended license conditions was issued on January 31, 2025, which became final on March 4, 2025, by Order No. 91548.

**Chaberton Solar Ramiere LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.0 Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Montgomery County, Maryland-Case No. [9733](#)**

[ON APRIL 18, 2024](#), Chaberton Solar Ramiere, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 3.0 MW solar generating facility in Montgomery County. On April 19, 2024, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On May 29, 2024, PPRP recommended that the application be deemed administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held on June 25, 2024 and a procedural schedule was issued. An initial public comment hearing was held virtually on August 22, 2024.

On September 27, 2024, the procedural schedule was amended pursuant to the parties' request. On April 14, 2025, a second evening public comment hearing was held in Beallsville.

On May 15, 2025, PPRP, Staff, Montgomery County, the M-NCPPC, and the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, *et. al.* filed direct testimony. On May 19, 2025, a third public comment hearing was held virtually, and OPC filed a letter in lieu of direct testimony. On May 27, 2025, the applicant filed a settlement status update. On June 17, 2025, the applicant filed rebuttal testimony. On July 1, 2025, the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, *et. al.* filed surrebuttal testimony. On October 3, 2025, PPRP filed revised recommended license conditions. On October 14, 2025, the applicant filed a settlement status update.

On October 2, 2025, an evidentiary hearing was held. On October 23, 2025, the applicant, Montgomery Countryside Alliance, *et. al.*, and Staff filed post-hearing briefs and M-NCPPC filed a letter in lieu of post-hearing brief. On November 6, 2025, the applicant, Staff, and Montgomery Countryside Alliance *et. al.* filed reply briefs and PPRP and M-NCPPC filed letters in lieu of reply briefs. On November 20, 2025, a proposed order granting the CPCN subject to Staff, PPRP, and M-NCPPC's recommended license conditions was issued. On December 22, 2025, Montgomery Countryside Alliance, *et. al.* filed a notice of appeal and memorandum on appeal. On December 30, 2025, the applicant filed a reply memorandum.

**Chaberton Solar Sunshine LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9735](#)**

[ON APRIL 22, 2024](#), Chaberton Solar Sunshine, LLC filed a CPCN Application to construct a 3.0 MW solar generating facility in Carroll County. On April 22, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ division. On June 12, 2024, the application was deemed administratively complete. On June 26, 2024, Carroll County filed a petition to intervene which was granted. On October 30, 2024, the applicant filed direct testimony and a decommissioning plan. On November 13, 2024, a virtual public comment hearing was held. On March 7, 2025, the applicant filed supplemental direct testimony. Public comment hearings were held on April 8 and June 5, 2025. Direct, rebuttal, and surrebuttal testimony was filed. On October 7, 2025, an evidentiary

hearing was held and bench data requests were issued to PPRP and Carroll County. On October 9, 2025, PPRP filed revised recommended license conditions. On October 17, 2025, the County responded to a bench request with the County's recommendations in the case, and on October 20, 2025, the County filed its initial brief. On October 21, 2025, Chaberton and Staff filed initial briefs. On November 5, 2025, Chaberton, the County, and Staff filed reply briefs. A proposed order was issued on November 12, 2025 denying the CPCN. Chaberton filed an appeal of the proposed order. On April 10, 2026, the Commission issued Order No. 92284, which denied the applicant's appeal and affirmed the PULJ's decision.

**Spring Valley Solar 1, LLC 's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.25 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9736](#)**

[ON APRIL 23, 2024](#), Spring Valley Solar 1, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 2.25 MW solar generating facility in Carroll County. On that same day, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division.

On September 25, 2024, an initial public comment hearing was held virtually. Carroll County, PPRP, and Staff all filed testimony in response to the application. A second public comment hearing was held in person on January 9, 2025. Rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony was filed, and an evidentiary hearing was held on February 26, 2025. Responses to bench data requests were received and the parties filed initial and reply briefs. A proposed order was issued on May 7, 2025, granting the CPCN. The proposed order was appealed by Carroll County. On April 7, 2026, the Commission issued Order No. 92278 denying Carroll County's appeal and affirming the PULJ's grant of the CPCN.

**Chaberton Solar Orchard Hill LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.24 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Queen Anne's County, Maryland-Case No. [9739](#)**

[ON MAY 10, 2024](#), Chaberton Solar Orchard Hill LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 3.24 MW solar facility in Queen Anne's County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on May 13, 2024. A public comment hearing was held on January 7, 2025 in Queen Anne's County. An evidentiary hearing was held on April 15, 2025. A proposed order was issued on May 1, 2025 granting the CPCN subject to license conditions which became final by Order No. 91651 on May 16, 2025.

**Pocomoke City Community Energy Initiative LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Worcester County, Maryland-Case No. [9740](#)**

[ON MAY 20, 2024](#), Pocomoke City Community Energy Initiative, LLC filed a CPCN application for the Pocomoke City Solar Project in Worcester County. On May 20, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. A public comment hearing was held on January 23, 2025 in Worcester County. An evidentiary hearing was held on January 28, 2025. On August 20, 2025, a proposed order was issued granting the CPCN subject to license conditions. The proposed order became final by Order No. 91838 on September 22, 2025.

**TPE MD KE51, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Kent County, Maryland-Case No. [9742](#)**

ON MAY 22, 2024, TPE MD KE51, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW solar generating facility in Kent County. On that same day, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On August 5, 2025, the Kent County Commissioners filed a petition to intervene which was granted.

On October 3, 2024, an initial public comment hearing was held virtually. A public comment hearing was held on February 19, 2025 in Kent County. An evidentiary hearing was held on March 5, 2025. Post hearing briefs were filed. A proposed order granting the CPCN subject to license conditions was issued on May 22, 2025. On June 13, 2025, TPE MD KE51 filed a Request for Modification/Clarification of CPCN Conditions. A ruling on the request was issued on June 18, 2025. The proposed order became final with Order No. 91699 issued on June 24, 2025.

**Croom Road Solar, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Prince George's County, Maryland-Case No. [9743](#)**

ON JUNE 11, 2024, Croom Road Solar, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW community solar energy generating system in Prince George's County. On June 12, 2024, the Commission docketed the case and delegated it to the PULJ Division. Public comment hearings were held on October 24, 2024 and on February 3, 2025.

On February 18, 2025, the applicant indicated the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission had not completed the mandatory referral process and therefore the procedural schedule was suspended. On April 25, PPRP filed supplemental direct testimony and revised recommended license conditions. On May 20, 2025, an evidentiary hearing was continued and several bench data requests were issued. On May 27, 2025, PPRP filed revised recommended license conditions. On June 2, 2025, the evidentiary hearing concluded. A proposed order granting the CPCN subject to Staff and PPRP's recommended license conditions was issued on June 6, 2025, which became final on July 8, 2025, by Order No. 91725.

**Elk Development, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.142 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9746](#)**

ON JULY 8, 2024, Elk Development, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 2.142 MW community solar energy generating facility and associated interconnection facilities in Carroll County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on July 8, 2024. A public comment hearing was held on March 24, 2025 in Carroll County. A proposed order granting the CPCN subject to license conditions was issued on April 15, 2025, which became final on April 30, 2025, by Order No. 91630.

**Elk Development, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.125 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9747](#)**

[ON JULY 9, 2024](#), Elk Development, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct the 2.125 MW Cape Horn Solar Project in Carroll County. On July 10, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. An in-person public comment hearing was held on March 5, 2025 in Carroll County. A virtual public comment hearing was held on March 26, 2025. An evidentiary hearing was held April 21, 2025. PPRP filed revised recommended license conditions. A proposed order was issued on October 22, 2025 granting the CPCN subject to license conditions. The proposed order became final by Order No. 92049 issued November 24, 2025.

**Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's CPCN Application for the Brandon Shores Retirement Mitigation Project-Case No. [9748](#)**

[BGE FILED ITS](#) CPCN application on July 11, 2024. The Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division on July 15, 2024. On August 19, 2024, a pre-hearing conference was held at which time Constellation Energy Generation, LLC and Constellation NewEnergy, Inc.'s petition to intervene was granted and a procedural schedule was issued. On September 16, 2024 and September 19, 2024, the Sierra Club filed a petition to intervene, which was granted. On March 14, 2024, Staff, OPC, and PPRP filed direct testimony. Public comment hearings were held on April 9, 2025 in Harford County, April 10, 2025 in Anne Arundel County, and April 23, 2025 in Baltimore County. On May 8, 2025, PPRP filed supplemental direct testimony. On May 16, 2025, BGE and PPRP filed rebuttal testimony. On June 13, 2025, BGE and PPRP filed surrebuttal testimony. On August 29, 2025, BGE filed a stipulation and agreement with OPC and PPRP. On September 22, 2025, Staff filed comments on stipulation and agreement.

On September 24, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91835 granting William Zink and John Zink and the Trust of Dorothy A. Zink petitions to intervene and granting Mark Kukucka *amicus* status for the purpose of submitting post-hearing briefs. On October 1, 2025, Jonathan Gunter, Lester C. Schott, Rosalie Schott Living Trust, and Rhonda Conover were granted limited intervention. On October 6, 2025, David Button was granted limited intervention. On October 8, 2025, John and Patricia von Paris were granted limited intervention.

On October 1, 2025, Rhonda Conover filed exhibits. On October 2, 2025, William Zink, Jr., John Zink, and Doris Erice on behalf of the Trust of Dorothy Zink filed comments and exhibits. On October 2, 2025, Jonathan Gunter filed exhibits. On October 10, 2025, PPRP filed final revised recommended license conditions and testimony. Evidentiary hearings were held on October 14, 2025 and October 15, 2025. On October 24, 2025 and November 7, 2025, BGE filed responses to Bench Data Request No. 1. On November 7, 2025, initial briefs were filed by BGE, PPRP, Staff, Sierra Club, Joint Limited Intervenor, Dave Button, Dr. Kukucka, and Jonathan Gunter, and OPC filed a letter to the parties regarding post-hearing brief. On November 24, 2025, reply briefs were filed by BGE, Staff, Dave Button, John and Patricia von Paris, Jonathan Gunter, Joint Limited Intervenor, and Dr. Kukucka and PPRP and OPC filed letters in lieu of reply brief. A proposed order was issued on March 19, 2026 granting the CPCN. On April 6, 2026, Lauren Heiser filed an appeal of the proposed order. This matter remains pending.

**Chaberton Solar Beartooth LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.67 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9752](#)**

ON SEPTEMBER 5, 2024, Chaberton Solar Beartooth, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 2.67 MW solar generating facility in Carroll County. On that day, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On January 13, 2025, an initial public comment hearing was held virtually. A second public hearing was held April 30, 2025 in Carroll County. An evidentiary hearing was held on May 13, 2025. A proposed order was issued on June 6, 2025 granting the CPCN subject to license conditions. The proposed order became final on July 8, 2025 by Order No. 91724.

**Econox Renewables Inc.'s CPCN Application to Construct a 2.04 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Somerset County, Maryland-Case No. [9753](#)**

ON SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, Econox Renewables Inc. filed a CPCN application to construct a 2.04 MW community solar energy generating facility and associated interconnection facilities in Somerset County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on September 9, 2024. A public comment hearing was held May 15, 2025 in Somerset County. A proposed order denying the application was issued on July 23, 2025. Supplemental testimony was filed, and a proposed order granting the CPCN application was issued on August 25, 2025. The proposed order became final by Order No. 91886 issued September 26, 2025.

**TPE MD PR53, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct 4 Co-located Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facilities Totaling 15 MWAC in Prince George's County, Maryland-Case No. [9755](#)**

ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2024, TPE MD PR53, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct four co-located community solar power generating systems with a combined total output of 15 MW. The projects are proposed to be located in Prince George's County. On September 25, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. A public comment hearing was held on May 21, 2025 in Prince George's County. A proposed order was issued on July 2, 2025 granting the CPCN subject to license conditions. The proposed order became final by Order No. 91766 issued August 5, 2025.

**Chaberton Solar Pahar LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Caroline County, Maryland-Case No. [9759](#)**

ON OCTOBER 17, 2024, Chaberton Solar Pahar LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 3.0 MW community solar energy generating system in Caroline County. On October 18, 2024, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division.

On November 27, 2024, the Caroline County Commissioners filed a petition to intervene. On December 2, 2024, PPRP recommended the application be deemed administratively complete and on the same date, the County alleged deficiencies of COMAR's pre-application requirements.

The parties filed responses and arguments were heard at the pre-hearing conference on January 31, 2025. Additionally at the hearing, the County's petition to intervene was granted and the PULJ ruled Chaberton Solar Pahar LLC satisfied the COMAR requirements.

On March 3, 2025, an initial virtual public comment hearing was held jointly with the President of the Caroline County Commissioners and on June 12, 2025 an in-person public comment hearing was held in Caroline County.

The parties filed direct, rebuttal and surrebuttal testimony. On July 31, 2025, a contested evidentiary hearing was held and several bench data requests were issued. On September 2, 2025, the parties filed initial briefs and on September 16, 2025 reply briefs were filed. A proposed order granting the CPCN subject to Staff and PPRP's recommended license conditions was issued on October 20, 2025, which became final on November 20, 2025, by Order No. 92047.

**Elk Development, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.5 MW Solar Photovoltaic Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9763](#)**

[ON NOVEMBER 6, 2024](#), Elk Development, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 2.5 MW solar generating facility in Carroll County. On that day, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. Staff and PPRP recommended the Commission grant a CPCN for the project and filed recommended license conditions. An in-person public comment hearing was held on July 8, 2025 in Carroll County. An uncontested evidentiary hearing was held on November 20, 2025. A proposed order granting the CPCN subject to Staff and PPRP's recommended license conditions (with certain modifications incorporated to PPRP's recommended license conditions) was issued on December 8, 2025. The proposed order became final on January 8, 2026.

**Ruthsburg Rd Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Community Solar Energy Generating Facility in Queen Anne's County, Maryland-Case No. [9764](#)**

[RUTHSBURG RD SOLAR 1](#), LLC filed an application for a CPCN on November 21, 2024. The application was deemed administratively complete on January 15, 2025. A pre-hearing conference was held on February 7, 2025. The applicant filed direct testimony and a decommissioning plan on March 21, 2025. The first public comment hearing was held virtually on March 25, 2025. A second public comment hearing was held in Queen Anne's County on July 16, 2025. A proposed order was issued on December 15, 2025 granting the CPCN subject to license conditions. The proposed order became final by Order No. 92136 issued on January 15, 2026.

**Halo Colora LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County, Maryland-Case No. [9765](#)**

[ON DECEMBER 3, 2024](#), Halo Colora LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW community solar energy generating facility and associated interconnection facilities in Cecil County. On December 3, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. On

July 22, 2025, a public hearing was held in Cecil County. An evidentiary hearing was held August 19, 2025. A proposed order granting the CPCN was issued on August 28, 2025. The proposed order became final by Order No. 91891 issued October 9, 2025.

**Delmarva Power & Light Company's CPCN Application to Rebuild an Existing 138 KV Overhead Transmission Line on Existing Right-of-Way from the Piney Grove Substation in Wicomico County, Maryland to the Maryland/Virginia State Line-Case No. [9766](#)**

**ON DECEMBER 4, 2024**, Delmarva Power & Light Company filed a CPCN application to rebuild 20.7 miles of the Maryland portion of the Piney Grove-New Church 138 kV transmission line that spans from Delmarva Power's Piney Grove Substation in Salisbury to its New Church Substation in New Church, Virginia. On December 6, 2024, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division.

On August 8, 2025, the parties filed direct testimony. A public comment hearing was held virtually on August 19, 2025. On September 10, 2025, the parties filed rebuttal testimony. On September 16, 2025, the parties advised there was an agreement to grant the CPCN subject to the recommended license conditions proposed by PPRP and Staff. On September 25, 2025, an evidentiary hearing was held to enter testimony and exhibits into the record. A proposed order granting the CPCN was issued on October 27, 2025 which became final on November 27, 2025 by Order No. 92064.

**Halo Warwick LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Kent County, Maryland-Case No. [9767](#)**

**ON DECEMBER 10, 2024**, Halo Warwick LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW community solar energy generating system in Kent County. On that date, the matter was docketed and delegated to the PULJ Division. On February 10, 2025, the application was deemed administratively complete. A pre-hearing conference was held on March 13, 2025. A procedural schedule and discovery guidelines were established.

Public comment hearings were held May 8, 2025, and September 3, 2025. On August 15, 2025, PPRP and Staff filed direct testimony recommending approval of the application subject to recommended license conditions. An evidentiary hearing was held on October 9, 2025, and several bench data requests were issued. A proposed order approving the application with license conditions was issued on November 13, 2025, which became final on December 16, 2025, by Order No. 92083.

**Jade Meadow III LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 300 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facilities in Garrett and Allegany Counties, Maryland-Case No. [9769](#)**

**ON DECEMBER 20, 2024**, Jade Meadow III LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 300 MW solar generating facility in Garrett and Allegany counties. On that date, the matter was docketed and delegated to the PULJ Division.

On April 15, 2025, a virtual public comment hearing was held. On August 5 and 6, 2025 public comment hearings were held in person in Allegany and Garrett counties.

On August 1, 2025, PPRP and Staff filed direct testimony and recommended license conditions. On August 15, 2025, PPRP filed revised license conditions, and Jade Meadow advised it would not contest the license conditions filed by PPRP and Staff. On September 9, 2025, an evidentiary hearing was held and several bench data requests were issued. A proposed order was issued on October 21, 2025 approving the application subject to final license conditions, which became a final order on November 21, 2025 by Order No. 324633.

**Chaberton Solar Victoria LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.25 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Montgomery County, Maryland-Case No. [9770](#)**

[ON DECEMBER 20, 2024](#), Chaberton Solar Victoria LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.25 MW community solar energy generating facility in Montgomery County. The project is anticipated to be constructed on approximately 25.04 acres of a 42-acre property in Germantown. On December 20, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. On August 13, 2025, Chaberton filed a motion to withdraw its application; the motion was granted the same day and the docket was closed.

**Wicomico Wilber Solar 1, LLC, Wicomico Wilber Solar 2, LLC, Wicomico Wilber Solar Project 3, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct 3 Co-Located Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facilities Totaling 15.00 MW Wicomico County, Maryland-Case No. [9771](#)**

[WICOMICO WILBER SOLAR 1](#), LLC, Wicomico Wilber Solar 2, LLC, Wicomico Wilber Solar Project 3, LLC filed a CPCN application on December 23, 2024 to construct three co-located solar generating facilities totaling 15.0 MW in Wicomico County. The matter was delegated to the PULJ Division on December 23, 2024. On April 23, 2025, the applicants filed direct testimony. On May 5, 2025, an initial public hearing was held virtually. On July 11, 2025, the applicants filed supplemental direct testimony. On August 5, 2025, PPRP and Staff filed direct testimony. On August 13, 2025, a second public hearing was held in Salisbury. On September 2, 2025, the applicants filed supplemental direct testimony. On September 12, 2025, PPRP filed supplemental testimony. On September 18, 2025, the applicants filed supplemental direct testimony and a settlement status update. An evidentiary hearing was held November 3, 2025. A proposed order was issued on January 21, 2026 approving the application subject to final license conditions, which became a final order on February 6, 2026 by Order No. 92175.

**TPE MD WO73, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Worcester County, Maryland-Case No. [9772](#)**

[ON DECEMBER 23, 2024](#), TPE MD WO73, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW community solar generating facility in Worcester County. On that date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On March 10, 2025, a pre-hearing conference was held in which the Worcester County Commissioners' petition to intervene was granted. A

public comment hearing was held on September 11, 2025. An evidentiary hearing was held on November 5, 2025. Post hearing briefs were filed. A proposed order was issued on January 13, 2026 granting the CPCN subject to license conditions. The proposed order became final with Order No. 92192 issued February 13, 2026.

**PSEG Renewable Transmission LLC 's CPCN Application to Construct a New 500 kV Transmission Line in Portions of Baltimore, Carroll, and Frederick Counties—Case No. [9773](#)**

**ON DECEMBER 31, 2024**, PSEG Renewable Transmission LLC filed an application for a CPCN to build a 500 kV overhead transmission line through Baltimore, Carroll and Frederick counties. In its application, PSEG RT asserted that the project, known as the Maryland Piedmont Reliability Project (MPRP) is “critically needed to prevent severe, extensive, and widespread reliability violations on the existing 500 kV transmission system that serves Maryland and its surrounding states. If unaddressed, these violations could compromise overall system reliability in the PJM region, including for Maryland customers, and could lead to widespread and extreme conditions in 2027, such as system collapse and blackouts.”

PSEG’s application followed a summer of pre-filing public informational meetings held by the applicant in which strong community opposition was organized. After numerous comments and inquiries by members of the public and elected officials—and because there was no case or docket—the Commission established a dedicated email address for inquiries prior to the filing of the application. After the application was filed, those emailed comments were added to the public comments portal for the case.

On January 10, 2025, the Commission issued a notice of intervention deadline of February 17, 2025 and requested that PPRP file its determination of administrative completeness by March 26, 2025. When it was noted that the intervention deadline fell on a holiday, the Commission extended it one week to February 24, 2025.

On March 26, 2025, PPRP filed its determination that the application was not administratively complete because it lacked information required under COMAR 20.79.01.06K(2). On the same day, PSEG filed a motion requesting that the Commission promptly schedule a pre-hearing conference to allow the Commission to rule on the multiple petitions to intervene, address the administrative completeness of the company’s application, and adopt a procedural schedule in the case.

On April 1, 2025, the Commission issued a notice and request for comments regarding the intervention requests in which the company asked the Commission to:

- (1) grant the individual landowner’s petitions to intervene identified by the company as well as the petitions to intervene filed by the four local governments/elected officials, and Potomac Edison, and,
- (2) designate the individual non-adjacent landowner petitioners identified by the company and the specialty interest organizations referenced in its motion as “interested

persons” in this proceeding. (The purpose of this designation as “interested persons” as opposed to intervenors would be to limit these parties’ involvement in these proceedings to the filing of written public comments and participation in future public hearings).

On May 9, 2025, the Commission granted 116 petitions filed by landowners whose property is on or adjacent to the project’s route; granted the petitions for intervention filed by Baltimore County, Frederick County, Carroll County and Maryland Delegate Nino Mangione; granted the petitions to intervene filed by the public interests groups STOP MPRP, the Land Preservation Trust, the Maryland Farm Bureau, the Sierra Club, the Gunpowder Riverkeeper and the Potomac Riverkeeper Network; and designated as ‘interested persons’ the landowners whose properties are not on or adjacent to the project’s route.

A virtual pre-hearing conference was held on June 10, 2025. On June 26, 2025, the Commission issued an order that, among other things, directed PSEG to provide PPRP with additional details regarding its study on alternative routes; granted intervenor status to additional parties and denied Stop MPRP’s request for a show cause order. Stop MPRP had alleged that PSEG violated *ex parte* rules by backing the creation of a transmission development advocacy group.

The Commission issued a procedural schedule on September 11, 2025. Due to its agreement with PJM, PSEG had indicated it was unable to consent to any schedule that would not permit the project to meet its June 1, 2027 in-service date. Staff’s filing specified a schedule proposed by PPRP which targeted a final order date of March 26, 2027. In setting a procedural schedule that included post-hearing reply briefs due mid-February 2027, the Commission emphasized that it must perform its required statutory public interest review and the schedule proposed by PSEG did not allow the Commission to do so.

The procedural order anticipates a series of public comment hearings to take place the last two weeks of September 2026, with evidentiary hearings scheduled to take place starting December 8, 2026.

Subsequent to the order, PSEG filed a response noting its objection to the procedural schedule; the Maryland Farm Bureau filed a motion to dismiss PSEG’s CPCN application altogether. PSEG requested that the Commission deny the motion to dismiss. In mid-November, PSEG noted that it had adjusted the proposed right-of-way and asked the Commission to issue a notice allowing newly-impacted landowners the chance to intervene in the case. On November 24, 2025, the Commission issued a notice giving landowners impacted by the route adjustment 10 days to file for intervention. The notice also requested comments on the motion to dismiss and PSEG’s opposition.

On February 6, 2026, the Commission issued an order denying the Maryland Farm Bureau’s motion to dismiss, noting that it found no procedural or legal basis to dismiss the application prior to the development of a full evidentiary record. On April 2, 2026, PPRP filed a status report requesting the Commission modify the procedural schedule, noting that most of the field studies still had not been completed by PSEG. This matter remains pending.

**Halo GB2 LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.5 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Caroline County-Case No. [9774](#)**

ON JANUARY 16, 2025, Halo GB2 LLC filed an application for a CPCN to construct a 4.5 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Caroline County. On that date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. An in-person public hearing was held on September 25, 2025, and an additional public hearing was held virtually on October 9, 2025. An evidentiary hearing was held on October 30, 2025. On November 13, 2025, PPRP filed revised recommended license conditions. A proposed order was issued on December 2, 2025 approving the application subject to final license conditions. The proposed order became final with Order No. 92117 issued on January 5, 2026.

**Harkins Lane Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County, Maryland-Case No. [9775](#)**

ON JANUARY 22, 2025, Harkins Lane Solar 1, LLC filed an application for a CPCN to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Cecil County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On April 10, 2025, Laura Mulderig's petition to intervene was granted. A virtual public hearing was held on May 27, 2025 and an in-person hearing was held on September 18, 2025. On October 28, 2025, an evidentiary hearing was held. A proposed order was issued on November 21, 2025, approving the application subject to final license conditions. The proposed order became final on December 23, 2025 by Order No. 92116.

**Halo NE2, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct at 4.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County, Maryland-Case No. [9776](#)**

ON JANUARY 27, 2025, Halo NE2, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 3.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Cecil County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On October 17, 2025, Halo NE2, LLC filed an amended CPCN application to construct a 4.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Cecil County. The Commission updated the caption of the case to reflect the increased generating capacity of the amended application. This matter remains pending.

**Amish Road Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Garrett County-Case No. [9777](#)**

ON JANUARY 29, 2025, Amish Road Solar 1, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 megawatt alternating current solar photovoltaic facility in Garrett County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division.

On October 29, 2025, a public hearing was held at Grantsville Fire Department. On November 6, 2025, PPRP filed revised recommended license conditions. On November 13, 2025, a hearing for taking evidence was held. A proposed order was issued on December 5, 2025 approving the

application subject to final license conditions. The proposed order became final by Order No. 92118 on January 6, 2026.

**Halo NE1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County - Case No. [9779](#)**

ON FEBRUARY 11, 2025, Halo NE1, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 3.45 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Cecil County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On June 30, 2025, a virtual public comment hearing was held. On September 16, 2025, the procedural schedule was suspended and Halo NE1, LLC was directed to file an amended application. On October 13, 2025, an amended application was filed changing the generating capacity of the proposed project from 3.45 MW to 5.0 MW. On February 25, 2026 a public hearing was held in Cecil County. The matter remains pending.

**Clyde Young Road Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Frederick County-Case No. [9780](#)**

ON FEBRUARY 12, 2025, Clyde Young Road Solar 1, LLC filed an application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Frederick County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On October 14, 2025, a public hearing was held in Frederick County. On November 17, 2025, a hearing for taking evidence was held. On December 11, 2025, Clyde Young Road filed additional supplemental direct testimony with updated landscape photo renderings. On December 22, 2025, PPRP filed supplemental direct testimony. A proposed order was issued on January 8, 2026 granting the CPCN. The proposed order became final on February 10, 2026 by Order No. 92185.

**Maryland Blue Crab Solar & Storage, LCC's CPCN Application to Construct a 100 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility, with 25 MW Battery Energy Storage System, and 69 kV Transmission Line in Dorchester County, Maryland-Case No. [9782](#)**

ON FEBRUARY 21, 2025, Maryland Blue Crab Solar & Storage, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 100 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility, 25 MW battery energy storage system, and 69 kV transmission line in Dorchester County. On February 24, 2025, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On October 21, 2025, the application was deemed complete. On December 11, 2025, Kent County's petition to intervene in the matter was granted. A virtual public hearing was held on February 18, 2025. On March 31, 2026, the applicant filed a request to suspend the procedural schedule after a FERC decision regarding the cost allocation for the project; the PULJ granted the request the same day. The matter remains pending.

**TPE MD SO19, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Somerset County, Maryland-Case No. [9783](#)**

[ON FEBRUARY 25, 2025](#), TPE MD SO19, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Somerset County. On February 26, 2025, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. Staff and PPRP recommended the CPCN be granted and filed recommended license conditions. A public comment hearing was held in person on January 8, 2026 in Somerset County. An uncontested evidentiary hearing was held on February 3, 2026. A proposed order granting the CPCN subject to Staff and PPRP's recommended license conditions (with certain modifications incorporated to PPRP's recommended license conditions) was issued on February 17, 2026. The proposed order became final on March 20, 2026 in Order No. 92244.

**TPE MD SO201, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Somerset County, Maryland-Case No. [9784](#)**

[ON FEBRUARY 25, 2025](#), TPE MD SO201, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Somerset County. On February 26, 2025, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. Staff and PPRP recommended the CPCN be granted and filed recommended license conditions. A public comment hearing was held in person on January 8, 2026 in Somerset County. An uncontested evidentiary hearing was held on February 3, 2026. A proposed order granting the CPCN subject to Staff and PPRP's recommended license conditions (with certain modifications incorporated to PPRP's recommended license conditions) was issued on February 17, 2026. The proposed order became final on March 20, 2026 by Order No. 92245.

**Halo Berlin, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.05 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County-Case No. [9785](#)**

[ON MARCH 19, 2025](#), Halo Berlin, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 2.05 MW solar photovoltaic community solar energy generating facility and associated interconnection facilities in Cecil County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On November 12, 2025, a public hearing was held in Cecil County. On December 16, 2025, a hearing for taking evidence was held. A proposed order was issued on December 17, 2025. The proposed order became final on January 20, 2026 by Order No. 92143.

**Halo Betterton, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Kent County-Case No. [9786](#)**

[ON APRIL 4, 2025](#), Halo Betterton, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Kent County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On June 26, 2025, the Town of Betterton's petition to intervene was granted. On September 9, 2025, a virtual public comment hearing was held. On November 17, 2025 a stay of the proceedings was issued. On November 21, 2025, Halo Betterton appealed the ruling and filed supporting memoranda. On December 18, 2025, Halo Betterton filed a request to resume proceedings. On December 19, 2025, the Town of Betterton filed reply

memoranda and a motion to strike the request to resume proceedings. The matter remains pending.

**Halo Cordova LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Talbot County, Maryland-Case No. [9789](#)**

[ON APRIL 25, 2025](#), Halo Cordova LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Talbot County. On April 28, 2025, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. Talbot County filed a petition to intervene, which was granted. Staff and PPRP recommended the CPCN be granted and filed recommended license conditions. An in-person public comment hearing was held January 29, 2026 in Talbot County. An evidentiary hearing was held March 10, 2026. A proposed order granting the CPCN was issued March 13, 2026. The proposed order became final on April 14, 2026 in Order No. 92288.

**Telegraph Road Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County, Maryland-Case No. [9790](#)**

[ON APRIL 25, 2025](#), Telegraph Road Solar 1, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Cecil County. On April 28, 2025, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. Staff and PPRP recommended the CPCN be granted and filed recommended license conditions. An in-person public comment hearing occurred on January 5, 2026 in Cecil County. An uncontested evidentiary hearing was held on February 19, 2026. A proposed order granting the CPCN subject to Staff and PPRP's recommended license conditions (with certain modifications incorporated to PPRP's recommended license conditions) was issued on February 25, 2026. The proposed order became final on March 28, 2026, in Order No. 92262.

**Halo Rock Hall, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Kent County-Case No. [9792](#)**

[ON MAY 13, 2025](#), Halo Rock Hall, LLC filed an application to construct a 3.0 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Kent County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On September 3, 2025, Halo filed testimony indicating the project's AC generating capacity is being increased to 5 MW. The applicant was directed to file an amended application and the procedural schedule was suspended. Halo filed an amended application on January 27, 2026. This matter remains pending.

**PG Vermillion Solar, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Prince George's County, Maryland-Case No. [9793](#)**

[ON MAY 19, 2025](#), PG Vermillion Solar, LLC filed an application to construct a 3.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Prince George's County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On August 7, 2025, a virtual public comment hearing was held and on January 22, 2026, another public comment hearing was held in Prince George's County. An uncontested evidentiary hearing was held on March 3, 2026. A

proposed order granting the CPCN subject to Staff and PPRP's recommended license conditions (with certain modifications incorporated to PPRP's recommended license conditions) was issued on March 24, 2026.

**Solar Star Dorothy Ave, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Harford County, Maryland-Case No. [9794](#)**

ON JUNE 4, 2025, Solar Star Dorothy Ave., LLC filed an application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Harford County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On December 9, 2025, a virtual public comment hearing was held. A second public comment hearing was held March 26, 2026. An evidentiary hearing is scheduled for June 2, 2026. This matter remains pending.

**Wicomico Rayne Solar, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Wicomico County-Case No. [9795](#)**

ON JUNE 23, 2025, Wicomico Rayne Solar, LLC filed an application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Wicomico County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A public comment hearing was held April 2, 2026 in Fruitland. This matter is still pending.

**OneEnergy Development, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Harford County-Case No. [9796](#)**

ON JUNE 25, 2025, OneEnergy Development, LLC filed an application to construct a 3.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Harford County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter is still pending.

**Bouchelle Road Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County, Maryland-Case No. [9797](#)**

ON JUNE 27, 2025, Bouchelle Road Solar 1, LLC filed an application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Cecil County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A virtual public comment hearing was held on December 16, 2025, and an in-person public comment hearing is scheduled for April 30, 2026. This matter is still pending.

**TPE MD KE77, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Kent County-Case No. [9799](#)**

ON JULY 1, 2025, TPE MD KE77, LLC filed an application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Kent County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On October 21, 2025, the Kent County Commissioners filed a petition to intervene, which was granted. An initial public comment hearing was held on December 10, 2025. This matter is still pending.

**The Potomac Edison Company's CPCN Application a 230 kV line on the Existing Carroll-Germantown 138 kV Transmission Line in Carroll County-Case No. [9803](#)**

[ON JULY 18, 2025](#), The Potomac Edison Company filed an application for authority to construct a 230 kV line on the existing Carroll-Germantown 138 kV transmission line in Carroll County. On July 31, 2025, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Blacks Mill Road Solar 1, LLC's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Frederick County, Maryland-Case No. [9804](#)**

[ON JULY 22, 2025](#), Blacks Mill Road Solar 1, LLC filed an application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Frederick County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A pre-hearing conference was held on November 24, 2025. The applicant filed direct testimony on January 20, 2026. An initial public comment hearing was held virtually on January 27, 2026, with a second scheduled for June 1, 2026. This matter is still pending.

**Solar Star Allegany South LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.95 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Allegany County-Case No. [9805](#)**

[ON JULY 28, 2025](#), Star SolarSolar Star Allegany South LLC filed an application to construct a 4.95 MW solar photovoltaic facility and associated interconnection facilities in Allegany County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Nanticoke Road Solar 2, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Wicomico County, Maryland-Case No. [9806](#)**

[ON JULY 29, 2025](#), Nanticoke Road Solar 2, LLC filed an application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Wicomico County. On the same date the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A virtual public comment hearing was held on January 7, 2026. This matter remains pending.

**Queponco Road Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Worcester, Maryland-Case No. [9807](#)**

[ON JULY 31, 2025](#), Queponco Road Solar 1, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Worcester County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. The applicant subsequently determined it was no longer viable to proceed with developing the proposed project based on interconnection-related costs required by the electric company. The PULJ granted the applicant's request to dismiss the application without prejudice.

**Waller Road Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Wicomico County-Case No. [9810](#)**

[ON AUGUST 27, 2025](#), Waller Road Solar 1, LLC filed an application to construct the Waller Road Solar 1 Project in Wicomico County. On November 14, 2025, Waller Road Solar 1 filed a request to withdraw the application which was granted the same day.

**Hopewell Ranch Solar 1, LLC's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 2.5 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Harford County, Maryland-Case No. [9811](#)**

[ON SEPTEMBER 2, 2025](#), Hopewell Ranch Solar 1, LLC filed an application to construct a 2.5 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Harford County. On September 3, 2025, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A pre-hearing conference was held on November 10, 2025. The applicant filed direct testimony on January 20, 2026. An initial public comment hearing was held virtually on February 19, 2026. This matter is still pending.

**Bloomington Hill 1, LLC and Bloomington Hill 2, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct 2 Co-Located Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facilities in Garrett County, Maryland-Case No. [9812](#)**

[ON SEPTEMBER 10, 2025](#), Bloomington Hill 1, LLC and Bloomington Hill 2, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct two co-located solar photovoltaic generating facilities totaling up to 9.9 MW in Garrett County. The same day, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Bessie Clemson Road Solar, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Frederick County, Maryland-Case No. [9814](#)**

[ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2025](#), Bessie Clemson Road Solar, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Frederick County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Cape Horn Road Solar, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9815](#)**

[ON SEPTEMBER 24, 2025](#), Cape Horn Road Solar, LLC filed an application to construct a 4.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Carroll County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Harford Calvary Solar 1, LLC's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 2.5 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Harford County, Maryland-Case No. [9816](#)**

[ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2025](#), Harford Calvary Solar 1, LLC filed an application to construct a 2.5 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Harford County. On that same day, the Commission docketed the

matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A pre-hearing conference was held on December 1, 2025. The applicant filed direct testimony on January 12, 2026. An initial public comment hearing was held virtually on February 17, 2026. This matter is still pending.

**Herman Highway Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Kent County, Maryland-Case No. [9817](#)**

**ON SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**, Herman Highway Solar 1, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 3.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Kent County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Spring Haven Road Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Allegany County-Case No. [9819](#)**

**ON OCTOBER 10, 2025**, Spring Haven Road Solar 1, LLC filed an application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Allegany County. On that same date, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Eckard Road Solar, LLC's Application to Construct a 3.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9821](#)**

**ON OCTOBER 15, 2025**, Eckard Road Solar, LLC filed an application to construct a 3.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Carroll County. On the same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Old Princess Anne Community Energy Initiative, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.25 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Somerset County-Case No. [9822](#)**

**ON OCTOBER 16, 2025**, Old Princess Anne Community Energy Initiative, LLC filed an application for authority to construct a 2.250 MW solar photovoltaic community solar energy generating facility in Somerset County. On that same date, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**MD American Kestrel, LLC's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Kent County, Maryland-Case No. [9823](#)**

**ON OCTOBER 21, 2025**, MD American Kestrel, LLC filed an application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Kent County. On that same day, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A pre-hearing conference was held on November 10, 2025. The applicant filed direct testimony on January 20, 2026. An initial public comment hearing was held virtually on February 19, 2026. This matter is still pending.

**Hemlock Lane Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9824](#)**

[ON OCTOBER 23, 2025](#), Hemlock Lane Solar 1, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Carroll County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Woodside Solar 1, LLC's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Worcester County, Maryland-Case No. [9825](#)**

[ON OCTOBER 27, 2025](#), Woodside Solar 1, LLC filed an application to construct a 2.5 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Worcester County. On that same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A pre-hearing conference was held on January 26, 2026. The applicant filed direct testimony on March 20, 2026. This matter is still pending.

**Soltage MD DevCo, LLC and Berlin Living, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct 6 Co-located Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facilities Totaling up to 18 MWAC in the Town of Berlin, Maryland-Case No. [9826](#)**

[ON OCTOBER 28, 2025](#), Soltage MD DevCo, LLC filed an application to construct six co-located solar photovoltaic generating facilities in the Town of Berlin. On that same date, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**LSE Aquarius LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.988 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Queen Anne's County-Case No. [9827](#)**

[ON OCTOBER 29, 2025](#), LSE Aquarius LLC filed an application to construct a 2.988 MW solar photovoltaic community solar energy generating facility in Queen Anne's County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Chaberton Solar Lambs Knoll LLC's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9828](#)**

[ON OCTOBER 29, 2025](#), Chaberton Solar Lambs Knoll LLC filed an application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Carroll County. On October 30, 2025, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A pre-hearing conference was held on March 9, 2026. This matter is still pending.

**Harford Chapel Solar, LLC's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Harford County, Maryland-Case No. [9829](#)**

[ON OCTOBER 30, 2025](#), Harford Chapel Solar, LLC filed an application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Harford County. On October 31, 2025, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Resh Road Solar 2, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.25 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Washington County, Maryland-Case No. [9831](#)**

[ON NOVEMBER 7, 2025](#), Resh Road Solar 2, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.25 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Washington County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Chaberton Solar Hayford, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Queen Anne's County, Maryland-Case No. [9834](#)**

[ON NOVEMBER 20, 2024](#), Chaberton Solar Hayford, LLC filed an application to construct a 4.0 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Queen Anne's County. On November 21, 2025, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**ICFTS MD Solar, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.63 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Caroline County, Maryland-Case No. [9835](#)**

[ON NOVEMBER 21, 2025](#), ICFTS MD Solar, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.63 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility and associated interconnection facilities in Caroline County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Croom Road Solar 1, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Prince George's County-Case No. [9837](#)**

[ON DECEMBER 2, 2025](#), Croom Road Solar 1, LLC filed an application for authority to construct a 3 MW solar photovoltaic community solar energy generating facility and associated interconnection facilities in Prince George's County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**TPE MD CE59, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County, Maryland-Case No. [9838](#)**

[ON DECEMBER 12, 2025](#), TPE MD CE59, LLC filed an application for authority to construct a 3 MW community solar energy generating facility with associated interconnection facilities in Cecil County. On the same date the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**LSE Circe, LLC's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 2.85 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County, Maryland-Case No. [9839](#)**

ON DECEMBER 12, 2025, LSE Circe, LLC filed an application to construct a 2.85 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Cecil County. On that same day, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A pre-hearing conference was held on March 9, 2026. This matter is still pending.

**Green Road MD PV LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 2.75 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Baltimore County-Case No. [9840](#)**

ON DECEMBER 12, 2025, Green Road MD PV LLC filed an application for authority to construct a 2.75 MW solar photovoltaic community solar energy generating facility located in Baltimore County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Chaberton Solar Greenhorn LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 4.49 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Dorchester County, Maryland-Case No. [9841](#)**

ON DECEMBER 12, 2025, Chaberton Solar Greenhorn LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.49 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Dorchester County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Allegany PV, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Allegany County, Maryland-Case No. [9842](#)**

ON DECEMBER 15, 2025, Allegany PV, LLC filed an application for authority to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic community solar energy generating facility with associated interconnection facilities in Allegany County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Benson Road Solar 1, LLC's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 3.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Carroll County, Maryland-Case No. [9843](#)**

ON DECEMBER 15, 2025, Benson Road Solar 1, LLC filed an application to construct a 3.0 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Carroll County. On that same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A pre-hearing conference was held on February 23, 2026. On February 25, 2026, a petition to intervene filed by Niall and Amy Murtagh was granted. This matter is still pending.

**Simpers Road, LLC's CPCN Application to Construct a 3.875 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County-Case No. [9844](#)**

[ON DECEMBER 17, 2025](#), Simperts Road, LLC filed an application to construct a 3.875 MW solar photovoltaic community solar energy generating facility and associated interconnection facilities located in Cecil County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**TPE MD CE166, LLC’s Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 4.99 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County, Maryland-Case No. [9845](#)**

[ON DECEMBER 22, 2025](#), TPE MD CE166, LLC filed an application to construct a 4.99 MW solar photovoltaic facility in Cecil County. On that same date, the Commission docketed the matter and delegated it to the PULJ Division. A pre-hearing conference was held on March 9, 2026. This matter is still pending.

**Shadding Reach Road, LLC’s CPCN Application to Construct a 4.5 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Kent County, Maryland-Case No. [9846](#)**

[ON DECEMBER 22, 2025](#), Shadding Reach Road, LLC filed a CPCN application to construct a 4.5 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility and associated interconnection facilities in Kent County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**Chaberton Solar Peters Holdings, LLC’s CPCN Application to Construct Two Co-Located Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facilities Totaling 10 MWs in Harford County, Maryland-Case No. [9847](#)**

[ON DECEMBER 23, 2025](#), Chaberton Solar Peters Holding, LLC filed an application to construct two co-located solar photovoltaic facilities, totaling approximately 10.0 MW, in Harford County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

**North Telegraph Road Solar 1, LLC’s CPCN Application to Construct a 5.0 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Cecil County-Case No. [9851](#)**

[ON DECEMBER 30, 2025](#), North Telegraph Road Solar 1, LLC filed an application to construct a 5.0 MW solar photovoltaic community solar energy generating facility and associated interconnection facilities located in Cecil County. The Commission docketed the matter the same day and delegated it to the PULJ Division. This matter remains pending.

## Energy Competition and Standard Offer Service Cases

### Retail Supply and Senate Bill 1 of 2024 Implementation

**SENATE BILL 1 (SB1)** of the 2024 Maryland General Assembly session enacted major reforms in the retail energy supply marketplace to strengthen oversight of this industry and provide greater protections for consumers. As a result of these changes, some retail suppliers made the business decision to no longer offer supply to residential customers throughout 2025

Generally, these reforms include:

- Price caps on residential electric and residential gas retail supply. These price caps are based on the trailing 12-month average residential Standard Offer Service (SOS) rates for electricity and the trailing 12-month average residential Default Gas Commodity rates. The trailing 12-month average rates for each utility are required to be posted on each utility's website.
- Prohibition of utility purchase of supplier receivables - beginning on January 1, 2025, an electric or gas supplier may not sell to a utility and the utility may not purchase from a supplier, accounts receivable.
- Contract Length – a contract between a retail gas or electric supplier and a residential customer may not exceed a 12-month term.
- Do Not Transfer List – customers may ask their utility to place their accounts on a 'Do Not Transfer' list which means that suppliers may not market to or enroll these customers.
- Salesperson Education, Training and Licensure – persons selling electric or gas supply in Maryland must complete an education course and pass an exam at intervals the Commission determines.
- Company License Renewals – the license of a retail energy supply company will now be up for renewal every three years, so that the Commission can review the company's performance, including complaint history and other compliance matters.
- Green Power pricing – suppliers may not charge customers more than the Commission-approved price for power supply marketed as clean, green, eco-friendly, environmentally friendly or responsible, carbon-free, renewable, 100% renewable, 100% wind, solar, hydro or emission-free, or similar claims.

#### **Senate Bill 1 implementation activities in 2025:**

- Retail Supply Licensing and Training

SB1 established new and amended licensing and training requirements for electricity and gas suppliers, energy salespersons, and energy vendors in the retail choice market. The bill established that:

1) the licenses of electricity suppliers and gas suppliers that are licensed by the Commission as of July 1, 2024 shall expire on a staggered basis as determined by the Commission such that equal numbers of licenses shall expire throughout each of the following three years but not later than June 30, 2027;

(2) the licenses of energy salespersons who are licensed by the Commission on or before June 30, 2027 shall expire on a staggered basis as determined by the Commission such that equal numbers of licenses shall expire each year; and

(3) all new and renewed licenses for electricity suppliers, gas suppliers, and energy salespersons shall be for a term not exceeding 3 years.

On November 8, 2024, the Commission's Technical Staff presented a proposed renewal application for residential electricity and gas suppliers and the proposed dates for the expiration of the first one-third of the group of expiring suppliers, with expiration dates in 2025.

The Commission issued its first notice on December 17, 2024 approving Staff's proposed application forms and its proposed staggered license expiration dates for the first one-third of existing supplier licenses. The notice also established filing deadlines and deadlines for revocation hearing notices for licensees that are at risk of not renewing their licenses in a timely fashion. The Staff later submitted proposed dates for the second one-third group of expiring suppliers, with expiration dates throughout 2026.

SB1 established a training requirement for licensees. Since the legislation's enactment, Staff has developed and received Commission approval on a training manual for residential suppliers renewing their licenses. The purpose of the training is to provide a thorough understanding of the Commission's laws regarding sales, consumer protection, and other matters the Commission deems appropriate. Training for non-residential suppliers, energy vendors, and salespersons is pending.

By letter order on June 2, 2025, the Commission noted the influx of suppliers requesting to relinquish and, in some cases, modify their supplier licenses, likely in response to SB1. The Commission stated its desire to address such requests uniformly and simultaneously, rather than continuing to receive requests and make determinations on an ad hoc basis. The Commission ordered Staff and OPC, as well as other interested stakeholders, to collaborate on developing a proposal as to the best way to address supplier license renewals and license relinquishment requests, inclusive of a process that determines if it is viable and appropriate for the Commission to delegate direct authority to Staff to approve applications for renewals and relinquishments. The Commission directed Staff, OPC and other interested parties to submit recommendations on this matter to the Commission by June 30, 2025.

Having received recommendations from Staff and OPC regarding licensing renewals and relinquishments and bonding modifications, the Commission issued Order No. 91922 in October 2025. The Commission delegated to Staff the authority to approve retail supplier license renewals with the following conditions at the time a supplier applies for license renewal:

- (a) the supplier has no history of complaints with CAD within the previous three years;
- (b) the supplier must submit proof of compliance with the reporting requirements outlined in Commission Order Nos. 91463 (PC 65) and 91638 (PC 67);
- (c) the supplier has paid all outstanding Commission assessments;

- (d) the supplier is fully compliant with all license requirements set forth in PUA §§ 7-507 and 7-603; and
- (e) the supplier, or its designated representative, has met the education and training requirement established by PUA § 7-311.

Similarly, the Commission delegated to Staff the authority to approve retail supplier license relinquishments with the following conditions at the time a supplier applies for license relinquishment: (a) the supplier has no unresolved complaints with CAD; (b) the supplier must submit proof of compliance with the reporting requirements outlined in Commission Order Nos. 91463 ([PC 65](#)) and 91638 ([PC 67](#)); (c) the supplier has paid all outstanding Commission assessments; and (d) the supplier is fully compliant with all license requirements set forth in PUA §§ 7-507 and 7-603.

- Price Caps on Residential Supply (Non-Green Power) - [PC64](#)

SB1 established a price cap for residential energy supply other than green power. Under the legislation, residential supply of electric and gas commodity service is prohibited from exceeding the respective trailing 12-month average SOS or default gas commodity price except for green power prices. On July 23, 2024, the Commission docketed PC64 to implement the relevant price cap provisions of the statute.

In Order No. 91237, the Commission required electric and gas utilities with retail choice to submit its calculated 12-month trailing average SOS price and its monthly updated 12-month average SOS price beginning no later than October 1, 2024 and to file the averages prominently on the utility's website.

In Order No. 91562, issued in March 2025, the Commission established that utilities should: submit monthly price comparison data to the Commission by the fifth business day of each month; post the data on websites one business day after; and conform to a uniform template for presenting the data on its websites.

- Green Product Offerings: Revisions to COMAR 20.53, 20.59, and 20.61 - [RM84](#)

SB1 established requirements for the development of a green power price and associated consumer protections for suppliers who sell and market green products.

On July 11, 2024, Staff submitted a petition for rulemaking for the purpose of revising COMAR provisions associated with green product offerings established under SB1 of 2024. The relevant COMAR provisions include COMAR 20.53, 20.59, and 20.61.

On July 17, 2024, the Commission directed Staff, in consultation with stakeholders, to submit proposed regulations by September 9, 2024 and later directed interested parties to submit comments. The Commission held a rulemaking session on November 8, 2024 to address the proposed regulations and comments. During the rulemaking session, several issues remained

non-consensus items and on December 17, 2024, the Commission held a second rulemaking. During the second rulemaking, the Commission adopted the proposed revised regulations that Staff submitted which established requirements for green power disclosures in marketing materials and procedures for establishing a green power price.

On July 9, 2025, the Commission held a rulemaking to conform the disclosure regulations with Order No. 91549, under Case No. [9757](#).

- Green Power Maximum Price - Case No. 9757

SB1 required the Commission to establish a price for residential “green power” defined as “energy sources or renewable energy credits that are marketed as clean, green, eco-friendly, environmentally friendly or responsible, carbon-free, renewable, 100% renewable, 100% wind, 100% hydro, 100% solar, 100% emission-free, or similar claims.”

In March 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91549 clarifying its prior order, which set the annual green power price and required all green power renewable energy credits (RECs) to be procured within PJM (Order No. 91464), by removing from the mandatory supplier disclosure statement language that could have suggested that RECs were procured outside of PJM.

On September 4, 2025, Staff submitted its second annual petition to initiate proceedings to establish a green power product price. The Commission requested comments on the matter by October 15, 2025 and held a legislative style hearing on November 3, 2025. During the comment period, Staff and various stakeholders submitted proposals for the maximum green power price, including the following price cap options: most recent 12-month SOS average plus the Tier 2 Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP), including a green power premium factor and a green power premium that increases based on the amount of green power in a product; and the SOS price to compare.

During the hearing, the Commission considered the various proposals on the maximum green product price. In Order No. 91975, the Commission approved Staff’s proposal for a maximum green power price and required electricity suppliers to offer residential green power at a price not exceeding the service territory’s most recent 12-month average standard offer service rate, along with the Tier 2 ACP, including a green power premium factor and a green power premium. Under SB1 (PUA § 7-707) , the Commission retains the discretion to approve a supplier’s offer to provide green power at a higher cost than the price cap mentioned above.

- Purchase of Accounts Receivables - [PC65](#)

Under SB1, beginning on January 1, 2025, an electric or gas supplier may not sell to a utility and the utility may not purchase from a supplier, accounts receivable. On July 23, 2024, in Order No. 91238, the Commission docketed PC65 and required briefs and written comments to be filed by August 2, 2024 on whether the purchase of receivables (POR) prohibition of SB1 should apply to

all residential retail choice accounts or only to residential retail choice accounts that have agreements entered into or renewed after January 1, 2025.

Additionally, Order No. 91238 required utilities to provide compliance plans and to answer key technical questions by August 9, 2024. The Commission required the compliance plans to contemplate scenarios where POR ends for all residential accounts and another where POR ends only for residential accounts entered into on or after January 1, 2025. The plans were required to address the following: 1) the specific mechanism the utility proposes to use at the end of purchase of receivables; 2) the time for the utility's preferred method of implementation; and 3) key milestones and challenges to implementing the proposed method. In the same order, the Commission required Staff to submit a filing on the parties' compliance plans and to address additional POR-related issues. The Commission held a legislative style hearing on August 7, 2024.

On September 13, 2024, Staff filed a report on the parties' recommendations regarding acceptance or modification to utility POR compliance plans and submitted approximately 20 general recommendations. The report recommended that: 1) residential retail choice customers should be enrolled in dual billing on and after January 1, 2025 because dual billing is the only non-POR retail choice mechanism that utilities can implement before January 1, 2025; 2) June 1, 2026 be established as the "date certain" for the discontinuation of POR; and 3) the Commission require utilities to implement pro-rata partial payment allocation as the preferred long term utility consolidated billing scheme, absent POR.

On December 4, 2024, the Maryland Energy Advocates Coalition requested clarification on whether month-to-month contracts in effect before December 31, 2024 will be subject to rate rules, including the prohibition on POR, when those contracts are slated for renewal after January 1, 2025.

In Order No. 91463, the Commission determined that new residential choice contracts must be enrolled through dual billing beginning on January 1, 2025. Additionally, the order held that contracts in existence on January 1, 2025 renew upon a change to the contract's term or price, and that retail contracts in existence on or before December 31, 2024 that are subject to renewal and that include POR arrangements must be returned to standard offer service by February 28, 2025, if dual billing is not employed. Under the order, all POR utility consolidated billing is required to end for "grandfathered" contract terms after December 31, 2025 and suppliers and utilities are required to engage in good faith negotiations for its ultimate termination. Additionally, the order required suppliers to submit quarterly reports, throughout 2025, that identified the commodity type and end date of all residential retail supply contracts in existence at the time of the order.

On January 27, 2025, the Supplier Coalition suggested that dual billing should not be the only alternative in the interim and on February 6, 2025, the Commission directed utilities and residential suppliers to negotiate and to submit comprehensive proposals detailing how a supplier may enroll and renew a customer under a utility consolidated billing mechanism that

does not involve POR. On March 7, 2025, the Supplier Coalition and utilities filed comments noting the lack of consensus.

On October 9, 2025, the utilities filed notice regarding the cessation of POR and identified processes necessary to discontinue POR for all contracts on January 1, 2026, including reminding suppliers to manually drop customers from POR and billing changes. On November 26, 2025, Staff filed recommendations in response to the utility filing. The resolution of this matter is pending.

On December 23, 2025, the Commission approved utility tariffs, effective January 1, 2026, that removed utility authority to purchase supplier receivables on residential accounts.

- Supplier Consolidated Billing - Case No. [9461](#)

On September 7, 2017, numerous competitive suppliers filed a joint petition requesting that the Commission mandate supplier consolidated billing (SCB) as a billing option by June 30, 2019, adopt specific policy recommendations and elements proposed in the petition, and establish a rulemaking proceeding and work group to facilitate the drafting of any new and revised COMAR provisions needed to implement supplier consolidated billing. By letter order issued on September 15, 2017, the Commission initiated a new docket, Case No. 9461, to consider the petition. It requested comments on the petition with a filing date by November 15, 2017. After review of the filed comments, the Commission held a legislative-style hearing on February 20, 2018, to further consider the petition. Originally, the Commission approved SCB to begin on December 31, 2024.

On June 12, 2024, the Commission considered a recommendation from the Exelon Utilities to pause implementation of SCB as a result of SB1's passage. In Order No. 91220, the Commission denied the Exelon Utilities' request and directed the utilities to continue working towards the implementation of SCB. In the order, the Commission also directed parties to file comments addressing the following SCB implementation issues: 1) the impacts of the POR provisions in SB1 on SCB implementation for residential and non-residential customers; 2) the interest of retail electric and gas suppliers to participate in SCB and related IT system testing following SB1's passage; 3) the status of IT work that utilities conducted for SCB implementation and the potential impacts if a pause on SCB implementation was ordered by the Commission; 4) the current costs of SCB implementation and impacts on the recovery of SCB implementation costs to different entities if suppliers do not participate in SCB or if the Commission ordered a pause in SCB implementation; and 5) additional information related to the impacts of SB1 on SCB implementation. Parties filed comments addressing these issues on August 12, 2024.

One of the largest non-consensus issues resulting from the August 12, 2024 filings was whether the Commission's current SCB regulations expressly require a utility to purchase distribution arrearages from residential suppliers, in the event that a customer is dropped due to a non-payment, in contravention of SB1's prohibition on POR. In Order No. 91448, the Commission concluded that SCB involves the transfer of a customer's unpaid regulated distribution charges but does not involve supplier receivables and, thus, does not violate SB1. Finally, the order

extended indefinitely the December 21, 2024 SCB implementation date and in an attempt to avoid unnecessary expenses for SCB, required utilities to pause new SCB implementation work until retail suppliers notify the Commission of their intent to participate in SCB testing and of their ongoing commitment to actively participate in SCB.

- Do Not Transfer List and Supplier Customer Prices Paid Reporting Requirements - PC67

SB1 established a requirement for the Commission to implement mechanisms for a customer to be placed on a “Do Not Transfer” list if the customer wished to cease receiving retail supply marketing contacts and wished to remain on standard offer service indefinitely. Provisions of SB1 also require gas or electric utilities or entities that bill retail supply customers to report monthly to the Commission the prices paid by supply customers. Soon after the legislation’s enactment, on July 19, 2024, the Commission issued a notice that required:

- 1) gas and electric utilities to conduct customer education regarding the Do Not Transfer list;
- 2) gas and electric utilities to submit compliance and process plans for the provisions; and
- 3) dual gas and electric utilities to inform the Commission of the extent of retail supplier dual billing. Utilities submitted filings in response to the Commission notice in August of 2024.

On December 6, 2024, Staff filed with the Commission, a report on the Do Not Transfer list requirements. The Commission docketed Public Conference 67 to accommodate subsequent filings. In its report, Staff made approximately 20 recommendations, including on: methods for reporting monthly billing data; where to refer a customer seeking to be added to the list; and customer information to be included on the list. The Commission received comments on the report on January 17, 2025 and additional comments from Staff on February 14, 2025.

In Order No. 91638, issued on May 7, 2025, the Commission replied to recommendations from the Staff filing and required, in part, monthly billing reports from suppliers and utilities on the cost of retail supply, total retail supply sales, and retail supply commodity costs measured against default service; and status updates on progress made in implementing the Do Not Transfer List systems. Throughout 2025, the Commission accepted and denied various costs of Do Not Transfer List implementation.

On September 9, 2025, Staff filed with the Commission its request to require utilities to submit tables indicating: the total number of residential dual billed and supplier coordinated billed accounts; and the total number of residential dual billed and supplier coordinated billed accounts, disaggregated by billing type and supplier name. Staff requested that the tables indicating the total number of residential accounts, disaggregated by billing type and supplier name, should be confidential. On November 6, 2025, the Commission requested comments, by November 14th, on the following questions:

(1) whether it is in the public interest to require monthly price data under PUA §§ 7-510(g) and 7-604.2(e) and any of the tables proposed by Staff in its Recommendations to be filed publicly; and

(2) any legal and policy considerations if monthly price data under PUA §§ 7-510(g) and 7-604.2(e) and any of the tables proposed by Staff in its Recommendations are filed publicly, including the applicability of the Maryland Public Information Act.

The resolution of these matters are pending.

### **Language for Residential Retailer’s Notices and Disclosures-[PC68](#)**

On [FEBRUARY 3, 2025](#), the Commission initiated PC68, in accordance with PUA § 7-315, enacted under SB1 of 2024. Under this legislation, the Commission is mandated to require a residential energy retailer to post on the retailer’s website, in clear and unambiguous language: (1) the terms and conditions of the residential services and products sold by the retailer; and (2) an environmental disclosure, in a format required by the Commission, for the residential services and products sold by the retailer. The resolution of this matter is pending.

### **In the Matter of the Complaint of the Staff of the Public Service Commission Against Smart Energy Holdings, LLC D/B/A SmartEnergy - Case [9613](#)**

ON [MAY 10, 2019](#), the Commission’s Technical Staff filed a complaint with the Commission alleging electricity supplier, SmartEnergy, engaged in deceptive practices in violation of the Commission’s consumer protection laws. The complaint requested that the Commission require SmartEnergy to answer the complaint and to file evidence showing why its supplier license should not be revoked.

The Commission delegated the matter to the Public Utility Law Judge (PULJ) Division for further proceedings. On December 16, 2020, the PULJ issued a Proposed Order and found that SmartEnergy engaged in deceptive, misleading, and unfair trade practices, and systemic statutory violations.

The PULJ recommended—among other things—that the Commission impose upon SmartEnergy a moratorium prohibiting SmartEnergy from adding or soliciting new customers, impose an appropriate civil penalty, and require SmartEnergy to notify its current and former customers of the Commission’s decision in this case. The PULJ further recommended that SmartEnergy be required to cancel its existing customer enrollments (in Maryland) and return all of those customers to utility Standard Offer Service (SOS), unless the customer takes affirmative action to remain with SmartEnergy.

In Order No. 89795, the Commission found that SmartEnergy had committed widespread violations of Maryland laws designed to protect customers. The Commission ordered SmartEnergy to re-rate and refund, within 10 days, all current and former Maryland customers solicited via telephone the difference between SmartEnergy’s supply charges and the applicable

SOS rate for all periods these customers were served. The order was appealed by SmartEnergy and was affirmed by the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, the Appellate Court of Maryland, and by the Maryland Supreme Court.

In Order No. 91626, filed on April 28, 2025, the Commission noted that SmartEnergy acknowledged that the amount of customer refunds owed grew to \$15.97 million. The Commission concluded that the full refund amount was not excessive and ordered that all but \$6.5 million of SmartEnergy's refund liability be suspended, subject to SmartEnergy's timely and full remittance of partial refunds to satisfy its refund liability within 90 days. Any unredeemed funds were required to be distributed to statewide energy assistance programs.

The order also noted that failure of SmartEnergy to timely and fully satisfy its Maryland customer refund obligations shall result in further action by the Commission, including the referral of any unrefunded amount of the \$15.97 million liability found by the Commission to the Office of Attorney General for enforcement and the State's collection agency for collection. Finally, the company was required to file biweekly compliance filings until 30 days after the final disbursement of payments to customers.

On December 19, 2025, the company asked the Commission to exercise its discretion to release it from paying additional sums due. As of January 5, 2026, 9,183 of the 22,821 mailed checks have cleared, totaling \$2,771,342 of the company's refund obligation. The resolution of this matter is pending.

#### **Electric Competition Activity (Energy Choice) – Case No. [8738](#)**

Since September of 2000, Maryland's major investor-owned utilities have been required to file [Monthly Electric Customer Choice Reports](#). The reports are to show the number of residential and non-residential customers served by suppliers, the total number of utility distribution customers, the total megawatts of peak demand served by suppliers, the peak load obligation for all distribution accounts, and the number of electric suppliers serving customers in Maryland.

In 2025, The Potomac Edison Company (PE), Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), Delmarva Power & Light (DPL), Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SMECO) filed electric choice enrollment reports every month. At the end of December 2025, electric suppliers in the state served 102,061 commercial, industrial, and residential customers—down 72.4 percent from 2024 when suppliers served 369,096 customers.

**Table 7: Customer accounts enrolled with electric suppliers  
as of December 31, 2025**

	Residential	Non-Residential	Total
Total eligible accounts	2,396,588	273,087	2,669,675
Number of customers enrolled with suppliers	10,977	91,084	102,061
Percentage of customers enrolled with suppliers	0.5%	33.4%	3.8%

At the end of December 2025, the overall demand in megawatts of peak load obligation in the state served by all electric suppliers was 4,681 MW, down 6.3 percent from 4,997 MW in 2024.

**Table 8: Peak load obligation in Maryland served by electric suppliers  
as of December 31, 2025**

	Residential	Non-Residential	Total
Total MW peak	7,865 MW	6,191 MW	14,056 MW
MW demand served by suppliers	40 MW	4,641 MW	4,681 MW
Percentage of peak load served by suppliers	0.5%	75.0%	33.3%

BGE had the highest number of residential accounts (5,802), commercial accounts (48,343), and total peak-load (2,313 MW) served by suppliers. At the end of 2025, 377 electric suppliers were licensed in Maryland, down from 386 at the end of 2024, and 250 natural gas suppliers were licensed in Maryland at the end of 2025, compared to 251 at the end of 2024.

Most electric suppliers in Maryland are authorized to serve multiple classes. The number serving each class in each utility territory is reflected in the table below.

**Table 9: Number of electric suppliers serving enrolled customers  
by class as of December 31, 2025**

	Residential	Small C&I	Mid-Sized	Large C&I
BGE	8	46	46	18
DPL	8	40	39	0
PE	41	44	40	19
Pepco	13	46	50	27
SMECO	1	5	5	1

**Results of the Standard Offer Service Solicitations for Residential and Small Commercial (Type I) Customers-Case Nos. [9056](#) and [9064](#)**

**THE COMMISSION REVIEWS** Standard Offer Service (SOS) rates on an ongoing basis in Case Nos. 9056 and 9064. For the 12-month period beginning June 2025, SOS rates increased for residential customers of BGE, DPL, and Pepco compared to the previous year. PE's<sup>7</sup> SOS rates are decreasing for residential customers compared to the previous year. SOS rates increased for small commercial customers of DPL, BGE, Pepco, and PE compared with the previous year. With the exception of Potomac Edison, 2025 bids were completed in April 2025. Rate changes expressed as a percentage change in the total annual cost for an average customer are shown below.<sup>8</sup>

Residential Customers		Small Commercial Type 1 (SOS) Customers	
BGE	+13.3%	BGE	+11.2%
DPL	+2.0%	DPL	+1.5%
Pepco	+4.0%	Pepco	+3.7%
PE	+1.1% (for 2026/27)	Potomac Edison	+2.5%

<sup>7</sup> Due to PE's bid cycle, bill impacts are shown for one year in advance of the other utilities.

<sup>8</sup> The statistics are taken from the Commission's Staff reports submitted in Case Nos. 9056 and 9064. The annual bill change is determined not only by the newly bid load but also by the proportion of previous year's contracts that expired.

## Mergers, Transfers, and Franchise Cases

### **In the Matter of the Merger of Exelon Corporation and Constellation Energy Group, Inc.-Case No. [9271](#)**

On November 30, 2023, the Commission issued a notice continuing its process to enhance compliance with merger conditions in Case Nos. 9271, 9361, and 9449. The Commission indicated that it would require an annual compliance report from each electric or gas company which described how the company either met the corresponding condition or how it is working to meet the corresponding condition. The notice also required that the company provide proof of its compliance and file a final report upon the completion of all conditions. Lastly, the notice stated that the Commission would explicitly ask Staff, OPC, the Maryland Energy Administration and other relevant parties to review and report on electric and gas utility compliance.

On January 25, 2024, the Commission issued its Annual Merger Compliance Reporting and Review which directed BGE to file a status each year on or before April 1 of each commitment from the order approving the Case No. 9271 merger.

Parties made ongoing compliance filings in Case No. 9271 stemming from the merger. Parties did not raise issues with compliance. The Commission continues to monitor the parties' filings for compliance, including in the current reporting year.

### **In the Matter of the Merger of AltaGas Ltd., and WGL Holdings, Inc.-Case No. [9449](#)**

ON APRIL 4, 2018, the Commission issued Order No. 88631 approving the acquisition of WGL Holdings, Inc. by AltaGas Ltd. subject to certain conditions. In the following years, the Commission enforced compliance through various ad hoc orders.

On January 25, 2024, the Commission issued a letter order directing the company to report annually on its status and progress toward each condition of Order No. 88631. The company filed its annual compliance report on April 1, 2024. OPC, Prince George's County, Commission Staff, and the Maryland Energy Administration subsequently filed comments regarding the company's report. The company and OPC then filed replies.

On October 3, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91344 requesting additional information and clarifying the status of Conditions 3, 4, 6A, 10A, 14, 36, 44, and 508. On November 4, 2024, the company and OPC filed comments.

On January 28, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91502 in which it noted that it will continue to monitor the company's compliance with the conditions set forth in Order No. 88631 and as clarified in subsequent orders issued in this proceeding. The Commission provided additional directives in furtherance of the company's ongoing compliance, including that the company and Prince George's County file joint or individual status reports on Condition 4b by February 17, 2025; that the company include an update and documentary evidence for Condition

6a in its next annual compliance filing on April 1, 2025; and that the company and Prince George's County file a joint or individual status report on Condition 14 by February 17, 2025.

On April 2, 2025, the Commission issued a notice of a comment period until June 2, 2025 for comments on the company's filings regarding merger commitments in compliance with Commission Order No. 91502.

On August 29, 2025 and September 2, 2025, respectively, Montgomery County and Prince George's County filed individual annual reports regarding merger Condition 2. On January 30, 2026, the company submitted a filing regarding its compliance with Merger Commitment 10.

## Other Matters

### **William Steverson v. Potomac Electric Power Company-Case No. [9498](#)**

[AS NOTED IN](#) prior annual reports, on April 17, 2018, William Steverson filed an appeal of the Commission's Consumer Affairs Division's<sup>9</sup> decision on further review concerning a formal complaint against Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) challenging the termination of his service and alleging unfairness and bias by the Commission's Consumer Affairs Division in handling the dispute.

On November 21, 2018, the Commission issued a letter order that denied the allegations of bias but delegated the remaining issue to the PULJ Division to determine whether Pepco violated COMAR 20.31.03.01. An evidentiary hearing was held on February 7, 2019. A Motion to Stay Proceeding was filed on February 11, 2019, and subsequently granted, based upon Mr. Steverson filing a petition for bankruptcy.

On March 11, 2025, Pepco advised that the Bankruptcy Court entered an Order of Discharge regarding Mr. Steverson's petition and Pepco discharged the arrearage that was the subject of this proceeding. The company indicated that there are no remaining issues in dispute and requested Mr. Steverson's formal complaint be dismissed or deemed satisfied.

On April 8, 2025, the Chief Public Utility Law Judge issued a notice of dismissal and closing of the docket, effective May 8, 2025, unless any party comes forward with any remaining issues.

### **Complaint of the Staff of the Public Service Commission of Maryland v. SmartEnergy Holdings, LLC d/b/a SmartEnergy-Case No. [9613](#)**

[ON MAY 10, 2019](#), Staff filed a complaint against SmartEnergy alleging SmartEnergy had committed fraud and engaged in deceptive practices for failing to comply with the Commission's consumer protection regulations as contained in COMAR 20.51.07 and 20.53.07. The Commission delegated the complaint to the PULJ Division for a finding of whether SmartEnergy engaged in a pattern or practice of systemic violations of the consumer protections contained in the PUA. OPC filed a third-party complaint.

After an evidentiary hearing, a proposed order was issued on December 16, 2020 in which the Public Utility Law Judge made various recommendations including that a moratorium be imposed on SmartEnergy's enrolling or soliciting additional customers in Maryland at least until SmartEnergy completes a communication and refund process as well as an accounting to the Commission after which the Commission can address the appropriate civil monetary penalty. On December 22, 2020, the Commission issued Order No. 89683 imposing a moratorium and directing further proceedings.

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<sup>9</sup> At the time, the Office of External Relations.

On March 31, 2021, the Commission issued Order No. 89795 affirming the PULJ's findings that SmartEnergy violated PUA § 7-507(b)(7) by engaging in unfair, false, misleading and deceptive marketing, advertising, and trade practices, and violated associated COMAR Title 20, Subsection 53 provisions. The Commission reversed the PULJ's finding that Commercial Law Article (Com. Law) § 14-2203(b) (the Maryland Telephone Solicitation Act or MTSA)—requiring that a contract made pursuant to a telephone solicitation be reduced to writing and signed by the consumer—does not apply to SmartEnergy's contracting with its Maryland customers under the facts of the case.

SmartEnergy objected to the Commission's finding that the MTSA applies to its enrollments and filed a petition for judicial review of the Commission's order in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Along with the Commission, OPC and the Maryland Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division also filed memoranda supporting the Commission's findings in Order No. 89795.

On November 29, 2021, the Circuit Court entered an order affirming the Commission's order in all respects except the Commission's finding that SmartEnergy's access to and ability to edit call recordings violated the Commission's regulations. SmartEnergy filed a notice of appeal to the Appeals Court of Maryland (formerly the Court of Special Appeals) which affirmed the Commission's order. SmartEnergy filed a petition for a writ of certiorari in the Supreme Court of Maryland (formerly the Court of Appeals) which was granted in March 2023. On February 22, 2024, the Supreme Court affirmed the judgment of the appellate court. On April 18, 2024, the Supreme Court of Maryland denied SmartEnergy's motion for reconsideration and issued the mandate with regard to the Court's February 22, 2024 opinion. (*See COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURT MATTERS section on p. 101.*)

On April 28, 2025 the Commission issued Order No. 91626 in which it, among other things, accepted Staff's and OPC's recommendations to enforce compliance with Order No. 89795, holding SmartEnergy in default in the amount of \$15.97 million in customer refunds, but suspended all but \$6.5 million of that amount if SmartEnergy refunded affected customers within 90 days, and noted that failure to do so would result in further action by the Commission, including the referral of any unrefunded amount of the total liability to the Office of Attorney General for enforcement and the State's collection agency for collection; directed SmartEnergy to retain a Maryland-based independent auditor to confirm the remittance of customer refunds; and deemed forfeited as a civil penalty, SmartEnergy's \$250,000 financial security bond.

On August 27, 2025, the Commission issued an order denying OPC's request for language in Smart Energy's customer notification letters to inform customers of their potential rights to bring private causes of action. SmartEnergy had objected to the language arguing that it went beyond the Commission's requirements and was inappropriate and inaccurate legal advice.

**In the Matter of Alternative Rate Plans or Methodologies to Establish New Base Rates for an Electric Company or a Gas Company-Case No. [9618](#) (Lessons Learned)**

ON FEBRUARY 4, 2020, the Commission issued an order establishing a framework for a multi-year rate (MYP) plan pilot. The Commission noted that rapid changes in the economy and energy industry, coupled with changing State policy goals and calls for grid modernization, had impacted utility operations. In response, some states had examined and adopted alternate forms of ratemaking aimed at accelerating utility cost recovery. The Commission sought to explore whether this construct could provide benefits to Maryland ratepayers and utility operations.

BGE was the first utility to file such a plan in May 2020; MYPs were also later filed by Pepco and Delmarva. Each of these utilities subsequently filed second MYPs.

The Commission's 2020 order contemplated a 'lessons-learned' proceeding to allow the utilities, Staff, OPC, other stakeholders, and/or interested persons to submit information and comments on how the MYP construct had fared relative to the goals and potential benefits discussed in the order.

In August 2024, the Commission sought comments from BGE, Staff, OPC, and other interested stakeholders on various topics, including:

- (1) what, if any, appreciable improvements in state policy objectives have been achieved under the MRP compared to traditional ratemaking;
- (2) whether the potential shortened cost recovery period was achieved and its impact on customers and other aspects of the ratemaking process such as cost disallowance;
- (3) whether rate predictability was achieved and its impact relative to traditional ratemaking;
- (4) whether administrative burdens actually decreased on the Commission and other stakeholders;
- (5) whether greater transparency into capital spending and improvements in system reliability have been realized compared to standard ratemaking; and
- (6) whether more utility innovation and equitable risk distribution have been achieved relative to traditional ratemaking.

The Commission particularly noted that OPC raised several important issues regarding MYPs and whether they are in the best interest of ratepayers and other stakeholders and whether they are in the public interest in general.

In the Lessons Learned proceeding, the Commission requested that parties opine on the issues raised by OPC and provide any comments or recommendations for improvements with the implementation of MYPs should the Commission proceed with promulgating MYP regulations. The Commission noted its intent to utilize this proceeding as a complete analysis of MYP impacts on the companies, all classes of customers, the State's economy, and environment and energy policy goals.

The Commission held legislative-style hearings October 15-16, 2024, in which it heard presentations and arguments from stakeholders on the various topics outlined in the notice. On

August 11, 2025, the Commission issued a notice giving parties an opportunity to update briefs by September 5, 2025. The General Assembly's passage of the Next Generation Energy Act (2025) amended provisions of the PUA relating to multi-year rate plans. The Commission observed that the parties' positions regarding lessons learned may have changed or become outdated by the NGEA, given that the filing of the briefs preceded the passage of the NGEA by several months. This matter remains pending.

**Complaint of the Office of People's Counsel Against Washington Gas Light Company and WGL Energy Services, Inc.-Case No. [9673](#)**

ON NOVEMBER 24, 2021, OPC filed a complaint against Washington Gas Light Company and WGL Energy alleging the companies engaged in deceptive marketing based upon information contained in billing statements sent to customers. On that same date, the Commission initiated a new docket and requested comments. On February 7, 2022, in Order No. 90057, the Commission dismissed OPC's complaint and, on April 20, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90175 denying OPC's request for rehearing.

OPC filed a Petition for Judicial Review in Montgomery County Circuit Court. On December 22, 2022, the court affirmed the Commission's dismissal of OPC's complaint. OPC then appealed to the Appellate Court of Maryland. On December 20, 2023, the Appellate Court reversed the Circuit Court and ordered that the Circuit Court vacate the Commission's Order and remand this matter to the Commission.

On July 10, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91217 which initiated discovery and delegated the case to the PULJ Division. On October 3, 2024, OPC voluntarily dismissed its complaint against WGL Energy. On October 22, 2024, a notice of procedural dates was issued.

After three rounds of discovery, OPC, Sierra Club, and Washington Gas filed dispositive motions on December 13, 2025. OPC moved for summary judgment against Washington Gas. Washington Gas again moved to dismiss. OPC's motion included a statement of uncontested facts. On March 20, 2025, the Chief Public Utility Law Judge issued a ruling on the request/motion and responses wherein he adopted OPC's uncontested facts and held that Washington Gas's marketing violated PUA § 5-303 because it was not adequate, just, or reasonable. On April 7, 2025, WGL filed a Request for Proposed Order and Stay or Clarification. On April 18, 2025, the Chief Public Utility Law Judge issued a ruling denying the request.

The matter proceeded to the penalty phase. While OPC maintained that an evidentiary hearing was unnecessary for the Commission to assess penalties, Washington Gas insisted that an evidentiary hearing was necessary. OPC and Sierra Club submitted briefs recommending civil penalties and non-monetary relief. On June 30, 2025, the Chief Judge issued a proposed order assessing a \$350,000 penalty and limited non-monetary remedies. Washington Gas, OPC, and Sierra Club appealed the proposed order. This matter remains pending.

*(See COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURT MATTERS section on p. 101.)*

**Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's Application for an Electric School Bus Pilot Program-Case No. [9696](#)**

ON MARCH 3, 2023, BGE filed a proposal for an electric school bus pilot program to provide electric school bus rebates and related rebates in support of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. BGE requested the Commission's approval before June 2023 so that the company could complete all implementation activities for an October 1, 2023 program launch and develop equitable deployment plans for all jurisdictions.

In its application, BGE proposed a four-year, \$79.6 million Electric Vehicle School Bus (EVS) Pilot Program consisting of \$75.5 million in financial incentives for the purchase of EVSBs, electric vehicle supply equipment, make-ready and installation costs, and general and administrative transition costs for school districts, as well as \$4.1 million in program implementation costs which includes administrative, education, and outreach expenses. The company's EVSB Pilot Program aimed to deploy a total of 204 EVSBs over the four-year period.

The Commission held an evidentiary hearing on October 2, 2023. After reviewing testimony and briefs, on January 16, 2024, the Commission deferred its decision on BGE's application until the other investor-owned utilities filed proposals and the 2024 legislative session ended. The Commission directed any remaining investor-owned utilities interested in submitting an electric school bus pilot proposal to do so by May 1, 2024. On January 17, 2024, PE filed its electric school bus pilot proposal. (*See below for Case No. 9741.*)

On January 27, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91498 in which it approved BGE's proposal with modifications.

On April 23, 2025, BGE filed a request for a one-year extension to provide a final plan in order to assess the market, customer interest, and determine whether BGE can redesign its pilot proposal in a manner that maximizes benefits and is consistent with the Commission's order. The Commission opened a comment period until May 12, 2025.

On July 18, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91737, in which it granted BGE a six-month extension to file a final proposal. On January 16, 2026, BGE filed its EVSB Pilot Program implementation plan with the Commission and requested that implementation of the program be postponed for a minimum of three years, with market conditions to be reevaluated at that time. The Commission invited comments to be filed by February 20, 2026. This matter remains pending.

**Potomac Electric Power Company Streetlights - Case No. [9703](#)**

ON APRIL 7, 2023, the Municipal Corporations (Chevy Chase Village, Chevy Chase Section 3, the City of Gaithersburg, the City of College Park, the Town of North Chevy Chase, and the Town of Washington Grove) filed a letter requesting unresolved issues related to Pepco's streetlighting

tariffs be briefed on a schedule agreed to by the parties. On the same day, Pepco filed a joint issues list of outstanding issues and parties efforts to resolve remaining issues.

The topic in the case pertained to proposed revisions to Pepco's street lighting tariffs that were filed April 8, 2022 regarding the sale of the companies streetlighting equipment to a county or municipality upon a written request as contained in §§ 1-1309(c) and (d) of the Local Government Article of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*. The issue was addressed throughout 2022 and at the beginning of 2023.

The topics under debate were briefed, discussed, and negotiated over the remainder of 2023 and a final update was provided to the Commission on January 10, 2024 which requested the Commission resolve two outstanding issues (1) if the municipalities needed to coordinate with non-utility who owned poles that Pepco equipment was attached to outside of the process established by the Commission and (2) indemnification. The Commission issued Order No. 91067 which requested briefing from Verizon who owns several of the poles impacted by item (1) regarding their responsibilities under §§ 1-1309 of the Local Government Article and resolved the indemnification item. The Commission also requested that Pepco identify the other pole owners.

After receiving briefing from Verizon, the Commission determined that the municipalities had the same right that the seller had to the space the streetlight is attached to but that did not extend to other terms, agreements, or arrangements between the pole owner and the previous streetlight owner. Also, the Commission determined it did not have jurisdiction over disputes that would arise under §§ 1-1309 related to non-electric companies. Also, Pepco noted 3,737 poles whose owners were listed as 'unidentified'. The Commission found this unacceptable and required Pepco to include pole owner identification in a survey it is required to complete in Case No. 9706.

On November 7, 2025, the Municipalities filed a petition for relief to, among other things, revise the previously-filed Model Agreement for Sale of Streetlights and Model License Agreement for Overhead Electrical Service and Attachments to Utility Poles for Street and Area Lighting, and to remove the requirement that government owners install a disconnect switch on the streetlight assets acquired from Pepco. On January 22, 2026, the Commission opened a comment period until April 1, 2026, and announced a legislative-style hearing would be held on April 23, 2026. This matter remains pending.

**Petition of the Office of People's Counsel for Near-Term, Priority Actions and Comprehensive, Long-Term Planning for Maryland's Gas Companies-Case No. [9707](#)**

[ON FEBRUARY 9, 2023](#), the Maryland Office of People's Counsel filed a petition related to near term priority actions and comprehensive long-term planning for Maryland's gas companies. On June 14, 2023, the Commission issued a notice requesting comments on the proceeding which were received through December of 2023. The Commission held two hearings—on July 25 and July 31, 2024—to review comments and presentations by various parties, including the

Commission's Technical Staff, the Maryland Energy Administration, Maryland's natural gas utilities, environmental advocates, the business community, non-profit organizations, *etc.*

On June 13, 2025, the Commission issued an order ending subsidies for new gas service or gas main line extensions. This was a fundamental change in the way gas utilities charge customers for these services. The Commission found that Maryland's energy policies, which call for continuing reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and greater electrification, may no longer be compatible with the status-quo for how gas line extensions are funded.

On August 20, 2025, the Commission announced the appointment of a Special Master, Thomas Gorak, to conduct proceedings in this matter. The Special Master held a conference on September 16, 2025 to discuss the procedural schedule and discuss preliminary matters. That discussion revealed little agreement among the parties on a procedural schedule. On October 6, 2025, the Commission issued an order initiating a Phase II in the docket for evidentiary proceedings and procedural matters, and also granted the request of Easton Utilities to be excused from the requirement to file written testimony and comments in the proceeding.

On October 7, 2025, the Special Master issued an order establishing the procedural schedule. The schedule noted that evidentiary hearings would begin August 24, 2026 and that the Special Master would issue his report to the Commission on December 7, 2026. This matter remains ongoing.

**Formal Complaint of Robert Stevens v. Delmarva Power and Light Company-Case No. [9727](#)**

ON JULY 28, 2023, [Dr. Stevens](#) filed a formal complaint against Delmarva Power & Light (DPL) related to returned check fees, late payment fees, credit card fees, mailing costs and fees for his convenience. On August 28, 2023, DPL filed a response. On March 21, 2024, the Commission delegated this matter to the PULJ Division. After Staff filed testimony on May 13, 2024, a settlement was agreed upon and a virtual settlement hearing was held on June 5, 2024.

On July 24, 2024, a proposed order was issued that accepted the settlement and directed Staff to investigate the extent to which DPL improperly collected returned check fees from customers.

On August 8, 2024, a procedural schedule for Phase II was issued. On November 15, 2024, Staff filed testimony related to its investigation and DPL filed its reply testimony on December 13, 2024. An evidentiary hearing was held on May 15, 2025, and a briefing schedule was established. A proposed order was issued on June 11, 2025. OPC filed an appeal on July 11, 2025. On March 23, 2026, the Commission issued Order No. 92248 affirming the PULJ's proposed order.

**Complaint of the Staff of the Public Service Commission of Maryland Against Yazam, Inc. d/b/a Empower-Case No. [9732](#)**

[ON APRIL 5, 2024](#), the Commission's Staff filed a complaint against Yazam, Inc. d/b/a Empower (Yazam) to show cause why it should not be enjoined from continuing to engage in the provision of unlicensed and unauthorized transportation services and operating as a Transportation Network Company without a permit in Maryland and why it should not be subject to civil penalty. On April 8, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ division. On April 29, 2024, a procedural schedule was issued.

On June 7, 2024, Yazam filed an answer to Staff's complaint. On July 12, 2024, Yazam filed a status report. On July 30, 2024, Staff filed a motion to compel. On August 5, 2024, Staff filed a motion for response to a second data request. On August 5, 2024, Staff filed a motion for response to a third data request. On August 7, 2024, Yazam filed a response to the motions to compel the data requests. On August 12, 2024, Staff filed direct testimony and exhibits. On September 20, 2024, Yazam filed direct testimony. On October 2, 2024, Staff filed a motion for sanctions and a directive to comply with prior Commission directives. On October 4, 2024, Yazam filed a response to Staff's motion for sanctions. On October 9, 2024, Staff filed a response to Empower's reply. On October 17, 2024, Staff filed rebuttal testimony. On October 20, 2024, an amended procedural schedule was issued. On November 6, 2024, OPC filed a motion to compel a response to OPC's data request No. 2 to Yazam.

On October 3, 2025, the PULJ issued a ruling on motion to dismiss, motions to compel, and motion for sanctions. On October 10, 2025, Yazam filed an appeal. On October 21, 2025, OPC filed a motion to dismiss the appeal as deficient. On October 22, 2025, Yazam filed an opposition to OPC's motion to dismiss the appeal. On December 27, 2025, Yazam filed a memorandum on appeal. On November 14, 2025, OPC filed a reply memorandum. On January 29, 2026, the Commission issued Order No. 92165, in which it concluded that Yazam qualified as a transportation network company. The order struck the Public Utility Law Judge's imposition of a civil penalty, granted Staff's motion to compel, and remanded the matter back to the PULJ.

On March 2, 2026, Yazam filed a motion for reconsideration. On March 5, 2026, OPC filed a renewed motion to compel. On March 9, 2026, Yazam filed a motion to stay proceedings pending final resolution on jurisdiction. On March 9, 2026, Yazam filed an opposition to OPC's motion to compel. On March 11, 2026, the PULJ held a status conference. On March 19, OPC filed a reply memorandum. On March 23, Staff filed a reply to the motion for reconsideration. The matter is still pending.

#### **Potomac Edison's Electric School Bus Pilot - Case No. [9741](#)**

[ON JANUARY 17, 2024](#), The Potomac Edison Company (PE) filed a proposal for an electric school bus pilot program to provide electric school bus rebates and related rebates in support of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022. Potomac Edison proposed to incentivize 28 electric school buses over five years and provide additional incentives and program costs for about \$10.4 million. After issuing Order No. 91215 on procedural schedules and receiving testimony, the Commission held an evidentiary hearing on October 4, 2024. The Commission, on March 21, 2025, approved a modified pilot in Order No. 91571.

On June 20, 2025, PE filed its implementation plan for its Pilot. In Order No. 91918, the Commission approved PE's implementation plan and required a compliance filing that addressed, in part, more information about PE's capacity to implement Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) across its service territory. PE complied with the order on December 17, 2025 by submitting its compliance filing.

### **Thermal Energy Network System Pilot Programs - Case No. [9749](#)**

[ON MAY 9, 2024](#), the Working for Accessible Renewable Maryland Thermal Heat (WARMTH) Act, HB 397 of 2024, passed into law. The WARMTH Act required gas companies with 75,000 or more customers (and permits gas companies with fewer than 75,000 customers) to propose a pilot thermal energy network system to the Commission for approval. Proposals were to comply with requirements set forth in the WARMTH Act and be submitted to the Commission no later than July 1, 2025.

On July 12, 2024, the Commission initiated Case No. 9749 and provided guidance on prospective proposals. Throughout the remainder of 2024 and through the first half of, BGE and Washington Gas developed their proposals and filed updates and cost recovery requests with the Commission. On July 1, 2024, BGE and Washington Gas filed their pilot program proposals. A variety of parties filed comments on the proposals, and BGE and Washington Gas filed reply comments. The Commission held legislative-style hearings on the proposals on September 30 and October 1, 2025, receiving testimony from BGE and Washington Gas, as well as several interested parties and members of the public.

On December 19, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 92095, finding that the thermal energy network systems pilot proposals required further development. The Commission found network geothermal energy to be a promising and innovative technology with the potential to positively address energy affordability and grid stability. Additionally, the Commission noted network geothermal can help with meeting the State's clean energy goals. While supporting the intention behind the WARMTH Act, the Commission nonetheless did not find that the proposed pilot programs would further the development of geothermal systems in Maryland. Among other deficiencies, the proposed pilots were not cost-effective. The Commission indicated BGE and Washington Gas must make substantial revisions to their proposals, and the Commission indicated it would hire a consultant to guide the revision process. In 2026, the Commission will undertake this guided process to refine the network geothermal pilot program proposals.

### **Formal Complaint of Sarah Croxford v. Baltimore Gas and Electric Company-Case No. [9758](#)**

[ON JULY 8, 2024](#), [Sarah Croxford](#) filed a formal complaint against BGE related to service reliability concerns. After BGE filed a response, on October 11, 2024, the Commission docketed this proceeding and delegated it to the PULJ Division. On October 30, 2024, a procedural schedule was issued with an evidentiary hearing to be held on April 3, 2025. On April 1, 2025, BGE filed a motion for summary judgment on the grounds that there was no genuine dispute as to any

material fact in this matter and the company was entitled to judgment as a matter of law. On April 7, 2025, the Chief PULJ denied BGE's motion noting that even though BGE filed its motion in advance of the evidentiary hearing, it was done so close in time to the hearing that there was insufficient time to appropriately consider the motion and the Croxfords' opposition. Furthermore, the delay in ruling on the motion effectively defeated its intended purpose of avoiding an evidentiary hearing. After an evidentiary hearing on April 3, 2025, the parties filed post-hearing briefs. A proposed order was issued on June 25, 2025. The proposed order became final with Order No. 91750 issued on July 28, 2025.

**Formal Complaint of Hassan Ashktorab v. Potomac Electric Power Company-Case No. [9760](#)**

[ON JUNE 4, 2024](#), Hassan Ashktorab and Farided Chitsaz filed a formal complaint against Pepco pursuant to PUA §§ 3-102 and 5-303 regarding a dispute with Pepco related to configuration of Pepco's primary line along Hampden Lane in Bethesda where complainants' service address is located. In a related proceeding, the Commission's Engineering Division recommended that Pepco relocate the primary line from the south side of Hampden Lane to the north side of Hampden Lane. The complainants alleged, among other things, that the proposed reconfiguration would breach a contract they entered into with Pepco in November of 2022.

On October 22, 2024, the Commission delegated the matter to the PULJ Division. Bench data requests were issued on December 4, 2024 to Pepco and Staff. On December 16, 2024, Michael Ravitch and Bruce Glassman filed a motion to intervene, which was granted. Additional bench data requests were issued. An evidentiary hearing was held on September 18, 2025. Post-hearing briefs were filed. A proposed order was issued on October 24, 2025. Hassan Ashktorab and Farided Chitsaz filed an appeal of the proposed order as did the intervenors Ravitch and Glassman. Pepco filed a reply memorandum to their memoranda on appeal. This matter remains pending.

**Baltimore Gas and Electric Company's Customer Call Center Inaccessibility-Case No. [9850](#)**

[IN THE FALL OF 2025](#), the Commission became aware of significant and persistent complaints against BGE regarding the accessibility of its customer service call center. Through the year, the Commission's Consumer Affairs Division (CAD) documented at least 140 complaints from BGE customers who specifically cited issues with the company's customer service and call center operations. Customer complaints included difficulties in reaching the company via telephone and being unable to speak with a live representative to resolve essential utility matters, such as billing issues and turnoff notices for nonpayment.

On December 11, 2025, the Commission issued a notice for BGE to appear to discuss these issues on December 17, 2025. At the December 17 hearing, the Commission heard from BGE, CAD, the Commission's Technical Staff, and the Office of the People's Counsel (OPC). CAD summarized a surge in BGE complaints, primarily driven by customers' inability to reach the call center regarding billing charges and service terminations. CAD noted that these concerns were unique

to BGE, and other Maryland utilities were not seeing these challenges. OPC confirmed the rise in complaints concerning BGE's customer service operations. BGE explained that, while customer call volume had increased by only 0.2 percent year-over-year, the increasing complexity of calls led to longer handling and wait times. BGE acknowledged the strain this put on customers. To address these challenges, BGE committed to increase staffing for its call center and to implement technological improvements to streamline customer operations.

Following the hearing, on December 30, 2025, the Commission issued a letter order initiating Case No. 9850. The Commission:

- Confirmed that BGE should proceed with its plan for proposed solutions;
- Articulated the expectation that BGE maintain protections for limited-income customers against service disconnection for nonpayment;
- Directed BGE to work with Staff and OPC to develop appropriate metrics for tracking call center performance and improvement;
- Directed BGE to develop and file a corrective action plan by January 20, 2026;
- Directed BGE to cease all dunning activities, including issuance of new notifications for overdue payments, collection activities, and service interruptions or terminations for nonpayment; and
- Because customers may have experienced termination of service or paid past due penalties without the opportunity to speak to a BGE representative, directed the Staff to investigate whether the inability to communicate with the company violated any service termination or other regulations.

In 2026, the Commission will take further action to oversee improvements to BGE's customer operations.

## COMMISSION WATER/SEWER CASES

### **Settlement Agreement for Staff-Assisted Rate Case for Nine Water Utilities Located in Southern Maryland for Authority to Increase its Rates and Charges for Water Services- Case No. [9750](#)**

ON JULY 18, 2024, the parties filed a signed settlement agreement to increase rates and charges for nine water companies located in Charles and Calvert counties. The settlement agreement proposed rates designed to increase annual revenues by \$425,259 and an additional \$13.89 monthly surcharge to comply with the EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions. Public comment hearings were held on November 26, 2024 and December 11, 2024. An evidentiary hearing was held on December 12, 2024. A proposed order was issued on January 15, 2025 that accepted the proposed annual revenue requirement and monthly surcharge, however, proposed a modified rate design. The nine water companies filed an appeal on February 4, 2025.

On April 18, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91617 reinstating the settlement's original rate design but with additional customer protections.

### **Investigation of Intended Abandonment by Amelano Water Company, Inc. of its Franchise and Service to the Amelano Manor Subdivision in Frederick County, Maryland-Case No. [9830](#)**

Amelano, a small water company originally incorporated in 1969 and owned and operated by Kirk Fisher, supplies water to 12 houses located in the Amelano Manor subdivision in Frederick County.

On February 17, 2025, Mr. Fisher sent an email to the Commission's Engineering Division with copies of a letter he had sent on that same date to homeowners connected to the Amelano water system, informing them that, as of January 1, 2026, Amelano would no longer be in operation and would no longer supply water to their homes. That letter indicated that Mr. Fisher sent copies of that notice to officials at MDE and Frederick County.

On October 30, 2025, the Commission's Technical Staff petitioned the Commission to (among other things):

- (1) Issue an order directing Amelano Water Company, Inc. to continue operating until a date specified by the Commission beyond January 1, 2026;
- (2) Issue an order directing Amelano to show cause why it failed to seek authority from the Commission prior to informing its customers that it would abandon its water system;
- (3) Issue an order directing Amelano to participate in discussions to lead to a transfer of Amelano to a new owner; and
- (4) Hold a hearing to determine whether Amelano should be granted authority to abandon its water system, whether Amelano's authority to exercise its franchise and rights should be revoked, and whether civil penalties should be imposed for Amelano's

failure to request authority to abandon its water system before notifying its customers that it intended to do so.

On November 4, 2025, the Commission issued a notice of expedited proceedings and designated Commissioner McLean to conduct hearings and adjudicate this matter on an expedited basis. The Commission noted that Staff and OPC had each filed letters with the Commission referencing correspondence sent by Mr. Fisher, assuring its customers that Amelano would continue to provide water service until the matter was resolved.

On November 7, 2025, Commissioner McLean conducted a virtual hearing to determine whether the company should be granted authority to abandon its water system, whether to revoke the company's authority to exercise its water system franchise, and whether civil penalties should be imposed for attempting to abandon the water system without Commission approval.

On December 19, 2025, the Commission directed the parties to continue discussions and for Amelano to contact a list of private water companies regarding the potential transfer of the system and contractors/engineering firms to obtain estimates for repairs, and to address the viability of having the Maryland Environmental Service operate the water system.

On February 4, 2026, the Commission issued a procedural schedule. An evidentiary hearing was held on February 17, 2026 at which the Commission's Engineering Staff testified that the Amelano water system was in need of urgent, significant, and system-wide repairs and improvements to address matters that could create public health hazards. Engineering also noted that the owner's operating certificate had expired.

The Commission's Accounting Investigations Division testified that what little financial information existed painted a dire picture for the company, and the amount of capital investment needed to operate Amelano's system safely and adequately was difficult to determine due to the company's financial state and the lack of technical abilities. Furthermore, Amelano would likely not be eligible for any government-funded loans, grants or financial assistance and no other water company has expressed interest in taking over the system. Staff recommended the Commission revoke the company's operating authority and allow a 90-day transition period for the company to seek another operator or for MDE to take over the system.

On February 20, 2026, Commissioner McLean issued a proposed order revoking Amelano's franchise. He found that while sanctions were justified given the company's actions, *i.e.*, forfeiting its right to do business in 2010, operating the system without an MDE operator license since 2013/2014, and allowing the system to degrade to the extent that it faced imminent catastrophic failure, imposing sanctions was not appropriate. He noted that the company's financial situation is such that it could not adequately maintain its system let alone pay any civil penalties, and imposing civil penalties would be of no benefit to customers. The proposed order became final in Order No. 92201 on March 3, 2026 - the revocation of the company's operating authority was effective within 15 days of the final order date.

## Rulemakings and Regulations – New and Amended

### RM56-Community Solar Energy Generation Systems

ON MARCH 25, 2024, the Commission's Technical Staff proposed regulations to implement provisions of House Bill 908 of 2023 which transitioned the Community Solar Pilot Program to a permanent program. HB908 required adoption, by July 1, 2025, of rules to revise interconnection requirements for community solar systems, implement consolidated billing, reporting metrics for billing and crediting, and certain operating requirements for electric utilities and subscriber organizations.

The Commission held a rulemaking session on May 15, 2024 in which the Commission took no action on the proposed regulations noting a number of outstanding issues to be resolved and directed the parties to reconvene to reach consensus.

On July 31, 2024, Staff submitted revised proposed regulations to COMAR 20.50 and COMAR 20.62. The Commission held a rulemaking session on September 5, 2024 at which the Commission approved amendments to the draft regulations and moved to publish in the Maryland Register for notice and comment, revised regulations to COMAR 20.50.09 Small Generator Facility Interconnection Standards; COMAR 20.62.01 General; COMAR 20.62.02 Pilot Program; COMAR 20.62.03 Pilot Program Administration; COMAR 20.62.04 Pilot Program Study; and COMAR 20.62.05 Consumer Protection.

On October 10, 2024, at the request of the Net Metering Work Group, the Commission issued a notice for comments on the development of rules to implement consolidated billing for the Community Solar program noting that the work group could not reach agreement concerning which of three proposed billing methodologies should be used.

On November 1, 2024, the Coalition for Community Solar Access submitted a request for the Commission to schedule a hearing on the Net Metering Work Group's petition for policy guidance on consolidated billing. The Commission also received comments on the petition from other interested parties. The Commission held a legislative-style hearing on November 26, 2024 to consider input on the matter.

A rulemaking session was held on February 4, 2025 in which the Commission gave final adoption to proposed implementation regulations that had been published in the *Maryland Register* on December 13, 2024. These regulations did not include rules for implementing consolidated billing. In May 2025, the utilities filed for Commission approval updated tariff filings that would, amongst other things, establish the Community Solar Pilot Program as permanent. The Commission approved the utility filings in July 2025.

On February 10, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91524 in which it directed the work group to develop a consolidated billing mechanism consistent with the 'Net Crediting 1' methodology supported by solar advocates and organizations. This process provides that a

subscription credit is generated that is first applied to the community solar subscription fee and is then applied to the applicable utility charges, similar to the methodology implemented in New York. The work group was further directed to file draft regulations by March 31, 2025. Staff filed the proposed regulations for consolidated billing on March 31, as directed by the PSC. A hearing on consolidated billing mechanisms was held on April 30, 2025.

In December 2025, the Commission approved utility tariffs for the implementation of utility consolidated billing for the community solar program, inclusive of administrative fees and parameters for unsubscribed energy banking. In addressing Potomac Edison's tariff, the Commission rejected tariff language that would have granted PE the authority to discontinue service to projects that do not maintain a 40% low-to-moderate income subscriber requirement. The Commission required the Net Metering Work Group to address this matter in its suite of recommendations due in April 2026. Resolution of this matter is pending.

### **RM85 - Energy Storage**

**ON MAY 8, 2023**, the Maryland General Assembly enacted House Bill 910 amending PUA §7-216 and promulgating PUA § 7-216.1. Those changes directed the Commission to establish a Maryland Energy Storage Program (MESP) that provides annual deployment targets for energy storage devices in Maryland, among other things. To that end, the Commission issued Order No. 90823 establishing Case No. 9715 and the Maryland Energy Storage Program Work Group on October 2, 2023.

The Work Group filed a report on October 1, 2024 accompanied by a petition for rulemaking with proposed energy storage regulations. The Commission also opened the RM85 rulemaking proceeding on October 1, 2024. The Commission approved these RM85 regulations on February 5, 2025. However, prior to publishing these new regulations in the Maryland Register, the Renewable Energy Certainty Act was passed. The Act was codified as PUA § 7-219 and makes changes to various processes and procedures associated with energy storage devices, including stipulating that a person may not begin construction of a front-of-the-meter energy storage device unless the construction has been approved by the Commission.

The Act requires an applicant for construction approval to provide immediate notice of the application to certain governing bodies, members of the General Assembly and affected communities that are located within one mile of the proposed location of the energy storage device. In addition, if the proposed location of the front-of-the-meter energy storage device is in an area considered to be overburdened and underserved as defined in § 1-701 of the Environment Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the Act requires the applicant to hold at least two public meetings in the community where the energy storage device is to be located. In addition, there are site requirements specified if the proposed front-of-the-meter energy storage device will not be constructed at a commercial or industrial location. Finally, the Commission may waive or modify the requirements in the Act for good cause. The Act was signed into law by the Governor on May 20, 2025, and became effective on July 1, 2025.

To implement the Act's requirements, the Commission developed an online application form. Also, an RM85 subteam consisting of members of the Maryland Energy Storage Program Work Group and others worked to develop an updated regulations proposal that was filed with the Commission on July 9, 2025. An initial rulemaking session was held on September 10, 2025, with a final rulemaking session on January 21, 2026. The new COMAR 20.50.14 Energy Storage regulations that were approved by the Commission in the RM85 rulemaking proceeding became effective on March 30, 2026.

### **RM86 - Work Group on Emergency Weather Termination Protections**

On June 18, 2024, the Maryland Office of People's Counsel (OPC) petitioned the Commission requesting that it issue an emergency order to protect residential utility customers from extreme heat then-expected to be experienced in the summer of 2024. Following the receipt of the petition from OPC, the Commission initiated Case No. 9745 to docket comments on this issue. The Commission considered parties' comments and on July 23, 2024, issued Order No. 91239 which directed Maryland electric utilities to temporarily add 16 days to any termination notice given to customers before termination for non-payment, with this emergency directive ending on September 1, 2024. Within this order, the Commission found that the additional issues raised by OPC in their petition would be better addressed at a rulemaking proceeding addressing service terminations.

The Commission internally developed proposed regulations to revise COMAR 20.31 and subsequently initiated Rulemaking 86 focused on addressing service termination protections. Specifically, the RM86 proceeding seeks to address the concerns raised by parties in Case No. 9745, as well as other issues, such as those related to termination procedures, emergency authorities, payment plans, and protections during both winter and summer extreme weather periods. After receiving comments from parties, the Commission held a rulemaking proceeding on December 5, 2024. Following the rulemaking session, the Commission issued a notice directing a work group to be convened with a goal of submitting a revised draft of proposed regulations for Commission consideration by December 30, 2024 while allowing the work group to defer certain issues to a future rulemaking session.

On December 31, 2024, the work group filed a report with revised proposed regulation revisions. The report recommended proposed revisions to COMAR 20.31.01.02 and 20.31.03.04 related to defining a "summer extreme weather period" as it pertains to customer termination protections. The work group report also recommended that the Commission direct it to continue regulation revisions for the additional COMAR changes as proposed in the original RM86 regulations.

On January 22, 2025, the Commission held a rulemaking proceeding to consider the regulations as proposed in the RM86 Work Group report. In the proceeding, the Commission approved revised regulations that establish a "summer extreme weather" period for customer termination protections as one that uses a three-day forecast period, a 95-degree air temperature threshold, and a 95-degree heat index temperature threshold. In addition, the Commission directed the work group to continue to review additional regulation revisions related to customer protections.

A final rulemaking proceeding to finalize these regulations was held in May 2025. Throughout 2025, the work group met consistently to evaluate the proposed regulations.

### **RM87 - Bidirectional Electric Vehicle Systems (V2G)**

**DURING ITS 2024 SESSION**, the Maryland General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 959, the Distributed Renewable Integration and Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE) Act. Among other things, the DRIVE Act requires the Commission to adopt regulations by May 1, 2025, establishing expedited processes to interconnect bidirectional electric vehicle systems (V2G) and ensure that electric companies have adequate time to ensure electric system reliability in advance of these interconnections. To this end, the PC44 Interconnection Work Group developed V2G regulations which were filed on October 30, 2024. The proposed regulations:

- (1) established various definitions,
- (2) provided V2G system certification standards and pathways to certification,
- (3) treating V2G systems similar to energy storage devices for interconnection purposes,
- (4) setting appropriate requirements for V2G systems to operate as V1G systems, and
- (5) establishing some annual reporting requirements, among other things.

The Commission docketed [Rulemaking 87](#) for consideration of these proposed regulations on October 30, 2025. An initial rulemaking session was held on December 11, 2024, and a final rulemaking session on June 11, 2025. The new COMAR 20.50.09.06S V2G regulations, which were the first to be established in the United States, became effective on July 7, 2025.

### **RM89 - Electric System Planning**

**ON JUNE 23, 2021**, the Commission issued Order No. 89865, formally establishing a Distribution System Planning (DSP) docket in Case No. 9665 and initiating a DSP Work Group. Subsequently, the Maryland Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) of 2022 established measures to reduce statewide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by implementing a range of strategies including establishing certain state policy goals for Maryland’s electric distribution system.

The CSNA, which became effective on June 1, 2022, adopted the language now codified in PUA § 7-801, *et seq.* Those sections directed the Commission to adopt regulations or issue orders to implement specific policies for electric distribution system planning and improvements. The CSNA also required annual reports on electric distribution planning to the General Assembly starting in December 2023. Subsequently, House Bill 1393 (2024) for Electric System Planning – Scope and Funding modified PUA Title 7 Subtitle 8 to focus on electric system planning superseding electric distribution planning and to also require that the Commission report on the projects to promote specific State policy goals in its annual report, among other things. Specifically, PUA § 7-802 directs the Commission to submit a report, in accordance with § 7-1257

of the State Government Article, to the General Assembly, by December 1 each year, with information regarding the status of projects designed to promote specific goals, including information on planning processes and implementation.

On May 1, 2025, in accordance with the CSNA and House Bill 1393, the Distribution System Planning Work Group filed draft regulations. On May 2, 2025, the Commission docketed Rulemaking 89 (RM89). An initial rulemaking session was held on June 18, 2025 and a final rulemaking session was held on October 23, 2025. The new COMAR 20.50.15 Electric System Planning regulations that were approved by the Commission became effective on November 24, 2025.

### **RM90 - Implementation of Regulations to Major Outage Events**

The Maryland Electricity Service Quality and Reliability Act (SB 692/HB 391) enacted in 2011 led to a PSC regulatory initiative involving several rulemakings over the years to mandate stricter service quality and reliability standards for electric companies, including faster outage restoration, better vegetation management, and penalties for failing to meet new performance benchmarks.

In Order No. 90782 on September 1, 2023, the Commission directed Staff to lead a Major Outage Event COMAR Revisions Work Group to propose revisions to the existing COMAR regulations governing:

- (1) service interruption standards;
- (2) downed wire standards;
- (3) standards for qualified line personnel available during storms; and
- (4) revising COMAR 20.50.12 regulations for major outage events (MOEs) that establish standards for each MOE storm as opposed to current regulations that establish annual calendar year standards.

Staff filed the Work Group report on November 1, 2024. Staff reconvened the Work Group for further proceedings to consider additional direction in Order No. 91583. Subsequently, Staff filed a petition for rulemaking on June 23, 2025. The Commission docketed RM90 on June 24, 2025. In response to feedback from parties in the proceeding, the Commission issued a notice of postponement on September 30, 2025, seeking additional information due in 2026 before resuming the rulemaking session.

### **RM95 - Implementing STRIDE Plan NGEA Compliance Standards**

The Next Generation Act (NGEA) passed in 2025 and modified the STRIDE law, PUA § 4-210, to clarify the General Assembly's intent to "allow for the appropriate acceleration" of gas infrastructure improvements in Maryland. Under the NGEA amendments, STRIDE investments are "appropriate" only when they are "necessary to ensure safety and improve reliability" and are "consistent with State policy." Pursuant to the NGEA's additional information requirements, STRIDE plans must now demonstrate that the gas company has selected and given priority to

projects based on risk to the public and cost-effectiveness, has provided an analysis that compares the costs of proposed replacement projects with alternatives to replacement and provided a plan for notifying customers affected by proposed projects at least six months in advance of construction, among other things.

In 2025, Washington Gas Light Company (WGL) is the only gas company in Maryland with a STRIDE plan that is affected by the NGEA. In response to a Commission letter order issued October 21, 2025 that requested WGL justify how WGL's current STRIDE 3 plan complies with the NGEA, WGL submitted a NGEA compliance filing on December 20, 2025. After considering WGL's filing and related stakeholder comments, the Commission determined that a rulemaking proceeding establishing NGEA STRIDE compliance standards was necessary since the NGEA impacts gas companies other than WGL. The Commission issued Order No. 92207 on February 26, 2026 establishing RM95 and requiring Staff to file proposed regulations within 120 days of the issuance of the order.

## Public Conferences and Work Groups

### **PC44—Transforming Maryland's Electric Distribution Systems (Grid Modernization)**

ON SEPTEMBER 26, 2016, the Commission convened PC44—a proceeding which built on two Commission technical conferences that examined rate-related issues affecting the deployment of distributed energy resources ([PC40](#)) and electric vehicles ([PC43](#)). It also followed up on a condition of the Commission's May 2015 approval of the merger of Exelon Corporation and Pepco Holdings, Inc. (PHI) which required PHI to file a plan for transforming its distribution system and fund up to \$500,000 to retain a consultant to the Commission on the matter.

Key topics of exploration would include enhancing rate design options, particularly for electric vehicles; calculating benefits and costs of distributed energy resources, including solar energy; maximizing advanced metering infrastructure (smart meters) benefits; valuing energy storage properly; streamlining the interconnection process for distributed energy resources; evaluating distribution system planning; and assessing impacts on limited-income Marylanders.

On January 31, 2017, the Commission issued a notice outlining the proceeding's next steps. The notice directed PHI to seek bids for a consultant to study the benefits and costs of distributed solar and also contained a statement of guiding principles, revised the scope/topics of the proceeding, and detailed a proposed timeline. The revised topics of exploration include rate design, electric vehicles, competitive markets and customer choice, interconnection process, energy storage, and distribution system planning (if sufficient funding is available). 2025 activities are described below.

### **EV Work Group ([PC62](#))/Case No. [9478](#)—In the Matter of the Petition of the Electric Vehicle Work Group for Implementation of a Statewide Electric Vehicle Portfolio**

ON JANUARY 14, 2019, the Commission issued Order No. 88997 approving a modified EV charging portfolio across four investor-owned utility service territories—BGE, Delmarva Power & Light, Pepco and The Potomac Edison Company (PE). In summary, the Commission approved a total of 5,046 smart and DC fast chargers (combined): Rebate incentives for 3,137 residential smart chargers via rebate incentives; Rebate incentives for 1,000 non-residential smart chargers at multi-unit dwelling locations; and 909 utility-owned and operated public chargers. Order No. 88997 also approved time-of-use residential rate offerings (both whole house and EV-specific), demand charge credit programs for non-residential applications, and BGE's managed charging program to control the level of EV charging during peak demand periods.

The Commission further directed the utilities to file detailed, semi-annual reports addressing specific metrics designed to inform the Commission and the public regarding program implementation and impacts on the distribution grid. SMECO filed an application on May 14, 2019 to install up to 60 utility-owned and operated public chargers in a program similar to those approved for the four investor-owned utilities. On July 31, 2019, the Commission approved a

modified version of SMECO's request adding an additional 60 public-facing chargers to the state portfolio and raising the total number of approved public chargers to 5,106. BGE and PHI officially launched their programs in July 2019. PE and SMECO began their programs in 2020.

On February 7, 2024, BGE requested modification of its Smart Charge Management Program to repurpose \$5,000 from its unspent commercial fleet budget to incentivize vehicle to home technology for Ford F-150 Lightning vehicle owners. The Commission approved the Program modification on March 6, 2024.

On July 25, 2024, the Commission considered an additional request from BGE, filed on June 4, 2024, to expand its Smart Charge Management (SCM) residential program. BGE proposed expanding the program for three years and modifying incentives and eligibility criteria for participation in the program. In Order No. 91297, discussed further below, the Commission approved BGE's program expansion but noted that it retained the right to require BGE to modify its plan once a report, including benefit-cost analysis and grid impact analysis from the Argonne National Laboratory is final. The Commission directed Technical Staff to file recommendations within 90 days of the report's release.

2023 was the final year of the initial phase of utility programs and on March 1, 2024, the utilities filed reports for the first five years of the pilot.

The Commission held a legislative-style hearing on May 15, 2024 to evaluate Phase 1 programs, including the success of individual programs and issues of broader program design, like cost allocation and cost recovery, and on the appropriate role for the utilities within the EV charging sector moving forward. In Order No. 91297, following the proceeding and comment period, the Commission considered the applicability of the following for utility Phase II proposals: residential rebates, residential data-sharing incentives, EV TOU rates and other load-shifting offerings, managed charging, public charging, multi-unit dwelling rebates and ownership, fleet and workplace charging, and cost recovery.

The order extended certain Phase I programs and directed utilities to make Phase II filings within 120 days. Additionally, the order extended BGE's SCM, subject to the above conditions, and required the PC44 Work Group, by November 15, 2024, to make recommendations on OPC's proposal to include a distribution component to EV-only TOU rates and to expand eligibility to non-SOS customers. The order also noted that the work group should also provide a recommendation on OPC's suggestions regarding making annual hourly charging data available to stakeholders and the development of cost-benefit analyses of utility TOU programs.

On November 13, 2024, the Commission granted the PC44 EV Work Group Leader an extension until December 13, 2024 to file the required report on time-of-use. The report recommended that the Commission accept a compromise proposal for utilities establishing targets and tracking enrollment in EV load shifting programs in lieu of developing distribution EV TOU rates for standard offer service or retail choice customers. The report noted that the requirement for customers to default on EV-only TOU rates is required by utilities offering smart charge management programs, via Order No. 91297. The report recommended that the Commission

clarify whether the default provision applies to customers on retail choice at the time of enrollment. Finally, the report recommended that OPC and utilities be permitted to continue negotiations over the hourly charging data that utilities would provide.

On December 20, 2024, utilities submitted their Phase II proposals and legislative-style hearing on the Phase II proposals was held on April 9, 2025.

The Commission issued Order No. 92166 in January 2026, approving in part and denying in part, the proposed EV Phase II programs, which consisted of proposals for utility-owned charging, load management, time-of-use rates, make-ready, and fleet-specific programs.

### **Electric Vehicle Reliability-Case [9809](#)**

[ON JULY 28, 2023](#), the EV Work Group filed a report identifying consensus and non-consensus issues regarding proposed future reliability and reporting requirements for utility-owned electric vehicle charging stations. In part, the report recommended that the Commission direct EV Pilot Utilities to submit for Commission approval their business process plans for determining if a charging station is considered “down” and any associated improvements in process.

In Order No. 90971 on January 10, 2024, the Commission decided that all connectors connected to a port should operate regardless of type for the port to be considered “up.” The Commission directed the utilities to address whether the period time that a charger is “down” should begin from when a utility agent inspects and confirms the charger is not functioning as designed, or whether it should begin from the time when the utility first became aware of the issue, in utility business plans. The Commission also concluded that chargers unable to connect to the payment network must be treated as “down” for purposes of reliability and similarly that a charger with a broken interface is treated as “down.” The Commission directed other outstanding issues related to electricity costs, charging station costs, and standardized contract language to be negotiated in the work group.

On May 1, 2025, the EV Work Group filed with the Commission its Report on Utility Reliability Reporting Templates, in response to a directive from Order 91222 which addressed utility business plans for the reliability of its public charging stations. In the report, the Work Group requested that the Commission:

- 1) approve the reliability data templates for review and direct the utilities to begin their quarterly reporting as required under HB 834;
- 2) direct the utilities in their first quarterly report to include at least all information from the start of 2025; and
- 3) after the first formal review of the utility reliability reports, redelegate the work group to update the templates if the Commission determines it is necessary.

On June 25, 2025, Commission approved the Reliability Reporting Templates as filed, and required utilities to begin quarterly reporting using the templates as of August 1, 2025, with the first report including data for all months from the start of 2025.

On August 15, 2025, the Commission initiated Case No. 9809 for the purpose of housing reliability reports on utility-owned EV charging stations. A legislative-style hearing was held in September 2025.

### **Rate Design Work Group**

**AFTER CONSIDERATION AT** the December 12, 2018 Administrative Meeting, the Commission directed the Joint Utilities to proceed with implementation of residential time-of-use (TOU) pilots. Recruitment for the pilot program began in early 2019. The TOU rates went into effect in the utilities' service territories on April 1, 2019 and remained open to customers for the duration of the pilot (May 31, 2021) and through the evaluation period (end of 2021). Following the Administrative Meeting on November 18, 2020, the Commission received an update from the Brattle Group which provided evaluation, measurement, and verification to the utilities for the pilot results. The update provided preliminary results for the first year of the pilot showing statistically valid findings for the majority of the pilot metrics.

The TOU pilots concluded in April 2021 and the participating utilities provided their Final Pilot Evaluation Report in October 2021. The PC44 TOU Pilot ran from June 2019 through May 31, 2021 and included approximately 3,800 customers across the service territories of BGE, Pepco and Delmarva Power & Light (DPL). The Pilot also established a separate sampling group to determine the specific response of low- and moderate-income (LMI) customers, defined as those making 80 percent or less of the area median income. The results of the pilot were generally encouraging:

- Customers reduced summer peaks between 9.3 to 13.7 percent and non-summer peaks between 4.9 and 5.4 percent;
- LMI customers responded to the rate with statistical significance in the majority of the analyses in a manner similar to the non-LMI customers;
- Customers experienced bill savings averaging 5.3 to 9.7 percent in year one and 2.3 percent to 7.5 percent in year two; and
- Customer satisfaction rates were very high (90 percent for both BGE and Pepco, and 95 percent for DPL).

In Order No. 90298, the Commission authorized the expansion of the pilot TOU rates to a full-scale opt-in roll-out of the rates in an effort to increase enrollment. The participating utilities launched an outreach and recruitment plan to highlight and educate customers on the TOU rate which ran from May 2023 – November 2023 for BGE and July 2023 – November 2023 for Pepco and DPL. In Order No. 91080, the Commission directed the PC44 Time-of-Use Work Group to provide an assessment and recommended next steps on the success of the utilities' initial outreach and recruitment efforts; the work group continues to monitor the success of customer enrollment in the TOU rate class. Furthermore, the work group received the participating utilities' annual data reporting on the pilot TOU rates on December 31, 2024 as outlined in Order No. 90298.

The work group has additionally made recommendations and the Commission has ruled on implementation issues related to net metering customers and their participation in TOU rates which was raised by Staff and OPC. In Order No. 90673, the Commission determined that this implementation issue can and should be reconciled through a rulemaking process and directed the work group to present, for Commission consideration, proposed regulations that would resolve this issue. The work group presented consensus proposed regulations. In Order No. 91080, the Commission directed the work group to submit the proposed regulations for consideration in a rulemaking proceeding ([RM83](#)) which was held on May 8, 2024 at which the Commission moved to publish the proposed regulations. A final rulemaking session was held on August 21, 2024 which adopted the proposed regulations that were published to the *Maryland Register* as final.

The Commission also directed BGE and Pepco to issue a request for proposals from the supplier community to undertake innovative load-shaping pilots. After receiving the results of the solicitation and party comments, the Commission directed Pepco and BGE to partner with the selected suppliers in offering two innovative rate offerings designed to shift and shape residential customer load. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the supplier pilots were delayed until door-to-door sales could resume and the pilot could take place during a period with retail conditions more likely to be repeated in the future. During 2020, one of the selected suppliers launched its Pilot while the second supplier notified the Commission that it no longer intended to pursue the pilot offering. In May 2023, BGE contacted the work group stating that their selected supplier's load-shaping pilot had officially ended. BGE sought further guidance from the work group regarding the evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V) results to be provided to the Commission at the conclusion of the load-shaping pilot. The work group's report submitted on September 29, 2023 recommended that the Commission direct BGE's selected supplier to provide a report on the final results of their load-shaping pilot and direct the consultant group involved in the load-shaping pilot to be disengaged from providing the final EM&V results. The Commission issued Order No. 91080 directing BGE's selected supplier to provide a report on the final results of its load-shaping pilot and relieved the consultant group from providing the final EM&V results. Constellation, (BGE's selected supplier), submitted a final report on the load shaping pilot results to the Commission on June 12, 2024.

On May 9, 2024, Governor Wes Moore signed into law Senate Bill 959 or the Distributed Renewable Integration and Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE) Act. Within this bill, there are specific provisions on TOU rates which require investor-owned electric companies to file with the Commission one or more TOU rate tariffs for appropriate customer classes to be made available to customers on an opt-in basis by July 1, 2025. The DRIVE Act also requires the investor-owned electric companies to establish enrollment targets for the time-of-use rate tariffs and submit a report by July 1, 2026 that evaluates these time-of-use tariffs, among other provisions. In response to the passage of the DRIVE Act, the Commission issued Order No. 91218 on July 11, 2024 which directed the investor-owned electric companies to consult with the PC44 Time-of-Use Work Group to assist in developing the required time-of-use tariffs. The PC44 TOU Work Group is engaged with the investor-owned electric companies on developing these DRIVE Act TOU tariffs and will continue to monitor this development in the future.

The work group continues to conduct work in the following areas: 1) DRIVE Act TOU rate class development, 2) monitoring enrollment in TOU rate class with consideration of separately soliciting an SOS rate for TOU customers, 3) studying the feasibility and value of reporting on estimated reductions in energy capacity and transmission costs associated with the TOU rate, 4) monitoring utility TOU rate recruitment efforts, and 5) reviewing the existing “legacy” TOU tariff offerings with consideration of the feasibility of transitioning to the TOU pilot rate.

### **Interconnection Work Group**

The PC44 Interconnection Work Group continued to make improvements to interconnection regulations and to develop virtual power plant (VPP) regulations in 2025. COMAR 20.50.09 is being revised to expedite regulations to remove obstacles to the interconnection of utility-scale projects to facilitate projects meeting tax credit expiration deadlines, to offset the impacts of federal H.R.1, Public Law No: 119-21, otherwise known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). Utility-scale projects must commence construction by July 4, 2026, or be placed in service by December 31, 2027, to receive federal Clean Energy Investment (48E) investment tax credits.

Order No. 91984 issued November 14, 2025 directed the Interconnection Work Group to submit proposals for any necessary COMAR amendments to the Commission within 90 days for emergency rulemaking, to ensure renewable projects can proceed quickly to obtain necessary approvals required before the federal deadline for tax credits expires.

The Interconnection Work Group has continued to refine its VPP regulation proposal. The Commission held a Technical Conference on December 3, 2025 on various non-consensus matters associated with the implementation of VPP regulations to enable VPP PJM market participation by the February 1, 2028 deadline for PJM implementation of its FERC Order 2222 compliance plan. A Commission order is pending on these non-consensus issues in 2026.

### **PC53—Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Maryland’s Gas and Electric Utility Operations and Customer Experiences**

**AS NOTED IN** the 2021 annual report, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Larry Hogan issued a moratorium on utility disconnections in early 2020 set to expire on September 1, 2020. On August 31, 2020, the Commission took action to protect residential customers by extending the Governor’s moratorium through October 1, 2020. In addition, the Commission enacted additional customer protections, including extending the disconnection notice period to 45 days, creating more favorable terms, and prohibiting deposit requirements for payment plans. Throughout 2022, the Maryland utilities made filings requesting the return to normal collection practices. In Order No. 90333, on August 25, 2022, the Commission began a gradual return to normal practices by shortening utility disconnection notices from 45 to 30 days and lifting the requirement that utilities continue to offer payment plans after a customer’s failure to pay. On December 28, 2022, in Order No. 90455, the Commission indicated that the remaining COVID-

related protections should be lifted on April 1, 2023. The timing allowed utilities to prepare their systems and customers for the return to normal collections activities.

Following the order, the Commission established a work group with the goal of improving data reporting, recommending useful metrics, and creating a uniform data template so that utilities can continue to provide valuable data on arrearages, terminations, etc. that were required under the August 2020 orders.

The PC53 Work Group filed a report with the Commission on June 7, 2023. The report outlined 23 different data metrics developed by the work group to be reported monthly by the utilities. Additionally, the report established uniform definitions of the data metrics, developed a uniform data reporting template to be used by the utilities for reporting, and discussed the arrearage and collection timelines across the various different Maryland utilities.

On August 4, 2023, the Commission issued Order No. 90728 which approved various items outlined in the work group report; however, before accepting the 23 data metrics, the Commission directed relevant utilities to file comments detailing the specific cost estimates for compliance with filing all 23 metrics, noting some of the utilities' reservations about the costs of complying with the data reporting requirements. The utilities and other relevant parties filed comments on September 18, 2023 and October 2, 2023, respectively.

On February 20, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91031 which ordered that all electric and gas utilities within Maryland to begin submitting monthly data reports on all 23 of the data metrics by July 1, 2024 unless given other direction or exemption. On July 1, 2024, the Commission began receiving uniform monthly data reporting from all Maryland electric and gas utilities in the Commission's PC53 docket. The Commission has made each utility's reported data downloadable, via CSV format, on the Commission's [website](#). Monthly reporting continued throughout 2025.

### **PC56—Federal Grant Opportunities for Utilities Under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**

**ON JUNE 29, 2022**, the Commission issued Order No. 90272 in response to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA, also commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law) and the Maryland Climate Solutions Now Act initiating PC56 for the purpose of having Maryland utilities inform the public of those federal opportunities under the IIJA for which they have sought funding. PC56 serves as a central forum and repository for utilities, government agencies, and other interested persons to file comments identifying IIJA and other federal program opportunities, such as those under the subsequently passed Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), available to Maryland utilities that may align with state policy goals.

In the order, the Commission directed Maryland utilities to fully and carefully consider applying for available federal funds and financial assistance as well as submit monthly reports describing

any funding for which the utility has already applied. The Commission also encouraged utilities to review and fully consider any written comments when pursuing federal funding.

The Commission started receiving the utilities' monthly reports beginning August 1, 2022.

During 2023, Exelon, on behalf of Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco), Delmarva Power & Light Company (DPL), and Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE); FirstEnergy on behalf of The Potomac Edison Company (PE); and Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Inc. (SMECO) applied to the United States Department of Energy (DOE) Grid Deployment Office (GDO) for Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships grant funding under the IJA. From these applications, DOE recommended SMECO for a final award. During 2023, Pepco also applied to the DOE-U.S. Department of Transportation Joint Office of Energy & Transportation as part of the Ride & Drive Electric grant program under the IJA but was not selected for an award.

The Maryland General Assembly's passage of House Bill 1393, effective October 1, 2024, required the Commission to adopt regulations or issue orders expressly requiring electric companies to apply for available federal funds in a timely manner and "to ensure that least-cost debt is used."

On June 12, 2024, the Commission held a legislative-style hearing to consider next steps and to determine how best to comply with HB 1393.

On November 4, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91399 in which it stated that it did not find it necessary to initiate a rulemaking but directed the electric companies to: (1) diligently pursue and apply for federal and other available funds; (2) comply with the reporting requirements as ordered in Order No. 90272 and updated to include additional disclosures; and (3) engage with MEA on federal funding pursuits and ensure the use of least-cost debt when considering such federal funding options.

In the fall of 2025, the Exelon utilities provided updates noting that due to a series of federal executive orders, DOE had terminated, in their entirety, several previously approved financial assistance awards to the Maryland Exelon companies. Although SMECO and PE did not indicate that any previously awarded federal grants had been terminated, on November 5, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91968 directing utilities to provide information in their monthly reports on the impact of award terminations on both the Maryland electric companies themselves and ratepayers. The monthly reporting continues into 2026.

### **PC59-Limited Income Mechanisms for Utility Customers**

Pursuant to PUA § 4-309, the Commission initiated Public Conference 59 (PC59) in late 2023 to explore and develop mechanisms to benefit limited-income utility customers. Early in 2024, Technical Staff, the Office of People's Counsel, local governments, utilities, and consumer advocates filed public comments suggesting various mechanisms the Commission could consider such as income-based discount programs and percentage-of-income payment programs.

The Commission subsequently held hearings to further explore the suggested mechanisms as well as explore the causes of low-income energy burdens in Maryland. The Commission then convened a Work Group on Energy Burdens, consisting of the aforementioned stakeholders, to further refine and propose a model discount mechanism for limited-income utility customers that could be implemented statewide.

The Work Group submitted an initial proposal in October 2025 for a program designed to provide discounts or bill credits to income-qualified customers who enroll with the State's Office of Home Energy Programs for energy assistance. The program's goal is that these customers' energy burdens do not exceed, on average, 6% of annual income. This will benefit customers by helping to keep their utility service affordable and minimize the risk of termination of service for non-payment.

The Commission approved the general design of the program in early 2026. The Work Group will spend 2026 working on details for the program, including customer education and marketing materials. The utilities will update their billing systems and submit proposed tariffs to the Commission for approval to implement the low-income mechanism before January 1, 2027.

### **PC73 - Recommendations for Renewable Generation**

On July 4, 2025, the President of the United States signed into law H.R. 1, the "One Big Beautiful Bill Act" (OBBBA). The OBBBA implemented a wide range of changes across multiple sectors of federal law and policy, including taxes, healthcare, welfare, and energy. On July 29, 2025, the Commission initiated PC73, recognizing that with the passage of the OBBBA, the development of clean and renewable generation in Maryland may be impacted through the loss of certain federal tax credits beginning in 2026 and 2027 and restrictions on the use of foreign-supplied components in the supply chain for clean energy facilities or products.

In its order initiating PC73, the Commission posed four problem statements and asked for data, comment, and potential recommendations from interested stakeholders regarding measures that can be taken to help expedite renewable energy development in the State and enable such projects to take advantage of federal tax credit opportunities before they expire. Twenty-one stakeholders filed initial comments by August 18, 2025, responding to the Commission's initiating questions. Eight parties subsequently filed reply comments by September 2, 2025. The Commission held a legislative-style public hearing on September 8, 2025, featuring 29 presenters from 12 parties. Following the hearing, the Commission received supplemental comments from eight parties.

On November 14, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91984, taking a wide range of actions and directing a variety of measures to facilitate the deployment of renewable energy projects in Maryland. For example, the Commission directed the utilities to take a number of steps to streamline their interconnection processes and report on their progress toward meeting interconnection deadlines. Additionally, in order to mitigate process delays, the Commission directed changes to processes involving community solar energy generating systems. Recognizing a number of issues required deeper discussion, the Commission directed the Interconnection

Work Group and the Net Metering Work Group to engage in further discussions and report back with proposed regulations and other potential solutions. During 2026, these proposed regulations and other solutions will be considered and implemented.

## Commission Work Groups

STAKEHOLDER PROCESSES ARE important to the mission and work of the Commission. There are approximately 80 different work groups that the Commission either oversees or participates in via Staff representation.

Work groups are often formed by Commission directives but can also be legislatively mandated or requested by various stakeholders that participate in Commission proceedings.

**Table 1** below shows the number of work groups at the Commission by topic.

**Table 2** summarizes the number of stakeholder processes in which representatives from the Commission participate.

**Table 1 Summary of Work Groups at the Commission**

	Energy Efficiency/ Demand Response	Grid Modernization/ PC44	Customer Choice/ Energy Supply	Utilities (Electric, Gas, Water, Telecom)	Transportation
Total	19	8	6	11	3

**Table 2 Summary of Stakeholder Processes with Commission Representation**

	Federal Agencies	Other State Agencies	PJM	NARUC	Other Organizations
Total	2	8	3	7	9

### Unified Benefit Cost Analysis (UBCA) Work Group

In May 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90212 which established a work group to develop a Maryland-specific UBCA framework for distributed energy resources (DERs) based on the principles established in the National Standard Practice Manual (NSPM) for Benefit Cost Analysis of Distributed Energy Resources. The purpose of this work group is to prepare a report that establishes a common framework for assessing the cost-effectiveness of all DERs and to allow DERs to be evaluated holistically under common assumptions and evaluation criteria. The work group is led by an expert consultant team in order to provide technical and facilitation support to the work group as they establish this UBCA framework.

The work group held meetings throughout 2023 and 2024 and has received input from other Commission work groups to assist in the development of this UBCA framework. A final work

group report was filed with the Commission on May 17, 2024. This work group report made various recommendations to the Commission regarding:

- the primary and secondary tests associated with the UBCA;
- the applicability and materiality of UBCA impacts;
- discount rates utilized for a UBCA;
- the geographic scope of a UBCA;
- the DER aggregation level in a UBCA; and
- the applicability of a UBCA to different regulatory contexts.

Following review of the work group report, on November 22, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91424 which largely approved the UBCA framework established in the report as well as the total resource cost test and the utility cost test as recommended in the report. Within this Order, the Commission also initiated a “Phase II” of the work group to focus on identifying appropriate methodologies for accounting for DER impacts to include in the UBCA, amongst other topics. The “Phase II” of the UBCA Work Group began in Q2 of 2025 (*see more details in the Engineering Division section on p. 142*).

### **DRIVE Act**

During its 2024 session, the Maryland General Assembly enacted Senate Bill 959 (SB959), the Distributed Renewable Integration and Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE) Act. The DRIVE Act requires investor-owned electric companies to implement certain pilot programs or temporary tariffs in 2025 and authorizes the Commission to approve or require an investor-owned electric company to offer up-front incentives or rebates to customers enrolled in one of these pilots or tariffs to acquire and install renewable on-site generating systems<sup>10</sup> including enhanced incentives or rebates for low or moderate-income customers.

In particular, the DRIVE Act requires Maryland’s investor-owned electric companies to file with the Commission temporary tariffs and certain reports for time-of-use rate (TOU), vehicle-to-grid (V2G), and virtual power plant (VPPs) pilot programs. In addition, the Commission is required to adopt regulations by May 1, 2025 establishing expedited processes to interconnect bidirectional electric vehicle systems and ensure that electric companies have adequate time to ensure electric system reliability in advance of these interconnections, among other things.

To implement the DRIVE Act, the Commission approved V2G regulations in the RM87 rulemaking proceeding that became effective on July 7, 2025. In addition, the Commission approved a new

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<sup>10</sup> The DRIVE Act defines a renewable on-site generating system as an energy system located on a customer's premises that generates or stores electricity from a non-greenhouse-gas-emitting renewable source that is capable of providing electricity for customer use and the electric distribution system, is paired with an energy storage device configured to charge from the renewable source and from the electric distribution system unless, for the purpose of eligibility for net energy metering, the energy storage device is required to be charged only from the renewable source. A renewable on-site generating system may include bidirectional electric vehicle service equipment.

Application for License to Operate as a Distributed Energy Resource Aggregator in the State of Maryland that is available on the Commission's website and became effective on July 1, 2025.

In accordance with the DRIVE Act, all of the investor-owned electric companies in Maryland filed pilot program proposals by July 1, 2025. The Commission conducted a hearing on these proposals on September 3, 2025. Subsequently the Commission issued Order No. 91917 on October 21, 2025 providing direction to investor-owner utilities to cure their proposals and refile them within 90 days. Evaluation of the utility refiled proposals continues in 2026.

## **Energy Storage**

The Commission has several ongoing workstreams related to energy storage in 2025 including:

- Maryland Energy Storage Program Work Group (Case No. [9715](#)) - The Maryland Energy Storage Program Act (MESPA) in 2023 established a state goal to deploy a cumulative 3,000 megawatts (MW) of energy storage by May 31, 2034. The MESP Work Group is currently in Phase II and the Commission has entered into a contract with Customized Energy Solutions Ltd. for an energy storage design study to develop energy storage tariffs and incentives to promote energy storage projects to meet the MESPA goals with a final report expected by July 1, 2026.
- NGEA Distribution Procurements (Case No. [9715](#)) - The Next Generation Energy Act (NGEA) passed in 2025 established a new goal for investor-owned electric companies to procure electric distribution connected energy storage devices (NGEAdx) and for the Commission to solicit front-of-the-meter transmission connected energy storage devices (NGEAtx). The NGEAdx requires utility electric distribution procurements targeted at a cumulative 150 MW to be operational by November 1, 2028, unless extended for good cause. The Commission held hearings on the investor-owned electric company proposals on January 7, 2026 and expects to issue an order on the first 50 MW of the 150 MW target by May 1, 2026 in compliance with the NGEA.
- NGEA Transmission Procurements ([PC75](#)) - The NGEAtx also requires the Commission's transmission solicitations targeted at a cumulative 1600 MW to be operational by October 1, 2029, unless extended for good cause. The Commission has hired Power Advisory LLC to help run the solicitation process including analyzing the applications and making recommendations to the Commission. On December 24, 2025, Power Advisory opened the solicitation window for the first 800 MW tranche with applications due March 2, 2026. A Commission order on the first tranche is due October 1, 2026 per the NGEA.
- Energy Storage Pilot Program (Case No. [9619](#)) - The Commission has approved seven pilot projects with a cumulative 8.25 MW capacity. In Order No. 91742 issued on July 22, 2025, Staff is directed to file a report by July 1, 2026, that shall, in consultation with MEA and OPC, evaluate the pilot projects approved, including those initially approved and then subsequently rejected, while considering the factors required by PUA § 7-216. Staff's report shall also include its recommendation to the Commission on whether the Pilot Program should be extended beyond December 31, 2026. The Commission is required by PUA § 7-216 to report to the Maryland General Assembly on the program results by

December 31, 2026, including its recommendation on whether the Energy Storage Pilot Program should be extended.

- Renewable Energy Certainty Act (RECA) Energy Storage Requirements ([RM85](#)) - The RECA as codified in PUA § 7-219 makes changes to various processes and procedures associated with energy storage devices, including stipulating that a person may not begin construction of a front-of-the-meter energy storage device unless the construction has been approved by the Commission. The Act requires an applicant for construction approval to provide immediate notice of the application to certain governing bodies, members of the General Assembly and affected communities that are located within one mile of the proposed location of the energy storage device. In addition, if the proposed location of the front-of-the-meter energy storage device is in an area considered to be overburdened and underserved as defined in § 1-701 of the Environment Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the Act requires the applicant to hold at least two public meetings in the community where the energy storage device is to be located, unless exempted as described in the Act. In addition, there are site requirements specified in the Act if the proposed front-of-the-meter energy storage device will not be constructed at a commercial or industrial location. Finally, the Commission may waive or modify the requirements in the Act for good cause. The Commission docketed Rulemaking 85 to incorporate RECA energy storage requirements.

### **Generation Procurement Models Study**

RECA also required the Commission to conduct a study to establish a process by which the Commission may institute power purchase agreements, partnerships between electric companies and electricity suppliers, or other procurement models for electricity generation projects. A report is due to the Maryland General Assembly by December 1, 2026. The Commission has issued a RFP solicitation for a consultant to perform the study. The Commission also issued a notice requesting comments on the study in its [PC66](#) Resource Adequacy docket; comments were due from stakeholders in late January 2026.

## COMMISSION TELECOMMUNICATIONS CASES AND ACTIVITIES

*There were no telecommunications cases in 2025.*

## COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN STATE AND FEDERAL COURT MATTERS

BELOW IS A summary of selected matters in which the Commission's Office of General Counsel (OGC) represented the Commission before the State and federal courts during 2025.

***Retail Energy Advancement League et al v. Brown et al*, Case No. 1:24-cv-02820 (D. Md.); 4th Cir. Case No. 25-1012 ([SB1](#))**

ON OCTOBER 10, 2024, the Retail Energy Advancement League, *et al.* (a retail electricity supplier trade association and one of its members) filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland against the State of Maryland (Attorney General Anthony Brown) and the Commissioners. That lawsuit challenged the recently enacted SB1 (2024), specifically the Green Power provisions, arguing that they violated the First Amendment and Dormant Commerce Clause of the United States Constitution. The plaintiffs filed with their complaint a motion for a preliminary injunction of SB1.

The State and the Commission filed a joint opposition to the plaintiffs' motion for a preliminary injunction. On November 18, 2024, the Court denied plaintiffs' motion. On December 13, 2024, plaintiffs filed an interlocutory appeal of that denial with the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. The case was argued on October 24, 2025. A decision has not been issued.

***In the Matter of SmartEnergy Holdings, LLC d/b/a SmartEnergy*, Circuit Court for Montgomery County—Case No. 485338V (PSC Case No. [9613](#)); United States District Court for the District of Maryland, Case No. 1:24-cv-02336-ABA; United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, Case No.**

ON MARCH 31, 2021, the Commission issued Order No. 89795 affirming the Public Utility Law Judge's (PULJ) findings that SmartEnergy violated Public Utility Article (PUA) §7-507(b)(7) by engaging in unfair, false, misleading and deceptive marketing, advertising and trade practices, and associated Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR) Title 20, Subsection 53 provisions. The Commission reversed the PULJ's finding that Commercial Law § 14-2203(b) (the Maryland Telephone Solicitation Act (MTSA), which requires that a contract made pursuant to a telephone solicitation be reduced to writing and be signed by the consumer) does not apply to SmartEnergy's contracting with its Maryland customers under the facts in this case.

SmartEnergy objected to the Commission's finding that the MTSA applies to its enrollments and filed a petition for judicial review of the Commission's order in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Along with the Commission, the Maryland Office of People's Counsel and the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division also filed memoranda supporting the Commission's findings in Order No. 89795.

On November 29, 2021, the Court entered an order affirming the Commission's order in all respects, except the Commission's finding that SmartEnergy's access to and ability to edit call recordings violated the Commission's regulations. SmartEnergy filed a notice of appeal to the Appellate Court of Maryland.

In a published opinion issued on October 31, 2022, the Appellate Court of Maryland affirmed the Commission's order holding that: (1) PUA § 7-507(k) expressly authorizes the Commission to impose penalties on licensed retail suppliers for violating a provision of the PUA or any other applicable consumer protection laws of the State; (2) SmartEnergy violated the MTSA; and (3) SmartEnergy's inbound telephone call customer enrollments were not exempt pursuant to either the MTSA's "marketing materials" or "preexisting customer" exemption.

SmartEnergy filed a petition for a writ of *certiorari* in the Supreme Court of Maryland. The petition was supported by amicus curiae briefs filed by the Maryland Chamber of Commerce and Maryland Retailers Association, Retail Energy Suppliers Association, and Vistra Corp. On February 8, 2023, the Commission and OPC filed answering briefs opposing the petition.

The Supreme Court of Maryland granted SmartEnergy's petition for *certiorari* on March 7, 2023 and, after briefing and oral argument, rendered a decision affirming the Commission's decision on February 22, 2024. The Court held that the Commission correctly concluded that the MTSA applies to SmartEnergy's business practices, that SmartEnergy's business practices violated the PUA and the Commission's regulations, and that the remedies imposed by the Commission were within its discretion and were not arbitrary or capricious.

SmartEnergy filed a motion for reconsideration on March 25, 2024. Counsel for SmartEnergy also proposed an amendment to HB 1228 (2024) in the Senate Finance Committee on March 27, 2024 proposing to amend the MTSA to explicitly exempt consumer calls to merchants. That bill was signed into law on April 25, 2024 (Maryland Laws 2024, ch. 214). On April 18, 2024, the Supreme Court of Maryland denied SmartEnergy's motion for reconsideration and issued the mandate with regard to the Court's February 22, 2024 opinion.

Following the issuance of the Maryland Supreme Court's mandate and renewed motions before the Commission to enforce/modify the remedy ordered, SmartEnergy filed a complaint in the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland on August 12, 2024 (Case No. 1:24-cv-02336-AB) challenging the constitutionality of the Commission's order on two grounds: (1) that the remedy ordered was an excessive fine under the Eighth Amendment to the United States Constitution; and (2) that the Commission's order violated SmartEnergy's rights under the Sixth Amendment concerning the right to a jury trial. The Commission filed a motion to dismiss SmartEnergy's complaint. That motion was granted by the District Court, dismissing all claims. Specifically, on July 11, 2025, the District Court dismissed SmartEnergy's complaint in its entirety, finding (1) that SmartEnergy had waived the jury trial issue by failing to raise it before the Commission or the Maryland courts; and (2) that the Commission's orders for refunds were remedial and did not fall within the Eighth Amendment and also that, even if they did, the amount of refunds ordered did not constitute an excessive fine.

SmartEnergy appealed that dismissal to the Fourth Circuit. Oral argument is scheduled for May 5, 2026. Pending appeal, SmartEnergy filed a Rule 62.1 motion with the District Court, requesting an indicative ruling on a proposed amendment to the original complaint. The District Court issued an indicative ruling on February 6, 2026, ruling that it would not permit the amendment sought.

***In the Matter of Direct Energy Services, LLC, Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County—  
Case No. C-02-CV-22-000856 (PSC Case No. [9614](#))***

ON MAY 4, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90208 affirming in part and reversing in part the PULJ’s decision. In particular, the Commission affirmed the PULJ’s finding that Direct Energy violated the MTSA, and alternatively, COMAR 20.53.07.08C(4) and COMAR 20.59.07.08C(4) by engaging in marketing, advertising, or trade practices that are unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive. The Commission reversed the PULJ’s remedy related to requiring signatures for all future telephone enrollments regardless of the MTSA’s statutory exemptions but did not order additional monetary remedies against Direct Energy, finding that the \$125,000 penalty previously assessed was sufficient. Direct Energy and OPC filed petitions for judicial review; Direct Energy filed in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County and OPC filed in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City.

The Commission and OPC both filed motions in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County requesting the court transfer Direct Energy’s petition to Baltimore City pursuant to PUA § 3-204. Although Direct Energy is a retail supplier and not a “public service company” which can select as its venue a circuit court in a county in which it operates or the Circuit Court for Baltimore City, the Court denied the motions to transfer—without comment. The Court did, however, grant the Commission’s motion to bifurcate the schedule for filing memoranda regarding Direct Energy’s MTSA-related issues, deferring memoranda until after the Appellate Court of Maryland issued its decision in *SmartEnergy*.

At the conclusion of the April 24, 2023 hearing at the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County, the judge decided to take all issues—except for contract formation—under advisement pending the SmartEnergy ruling with the intention of promptly issuing a ruling on the contract issue. On May 11, 2023, the court issued an order reversing the Commission’s ruling regarding Direct Energy’s compliance with the regulations governing contract formation. The court’s May 11, 2023 ruling was not served on the parties until a year later. On February 22, 2024, the Maryland Supreme Court issued its decision in the *SmartEnergy* matter upholding the Commission Order.

On April 18, 2024, the Supreme Court of Maryland (SCM) denied SmartEnergy’s motion for reconsideration and issued its mandate. Both the *SmartEnergy* decision and the SCM’s mandate were lodged with the Circuit Court. On May 16, 2024, the Commission filed a motion for reconsideration requesting the Court reconsider and reverse its contracts order. Subsequently, the Commission and Direct Energy agreed to settle the remaining issues in the Direct Energy matter, except for the OPC remedies appeal. Under the settlement, Direct Energy agreed to withdraw its MTSA claim, and the Commission agreed to withdraw its motion for reconsideration and not appeal the Circuit Court’s ruling on the contract formation issue. The settlement was

presented to the Circuit Court on July 19, 2024 and the Court issued an order accepting the settlement and staying the matter pending the resolution of the OPC appeal on July 24, 2024. To date, the Court has not ruled on the OPC appeal.

***In the Matter of U.S. Gas & Electric, Inc. and Energy Service Providers, Inc. d/b/a Maryland Gas & Electric, Circuit Court for Baltimore City—Case Nos. 24-C-22-004651 and 24-22-C-003561 (PSC Case No. [9615](#))***

ON AUGUST 16, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90311 affirming in part and reversing in part the PULJ's decision. The Commission affirmed the PULJ's finding that U.S. Gas & Electric, Inc. and Energy Service Providers, Inc. d/b/a Maryland Gas & Electric (MDG&E) violated the MTSA, and alternatively, COMAR 20.53.07.08C(4) and COMAR 20.59.07.08C(4) by engaging in marketing, advertising, or trade practices that are unfair, false, misleading, or deceptive. The Commission reversed the PULJ's remedy related to requiring signatures for all future telephone enrollments regardless of the MTSA's statutory exemptions but did not order additional monetary remedies against MDG&E, finding that the \$150,000 penalty previously assessed was sufficient. MDG&E and OPC filed petitions for judicial review; OPC filed a petition for judicial review in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City and MDG&E filed in the Circuit Court for Anne Arundel County.

MDG&E filed a motion in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City requesting the court transfer OPC's petition to Anne Arundel County. However, with OPC being the first to file its petition in Baltimore City, the Court denied MDG&E's motion. Both OPC and MDG&E filed their initial memoranda on February 2, 2023. MDG&E later filed a motion to stay the matter pending the outcome of SmartEnergy's petition for a writ of certiorari in the Supreme Court of Maryland. On February 28, 2023, the motion to stay was denied. However, on April 25, 2023, the Court ordered that the two petitions be consolidated, and that the matter be stayed pending the completion of the *SmartEnergy* appeal.

After the SmartEnergy order and mandate were lodged in this matter, oral argument was scheduled for December 3, 2024. Prior to the hearing, MDGE and the Commission reached a settlement resolving the MTSA and contract formation issues. MDGE agreed to withdraw its petition and either comply with the remedies provisions in the Commission order that was the subject of the MTSA portion of the petition or return the impacted customers to utility standard offer service. The Commission agreed to the application of and continued adherence to the contract formation decision issued by the Anne Arundel County Circuit Court in the *Direct Energy* case. Both parties agreed that OPC's remedies appeal would remain a litigated issue that the Commission and MDGE would oppose. By order dated November 15, 2024, the Baltimore City Circuit Court approved the above-described settlement agreement.

The December 3, 2024 hearing proceeded with arguments heard from the parties on OPC's remedies appeal. The Court on January 8, 2025 issued a decision upholding the Commission's order, finding that the Commission had the authority and discretion to render its remedies decision in Order No. 90311. The Court relied substantially on the Maryland Supreme Court's

decision in the *SmartEnergy* matter in finding that the Commission not only had the authority to make its remedies decision in Order No. 90311 but was not required to justify its exercise of discretion with specific reasons for imposing the remedies.

***In the Matter of Maryland Office of People’s Counsel v. Maryland Public Service Commission, Circuit Court for Montgomery County—Case No. C-15-CV-22-001977 (PSC Case No. [9673](#))***

ON FEBRUARY 7, 2022, the Commission issued Order No. 90057, which dismissed the complaint filed by OPC that alleged that certain marketing statements made by Washington Gas Light Company (WGL) and included in its billing statements were deceptive and misleading in violation of the PUA and COMAR. Order No. 90175 denied OPC’s request for a rehearing on the dismissal of the complaint. On May 20, 2022, OPC and Sierra Club filed petitions for judicial review of the Commission’s decision to refrain from initiating a complaint proceeding regarding these marketing materials. On December 22, 2022, the Circuit Court for Montgomery County (Lease J.) affirmed that the Commission has discretion to open or deny a requested proceeding, reasoning that the issues involved broadly affected national gas issues that were inappropriate for a complaint against only one company. On January 25, 2023, OPC filed a notice of appeal of the Circuit Court’s decision to the Appellate Court of Maryland.

On December 20, 2023, the Appellate Court of Maryland reversed the Circuit Court for Montgomery County’s decision and ruled that the Commission had improperly refused to open a proceeding regarding WGL’s marketing of natural gas. On February 21, 2024, WGL requested certiorari to the Maryland Supreme Court. The Maryland Supreme Court denied WGL’s Petition for *Certiorari* on April 19, 2024.

***Petition of SunSea Energy, LLC for Judicial Review of the Decision of the Maryland Public Service Commission, Circuit Court for Baltimore City—Case No. 24-C-23-002289 (PSC Case No. [9647](#))***

ON JANUARY 30, 2023, the Commission’s Consumer Affairs Division (CAD) provided the Commission with a memorandum summarizing the findings of CAD’s Compliance and Enforcement Unit (CEU) relating to its investigation of SunSea. The memorandum provided that after SunSea paid a \$400,000 penalty for previous violations in separate complaint proceedings and after SunSea’s sales moratorium was lifted, SunSea resumed soliciting Maryland customers door-to-door on or about June 19, 2022. CAD subsequently received 41 customer complaints against SunSea from July 1, 2022 through January 27, 2023 (the complaint period) with 27 disputes involving unauthorized enrollment/slamming, 11 involving agent misrepresentation, two involving billing disputes, and one pertaining to an issue with starting or stopping service.

CAD resolved 30 complaints in favor of the customer and two in favor of SunSea with nine complaints unresolved as of the date of CAD’s memorandum. The resulting CEU review of the consumer complaints found violations related to defective contracting practices, unauthorized enrollments, supplier misrepresentation, and inaccessibility. CAD recommended that the

Commission initiate proceedings and consider a number of actions against SunSea including reinstatement of the sales moratorium and additional penalties.

The Commission held a probable cause hearing on April 5-6, 2023 and issued an order finding evidence of violation of several regulations and the Public Utilities Article. The Commission also delegated the matter to the PULJ for further, expedited evidentiary proceedings. On April 11, 2023, the Commission issued Order No. 90581 which directed the following immediate interim protections to be implemented: (i) that SunSea’s electric and gas supply licenses were suspended as of 5 p.m., April 6, 2023; (ii) that SunSea return all of its current Maryland customers to default utility standard offer service (SOS) by 5 p.m., April 10, 2023; (iii) that SunSea cease all current and future marketing and enrollments of its electric and gas services in Maryland during the remainder of the proceeding; and (iv) that SunSea, by 5 p.m. on April 20, 2023, double the amount of its current surety bonds with the Commission—from \$250,000 for both its electric and gas licenses to \$500,000—totaling \$1 million in bonds to be filed with the Commission.

On May 4, 2023, the Commission issued a second order—Order No. 90614—detailing its findings from the probable cause hearing and responding to Staff’s motion for clarification. The Commission found that CAD met its burden of proof that SunSea violated several consumer protection laws and Commission regulations. The Commission directed SunSea to file evidence that it has secured a bond or bonds with a total face value of \$1 million by 5 p.m. on May 10, 2023 or face a penalty assessment pursuant to PUA §7-507(l) of \$10,000 per day for every day that the bonding requirement is not met beginning on May 11, 2023.

On May 10, 2023, SunSea filed with the Commission a status update on the bond increase explaining that SunSea paid for the increased bond and the bond surety company approved the increase then requested to speak with Commission representatives to confirm the form of the bond and the amount. To date, SunSea has not filed evidence of the \$1 million bond.

On May 11, 2023, SunSea filed a petition for judicial review of the Commission orders in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. All briefs have been filed. On April 19, 2024, Sunsea filed a motion to stay the Commission order pending the resolution of the judicial review. The Commission and OPC filed responses in opposition to the motion. The hearing on the petition and motion was held on April 25, 2024 and the judge took the matter under advisement. No order has been issued to date. The PULJ Division has stayed its proceedings pending a decision by the Court in this matter.

***Rosehip Cleantech, LLC’s Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct a 4 MW Solar Photovoltaic Generating Facility in Somerset County, Maryland, Circuit Court for Somerset County—Case No. C-19-CV-24-000079 (PSC Case No. [9684](#))***

On May 28, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91167 affirming the PULJ and granting a CPCN to Rosehip Cleantech, LLC to construct a 3.9 MW solar photovoltaic generating facility in Somerset County, subject to conditions. Somerset County appealed to the Circuit Court for

Somerset County. After a transfer of venue to the Circuit Court for Baltimore City (Case No. C-24-CV-24-003067), on May 5, 2025, Judge Levi Zaslow affirmed the Commission’s grant of a CPCN and dismissed Somerset County’s petition.

***In the Matter of The Potomac Edison Company, Circuit Court for Washington County—  
Case No. C-21-CV-24-000383 (PSC Case No. [9705](#))***

On June 28, 2024, The Potomac Edison Company (PE) filed proposed updates to its EmPOWER Maryland surcharge in compliance with Commission Order No. 91175. As part of its filing, PE objected to the Commission’s implementation of HB864 (2024) which provided for utility compensation for unpaid and unamortized costs at no more than each electric or gas company’s average cost of outstanding debt rather than at the utility’s weighted average cost of capital. HB864 also provided for the elimination of any unpaid costs and unamortized costs by December 31, 2032 that (1) existed on December 31, 2024 or were incurred before January 1, 2028, and (2) were accrued for the purposes of achieving EmPOWER goals.

The Commission accepted PE’s proposed surcharge update and denied Potomac Edison’s request for a hearing regarding the legality of the relevant provisions of HB864. PE filed a petition for judicial review of the Commission’s July 31, 2024 letter order in the Circuit Court for Washington County. A decision by the court is pending.

On August 6, 2025, the Washington County Circuit Court held that HB864 was unconstitutional as well as a retroactive application of a statute. OPC and the Commission appealed to the Appellate Court of Maryland. All parties have filed briefs. The Attorney General’s Office filed an amicus brief, and several utilities have requested permission to also file an amicus brief. No oral argument has been set.

***In the Matter of Washington Gas Light Company, Circuit Court for Frederick County—  
Case No. C-10-CV-24-000866 (PSC Case No. [9708](#))***

On November 15, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91416 regarding requests for clarification and reconsideration of the Commission’s prior order on WGL’s STRIDE customer notification which required WGL to give customers notice and an opportunity to cancel service before performing STRIDE replacement work at their properties. On reconsideration, the Commission denied WGL’s request that it rescind that customer notification requirement.

On December 16, 2024, WGL filed a petition for judicial review of Order No. 91416 and related orders with the Circuit Court for Frederick County. The Commission subsequently denied a request by WGL to stay the effect of the order pending the resolution of that petition.

The Court scheduled oral argument for August 15, 2025. On April 21, 2025, the appeal was voluntarily dismissed.

***In the Matter of Matthew Harris. v. Delmarva Light and Power Company, Circuit Court for Kent County—Case No. C-14-CV-24-000202***

On June 17, 2024, Matthew Harris, owner of Delmarva Blockchain, Inc., filed a formal complaint with the Commission against Delmarva Power & Light Company (DPL) disputing DPL’s billing of his business and alleging a meter installation error, erroneous notification of Delmarva Blockchain’s qualification for Hourly Priced Service (HPS), and billing errors. DPL responded that after replacing the business’s problematic meter, the utility found that the first meter had been accurately measuring Delmarva Blockchain’s usage but not communicating the usage to DPL. DPL was able to calculate estimated bills.

DPL argued that at the time Delmarva Blockchain established service with the utility, the business, as a new customer, did not meet all of the HPS program criteria but acknowledged that the utility initially estimated Delmarva Blockchain’s bills at an incorrect rate. Those estimated bills were later corrected and reissued. Then DPL determined that the utility’s Economic Development Rider credit should have been applied to the bills and the utility adjusted the bills once again. The Commission dismissed the formal complaint finding that DPL addressed the billing errors by recalculating the affected bills, replacing the business’s meter, and estimating usage after determining the meter was recording usage properly.

Mr. Harris filed a petition for judicial review on November 21, 2024 in the Circuit Court for Kent County, on behalf of Delmarva Blockchain, representing the business. At the December 11, 2025 court hearing, Mr. Harris argued that the Commission did not provide specific findings of fact and law regarding the amount due and the reasons for those findings. In the December 17, 2025, remand order the Court directed the Commission “to make more specific findings of fact and to state a more complete articulation of law that the Commission is applying to those facts.” Given the amount in dispute and the factual issues that the Court found needed further examination, the Commission has delegated this matter to the Public Utility Law Judge (PULJ) Division for review and findings regarding the two following issues: 1) Whether DPL issued corrected billing following the six-month period where Delmarva Blockchain did not receive any bills due to the meter malfunction; and 2) Whether the reappearing security deposit was assessed due to lack of payment or DPL not following up on its promise to remove it. The Commission docketed this matter as Case No. [9865](#) for further proceedings.

***In the Matter of Lauren Logan v. Baltimore Gas and Electric Company, Circuit Court for Baltimore City—Case No. C-24-CV-24-001327***

On March 27, 2024, Lauren Logan filed a formal complaint with the Commission against Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) alleging that BGE inaccurately billed her for electric service. BGE responded that Ms. Logan did not challenge her meter functionality, her reported usage, or BGE’s billing calculations, but rather that BGE would not consider an “accepted for value” letter provided by Ms. Logan as payment. The Commission dismissed the formal complaint finding that Ms. Logan is responsible for payment of her account balance in accordance with BGE’s Electric Tariff and COMAR.

Ms. Logan filed a petition for judicial review on July 2, 2024 in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. On November 20, 2024, the Commission received a notice of petition from the Circuit Court but did not receive a copy of the petition. On February 19, 2025, after inquiry by the Commission, the Circuit Court served the Commission with a copy of Ms. Logan’s petition for judicial review.

On February 20, 2025, the Commission issued written notice that it was served with the petition for judicial review. On March 4, 2025, the Commission filed its response to the petition indicating its intention to participate as a party in the action for judicial review. On March 11, 2025, an attorney for BGE also filed a response to the petition indicating BGE’s intent to participate in the matter. The Commission filed the record in this matter with the circuit court on April 7, 2025. On June 23, 2025, BGE filed a motion to dismiss the appeal based upon Ms. Logan’s failure to file a brief. The circuit court granted the motion and dismissed the appeal on July 16, 2025.

On August 7, 2025, Ms. Logan filed a notice of appeal with the Appellate Court of Maryland. The Appellate Court filed a briefing notice on October 8, 2025, after which BGE and the Commission filed their respective briefs. Included as part of the briefs were motions to dismiss the appeal, given that Ms. Logan did not file her required brief. The Appellate Court of Maryland dismissed the appeal on February 6, 2026.

***In the Matter of Veronica Asiedu v. The Potomac Edison Company, Circuit Court for Frederick County—Case No. C-10-CV-25-000180***

On [October 23, 2024](#), Veronica Asiedu filed a formal complaint with the Commission against Potomac Edison, alleging that the company inaccurately billed her for electric service. The Potomac Edison Company responded that Ms. Asiedu was billed appropriately, and that her account balance was the result of consistent underpayments made by Ms. Asiedu rather than inaccurate billing as alleged. The Commission dismissed the formal complaint, finding that Ms. Asiedu is responsible for payment of her account balance in accordance with COMAR.

Ms. Asiedu filed a petition for judicial review on February 19, 2025 in the Circuit Court for Frederick County. On February 19, 2025, the Commission received a notice from the Circuit Court and a copy of Ms. Asiedu’s petition for judicial review.

On March 6, 2025, the Commission issued written notice that it was served with the petition for judicial review. On March 19, 2025, the Commission filed its response to the petition, indicating its intention to participate as a party in the action for judicial review. The Commission filed the record in this matter on April 3, 2025. On July 1, 2025, the Commission filed a motion to dismiss the appeal based upon Ms. Asiedu’s failure to file a brief. The circuit court granted the motion and dismissed the appeal on July 23, 2025.

***In the Matter of Jaime Acevedo et al., Circuit Court for Baltimore City—Case No. C-24-CV-25-001899 (PSC Case No. [9645](#) (Denial of Intervention))***

On [December 23, 2024](#), certain former BGE employees (Jaime Acevedo et al.) filed a petition to intervene in BGE’s multi-year rate case, Case No. 9645. The Commission denied that intervention

on February 10, 2025 in Order No. 91518. Mr. Acevedo filed a petition for judicial review in the Circuit Court for Baltimore City. Mr. Acevedo also filed an emergency motion to stay the 9645 proceeding during the pendency of the appeal. On March 13, 2025, the Commission filed a notice of intent to participate in the judicial review. The Commission also opposed the motion for emergency stay. On March 24, 2025, the Circuit Court denied the emergency motion for stay. On, May 21, 2025, Mr. Acevedo voluntarily dismissed his appeal on behalf of the former BGE employees, and intervened instead in Commission Case No. [9791](#), *Investigation into Gas System Inspection Issues Raised regarding Baltimore Gas and Electric Company*, which is currently being conducted by the Commission's Public Utility Law Judge Division. On the same day, Mr. Acevedo voluntarily dismissed his related complaint against the Commission in Circuit Court for Baltimore City in Case No. **C-24-CV-25-001961**, seeking enforcement of Maryland Public Information Act Request on behalf of the former BGE employees.

***In the Matter of Baltimore Gas and Electric's Application for a Gas and Electric Multi-Year Plan, Case No. [9692](#)***

The Commission denied Office of People's Counsel's request that the Commission disallow recovery for expenses incurred pursuant to BGE's 2023 new contract with Baltimore City related to the underground conduit. OPC appealed the Commission's decision to the Baltimore City Circuit Court - Case No. C-24-CV-25-005844. On March 27, 2026, the Circuit Court conducted a hearing on OPC's petition for review. The Court will issue a written decision in the future.

## COMMISSION PARTICIPATION OR INTERVENTIONS IN OTHER REGULATORY COMMISSION MATTERS

BELOW IS A SUMMARY of selected matters in which the Commission's Office of General Counsel (OGC) represented the Commission before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) during 2025.

### State Policies and Wholesale Capacity Markets

#### ***Transource PA and MD Revisions to OATT to add Attachments H-29 and H-30—FERC Docket ER17-419***

TRANSOURCE'S MARYLAND application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) was granted on June 30, 2020 by the Commission in Case No. [9471](#) (Order No. 89571.) The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PAPUC) denied Transource's CPCN application. Transource filed a complaint for declaratory relief before the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania as well as an appeal to the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court. On August 26, 2021, the U.S. District Court denied PAPUC's motion to dismiss Transource's complaint, finding pursuant to the doctrine of abstention that the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court should first resolve the matter in state court. The PA Commonwealth Court affirmed PAPUC's decision on May 6, 2022, holding that the PAPUC's findings are backed "by substantial evidence and support the commission's conclusion that Transource did not meet its burden of proof" in the matter.

PJM Interconnection LLC (PJM), which is a regional transmission organization regulated by FERC, has suspended Transource Project 9A in its transmission planning process but the project has not been canceled. For planning purposes, the project remains part of PJM's Regional Transmission Expansion Plan (the RTEP); however, since capacity needs have changed on the system, PJM opened a new window for reliability proposals in the event the Transource project fails to proceed on its original schedule. Subsets of the project—as indicated in PJM's 2022 RTEP—have been selected by PJM to address reliability needs. In May 2025, PJM confirmed that planned upgrades have precluded the need for the eastern portion of the Transource project, however, the construction of the western portion would still provide market efficiency benefits.

On December 6, 2023, the U.S. District Court filed a declaratory judgment finding that the PAPUC's decision violated the Supremacy Clause and the dormant Commerce Clause. PAPUC filed an appeal of the U.S. District Court's opinion in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) filed an amicus brief arguing that the judge's finding on declaratory judgment was unnecessarily broad—restricting state regulatory commissions of their legitimate authority to condition siting in matters involving regional transmission organizations (RTOs)-approved transmission facilities in their states and disregarding the notion of federal-state cooperation in these areas.

On November 13, 2024, Transource, BGE and The Potomac Edison Company filed with the Maryland PSC a joint request for additional extensions of their respective construction or rebuild commencement deadlines until December 31, 2025 stating that good cause exists for extension because commencement of the projects is delayed due to external factors outside of any company's control, namely the PA PUC's pending federal appeal concerning the PA PUC's adverse decision on Transource PA's CPCN application, and PJM's anticipated forthcoming decision regarding the project's status at PJM going forward. On January 30, 2025, the Maryland PSC temporarily extended all deadlines for an additional 60 days to April 2, 2025. On March 19, the Maryland PSC granted a further temporary extension to May 31, 2025 of the project construction/rebuild deadlines in this case. On October 1, 2025, the Maryland PSC granted an additional extension of the CPCN that was issued to Transource in Case No. 9471 to May 31, 2026.

On September 5, 2025, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit issued a precedential decision in the case of *Transource Pennsylvania LLC v. Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (Transource)*. The Third Circuit's ruling affirmed a district court decision, holding that the Supremacy Clause of the U.S. Constitution preempts the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's (PAPUC) denial of siting applications for a regional transmission project.

***Notice of Proposed Rulemaking re Electric Transmission Incentives Policy under Section 2019 of the Federal Power Act – Transmission Incentives—FERC Docket No. RM20-10***

ON JULY 1, 2020, the Commission filed comments on FERC's proposed rulemaking that would provide incentives to transmission owners for constructing certain transmission projects. The Commission's comments recommended that any incentives consider project risks, challenges, cost, and benefits. The Commission also recommended a technical conference to examine incentives for transmission that would facilitate the integration of clean energy resources and promote innovative technologies. In April 2021, FERC issued a supplemental proposed rulemaking addressing the application of a return on equity (ROE) adder for entities joining regional transmission organizations (RTOs). On June 23, 2021, the Commission joined with the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI) in filing comments with FERC recommending that the current practice of applying the ROE adder in perpetuity is not just and reasonable and noting that transmission entities should never have earned bonus returns on assets that would have likely been built regardless of RTO membership. FERC has yet to issue a final rule. On May 16, 2025, the Organization of MISO States, Inc. submitted relevant supplemental comments.

***White Paper re Cybersecurity Incentives Policy—FERC Docket No. AD20-19***

ON AUGUST 19, 2020, the Commission filed comments on a FERC staff white paper that recommended providing incentives to utilities for implementing certain cybersecurity measures. The Commission's comments recommended a more thorough review of FERC's existing requirements against generally accepted cybersecurity frameworks. Comments also cautioned against any incentive payments that would extend federal reach beyond portions of the grid within interstate commerce to systems beyond FERC's jurisdiction including state jurisdictional matters which, in some cases, may already be reflected in retail rates.

On November 7, 2022, the Maryland PSC joined the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PAPUC) in comments responding to FERC’s Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NOPR) which proposed incentive-based treatments to encourage investments by utilities in advanced cybersecurity technology and participation by utilities in cybersecurity threat information sharing programs as directed by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA).

The Maryland PSC and PAPUC agreed with FERC staff about the importance of addressing cybersecurity challenges; however, they did not agree that incentives should be necessary to encourage cybersecurity initiatives—noting that cybersecurity is not new and implementation of common-sense measures, such as those outlined in the NOPR, is good cybersecurity practice which public utilities serving the bulk power system should already be implementing. FERC has yet to issue a final rule.

***PJM Tariff Revisions to Implement Transmission Owners’ Funding of Network Upgrades – Network Upgrades Funding—FERC Docket No. ER21-2282***

**IN JUNE 2021**, PJM filed a proposed plan with FERC that would provide transmission owners the right to fund the capital costs of network upgrades that are necessary to accommodate generator interconnections to the transmission system and to earn a rate of return on those costs. On July 28, 2021, the Commission joined OPSI in protesting the PJM filing with FERC demonstrating that the plan would be anticompetitive and calling attention to features of the plan that could place the risk of default or under recovery of revenue requirements on transmission ratepayers. On November 19, 2021, FERC found that the proposed plan may be unjust and unreasonable and established a paper hearing to further inform its decision-making process. On December 20, 2022, FERC issued a letter order accepting PJM Transmission Owners’ (TO) June 14, 2022 filing of proposed revisions to the tariff under Docket ER22-2114. FERC’s acceptance of the TO’s filing was made subject to refund and subject to the outcome of the proceedings in Docket ER21-2282 where FERC continues to evaluate the justness and reasonableness of PJM’s proposal.

***Notice of Proposed Rulemaking re Electric Storage Participation in Markets Operated by Regional Transmission Organizations and Independent System Operators – Removing Barriers to Distributed Energy Resources—FERC Docket No. RM18-9***

**ON APRIL 5, 2018**, the Commission filed comments on FERC’s proposed rulemaking to remove barriers to the participation of distributed energy resource (DER) aggregation in regional transmission organizations (RTOs). The Commission identified the benefits of aggregation including the advancement of the state’s renewable energy policies and the prospect for lower electricity costs for ratepayers. The Commission cautioned that aggregation rules should respect state jurisdiction over the electric distribution system and the utilities that operate that system. On September 17, 2020, FERC issued Order No. 2222 requiring RTOs to revise their market rules to facilitate the participation of DER aggregations. Order No. 2222 defines DERs as electric storage resources, distributed generation, demand response, energy efficiency, thermal storage, and electric vehicles and their supply equipment. The RTOs were required to file their revised

market rules including provisions for coordination between RTOs, aggregators, state regulatory commissions, and electric distribution companies with FERC by early 2022.

After granting extensions to the RTO/ISOs to submit compliance filings, PJM submitted its compliance filing in Docket No. ER22-962 on February 1, 2022—requesting an effective date of February 2, 2026 for proposed Tariff, Operating Agreement and Reliability Assurance Agreement revisions. On March 16, 2022, the Commission filed a notice of intervention to ensure that wholesale-related demand response resources interfacing with retail grid operations connect to and/or deliver electric power in PJM is consistent with the public interest and promote adequate, economical and efficient delivery of utility services in the state. On March 1, 2023, FERC found that PJM’s filing partially complies with the requirements of Order No. 2222 and accepted it subject to further compliance filings to be submitted within 30 and 60 days of its order.

On July 25, 2024, FERC accepted PJM’s Order No. 2222 compliance filings in Docket No. ER22-962 subject to further compliance filings. In the interim, FERC concluded that PJM’s proposal complies with some provisions of the First Compliance Order in that PJM addresses how it will resolve disputes that it determines are within its authority and subject to its tariff and partially complies with others.

Among other findings, FERC concluded that PJM’s proposals only partially complies with provisions relating to the requirement of the First Compliance Order to explain how its proposal is narrowly designed, and if necessary, to revise its restriction to generally exclude from the PJM energy and capacity markets “Component DER that are not participating in net energy metering retail programs but are located at sites where at least one resource is participating in a net energy metering retail program,” and partially complies with the directives of the First Compliance Order regarding metering and telemetry system requirements. On October 23, 2024, PJM submitted a further compliance filing as directed by FERC’s July 25, 2024 compliance order requesting an effective date of February 2, 2026 to align with the effective date currently accepted by the Commission in Docket No. ER22-962. On July 22, 2025, FERC issued a letter order accepting PJM’s compliance filing and tariff revisions.

***Transmission Planning, Cost Allocation and Generator Interconnection—FERC Docket No. RM21-17, 4th Cir. Case No. 24-1650***

IN JULY 2021, FERC issued an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking presenting potential reforms to improve transmission planning, cost allocation and generator interconnection. On October 12, 2021, the Commission joined with NARUC in filing comments with FERC recommending the exploration of reforms to better align regional planning with state policy needs. The filing also recommended increased transparency in transmission planning, integrating generation interconnection with transmission planning, and the consideration of transmission alternatives and methods of cost containment. On November 24, 2021, the Maryland Commission filed reply comments in support of the Maryland Energy Administration’s (MEA) comments recommending a hybrid beneficiary pays-participant funding approach to developing transmission upgrades for the purpose of delivering electricity from renewable energy zones such

as offshore wind areas. On August 17, 2022, the Commission joined with OPSI to file further comments in support of long-term planning initiatives and recommending that regional and local planning processes produce the most cost-effective set of transmission projects.

On May 13, 2024, FERC issued Order No. 1920, its final rule in this matter, requiring that transmission providers “conduct long-term regional transmission planning that will ensure the identification, evaluation, and selection, as well as the allocation of the costs, of more efficient or cost-effective regional transmission solutions to address long-term transmission needs.” The final rule also directed other reforms to improve coordination of regional transmission planning and generator interconnection processes, require consideration of certain alternative transmission technologies in regional transmission planning processes, and improve transparency of local transmission planning processes and coordination between regional and local transmission planning processes. In Order No. 1920, FERC states that these reforms are intended to ensure that existing regional and local transmission planning and cost allocation requirements are just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential.

On June 12, 2024, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments and seeking clarification from FERC requesting explicit deference to states’ agreed-to decisions to provide certainty that state input will result in the appropriate development of scenarios and cost allocation associated with transmission planning. On July 3, 2024, the Commission also joined OPSI in clarifying to FERC that, contrary to a PJM filing in this docket, states had not agreed to any long-term regional transmission planning process that PJM proposed to be the foundation for meeting FERC’s order.

Numerous requests for rehearing were filed. On November 21, 2024, FERC issued Order No. 1920-A bolstering the ability of state regulators to participate in the long-term regional transmission planning process.

On December 20, 2024, PJM filed a motion requesting a six-month extension of time, until December 12, 2025, to make a compliance filing to meet all requirements of Order No. 1920 except those related to interregional transmission coordination. PJM TOs and OPSI filed comments in support of PJM’s extension request. On January 24, 2025, the PJM Area Relevant State Entities Committee (PARSEC) and PJM TOs filed a joint motion requesting a six-month extension of the engagement period, until October 7, 2025. PJM TOs also requested a six-month extension, until December 12, 2025, for the deadline for PJM TOs to file their portion of the Order No. 1920 regional compliance filing, specifically one or more *ex ante* long-term regional transmission cost allocation methods to allocate the costs of selected long-term regional transmission facilities.

On February 6, 2025, FERC granted (1) PJM’s request for an extension to submit its compliance filing to meet all requirements of Order No. 1920, except those related to interregional transmission coordination, to December 12, 2025, (2) PARSEC’s request for extension of time that the transmission provider must provide during the engagement period to October 7, 2025, and (3) PJM TOs request for extension of time to submit its compliance filing to meet the cost allocation requirements of Order No. 1920 to December 12, 2025.

On January 21, 2026, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments on PJM’s December 12, 2025 compliance filing. OPSI’s filing articulated the PARSEC’s contribution to PJM’s framework that would identify Core Long Term Needs and Additional Long Term Needs. PJM proposed Core Needs would address the requirements of Order No. 1920 to cost effectively ensure long term reliability while Additional Needs would reflect state public policies, also addressed in the FERC order. PARSEC established a 1.0 benefit-cost threshold for Core Needs project identification and a 1.25 benefit-cost threshold for Additional Needs project identification. PARSEC also agreed to a provision for states to opt out of costs or a portion of costs attributed to these projects. In accordance with the FERC order, PJM Transmission Owners are expected to file PARSEC’s recommended cost allocation for both Needs categories in mid-2026

Numerous parties filed petitions for review in various federal circuit courts of appeals, including in the District of Columbia Circuit, the Fourth Circuit, the Sixth Circuit and others. The Federal Multi-District Litigation Panel designated the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals as the circuit in which appellate litigation regarding FERC Order No. 1920 should proceed. The Commission filed a petition to intervene and is a party in this proceeding. On February 2, 2026, the Commission joined with OPSI in an *amicus* filing supporting the cooperative federalism provisions in FERC’s order.

On May 2, 2025 PJM filed a Motion for Extensions of Time to Submit Compliance Filings and Request for Order under RM21-17. On May 23, 2025 FERC granted PJM’s request for more time extending the date to complete the compliance filings. Specifically, the new deadline for PJM’s filings demonstrating coordination with SERTP Jurisdictional Sponsors and MISO is now December 12, 2026. For demonstrating coordination with ISO-NE and NYISO, PJM’s deadline for submitting compliance filings is June 14, 2027.

#### ***Joint Federal-State Task Force on Electric Transmission—FERC Docket No. AD21-15***

IN JUNE 2021, FERC appointed a group of state public service commissioners from across the country to a joint federal-state task force on electric transmission with the purpose of exploring transmission-related issues to identify and realize the benefits that transmission can provide while ensuring that the costs are allocated efficiently and fairly. Then-Commission **Chairman Jason Stanek** was selected to co-chair the task force along with then-FERC **Chairman Richard Glick**. The Task Force was created at the urging of the several state commissions to FERC, led by the Maryland Commission. On November 10, 2021, the task force held its first meeting to discuss transmission planning principles. The task force has subsequently met periodically to guide FERC’s transmission planning, cost allocation and generator interconnection improvement efforts in RM21-17.

With the role for states set forth by FERC in the orders, OPSI formed the PJM Area Relevant State Entity Committee (PARSEC) represented by applicable agencies across the PJM region. PARSEC’s charter is to provide PJM, its stakeholders and transmission owners with the necessary input to comply with the FERC order and participate in the process of developing and evaluating selection criteria, benefit metrics, planning scenarios and cost allocation. **Chairman Kumar Barve** is the

current Maryland representative on the PARSEC. Since its formation, Maryland has invited representatives from MEA, PPRP, OPC and the Governor's office to participate in PARSEC meetings in order to be inclusive in advocating for the State's best interests.

The Task Force met on February 16, 2022, July 20, 2022, November 15, 2022 and February 15, 2023, respectively to discuss: (i) categories of transmission benefits and cost allocations on generator interconnection queue backlogs and cost allocation of interconnection-related transmission enhancements; (ii) interregional transmission planning; (iii) regulatory gaps in oversight of transmission development; and (iv) physical security of the transmission system.

On March 21, 2024, FERC issued an Order Establishing the Federal and State Current Issues Collaborative to build upon the success of the Task Force and provide a venue for federal and state regulators to share perspectives, increase understanding, and where appropriate, identify potential solutions regarding challenges and coordination on matters that impact specific state and federal jurisdiction. On July 19, 2024, NARUC submitted two state commission representative nominations from each of the five NARUC regions to serve a one-year term on the Collaborative. The Collaborative met in April 2025 and July 2025, to discuss gas-electric coordination and resource adequacy in RTOs, respectively and in February 2026 to discuss affordability in view of transmission and load growth attributed to rapid AI demand. The Mid-Atlantic Conference of Regulatory Utilities Commissioners (MACRUC) representatives are [PAPUC Commissioner Kathryn Zerfuss](#) and [Virginia State Corporation Commission Commissioner Kelsey Bagot](#).

***NRG Power Marketing LLC (NRG) Reliability Must-Run Rate Schedule, Electric Rate Schedule FERC No. 3 NRG Petition for RMR Contract—FERC No. ER22-1539***

[ON JUNE 29, 2021](#), NRG Power Marketing LLC (NRG) notified PJM that it intended to retire its 410 MW coal-fired generation unit at Indian River which was commissioned in 1980 (Unit 4) and that the retirement would be effective on May 31, 2022. PJM responded on July 30, 2021 that reliability violations would result from the proposed deactivation of Unit 4 absent certain upgrades to the transmission system which will likely take five years to complete. NRG informed PJM that it would be willing to continue operating Unit 4 in the interim subject to a Reliability Must-Run Rate Schedule (RMR) agreement.

On April 1, 2022, NRG filed an application with FERC for acceptance of the RMR which provides for continued operation of Unit 4 under cost of service ratemaking principles in lieu of market based rates. On May 6, 2022, the Commission filed a protest of NRG's filing arguing that the RMR as proposed was not just and reasonable. In particular, the Commission argued that (i) the cost impacts to ratepayers of NRG's proposed RMR rate schedule would be excessive especially given that they would be imposed exclusively within the Delmarva Zone's relatively small customer base; (ii) NRG provided insufficient information to justify its proposed operational expenditures; (iii) NRG's proposal to make project investments below a certain threshold unreviewable was unreasonable; and (iv) NRG's proposal to relieve itself of liability for nonperformance improperly imposed the risk of nonperformance on ratepayers.

On May 31, 2022, FERC issued an order establishing settlement judge proceedings. The Maryland Commission participated in those settlement negotiations. On April 2, 2024, a settlement agreement was filed with FERC including a \$20 million annual cost saving for ratepayers compared to NRG’s proposed cost recovery and a novel package of conditions that provides for both performance certainty and a path towards reducing the amount of time ratepayers will need to pay to keep the generator available to support system reliability. Such conditions go beyond the limited provisions in PJM’s tariff and would not have been considered had this case gone to trial. The Commission did not oppose the settlement. On January 25, 2025, FERC approved the settlement. In February 2025, the plant was deactivated.

***Notice of Proposed Rulemaking re Improvements to Generator Interconnection Procedures and Agreements / FERC Interconnection Queue Reform NOPR—FERC Docket No. RM22-14***

ON JUNE 16, 2022, FERC issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposing reforms to its *pro forma* generator interconnection procedures and *pro forma* interconnection agreements to address interconnection queue backlogs, improve certainty, and prevent undue discrimination for new technologies. The Commission intervened in the case and submitted comments with NARUC. Those comments focused on methods for working collaboratively with FERC on generator interconnection reforms that would improve efficiency, reduce cost, and reduce the backlog of interconnection applications. The comments discussed reforms to implement a “first-ready, first-served” cluster study process; reforms to increase the speed of interconnection queue processing; and reforms to incorporate technological advancements into the interconnection process.

On October 13, 2022, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments specifically addressing interconnection in PJM—noting PJM’s filing in ER22-2110 to improve its interconnection process and recommending that any rulemaking not impede PJM’s proposal to accelerate interconnection reviews and approvals. OPSI’s filing also stressed many of the comments it filed in ER22-2110. On July 28, 2023, FERC issued Order No. 2023 setting forth rules that would improve the interconnection process. The rule is aimed to ensure that interconnection queues include only projects that are likely to be built and imposes firm deadlines and penalties if transmission providers fail to complete interconnection studies on time. On March 31, 2024, in Order No. 2023-A, FERC affirmed the interconnection order.

On May 20, 2024, PJM and other parties filed petitions for review of FERC’s order in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, which remains pending.

***Complaint of American Municipal Power, Inc. (AMP), Office of the People’s Counsel for the District of Columbia, et al. v. PJM - PJM Transmission Projects—FERC Docket No. EL22-80***

ON JULY 22, 2022, several PJM stakeholders filed a complaint with FERC alleging that PJM was not properly following its operating rules that require it to reevaluate projects, and potentially

identify other projects, in cases where the approved projects are not completed timely or economically. On August 19, 2022, the Commission joined OPSI in filing with FERC in support of the complaint. On July 25, 2024, FERC issued an order granting in part and denying in part the AMP and DC OPC complaint and established paper hearing procedures to develop a further record to determine PJM's going-forward responsibilities regarding Designated Entity Agreement requirements for certain in-progress RTEP projects. Certain indicated transmission owners filed a request for rehearing on August 26, 2024. On September 26, 2024, FERC issued a notice of denial of rehearing by operation of law, providing for further consideration. Petitions for judicial review were filed in the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals while paper hearing proceedings remain pending with FERC. On March 20, 2025, FERC issued an order addressing arguments raised on rehearing, stating that as permitted by section 313(a) of the Federal Power Act, it would modify the discussions in its previous order, but would sustain its findings and conclusions.

***PJM Proposed Amendment to the Locational Deliverability Area Reliability Requirement – Federal Power Act §§ 205 and 206 Filing re DPL-South—FERC Docket No. ER23-729 and EL24-104; 3rd Cir. Case No. 23-2544 and DC Cir. Case No. 24-1353***

ON DECEMBER 23, 2022, PJM made Federal Power Act (FPA) Section 205 and Section 206 filings proposing to amend the Locational Deliverability Area (LDA) reliability requirements in the Delmarva Power and Light-South (DPL-S) Zone alleging that the 2024/2025 Base Residual Auction results produced anomalously high, and unjust and unreasonable prices. Specifically, PJM stated that application of the existing rules would result in an “aberrant auction outcome,” with prices not reflecting the actual reliability requirements of the DPL-S Zone resulting in severe price impacts to DPL customers. The Commission joined with state commissions and consumer advocate organizations from Delaware and Virginia to support PJM's filing and to advocate for a resolution that protected Delmarva ratepayers, filing supporting comments on January 20, 2023. On February 21, 2023, FERC issued an order accepting PJM's tariff revisions to ameliorate anomalous capacity price spike in DPL-S.

On March 12, 2024, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit filed its opinion in the case vacating FERC's decision in part, concluding that as to the 2024/2025 capacity auction, FERC's acceptance of PJM's RPM Tariff amendment violated the filed rate doctrine. The mandate was issued by the Court on March 28, 2024 placing the matter back at the FERC for subsequent action by PJM. On March 29, 2024, PJM filed with FERC seeking approval to re-run the Base Residual Auction in accordance with its pre-amended reliability requirements. The filing also seeks to re-run an incremental auction PJM had conducted that is reliant upon the results of the Base Residual Auction.

On April 11, 2024, the Commission and other parties, including Maryland Office of People's Counsel, Delaware Public Service Commission, American Municipal Power, Inc., Delaware Division of the Public Advocate, Delaware Municipal Electric Corp. Inc., Delaware USERS GROUP, and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, filed protests against PJM's filing requesting that FERC retain the results of the Base Residual Auction and the Third Incremental Auction for the

2024/2025 Delivery Year, in lieu of adopting rates that the protesters argued would be unjust and unreasonable. Additionally, the Commission moved FERC to reinstate the FPA Section 206 proceeding PJM had filed in Docket No. EL23-19 to further ensure just and reasonable rates in DPL-South.

On May 6, 2024, FERC denied these protests and granted PJM's petition requesting confirmation that, as a result of the *PJM Power Providers* decision, the Tariff provisions governing the conduct of the BRA for the 2024/2025 delivery year are those that were in effect prior to the LDA Reliability Requirement Orders, and that the capacity commitments that would result from applying those tariff provisions are binding and effective for the 2024/2025 delivery year, holding that the filed rate doctrine, as articulated by the Third Circuit Court of Appeals prohibited PJM's use of amended tariff provisions to calculate rates for the 2024/2025 BRA delivery year. FERC also declined the Commission's request to reopen PJM's section 206 proceeding, concluding that reopening the proceeding would not allow the Commission to arrive at a different outcome.

On May 13, 2024, protesters (including the Commission) filed a request for expedited rehearing and an emergency motion for stay. FERC denied these requests on May 24, 2024.

On June 20, 2024, the Maryland Commission joined with other protesters of FERC's orders in a petition for review in the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. The petition for review was later withdrawn from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and refiled in the U.S. District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals.

On January 13, 2026, the D.C. Circuit vacated FERC's orders and remanded the case for further proceedings, granting the petition for review. The court determined that FERC's denial of the complaint was legally erroneous. This was because the Third Circuit's decision had not addressed whether FERC was permitted to use its Section 206 authority to modify the auction result. The D.C. Circuit clarified that Section 206(b) of the FPA establishes a statutory exception to the general prohibition against retroactive rate changes. The case has been remanded to FERC in Docket No. EL24-104. The Commission is participating in that docket to advocate for a resolution that protects Delmarva ratepayers.

### ***Brandon Shores Replacement Transmission—FERC No. ER23-2619***

ON AUGUST 11, 2023 and August 14, 2023, PJM filed cost responsibility assignments for transmission upgrades approved by the PJM Board associated with the planned retirement of the Brandon Shores plant on June 1, 2025. On September 19, 2023, the Commission protested the filing asserting that PJM did not consider non-transmission alternatives to address the regional reliability implications of the plant's deactivation. The Commission's filing reasoned that PJM was required to consider load and capacity forecasts and reductions in demand, provide alternative means for meeting transmission needs in the region, and avoid the imposition of unreasonable costs to ratepayers. However, PJM never considered the possibility that states, within their jurisdiction, can approve the placement of energy storage on the electric distribution system in a manner that could reduce demand and negate the need for costly transmission.

Furthermore, PJM never sought to avoid unnecessary and costly Reliability Must Run arrangements since it would need to rely on Brandon Shores to continue operating through 2028 while the transmission upgrades are being constructed. On November 8, 2023, FERC denied the protest, finding it to be beyond the scope of the proceeding. However, FERC remarked on PJM's efforts to examine PJM's existing generation retirement and transmission planning processes in order to more timely address potential reliability issues associated with resource retirements. As a result, in January 2026, PJM instituted a task force to investigate improving deactivation notifications and considering the use of alternative transmission technologies to shorten RMR operations.

***Consolidate Transmission Owners Agreement—FERC Docket Nos. EL24-119, ER24-2336 and ER24-2338***

ON JUNE 21, 2024, PJM and PJM's Transmission Owners (TOs) filed at FERC to amend the Consolidated Transmission Owners Agreement (CTOA) and allow PJM to move its regional transmission planning protocol from its operating agreement to its tariff. Allowing this change would give PJM a unilateral right to amend its planning protocol. However, the proposed change was tied to amendments to the CTOA that include other, unrelated provisions, including allowing the TOs to expand their local planning in a manner that could displace regional planning and the benefits comprehensive regional planning brings. Furthermore, the TOs included language in the proposed CTOA revisions that would raise the bar for FERC to effect any subsequent changes, effectively limiting FERC's powers over the TOs. On July 22, 2024, the Commission joined OPSI in opposing the filings as being unjust and unreasonable. On September 9, 2024, FERC issued deficiency letters requesting additional information from the applicants regarding the filings. On October 30, 2024, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments on the responses to the deficiency letters. The comments requested FERC to establish a paper hearing to develop the record and determine the just and reasonable and nondiscriminatory replacement rules if FERC were to allow PJM to move the planning protocol. On December 6, 2024, FERC rejected PJM's and the TOs' proposed changes. On February 14, 2025, the TOs filed a petition for review in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. The D.C. Circuit is reviewing consolidated petitions (Nos. 25-1064, 25-1100) regarding FERC's rejection of amendments to the CTOA, which covers potential change to how regional transmission expansion plans are handled (Docket Nos. EL24-119, ER24-2336, ER24-2338). Oral argument in these cases is scheduled for April 16, 2026.

***Wagner and Brandon Shores Reliability Must Run—FERC Docket Nos. ER24-1877 and ER24-1790***

ON APRIL 18, 2024, Talen filed at FERC continuing operations rate schedules proposing compensation for continuing to operate the Wagner and Brandon Shores power plants until replacement facilities can be built. On May 16, 2024, the Maryland PSC protested the filing, reasoning that the proposed rates were not just and reasonable. On June 17, 2024, FERC issued an order accepting Talen's filings, suspending the rate schedules, and establishing hearing and settlement judge procedures. Through FERC settlement hearings, the Maryland PSC subsequently negotiated with Talen and other intervenors on an expedited basis to reach

consensus on a just and reasonable outcome. On January 27, 2025, Talen filed, and the Commission supported, a contested settlement agreement that would compensate Talen 17% less than its proposed rates. The agreement also had the prospect of directing market revenues to ratepayers to further reduce costs, because it would allow Reliability Must Run (RMR) units to participate in PJM's capacity auction, which PJM had previously prohibited. Subsequently, PJM filed at FERC to include the capacity from RMR generators as price-takers in the forward capacity market to further save ratepayers from needing to pay for additional capacity while these units remain functional. (see *PJM Capacity Market Reforms*, below.) The Maryland PSC strongly supported that revision.

As of the date of the settlement filing, because of tight market conditions, the estimated net effect of the settlement agreement was that ratepayers would save at least \$90 million annually over a three-year period from capacity market revenues alone with FERC's approval of PJM's proposed tariff changes to reform its capacity market (See FERC Docket No. ER25-682.) The agreement also included monetary performance assurances, cost containment provisions, administrative cost caps, and further reduced ratepayer payments as the need for the plants winds down. On February 26, 2025, the Maryland PSC filed reply comments addressing protests from nonsettling parties reiterating the reasonableness of and support for the settlement. On May 1, 2025, FERC issued an order approving the settlements. Maryland's Office of People's Counsel submitted a request for rehearing of the May 1, 2025 order. On June 30, 2025, FERC denied the rehearing.

#### ***RMR Resources in the PJM Capacity Market—FERC Docket Nos. EL24-148 and ER24-118***

[ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2024](#), Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Public Citizen, Sustainable FERC Project and the Union of Concerned Scientists filed a complaint at FERC in Docket No. EL24-148 indicating that PJM's capacity market rules are unjust and unreasonable since they fail to account for the resource adequacy contributions of RMR units in PJM's capacity auctions. The Maryland PSC joined OPSI in filing comments at FERC in support of the complaint on October 8, 2024 and separately on October 17, 2025. The Maryland PSC requested FERC to delay PJM's capacity auction for the 2026/2027 delivery year until PJM revises its capacity market construct. On October 15, 2024, PJM filed seeking to delay its capacity auction. PJM also informed FERC that it was embarking on an effort to reform its capacity market construct, not limited to the RMR issue in the complaint. On November 8, 2024, FERC approved the request to delay the auction by approximately six months. On December 30, 2024, PJM requested an extension, which was denied on January 3, 2025.

#### ***PJM Capacity Market Reforms—FERC Docket Nos. ER25-682, ER25-712, ER25-778, ER25-785 and EL24-46***

[PJM FILED A](#) series of proposed tariff changes at FERC to reform its capacity market structure following concerns expressed by the Maryland PSC and OPSI states with the results of the capacity auction for the 2025/2026 delivery year.

On December 9, 2024, PJM filed at FERC proposed changes in FERC Docket No. ER25-682 to, among other things, change the reference generator PJM relies upon to set prices in its capacity demand curve and to account for RMR units in its capacity market. The reference generator change has the prospect of reducing capacity prices under tight market conditions by almost 30%. Accounting for RMR units in the capacity market ensures that ratepayers do not pay twice for capacity—once through the RMR rate schedule and again through the capacity market. FERC’s acceptance of this reform would also facilitate the RMR settlement agreement for the Wagner and Brandon Shores plants under FERC Docket Nos. ER24-1787 and ER24-1790, respectively. On January 6, 2025, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments at FERC in support of these reforms. On February 14, 2025, FERC accepted PJM’s proposed tariff changes.

On December 13, 2024, PJM filed at FERC proposed changes in FERC Docket No. ER25-712 to give priority to a limited amount of resources to move quickly through the interconnection queue if they can help address more immediate reliability needs. On January 8, 2025, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments at FERC in support of these reforms. On February 11, 2025, FERC accepted PJM’s proposed tariff changes.

On December 20, 2024, PJM filed at FERC proposed changes in FERC Docket No. ER25-778 to allow new interconnection customers to utilize the unused portion of existing interconnection customers’ interconnection service. Making this headroom on the transmission system available has the prospect of facilitating the addition of storage to the system, complementing system use by intermittent resources. On January 10, 2025, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments at FERC in support of these reforms. On February 11, 2025, FERC accepted PJM’s proposed tariff changes.

On December 20, 2024, PJM filed at FERC proposed changes in FERC Docket No. ER25-785 to require all existing generation capacity resources to offer into the capacity market. This reform would help address supply scarcity in the region and preclude the ability for resource owners to exercise market power. On January 10, 2025, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments at FERC in support of these reforms and in answers to other parties’ comments on January 27, 2025. On February 20, 2025, FERC accepted PJM’s proposed tariff changes.

On December 30, 2024, Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro filed a complaint at FERC in Docket No. EL25-46 indicating that PJM’s capacity market cap is unjust and unreasonable and requesting the cap to be lowered from the cost of new entry of the reference generator to 1.5 times the cost of net cost of new entry when accounting for energy and ancillary services revenues that generators receive in other markets. The complaint reasoned that the current maximum price formula, coupled with restricted new entry in the PJM region, would require ratepayers to pay prices that do not reflect the actual value of the incremental reliability additional capacity provides. On January 17, 2025, the Commission joined OPSI in filing comments at FERC in support of the complaint. On February 4, 2025, Governor Shapiro and PJM filed a stipulation of satisfaction and joint motion to dismiss the complaint agreeing on a price collar for capacity in the Base Residual Auction for the 2026/2027 and 2027/2028 delivery years. On April 21, 2025, FERC issued an order dismissing the complaint and accepting associated tariff revisions.

On February 14, 2025, FERC filed an Order Accepting Tariff Revisions Subject to Condition re PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. under ER25-682. That order recognized the resource adequacy contributions of RMR units, changed the reference resource, provided a uniform RTO-wide non-performance charge rate, and accepted other PJM-proposed adjustments that have the effect of lowering capacity auction costs.

On April 17, 2025, New Jersey Governor Philip D. Murphy requested FERC to direct its enforcement unit to launch an investigation of the July 2024 Base Residual Auction for the 2025/2026 delivery year. This request was then followed up by U.S. House of Representative Josh Gottheimer urging FERC to take immediate investigative action for the July 2024 Base Residual Auction for the 2025/26 delivery year.

***NextEra Energy Transmission MidAtlantic, Inc. proposed revisions to increase the base return on equity—FERC Docket No. ER24-2255-000***

[ON JUNE 12, 2024](#), NextEra Energy Transmission MidAtlantic, Inc filed a petition with FERC to increase its allowed return on equity (ROE) in its formula rate from 9.6% to 11.0%. The Commission intervened, along with other stakeholders, including the Maryland OPC, which filed a protest and request for hearing. FERC sent the matter to a settlement proceeding before FERC Judge Jeremy Hessler. Settlement negotiations were ongoing from the end of 2024 through most of 2025.

On October 3, 2025, FERC issued an order approving NextEra Energy Transmission MidAtlantic, Inc.'s filing of an offer of settlement and settlement agreement addressing its base return on equity in its formula rate under ER24-2255. FERC's order limits the ROE increase to 73 basis points below NextEra's requested allowance.

***PJM Interconnection, L.L.C., Exelon Companies, Revised Rate Schedules Related to Colocation—FERC Docket No. ER24-2889 (BGE); FERC Docket No. ER24-2891 (DPL); FERC Docket No. ER24-2894 (Pepco)***

[ON AUGUST 28, 2024](#), pursuant to Section 205 the Federal Power Act, PJM, on behalf of the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE), Delmarva Power & Light Company (DPL), and Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) (Exelon Companies) submitted filings of revised rate schedules reflecting updates to Attachment H-2 of the PJM Open Access Transmission Tariff which governs transmission service to a subset of network integration transmission service, otherwise known as "co-located load." BGE, DPL and Pepco requested that the Commission accept, without condition or modification, the proposed tariff sheets to be effective December 2, 2024. The Maryland PSC intervened in this proceeding on September 5, 2024. On February 20, 2025, FERC rejected the Exelon Companies' filings (and related filings) finding that the proposed revisions exceeded the Exelon Companies' filing rights under Federal Power Act section 205.

***Joint Consumer Advocates v. PJM Interconnection, L.L.C—FERC Docket No. EL25-18***

ON NOVEMBER 18, 2024, the Joint Consumer Advocates filed a complaint against PJM stating that the current PJM Reliability Pricing Model (RPM) is not producing just and reasonable rates and that the Base Residual Auction (BRA) results have set new record high prices. The Joint Advocates requested that FERC establish a refund with an effective date pursuant to the date of the complaint, find that PJM’s existing capacity market rules are unjust and unreasonable because they fail to mitigate market power and result in excessive capacity charges upon consumers, and that FERC establish just and reasonable replacement rates. The Advocates further outlined requests that PJM be directed to revise its rules so that all eligible capacity resources that contribute to resource adequacy be included in the auction, that PJM establish Reliability Must Run standards to retain needed resources, and that PJM be directed to undertake changes related to the management of its interconnection queue. The Maryland Commission filed a notice of intervention on December 10, 2024. The matter remains pending.

***PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.—FERC Docket No. Docket No. ER24-2172***

ON JUNE 1, 2024, pursuant to section 205 of the Federal Power Act (FPA), PJM filed an amended Interconnection Service Agreement (ISA) by and among PJM as Transmission Provider, Susquehanna Nuclear, LLC as Interconnection Customer, and PPL Electric Utilities Corporation as Interconnected Transmission Owner (collectively, the Parties), designated as Service Agreement No. 1442 and associated with PJM Queue No. NQ-123 (Amended Susquehanna ISA.) The Amended Susquehanna ISA proposed to amend an existing ISA among the Parties to increase from 300 MW to 480 MW, the amount of co-located load under the ISA, make revisions related to the treatment of this co-located load, and make other changes. The Commission intervened in this matter on July 3, 2024. On November 1, 2024, FERC issued an order rejecting the proposed ISA amendments with former Chairman Phillips dissenting and then-Chairman Christie concurring. Susquehanna Nuclear, LLC filed a petition for review in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on January 17, 2025. The matter remains pending.

***Show Cause Proceeding re Co-Located Load—FERC Docket No. EL25-49-000***

ON FEBRUARY 20, 2025, FERC issued an order establishing a show cause proceeding under Section 206 of the Federal Power Act, directing PJM and transmission owners to either: (1) show cause as to why the Open Access Transmission Tariff, PJM’s Amended and Restated Operating Agreement, and the Reliability Assurance Agreement remain just and reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential without provisions addressing the rates, terms, and conditions of service that would apply to co-location arrangements; or (2) explain what changes to the tariff would remedy the identified concerns if FERC determined that the tariff has become unjust and unreasonable or unduly discriminatory or preferential. FERC ruled that PJM’s tariff is unjust and unreasonable because it fails to provide clear and consistent rules for co-location arrangements, where large loads like data centers connect directly to generating facilities. The Commission intervened in the docket to ensure that the interests of Maryland ratepayers are protected.

FERC directed PJM to implement a replacement rate structure featuring new transmission service options that include: an interim non-firm service to bridge the gap while network upgrades are completed, and both firm and non-firm contract demand services. The order also required PJM to clarify interconnection procedures—including the use of provisional and surplus interconnection services. PJM must submit compliance filings and participate in a paper hearing to finalize specific rates and conditions of the new services.

***Interconnection of Large Loads to the Interstate Transmission System—FERC Docket No. RM26-4-000***

ON OCTOBER 23, 2025, pursuant to the Department of Energy’s (DOE) authority under Section 403 of the DOE Organization Act, DOE Secretary Chris Wright sent a letter to FERC with direction to initiate rulemaking procedures on the interconnection of large loads. The letter requests consideration and final action from FERC by April 30, 2026. The proposed rulemaking would establish standardized interconnection procedures and agreements for new large loads, including hybrid facilities, greater than 20 MW. It purportedly limits FERC’s jurisdiction to interconnections directly to transmission facilities. The Commission intervened in the docket and filed comments on November 21, 2025. In the comments, the Commission urged FERC to uphold the jurisdictional division under the Federal Power Act, where large load interconnections primarily involve retail end-use customers and local distribution facilities that traditionally fall under state authority. The Commission warned that netting load against existing generation at hybrid facilities could compromise grid reliability by obscuring visibility for operators and drive up capacity prices for existing ratepayers. The Commission advocated for a cooperative approach that focuses on holding load serving entities (LSEs) accountable for matching new large load with new generation or demand response, consistent with Maryland’s Next Generation Energy Act, which aims to protect Maryland residential ratepayers from financial risks associated with large load growth. FERC has not yet issued a notice of proposed rulemaking in this docket.

***Complaint of Independent Market Monitor for PJM v. PJM Interconnection, LLC—FERC Docket No. EL26-30-000***

ON NOVEMBER 25, 2025, the Independent Market Monitor for PJM (IMM) filed a complaint against PJM seeking an order from FERC finding that PJM has the authority to add large new data center loads only when they can be served reliably, and directing PJM to file tariff language stating so. The IMM asserts that PJM possesses, but is failing to exercise, the authority under its Operating Agreement and Reliability Assurance Agreement to require new large loads to wait for interconnection until adequate generation and transmission resources are secured. The complaint also seeks an order finding that PJM’s failure to clarify and enforce its existing rules and to protect reliable and affordable service is unjust and unreasonable. The Commission intervened in the docket and joined in OPSI’s comments. OPSI’s filing argued that the IMM’s proposal to restrict large load interconnections based on capacity adequacy is legally impermissible under the Federal Power Act. OPSI argued that standardization of interconnection procedures via a PJM large load queue would likely lead to conflict among PJM states with diverse public policies. On March 23, 2026, FERC denied the IMM complaint, finding that the IMM failed

to specify a tariff provision that is not just and reasonable, or a statutory or regulatory requirement that PJM violated.

***PJM Interconnection, LLC § 205(d) Rate Filing: Order Nos. 1920, 1920-A, 1920-B  
Compliance Filing—FERC Docket No. ER26-751-000***

ON DECEMBER 12, 2025, PJM submitted its compliance filing pursuant to FERC Order Nos. 1920, 1920-A, and 1920-B to establish a new Long-Term Regional Transmission Planning Protocol designed to address the region's transmission needs over a longer 20-year horizon. The proposed protocol integrates into the existing Regional Transmission Expansion Plan and would utilize a five-year planning cycle to identify core long-term needs focused on reliability and additional needs informed by public policy and economic drivers. PJM avers its proposed approach is supported by PARSEC. The protocol ensures efficiency through right-sizing aging facilities, mandatory consideration of alternative transmission technologies, and state-led opt outs or voluntary funding to respect jurisdictional policy goals. The Commission intervened in the docket to ensure that the interests of Maryland ratepayers are protected. (see *Transmission Planning, Cost Allocation and Generator Interconnection* section, above.)

***Morgantown Power, LLC Application for Authorization under Section 203 of FPA—FERC  
Docket No. EC26-58-000***

ON FEBRUARY 2, 2026, Morgantown Power, LLC submitted an application to FERC seeking authorization under Section 203 of the Federal Power Act for a transaction in which Chesapeake Data LLC, a subsidiary of TeraWulf Inc. (a data center operator) would acquire 100% ownership interest in Morgantown Power. This acquisition involves the Morgantown Generating Station in Newburg, Maryland, which consists of four oil-fired units with a combined capacity of approximately 216 MW. Morgantown requested expedited consideration and an order authorizing the transaction by April 2, 2026. The Commission intervened in the docket to ensure that the interests of Maryland ratepayers are protected.

## **PJM INTERCONNECTION, INC. — THE RELIABILITY PRICING MODEL**

### **2026/2027 Delivery Year Base Residual Auction Results**

**PJM CONDUCTED THE** auction for the 2026/2027 delivery year in July 2025. This was the first auction to include a clearing price cap and floor, as a result of a settlement agreement between PJM and Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro.

Resource clearing prices (RCPs) for the 2026/2027 delivery year were \$329.17/MW-day throughout PJM, reaching the price cap in the settlement agreement. As a result, clearing prices in BGE decreased 29% while PEPCO, DPL-South and Allegheny prices cleared 22% higher than the previous auction. Without the price cap, capacity would have cleared at \$388.57/MW-day across the RTO, per PJM analysis.

Clearing prices also reflected a modeling methodology adopted by PJM, and RTOs across the country, that values capacity based on reliability risk and accredit resources based on performance risk during extreme weather conditions. These changes were necessitated after experiencing poor generator performance region-wide during recent severe winter storms.

All capacity offered in Maryland areas successfully cleared the auction. While the Brandon Shores and Wagner plants in the BGE locational deliverability area scheduled to operate as Reliability Must Run resources in the delivery year, their capacities were also reflected in the auction. Any auction payments attributed to these resources will be refunded to ratepayers, in accordance with a FERC-approved settlement agreement with the facilities (discussed above).

Regarding renewables in PJM, 3,717 MW cleared from wind resources, or 139% more than in the previous auction. Additionally, 1,567 MW of solar resources and 35 MW of storage cleared, representing increases of 17% and 143%, respectively, over the amount that cleared in the 2025/2026 Base Residual Auction. Solar resources accounted for 1% of cleared resources while wind resources accounted for 2.5% of cleared resources. The mix of other capacity resources secured in the auction amounted to 43% natural gas, 21% nuclear, 21% coal, 4% DR and 4% hydropower. As with all resources in this auction, their capacity value is risk-informed.

### **2027/2028 Delivery Year Base Residual Auction Results**

**PJM CONDUCTED THE** auction for the 2027/2028 delivery year in December 2025. This was the second auction to include a clearing price cap and floor, as a result of a settlement agreement between PJM and Pennsylvania Governor Shapiro.

Resource clearing prices (RCPs) for the 2027/2028 delivery year were \$333.44/MW-day throughout PJM, reaching the price cap in the settlement agreement. As a result, the entire PJM region cleared approximately 1% higher than in the previous auction. Without the price cap, capacity would have cleared at \$529.80/MW-day across the RTO, per PJM analysis.

Similar to the auction to the 2026/2027 delivery year, clearing prices also reflected a modeling methodology that values capacity based on reliability risk and accredit resources based on performance risk during extreme weather conditions.

All capacity offered in Maryland areas successfully cleared the auction, and as in the previous auction the Brandon Shores and Wagner plants in BGE, scheduled to operate as Reliability Must Run resources, were also reflected in the auction. Auction payments attributed to these resources will continue to be refunded to ratepayers. Despite clearing all resources offered, PJM fell short of meeting its reliability requirement.

Regarding renewables in PJM, the auction cleared 3,526 MW from wind resources and 1,465 MW from solar resources, representing a 5% drop in capacity, mostly attributed to changes in accreditation value. The auction cleared 205 MW of storage, representing increases of 490% over the amount that cleared in the 2026/2027 BRA. Solar resources accounted for 1% of cleared resources while wind resources accounted for 2.4% of cleared resources. The mix of other capacity resources secured in the auction amounted to 43% natural gas, 21% nuclear, 20% coal, 5% DR and 4% hydropower. As with all resources in this auction, their capacity values are risk-informed.

## BROADENED OWNERSHIP ACT

IN COMPLIANCE WITH § 14-102 of the Economic Development Article, *Annotated Code of Maryland*, entitled the "Broadened Ownership Act," the Commission communicated with the largest gas, electric, and telephone companies in Maryland to ensure that they were aware of this law. The law establishes the need for affected companies to institute programs and campaigns encouraging the public and employees to purchase stocks and bonds in these companies, thus benefiting the community, the economy, the companies, and the general welfare of the State.

The following companies submitted reports outlining various efforts to encourage public and employee participation in the stock purchase program:

**NiSource, Inc.** owns all the common stock of the NiSource Gas Distribution Group, Inc. which in turn owns all of the common stock of **Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc.** NiSource, Inc. has two plans to encourage broadened employee stock ownership: the Employee Stock Purchase (ESP) Plan and the NiSource Retirement Savings Plan. In addition, NiSource, Inc. maintains a Dividend Reinvestment and Stock Purchase Plan that broadens stock capital ownership by all stockholders, including employees, by enabling them to reinvest their dividends to acquire additional shares of common stock.

On August 31, 2025, NiSource, Inc. had 470,885,469 shares of its common stock outstanding of which 189,873 were acquired by employees during the previous 12 months through the ESP Plan and 243,441 through the NiSource Inc. Retirement Savings Plan. As of August 31, 2025, NiSource, Inc. had approximately 276 registered stockholders with Maryland addresses holding approximately 85,618 shares of NiSource, Inc. common stock.

As of September 30, 2025, **Exelon Corporation**, the parent company of **Baltimore Gas and Electric Company**, **Potomac Electric Power Company**, and **Delmarva Power & Light Company** reported that 8,294 Maryland residents, representing approximately 12 percent of Exelon's total registered shareholders, owned 3,479,388 (approximately 0.3 percent) of the outstanding shares of common stock. Of these Maryland shareholders, 4,339 (approximately six percent of Exelon's total registered shareholders owning 1,679,399 or 0.2 percent of the legal outstanding shares of common stock) were participants in the Direct Stock Purchase Plan. As of September 30, 2025, 1,035 current or former employees, who are Maryland residents, held an aggregate of 921,001 equivalent shares of Exelon common stock in their 401(k) accounts in the Employee Savings Plan. In addition, 352,957 shares were held by 1,879 current or former employees who are Maryland residents and participate in the Exelon Employee Stock Purchase Plan.

The **Potomac Edison Company** was a wholly-owned subsidiary of Allegheny Energy, Inc. (AE) through February 25, 2011 at which point it became a subsidiary of **FirstEnergy Corporation** (FE). In April 2012, the Allegheny Employee Stock Purchase Plan was merged into the FE Employee Savings Plan (FE Plan). Approximately 95 percent of FE's employees were contributing to the FE Plan as of December 31, 2024 and 15,334 participants had FE stock as part of their account balance within the FE Plan. As of December 31, 2024, 1,181 Maryland residents held

approximately 408,881 shares of FE stock as stockholders of record which represents approximately 2.22 percent of all FE registered stockholders and approximately 0.07 percent of all shares. In addition, as of December 31, 2024, three AE stockholders living in Maryland, owning the equivalent of 17 FE shares, had not yet exchanged their AE shares for FE shares.

**Verizon Maryland, LLC** is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Verizon Communications Inc. Public stockholder ownership in the Maryland company is obtained through the purchase of Verizon Capital Stock. The Verizon Savings Plan enables employees to purchase stock in Verizon Communications, Inc. As of September 30, 2025, 11,676 Maryland residents held Verizon stock.

## REPORTS OF THE AGENCY'S DEPARTMENTS/DIVISIONS

### Office of Executive Secretary (*Andrew S. Johnston, Executive Secretary*)

THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY is responsible for the daily operations of the Commission and for keeping the records of the Commission including a record of all proceedings, filed documents, orders, regulation decisions, dockets, and files. The Executive Secretary is an author of, and the official signatory to, minutes, decisions and orders of the Commission that are not signed by the Commission directly. The Executive Secretary is also a member of a team of policy advisors to the Commission.

The Office of Executive Secretary (OES) is responsible for the Commission's case management, expert services procurement, order preparation, purchasing and procurement, regulation development and coordination, tariff maintenance, the Equal Employment Opportunity Program, operations, fiscal and budget management, the Commission's information technology system, including databases and the official website and intranet website.

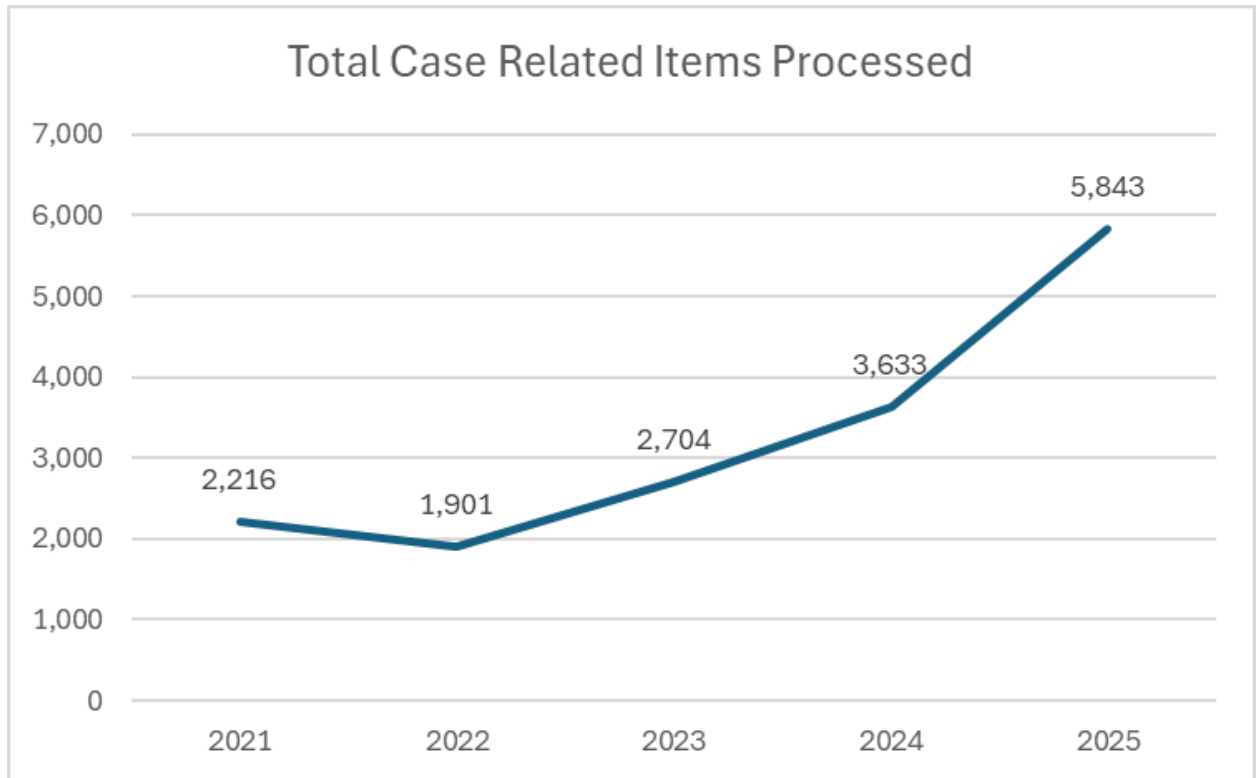
The Commission is authorized to employ 175 full-time employees. The five Commissioners are the collective head of the agency with their employees generally divided into direct reports and Technical Staff. The Commission's direct reports include the Executive Secretary's Office, the General Counsel's Office, the Public Utility Law Judges, Consumer Affairs Division, Communications, Legislative Affairs and others. Technical Staff is a party to every case and includes the Executive Director's Office, Accounting Investigations Division, Electricity Division, Telecommunications, Gas, and Water Division, Engineering Division, Energy Analysis and Planning Division, Transportation Division, Office of Utility Cybersecurity, and Staff Counsel.

The OES contains the following divisions:

#### **Administrative Division**

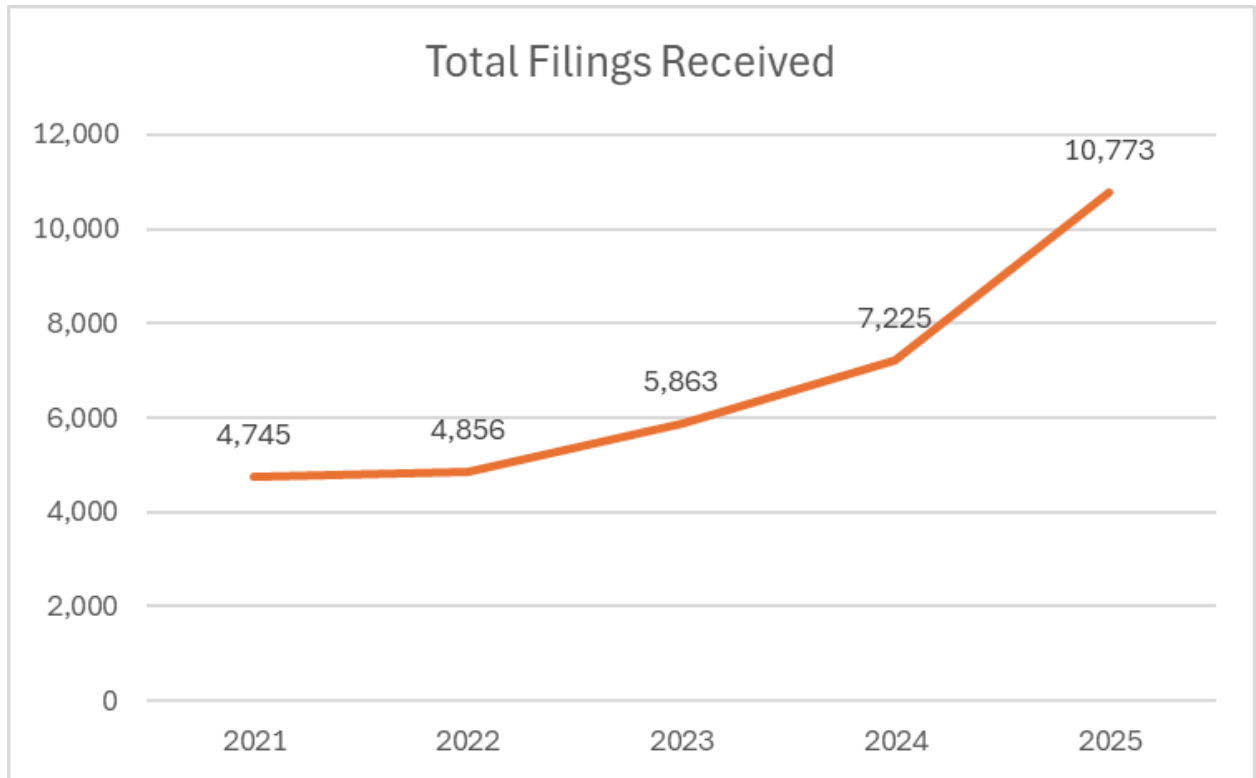
- Case Management Unit

The Case Management Unit creates and maintains formal dockets associated with proceedings before the Commission. In maintaining the Commission's formal docket, this unit must ensure the security and integrity of the materials on file while permitting access to the general public. Included within this security function is the maintenance of confidential/proprietary information relating to the conduct of utility regulation and required compliance with detailed access procedures. During 2025, this unit established 78 new non-transportation-related dockets and processed 5,843 non-transportation-related case items. This unit is also responsible for archiving the formal dockets based on the record retention policies of the Commission.



- Document Management Unit

The Document Management Unit is responsible for developing the Commission’s Administrative Meeting Agenda, the official open meeting action agenda mandated by law. During 2025, this unit scheduled 43 Commission administrative meetings at which 733 administrative items were considered and decided upon pursuant to the Commission’s authority. Additionally, this unit is responsible for docketing public conferences held by the Commission. Three administrative docket public conferences were initiated in 2025. This unit also processed 10,773 filings, including 3,217 memoranda.



- Regulation Management Unit

This unit is responsible for providing expert drafting consultation, establishing, and managing the Commission’s rulemaking docket and coordinating the adoption process with the Secretary of State’s Division of State Documents. During 2025, this unit managed four rulemaking dockets that resulted in final adoption of regulation changes to [COMAR Title 20–Public Service Commission](#) and six additional rulemaking dockets that remained active at the end of 2025.

- Operations Unit

This unit is responsible for managing the Commission’s telecommunications needs and its motor vehicle fleet, as well as being the liaison for building maintenance, repairs and construction needs of the Commission. In addition, this unit is responsible for the Equal Employment Opportunity Program. The Commission has 19 vehicles in its fleet, including two electric vehicles. In January 2026, the Commission was approved to relocate its headquarters to a new building in downtown Baltimore. The Commission is anticipating the relocation to be completed by Q4 2026 or Q1 2027. The Commission will formally announce when the relocation is complete so all stakeholders are aware of the start date in the new location.

#### **Fiscal Division**

- Fiscal and Budget Management Unit

This unit manages the financial aspects of the daily operations of the Commission. The operating budget totaled \$26,748,332 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. This budget consisted of \$25,795,815 in special funds and \$955,517 in federal funds. Included within the normal State functions are two unique governmental accounting responsibilities. The first function allocates the Commission's cost of operation to the various public service companies subject to the Commission's jurisdiction. The second function allocates the budget associated with the Department of Natural Resources' Power Plant Research Program to electric companies distributing electricity to retail customers within Maryland. This unit also administers the financial accountability of the Pipeline Safety Program and the Hazardous Liquid Pipeline Safety Program which are partially reimbursed by the federal Department of Transportation by maintaining all associated financial records consistent with federal program rules, regulations, and guidelines requiring additional record keeping.

- **Purchasing and Procurement Management**

This section is responsible for expert services procurement and all other procurements required by the Commission as well as the overall control of supplies and equipment. This section is also responsible for agency forms management and record retention management. This section's staff maintained and distributed the fixed and disposable assets, maintained all related records, purchased all necessary supplies and equipment, and coordinated all equipment maintenance. As of June 30, 2025, this section maintained fixed assets totaling \$2,972,935.

### **Information Technology Division**

The IT Division functions as the technical staff for the Commission's network and computer systems. IT is responsible for computer hardware and software selection, installation, administration, training, and maintenance. IT manages and maintains the content and technical components of the Commission's internal and external websites.

In 2025, IT accomplishments included: (a) performed cloud migration of PSC on-premise servers/applications ; (b) implemented security remediation of cloud servers/online services in accordance with DoIT NOC Security; (c) completed OLA (Office of Legislative Audits) IT Audit; (d) retired Fiscal AX (MS Dynamics) System and Windows Server Active Directory Domains; (e) implemented new Sophos Managed Firewalls for PSC network infrastructure; (f) implemented THINKIFIC training app as the platform for Supplier Online Training; (g) developed GOR (Gross Operating Revenue) portal for the Fiscal Division; (h) implemented ZOOM Workplace as the PSC Video Conferencing Platform; (i) participated in Maryland's AI Community of Practice (MDAI) and NARUC AI for Utility Regulators events; (j) initiated Transportation Portal - development of new secure cloud-based portal for the Transportation Division; (k) initiated "PSC AI training opportunities and tips" for PSC Staff; and (l) initiated the redesign of the PSC website.

### **Consumer Affairs Division (*Stephanie A. Bolton, Director*)**

**THE CONSUMER AFFAIRS DIVISION** (CAD) investigates and resolves complaints made by Maryland ratepayers against utilities and other regulated entities in accordance with applicable laws,

regulations, and utility tariffs. CAD collects and tracks information regarding complaints received to identify potential patterns of regulatory noncompliance.

In 2025, CAD received 4,758 total complaints, reflecting an increase of 79.14% over last year. Of the complaints received, 4,427 were against gas and electric utilities, an increase of 96.67%. In addition, CAD received 58 complaints against telecommunication providers, 128 complaints against water utility companies, and 31 complaints which involved other types of companies. The meteoric rise in complaints was most acute in the first quarter of the year, where complaints more than tripled. The extraordinary volume of complaints received in 2025 strained existing resources within the CAD. Despite these challenges, staff worked diligently to investigate and resolve complaints as efficiently as possible and continues to make steady progress in addressing the remaining backlog.

The most frequently cited issues with gas and electric, telephone, and water utilities concerned billing disputes (2,518), termination of service issues (539), other or miscellaneous issues with electric utility service (311), payment disputes (265), meter concerns (201), unable to start/stop service (193), other or miscellaneous issues with gas utility service (112), outages (110), customer service (102), and security deposits (95).

Affordability continues to be a significant driver of complaints, with a 155.89% increase in billing disputes, though only a 3.06% increase in termination of service complaints compared with last year. Termination of service complaints remained nearly flat while billing disputes increased sharply, suggesting that growing utility cost pressures are increasingly affecting middle-income households, and not just the customers at the highest risk of service disconnection. This is consistent with national trends. The 2024 Residential Energy Consumption Survey<sup>11</sup>, recently released by the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration (EIA), documents an increase in households reporting energy insecurity across the board, but an 8.65% increase in households earning less than \$60,000 and a telling 90.03% increase in households earning more than \$60,000.

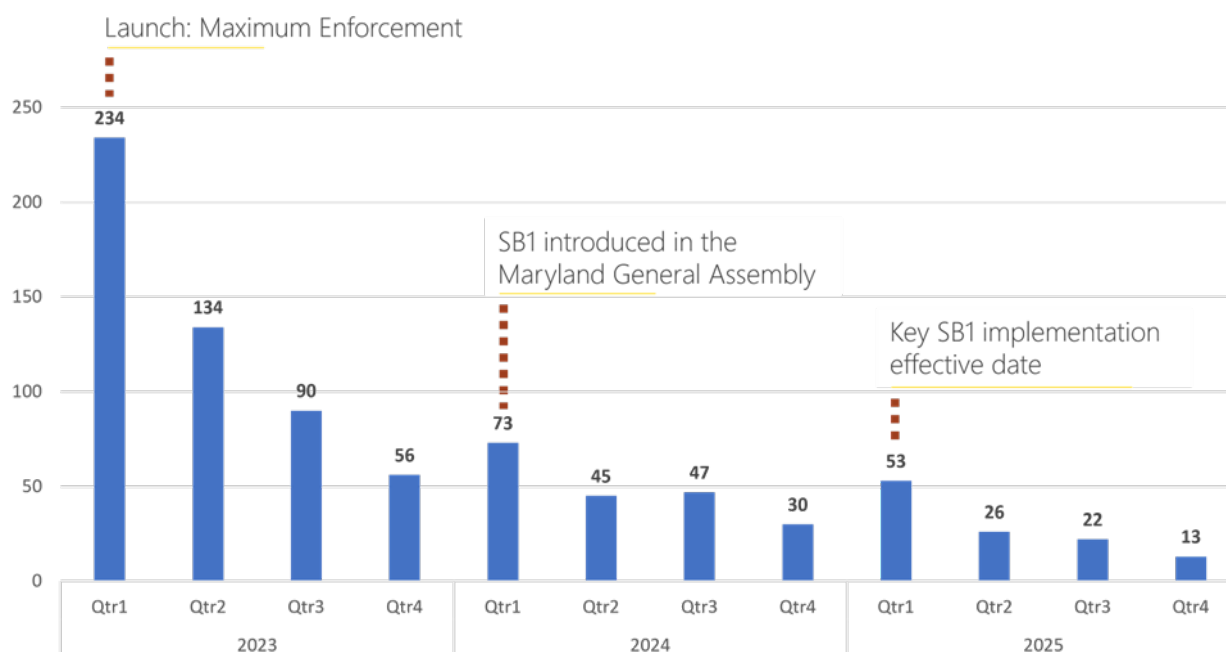
Complaints against third-party retail energy suppliers have continued to decline following the Commission's 2023 Maximum Enforcement initiative<sup>12</sup> and the enactment of 2024's Senate Bill 1 (SB1), ushering in major reforms in the retail energy supply marketplace in an effort to strengthen oversight of this industry and provide greater protections for consumers.

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<sup>11</sup> Residential Energy Consumption Survey, "Household Energy Insecurity HC 11.1," Energy Information Agency, March 2026, available at [https://www.eia.gov/consumption/residential/data/2024/hc/pdf/HC11.1\\_2024.pdf](https://www.eia.gov/consumption/residential/data/2024/hc/pdf/HC11.1_2024.pdf)

<sup>12</sup> The Commission launched its Maximum Enforcement initiative on February 1, 2023, in response to an influx of consumer complaints against retail energy suppliers. The Commission marshaled its internal resources to prioritize and expedite supplier matters, resulting in a significant reduction in supplier complaints.

## Complaints against retail energy suppliers: 2023 - 2025



In 2025, CAD received 114 complaints against retail energy suppliers. The most frequently cited issues with suppliers concerned billing disputes (36), unauthorized enrollment/slamming<sup>13</sup> (29), misrepresentation by supplier (12), and start/stop service issues (12).

In addition to its investigatory activities, CAD is a trusted source of utility-related information to the public. Its staff participated in a variety of events in the community, such as town halls and neighborhood association meetings, conferences and webinars, as well as “Power in the Park” events and other resource fairs sponsored by local elected officials and nonprofit organizations. The CAD team gained a full-time, dedicated attorney, better enabling participation in proceedings affecting consumers. Participation includes Case No. 9613 against retail energy supplier SmartEnergy to ensure fair implementation of the judgment against the company, as well as Case No. 9850 against BGE, initiated after CAD complaint data revealed widespread customer service inaccessibility. These matters underscore CAD’s role in protecting consumer interests and ensuring that utility customers are treated fairly and can access essential service.

### Office of General Counsel (*Ransom E. ‘Ted’ Davis, General Counsel*)

**THE OFFICE OF** General Counsel (OGC) provides legal advice and assistance to the Commission on questions concerning the jurisdiction, rights, duties or powers of the Commission, defends

<sup>13</sup> Slamming is an illegal practice of switching a customer’s electricity or gas supply service without the customer’s permission.

Commission orders in court, represents the Commission in federal and State administrative proceedings, and initiates and defends other legal actions on the Commission's behalf as needed. OGC also supervises enforcement of the Commission's rules, regulations, and filing requirements as applied to utilities, common carriers, retail suppliers, and other entities subject to the Commission's jurisdiction and leads or participates in special projects as directed by the Commission.

During 2025, OGC assisted the Commission in numerous matters including the evaluation and decision of traditional rate case proceedings filed by Washington Gas Light Company (WGL) as well as multi-year rate plans (MRPs) filed by Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) and Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco). OGC assisted the Commission in addressing new EmPOWER Maryland energy efficiency, conservation, and demand response goals and plans for the 2024-2026 program cycle; evaluating the location of BGE gas regulators; considering Montgomery County's Community Choice Aggregation plan; 2025 and 2026 General Assembly legislative initiatives; reviewing and approving the Revised Round 2 offshore wind proposals and monitoring compliance with related conditions; and addressing utility electric service reliability. OGC also assisted the Commission in drafting the data center colocation study report in addressing applications for development of new electricity generation plants and cyber security reporting.

OGC also assisted the Commission in implementing General Assembly legislation, including, for example, assisting in the development of new regulations and requirements related to Senate Bill 1 (2024) relating to the protection of consumers in the retail energy market and establishing new standards for marketing clean energy and Senate Bill 937 (2025) related to the Next Generation Energy Act (NGEA) which among other things allows Maryland to pursue the development of new nuclear energy generation stations as well as modifies the multi-year rate plans and other alternative forms of ratemaking to curtail costs for ratepayers. In implementing the NGEA, the Commission has established multiple dockets to consider proposals for new generation, transmission-connected and distribution-connected energy storage, and new nuclear generation. Additionally, OGC provides legal support to the Commission as a state agency participant in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. OGC also routinely provides legal support to the Commission by responding to requests for information pursuant to the Maryland Public Information Act and by addressing customer complaints related to public service companies and retail energy suppliers. Finally, OGC represented the Commission in several matters before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission which are described elsewhere in this report.

**Office of the Executive Director (*Anthony Myers, Executive Director*):**

**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** and an Assistant Executive Director manage the Commission's Technical Staff. The Executive Director's major managerial responsibility consists of directing and coordinating the work of the Technical Staff relating to the analysis of utility filings and operations, the presentation of testimony in Commission proceedings, and support of the Commission's regulatory oversight activities.

The Executive Director administers the formulation of Staff policy positions and legislative reviews and serves as the liaison between Staff and the Commission. The Executive Director is also the principal contact between the Staff and other state agencies, commissions and utilities. Reports of the Technical Staff divisions:

**Accounting Investigations Division (*Jamie Smith, Director*)**

**THE ACCOUNTING INVESTIGATIONS** Division is responsible for auditing utility books and records and providing expertise on a variety of accounting, taxation, and financial issues. The Division's primary function includes developing utility revenue requirements, auditing fuel costs, auditing the application of rates and charges assessed by utilities, monitoring utility earnings, examining the effectiveness of cost allocations, analyzing the financial integrity of alternative suppliers seeking licenses to provide services, and assisting other divisions and State agencies.

Historically, Accounting Investigations has also been responsible for project management of Commission-ordered utility management audits. Accounting Investigations personnel provide expertise and guidance in the form of expert testimony, formal comments on utility filings, independent analyses on specific topics, advisory services, and responses to surveys or other communication with the Commission. Accounting Investigations keeps up to date with the most recent changes in accounting pronouncements and tax law and applies its expertise to electric, gas, telecommunications, water, wastewater, taxicabs, maritime pilots, and toll bridge matters.

During 2025, the Accounting Investigations Division's work responsibilities included assisting other divisions, conducting audits of utility fuel programs and other rate adjustments, ongoing evaluation of utility base rates, STRIDE rates, and providing appropriate analysis of utility filings and rate initiatives. Division personnel provided expert testimony and recommendations relating to the performance of ongoing audits of 14 utility fuel programs and 11 other rate adjustments and provided appropriate analyses and comments with respect to 79 filings submitted by utilities.

In addition, Division personnel participated in nine formal proceedings and a number of special assignments. The Division also provided analyses for a variety of legislative bills that have the potential to impact the utility industry.

**Electricity Division (*Drew M. McAuliffe, Director*)**

**THE ELECTRICITY DIVISION** conducts economic, financial and policy analyses relevant to the regulation of electric utilities, electricity retail markets, low income concerns, and other related issues. The Division prepares the results of these analyses in written testimony, recommendations to the Commission, and various reports. This work includes: retail competition policy and implementation related to restructuring in the electric utility industry, rate of return on equity and capital structure, pricing structure and design, load forecasting, low-income customer policy and statistical analysis, consumer protection regulations, consumer education, codes of conduct, mergers, and jurisdictional and customer class cost-of-service determinations. The Division's analyses and recommendations may appear as expert testimony in formal proceedings, special

topical studies requested by the Commission, leadership of or participation in work group processes established by the Commission, or formal comments on other filings made with the Commission.

As part of rate proceedings, the Division's work lies in three main areas: (1) rate design, the setting of electricity prices to recover the cost (as annual revenue) of providing service to a specific class of customers (*e.g.*, residential); (2) cost of service studies, the classification of utility operating costs and plant investments and the allocation of those costs to the customer classes that cause them; and (3) cost of capital, the financial analysis that determines the appropriate return to allow on a utility's plant investment given the returns observed from the utility industry regionally and nationally. In multi-year rate plan proceedings, the Division also reviews, validates and submits testimony regarding utility projections of customers, sales, and billed maximum demand.

In addition to traditional rate-of-return expertise, the Electricity Division's technical and analytical professionals also identify and analyze emerging issues in Maryland's retail energy market. Division analysts research methods of electricity procurement, retail energy market models, energy and natural resource price trends, annual electricity cost data, renewable energy issues, economic modeling of electricity usage, and other areas that reflect characteristics of electricity costs.

During 2025, the Electricity Division's work included expert testimony and/or policy recommendations in approximately 77 administrative proceedings, and 10 formal proceedings, and one rate case reconciliation.

In addition to traditional regulatory analysis, Electricity Division personnel facilitated and participated in several stakeholder work groups covering, large load customers, net energy metering, community solar, retail market electronic data exchange, retail market supplier coordination, electric vehicles, electric rates, and electrification. The Electricity Division also evaluated legislation on large load customers, distributed energy resources, community solar, net metering, and retail supply.

### **Energy Analysis and Planning Division (*Daniel Hurley, Director*)**

**THE ENERGY ANALYSIS** and Planning Division (EAP) is primarily responsible for evaluating and reporting to the Commission on the results of the EmPOWER Maryland energy efficiency and demand response programs which are operated by the electric utilities in accordance with the EmPOWER Maryland legislation. EAP reviews the annual compliance of electricity suppliers and electric utilities to the Renewable Portfolio Standard requirements. The Energy Analysis and Planning Division is leading the implementation of the Nuclear Procurement Program for Zero Emission Credits (ZEC). The Next Generation Energy Act (NGEA) created a competitive ZEC procurement process to support 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.

Finally, EAP will assess the environmental impact, in accordance with the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022, on all filings that fall under the division's responsibility.

Division members have analytical and/or oversight responsibilities on a wide range of subjects: energy efficiency and demand response programs, regional power supply and transmission planning through participation in PJM work groups and committees, the SOS competitive solicitations, the wholesale energy markets focusing on prices and availability, Maryland's renewable energy portfolio standard, wholesale market demand response programs, applications for retail natural gas and electricity suppliers, applications for community solar projects and applications for small generator exemptions to the CPCN process.

During 2025, EAP was directly responsible for, or involved in, several significant initiatives including:

- EmPOWER Maryland—
  - Preparing semi-annual reports for the utilities' energy efficiency and demand response programs;
  - Preparing the 2024-2026 EmPOWER Maryland plans report for the utilities' energy efficiency and demand response programs, specifically revised plans for the 2025 and 2026 program years;
  - Assisting in the development of the Commission's annual report to the General Assembly;
  - Direct oversight of the evaluation, measurement and verification process of an independent evaluator producing annual impact and cost-effectiveness evaluation;
  - Conducting work groups related to the 2024-2026 EmPOWER Maryland energy efficiency and demand response plans;
  - Reviewing the annual EmPOWER Maryland surcharge filings for cost recovery of the EmPOWER Maryland programs;
- Preparing the Ten-Year Plan (2025-2034) of Electric Companies in Maryland;
- Preparing the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Report (compliance year 2024);
- Assisting with the implementation of the Nuclear Procurement Program;
- Monitoring several PJM committees and work groups;
- Monitoring the SOS procurement processes to ensure they were conducted according to codified procedures consistent with the Maryland restructuring law;
- Processing applications for the Community Solar program; and
- Participating in NARUC activities.

## **Engineering Division (*Behzad 'Brad' Barzin, Chief Engineer*)**

**THE ENGINEERING DIVISION** monitors the operations of public service companies for safety, efficiency, reliability and quality of service. The Division's primary areas of responsibility include electric distribution and transmission, gas and electric metering, private water and sewer distribution systems, certification of solar renewable energy facilities, natural gas and hazardous liquid pipeline safety.

### **Work Groups**

The Engineering Division led or actively participated in several Commission established work groups in 2025, including, but not limited to:

#### **Distribution System Planning Work Group**

In March of 2021, the Commission held a legislative-style hearing to discuss the application of the recommendations contained in the NARUC/NASEO-founded Task Force on Comprehensive Electricity Planning in Maryland. On June 23, 2021, the Commission issued Order No. 89865 that initiated a Distribution System Planning Work Group (DSPWG), docketed in Case No. [9665](#) and [PC44](#) with a goal of exploring and developing a Maryland-specific distribution system planning process to increase opportunities for early, meaningful stakeholder engagement through increased transparency and coordination.

The Commission contracted with Silver Point LLC at the beginning of 2022 to facilitate the DSP Work Group. Several parties including Staff, OPC, MEA, utilities in Maryland, industry representatives, environmental groups and concerned citizens participated in the effort. In February 2023, Silverpoint filed a status report with the Commission, and on February 9, 2023, the Commission issued a notice of opportunity to comment, in which several parties, including Staff, provided comments.

In addition, effective June 1, 2022, the Maryland General Assembly enacted the Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) which was codified in Public Utilities Article (PUA), *Annotated Code of Maryland*, Subtitle 8 (Electric Distribution System Planning). Section 7-801 specifically requires that the Commission adopt regulations or issue orders, by July 1, 2025, to implement specific policies for electric distribution system planning and improvements to promote a set of 12 state policy goals. Subsequently, in 2024, the General Assembly enacted House Bill 1393 for Electric System Planning—Scope and Funding (HB1393)—which modified Subtitle 8 to now focus on electric system planning in place of electric distribution planning.

HB1393 also modified the July 1, 2025 deadline specified in § 7-804 for developing regulations that promote State policy goals to December 31, 2025. On October 23, 2025, the Commission held Rulemaking 89 (RM89) to adopt a new chapter (COMAR 20.50.15 Electric System Planning) and new regulations (COMAR 20.50.15.01, 20.50.15.02, 20.50.15.03, 20.50.15.04, 20.50.15.05, and 20.50.15.06) as published in the Maryland Register on September 5, 2025, subject to

nonsubstantive changes necessary to conform to COMAR drafting requirements. The motion passed unanimously. These regulations became effective on November 24, 2025, representing a significant milestone in Maryland’s transition from distribution system planning to a more comprehensive electric system planning framework that integrates distribution, transmission interface considerations, and distributed energy resource planning.

Furthermore, § 7-802 requires the Commission to submit a report to the General Assembly, on or before December 1, 2024, and each December 1 thereafter, information regarding the current status of projects designed to promote the goals identified in this section, including information on planning processes and implementation that promote, as specific goals:

- (1) measures to decrease greenhouse gas emissions incident to electric distribution, including high levels of distributed energy resources and electric vehicles;
- (2) giving priority to vulnerable communities in the development of distributed energy resources and electric vehicle infrastructure;
- (3) energy efficiency;
- (4) meeting anticipated increases in load;
- (5) incorporation of energy storage technology as appropriate and prudent to: (i) support efficiency and reliability of the electric system; and (ii) provide additional capacity to accommodate increased distributed renewable electricity generation in connection with electric transmission and distribution system modernization;
- (6) efficient management of load variability;
- (7) electric system resiliency and reliability;
- (8) bidirectional power flows;
- (9) demand response and other non-wire and noncapital alternatives;
- (10) increased use of distributed energy resources, including electric vehicles;
- (11) transparent stakeholder participation in ongoing electric system planning processes;
- and
- (12) any other issues the Commission considers appropriate.

On August 24, 2023, the Commission issued Order No. 90777 in response to the work group report, filed on February 6, 2023, and stakeholder comments. The Commission appointed then-Chief Public Utility Law Judge Chuck McLean to lead the work group and directed the work group to file a final report on April 30, 2024 addressing, among other things, how well each utility’s current distribution system planning (DSP) practices promote State policy goals set forth in PUA §7-802 and how to further those policies within the utilities’ DSP practices. The work group leader filed the final report presenting components of the Jade Process Map<sup>14</sup> and parties’ positions on

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<sup>14</sup>The Jade Process Map is a representation of a state’s electric utility structure in which the state’s investor-owned utilities do not own generation assets, the state is located within an RTO/ISO market, and the state is seeking to increase transparency around distribution system planning and is responsive to State policy. Maryland’s structure was best represented in this Jade Roadmap classification. Jade Process Map contains blocks or components including Considerations Feeding into Types of Projections; Goals/Objectives; DER and Load Forecasts; Hosting Capacity Analysis/System Assessment; Grid Needs & Locational Value Assessment; Identify Possible Solutions to Grid Needs; Screen/Evaluate Possible Solutions; Choose Solutions and Publish Plan; Program/Project Design; and Assess Results.

how to address each component and OPC's and the electric utilities' proposals. Staff also filed comments on the work group report.

On January 4, 2024, the Commission held a Technical Conference at which stakeholders were invited to address best practices in distribution system planning. After considering the work group's final report and stakeholder comments on the report, on July 30, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91256 which provided guidance to the work group on the non-consensus items and directed the work group to provide a status report on its progress and requiring each electric company to file a report with the Commission on or before November 15, 2024 and by November 15 each year thereafter. Staff prepared the Commission's report due to the General Assembly on December 1, 2024.

The Commission later issued Order No. 91490 on January 21, 2025, directing the work group to file proposed regulations consistent with the direction provided in Order No. 91256 while also addressing the requirements of PUA §7-801. Engineering Staff, leveraging technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Energy, contributed to the development of energy system planning frameworks, metrics, and regulatory proposals, including considerations related to distribution energy resources, load forecasting, and system needs. In accordance with Commission Order No. 91490, the Work Group filed draft regulations and associated metrics on May 1, 2025.

Subsequently, on May 2, 2025, the Commission docketed rulemaking proceeding RM89, which was conducted on June 18, 2025, where there was extensive discussion of non-consensus issues. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Commission moved to publish the proposed new chapter and new regulations, in accordance with changes made during the proceeding, in the *Maryland Register* for notice and comment. On July 28, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91751 in Case No. 9665, appointing Engineering Staff as Work Group Leader for Phase III and providing direction to the Work Group on several non-consensus issues that should be considered in the third phase of the Work Group's efforts. The Commission also ordered the Work Group to propose a schedule for electric company Annual Plan Updates and Preliminary Electric System Plans by November 1, 2025, including recommendations regarding the scheduling of the annual technical conference and other deadlines for related activities, including discovery and report filing deadlines, that are prerequisites for conducting the annual technical conference in this filing; and to file a status report to the Commission by February 1, 2026, including non-consensus issues requiring Commission direction and recommendations for future Work Group deliverables and milestones.

As directed by the Commission, on November 3, 2025, the Work Group filed its report: *Phase III Issues Concerning Schedules and Deadlines for Electric System Plan Filings and Technical Conferences* describing the status of its efforts on Phase III issues concerning schedules and deadlines for electric system plan filings and Technical Conferences, among other matters.

In addition, Engineering Staff supported the preparation of the Commission's annual report to the General Assembly, submitted on December 1, 2025, pursuant to PUA § 7-802, detailing progress toward State policy goals including greenhouse gas reduction, DER integration, energy storage deployment, and system reliability and resilience.

Having considered the report, on November 25, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 92052 directing the electric companies and Work Group to implement the Commission's direction on annual technical conferences, annual plan updates, and preliminary electric system plans, and to file a report with the Commission by February 1, 2026, describing the status of Phase III issues including recommendations concerning schedules, deadlines for filings, discovery procedures, and any other prerequisites needed to facilitate a technical conference in August 2026. After being granted an extension, the Work Group filed its Phase III status report on March 16, 2026.

### **Interconnection Work Group**

Engineering Staff continued to participate in the PC44 Interconnection Work Group in 2025. A rulemaking, [RM81](#), involved several key developments spanning 2022 through 2025, primarily focusing on grid interconnection standards for distributed energy resources.

#### ***Key Regulations and Timeline***

**Initial Regulations:** Rulemaking sessions were held in August 2022 and February 2023, with the first set of regulations becoming effective on March 20, 2023.

**Smart Inverter Requirement:** The regulations implemented a Maryland smart inverter requirement compliant with the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) 1547-2018 Standard, effective January 1, 2024.

Maryland's electric utilities (PE, Pepco, BGE, Delmarva, and SMECO) filed their Smart Inverter Setting Profiles by October 10, 2023, and the Commission approved the filings on November 21, 2023. Maryland became one of the first states to act on the NARUC Board of Directors' February 12, 2020 resolution that recommended state commissions adopt and implement IEEE 1547-2018.

**Phase V Regulations:** The leader of the Interconnection Work Group filed the Phase V final report and a petition for rulemaking on September 28, 2023. After review in December 2023, several issues were initially remanded, but the work group reached consensus and filed a supplemental report on January 5, 2024.

The Commission held a final rulemaking session on June 4, 2024, and the final RM81 regulations became effective on December 12, 2024. These regulations covered various topics, including the Maryland Cost Allocation Method (MCAM), Hosting Capacity Upgrade Plans, Use of Power Flow Analysis to Evaluate Interconnection Requests, Certified and Approved Equipment, Meter Collar Adapters, Flexible Interconnection Options, Hosting Capacity Framework Issues, and Dispute Resolution, along with a recommendation for a Phase VI Work Group.

Following the implementation of the RM81 regulations, the Interconnection Work Group's efforts in 2025 focused on implementation, refinement, and addressing emerging interconnection challenges associated with increasing levels of distributed energy resources (DERs). Engineering Staff actively participated in Work Group discussions related to operationalizing key regulatory provisions, including the MCAM, hosting capacity analyses, clustered interconnection study processes, and flexible interconnection options.

Throughout 2025, Staff engaged with stakeholders to evaluate interconnection timelines, queue management practices, and consistency across electric company processes. Particular attention was given to addressing delays in interconnection studies, improving transparency, and aligning interconnection processes with community solar program requirements and broader State policy objectives.

Engineering Staff also provided technical input on the implementation of advanced inverter functionalities consistent with IEEE 1547-2018, as well as issues related to limited and inadvertent export provisions to ensure that increased DER integration is achieved without compromising system safety and reliability.

In addition, the Work Group supported broader Commission initiatives related to distributed energy resource aggregation and integration under FERC Order No. 2222, including coordination with related efforts in Case No. 9778. Staff contributed to discussions on DER visibility, telemetry requirements, and the role of distributed energy resource management systems (DERMS) in supporting reliable system operations.

The Interconnection Work Group also supported Commission efforts arising from PC73, including addressing interconnection process inefficiencies, improving reporting and performance metrics, and identifying areas for future regulatory refinement. By the end of 2025, the Work Group had transitioned into a critical implementation and policy refinement phase, supporting the Commission's objectives of improving interconnection efficiency, enhancing grid reliability, and enabling increased deployment of distributed energy resources across Maryland.

### **Maryland Energy Storage Program Work Group**

On May 13, 2019, the Governor signed Senate Bill 573 (Energy Storage Pilot Project Act) into law. As required by the Act, the Commission established an energy storage pilot program on August 23, 2019, docketed as Case No. [9619](#). Each Maryland investor-owned electric company was ordered to solicit offers to develop energy storage projects and submit applications for those projects to the Commission for approval. The Engineering Division continues to monitor the progress of these pilot projects and submit filings to the Commission associated with requested changes by the utilities.

In 2022, Engineering submitted recommendations to the Commission associated with changing the Potomac Edison Urbana Project location to Myersville Park-and-Ride and extending its construction operation date (COD), extending the CODs for the Town Hill, Elk Neck, National Harbor/Livingston Road, Chesapeake and Fairhaven energy storage projects, in addition to a

petition by SMECO to establish an energy storage pilot project. On September 11, 2023, Pepco filed a request to amend Commission Order No. 89664 to reject its National Harbor/Livingston Road Energy Storage Pilot Project and allow Pepco to file an application for an alternative energy storage project by the 4th Quarter of 2023. On October 17, 2023, Pepco filed the Fairmount Heights Microgrid project as an alternative to the National Harbor/Livingston Road project. The Project was approved. To date, the Commission has approved 27.2 MWh of energy storage capacity:

- Potomac Edison’s Myersville 1.328 MWh park-and-ride facility is currently operational.
- Potomac Edison’s Town Hill 8.4 MWh project is expected to be operational by the end of September 2025.
- BGE’s 2.0 MWh Chesapeake project was energized on January 25, 2023.
- BGE’s 7.1 MWh Fairhaven project, which the company will own and operate, was energized on January 25, 2023.
- Pepco’s 3.0 MWh Montgomery County Electric Bus Depot project was placed into service on October 18, 2022.
- Pepco’s 292.2 kWh Fairmount Heights Microgrid project was approved by the Commission as an alternative to the National Harbor/Livingston Road project after consideration of the matter on June 12, 2024. On November 26, 2024, the Project was granted an extension of the operational date. The currently approved operational start date for the project is May 31, 2025.
- Delmarva’s 1.5 MWh Elk Neck Virtual Power Plant met its operational deadline of 1 MW of in-service capacity on October 13, 2023.
- Delmarva’s 3.6 MWh Ocean City project has encountered issues that have delayed the operational date of the battery and was granted an extension of the operational date by the Commission after consideration of the matter on November 26, 2024. The currently approved operational start date for the project is April 30, 2025.
- SMECO was approved by the Commission on October 26, 2022 to pursue an energy storage project. The Company has not yet filed an energy storage project for Commission approval.

On May 8, 2023, the Maryland General Assembly enacted HB910, amending § 7-216 and promulgating § 7-216.1 of the PUA. These changes directed the Commission to establish a Maryland Energy Storage Program that provides a competitive energy storage procurement program with annual deployment targets for energy storage devices in Maryland. The statute as amended also directed the Commission to file a report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2023 on pending designs for the Maryland Energy Storage Program and any additional statutory changes required to fully implement an effective energy storage program to meet the minimum targets for the deployment of new energy storage devices under § 7–216.1.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> In accordance with PUA § 7–216.1(b)(1), the Commission shall establish targets for the cost-effective deployment of new energy storage devices in the State with a goal of achieving: (1) 750 MWs of cumulative energy storage capacity

Pursuant to the statute, the Commission issued Order No. 90823 on October 2, 2023 establishing Case No. [9715](#) and initiating the PC44 Maryland Energy Storage Program Work Group to develop a consensus proposal for the establishment of an energy storage program in line with the requirements of § 7-216.1. The work group was further directed to file, by December 15, 2023, an interim report that should contain a status update on the work group's progress; identify any non-consensus issues requiring immediate Commission resolution; and identify any additional statutory changes required to fully implement the program, followed by a final report by October 1, 2024, accompanied by a petition for rulemaking with proposed regulations to implement the Maryland Energy Storage Program (MESP) no later than July 1, 2025.<sup>16</sup>

In accordance with Order No. 90823, with the assistance of the Energy Policy Design Institute, the MESP Work Group filed an interim report on December 15, 2023, addressing its progress and identifying areas of non-consensus from the work group that could benefit from Commission direction to produce a thoroughly considered and consensus-based program proposal. Following its review of the work group's interim report, on December 27, 2023, the Commission submitted its MESP 2023 Status Report to the Maryland General Assembly. On March 18, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91064 providing direction to the work group on several areas of non-consensus.

On October 1, 2024, pursuant to Order No. 90823, and in consideration of Commission Order No. 91064, the MESP Work Group Leader filed the Maryland Energy Storage Initiative (MESI) Work Group Phase I final report in Case No. 9715 recommending energy storage programs to meet the statutory energy storage deployment targets for future delivery years, a request to launch a rulemaking proceeding to consider the work group's regulation proposals, and several non-consensus areas in need of Commission direction.

On October 1, 2024, the Commission issued a notice requesting comments on the report, and a notice initiating a rulemaking and rulemaking session ([RM85](#)) to consider draft regulations proposed by the work group. On November 7, 2024, Staff filed its comments on the work group's report. On February 5, 2025, the Commission conducted RM85 to consider publishing the revised draft regulations proposed by the MESP Work Group to comply with the July 1, 2025 statutory deadline. At the conclusion of RM85, the Commission unanimously passed a motion to publish the proposed regulations with a few edits, adding a new chapter and new regulations establishing the Maryland Energy Storage Program.<sup>17</sup>

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by the end of delivery year 2027; (ii) 1,500 MWs of cumulative energy storage capacity by the end of delivery year 2030; and (iii) 3,000 MWs of cumulative energy storage capacity by the end of delivery year 2033.

<sup>16</sup> The Commission also ordered BGE, Delmarva, Pepco and PE to file interim reports on preliminary lessons learned from their approved energy storage pilot projects by November 15, 2023 that address lessons learned regarding the energy storage technology deployed; cost estimation; schedule development; construction; operations; maintenance; environmental impacts; safety; benefit estimation; third-party ownership/operating models; and gaining community and customer acceptance. On November 15, 2023, the utilities each filed interim reports in Case No. 9715.

<sup>17</sup> COMAR 20.50.14 *Maryland Energy Storage Program* has been submitted to the *Maryland Register* and is expected to be in place by July 1, 2025.

On January 22, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91495 in Case No. 9715, establishing a narrow-scope proceeding to determine a cost-effective energy storage procurement allocation toward the first MESP goal of 750 MW of energy storage capacity by May 31, 2028, directing the investor-owned electric companies to file proposals for an initial set of cost-effective energy storage initiatives with the Commission by February 21, 2025, and invited public comments on the companies' and stakeholder proposals by March 28, 2025. In accordance with the Commission's order, BGE, Pepco, DPL, and PE filed energy storage procurement proposals on February 21, 2025. Staff subsequently filed comments on the proposals. On April 15-16, 2025, the Commission held proceedings to review the proposals. Staff filed post-hearing comments addressing:

- (1) when utility ownership would be preferential to third party ownership,
- (2) considerations for preferring full tolling or partial tolling and pay for performance,
- (3) tradeoffs between regulatory assets and surcharges, and
- (4) the cost estimate of the energy storage procurement.

On June 24, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91705 approving Staff's recommended allocation of electric distribution connected energy storage and directed each investor-owned electric company to submit a plan, by November 1, 2025, to achieve at least one-third of its allocated target for its proposed front-of-the-meter distribution connected storage project concepts, while addressing certain requirements for third-party ownership, benefit-cost analyses, bill impacts and equity assessments, non-price project selection criteria, project risk, and cost caps for their proposed plans. On September 4, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91812, which provided more explanation for the decisions in Order No. 91705. Among other things, the Order directed the MESP Work Group to develop and file a template for reporting "aggregate electric company program status, individual energy storage project status, and metrics," using the existing template established in the Energy Storage Pilot Program as a starting point. The MESP Work Group subsequently established the Energy Storage Procurement Metrics Subgroup to develop a metrics template.

Pursuant to the Commission's Order, on October 31, 2025, PE filed its plan to achieve the first one-third of its allocated target; BGE, Pepco, and DPL filed their plans on November 3, 2025. On November 4, the Commission issued a hearing notice and request for comments; Staff filed its comments on January 6, 2026. Following a January 7, 2026 hearing, Staff filed comments to clarify its positions and to assist the Commission in resolving outstanding questions related to compliance, cost effectiveness, cost recovery, risk allocation, and equity considerations.

After a Commission notice for comments in late January, Staff filed comments on the proposed procurement metrics template, recommending the Commission:

- (1) require utilities to calculate and report bill impacts as the procurement programs mature and to note that reporting that information does not equate to a prudence determination, and
- (2) to maintain confidentiality of the number of bids each utility RFP receives.

## Resilience Work Group

After reviewing resilience investment plans proposed by BGE and Pepco in their multi-year rate plan applications (Case Nos. [9692](#) and [9702](#)), and recommendations of Staff and other parties, the Commission disallowed proposed investments because there were no agreed-upon resiliency standards and objectives and no agreed-upon metrics by which to measure a utility's success in meeting those standards and objectives. The Commission, in Order Nos. 90948 and 91181 declared its "plan to establish an administrative docket to consider the implementation of resiliency standards and objectives, metrics by which to measure the effectiveness of resiliency investments, resiliency reporting requirements, and penalties for failure to meet any agreed upon resiliency standards or objectives."

In addition, the CSNA added Subtitle 8 (Electric Distribution System Planning) to Title 7 of the PUA. PUA § 7-801 states that it is the goal of the State that the electric distribution system support, in a cost-effective manner, the State's policy goals with regard to greenhouse gas reduction, renewable energy, decreasing dependence on electricity imported from other states, and achieving distribution system resiliency, efficiency and reliability.

On March 25, 2024, the Commission directed Staff to convene a work group to consider: the implementation of resiliency standards and objectives, metrics by which to measure the effectiveness of resiliency investments, resiliency reporting requirements, and penalties for failure to meet any agreed upon resiliency standards or objectives. The Electric Distribution System Resiliency Work Group first convened on May 31, 2024 and had 10 meetings with representatives from five electric companies, MEA, Montgomery Country, OPC, the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management. On September 3, 2024, the Commission issued Order No. 91307 in Case No. [9353](#) directing Staff to file an interim Electric Resiliency Work Group report by December 31, 2024, discussing status, highlighting consensus and non-consensus items, and raising any issues requiring Commission direction.

On January 2, 2025, Staff filed a work group status report as directed by the Commission. The report included agreed-upon resilience definitions, proposed resiliency objectives, resiliency standards from the perspective of what a utility filed resilience investment plan should include, utility proposed metrics, and Staff-proposed reporting requirements. On July 8, 2025, the Electric Distribution System Resiliency Work Group filed a second status report in Case No. [9353](#) regarding the implementation of resiliency standards and objectives, metrics by which to measure the effectiveness of resiliency investments, resiliency reporting requirements, and penalties for failure to meet any agreed upon resiliency standards or objectives.

On August 29, 2025, the Commission issued an order disbanding the Electric Resiliency Work Group, directed that all voluntary resilience investment plans be included in electric system plans, and directed the Distribution System Planning Work Group to determine short- and long-term steps necessary to integrate reliability and resilience planning into the electric distribution system planning process and report back to the Commission its recommendations in the Phase III status report.

## COMAR Revision Work Group

In Order No. 90782 regarding the electric utilities' annual reliability reports in Case No. [9353](#), the Commission shared Staff's comments about improvement opportunities in utility response during major outage events. The Commission accepted Staff's recommendations to make revisions to the existing Downed Wire Response and Service Interruption Standards in COMAR 20.50.12 so that there are also standards that apply on an event basis.

In addition, in Order No. 90782, the Commission accepted Staff's recommendations to propose new COMAR standards regarding the availability of qualified line personnel during major outage events. Furthermore, the Commission directed Staff to lead the COMAR Revisions Work Group to propose revisions to the existing COMAR Service Interruption and Downed Wire Standards and for qualified line personnel available during storm restoration for Major Outage Events (MOE) "to consider this issue and to propose a new COMAR standard related to the availability of qualified line personnel."<sup>18</sup> The Commission, in Order No. 91307, regarding the 2023 annual reliability performance reports, also directed the COMAR Revisions Work Group to "make recommendations to apply the existing Customer Communications Standards to each MOE, rather than using an average on a calendar year basis to improve customer communications accountability during MOEs."

Staff sent out discovery requests to subject electric companies and collected data to inform its proposal. The work group reached consensus on proposed modifications to the Service Interruption Standard,<sup>19</sup> the Downed Wire Response Standard, and the Customer Communications Standard.<sup>20</sup> There was non-consensus on Staff's proposed regulations regarding Qualified Line Personnel.

On March 25, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91583 regarding proposed major outage event regulations and provided additional guidance on the work group recommendations as well as non-consensus items. The Commission ordered: (1) Staff to reconvene the work group and file a petition for rulemaking within 90 days that incorporates the Commission's direction in the order; (2) Staff to file its future electric company MOE report performance reviews within 90 days of an electric company's MOE report filing pursuant to COMAR 20.50.12.13A; and (3) electric companies to establish and file written policies for the availability of qualified line personnel within their companies with the Commission within 90 days.

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<sup>18</sup> The work group defined "qualified line personnel" to mean electric company's full-time employees who are fit for duty, qualified to perform service restoration involving electric primary distribution systems and secondary distribution systems. This does not include employees who are unable to work due to injury, disability, sickness, unexpected military leave, or otherwise absent due to unexpected circumstances.

<sup>19</sup> The revised proposed regulation requires utilities to restore 90 percent of sustained customer outages within 50 hours for individual MOEs.

<sup>20</sup> The revised proposed regulation now requires utilities to respond to a government emergency responder guarded downed electric utility wire within 3 hours after notification by a fire department, police department, or 911 emergency dispatcher at least 75 percent of the time for individual MOEs.

On June 23, 2025, Staff filed draft regulations and a petition for rulemaking for amending MOE regulations at COMAR 20.50.01.03, 20.50.12.06, 20.50.12.07, 20.50.12.08, and 20.50.12.12; the electric companies also filed their qualified line personnel policies. In addition, on August 27, 2025, Staff filed MOE reports for BGE’s February 16, 2025 MOE and PE’s MOE of April 19, 2025. On December 5, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 92071 directing BGE to provide Windstorm Jett analyses for its MOE storm costs and related matters, including a MOE cost benchmarking study within 90 days of the effective date of the Order. Stakeholders were also invited to file, by January 31, 2026, further comments in the [RM90](#) docket relating to electric company qualified line personnel policies filings. On February 2, 2026, Staff filed its comments on the qualified line personnel policies filings in RM90.

After initiating RM90 to consider the draft regulations submitted by Staff, on September 25, 2025, the Commission postponed the scheduled rulemaking proceeding indefinitely and directed the Joint Maryland Utilities (BGE, Pepco, and DPL) to file, within 90 days, cost comparison information in addition to their recommendations for regulation modifications for including contractor crews that are utilized on their systems in qualified line personnel tracking. On December 29, 2025, the Joint Maryland Utilities, PE, and SMECO filed additional cost comparison information. Staff continues to await further orders from the Commission regarding RM90 and future revisions to MOE regulations.

### **Unified Benefit-Cost Analysis Work Group**

In 2025, the Commission advanced implementation of a Maryland-specific Unified Benefit-Cost Analysis (UBCA) framework for distributed energy resources (DERs) under Case No. 9674. Building on the Commission’s November 2024 Order No. 91424—which accepted the UBCA Work Group’s proposed framework and authorized a Phase II effort—the focus in 2025 shifted from framework development to implementation and integration across Commission proceedings.

On June 26, 2025, the Commission issued a notice convening a Phase II UBCA Work Group to address the practical implementation of the UBCA framework. This Phase II effort is intended to operationalize the UBCA methodology, including development of detailed inputs, assumptions, and application guidance for evaluating DER investments, programs, and policies.

Throughout 2025, Engineering Staff actively participated in the UBCA Work Group and related technical subgroups. Staff contributed to discussions on key methodological issues, including the development of avoided cost methodologies, alignment with other Commission work groups (such as distribution system planning, energy storage, and EmPOWER Maryland), and incorporation of policy objectives such as equity, affordability, and reliability. These efforts are intended to ensure that the UBCA framework can be consistently applied across multiple Commission dockets and investment decisions.

The UBCA proceeding also continued to serve as a foundational analytical tool for broader Commission initiatives. In 2025, the framework was referenced in policy discussions related to energy storage procurement, grid modernization, and renewable energy program evaluation,

reflecting its role in supporting more transparent and standardized cost-effectiveness assessments across resource types.

Overall, 2025 marked a transition from framework development to implementation planning, with the Commission and stakeholders working collaboratively to refine the UBCA methodology and prepare it for application in future regulatory proceedings and investment evaluations.

## **Rate Cases**

In 2025, Staff continued to review filings associated with BGE's first multi-year rate plan (MRP) (Case No. [9645](#)), Pepco's first MRP plan (Case No. [9655](#)), and Delmarva Power's first MRP plan (Case No. [9681](#)). In November 2025, the Commission received several applications for requests to adjust retail rates. Engineering Staff provided expert testimony and technical analysis related to system operations, capital investments, and reliability impacts in the following proceedings associated with those cases:

- **Pepco (Case No. [9820](#))** – Application for Adjustments to its Retail Rates for the Distribution of Electric Energy
  - Staff filed direct testimony addressing distribution system planning, reliability considerations, and proposed rate adjustments.
- **Town of Thurmont (Case No. [9833](#))** – Application for the Authority to Increase its Rates for Electric Service
  - Staff submitted both direct and rebuttal testimony.
- **Hagerstown Light Department (Case No. [9836](#))** – Application for the Authority to Increase its Rates for Electric Service
  - The case was ultimately withdrawn following a settlement-in-principle.

## **Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCNs)**

The Engineering Division provides testimony regarding applications for solar and non-solar CPCNs filed with the Commission. Those cases are detailed in the CPCN section of this report, beginning on page 29.

## **Emergency Response and Preparedness**

The Engineering Division participates in the Maryland Department of Emergency Management (MDEM) emergency preparedness and response efforts. The Power Infrastructure State Coordinating Function (SCF-12) supports MDEM's emergency preparedness and response efforts. Staff's Engineering team and the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) are jointly responsible for leading SCF-12, specifically, for utility coordination related to electric service outages and fuel supply coordination during fuel disruptions. SCF-12 participates in training, drills, coordination

meetings and statewide emergency management conference calls for establishing situational awareness and management of state emergencies.

In addition, Engineering Staff actively participated in the State Coordinating Function Leadership Group (SCFLG), a quarterly interagency forum led by MDEM that supports statewide coordination across preparedness, response, and recovery functions. These meetings provided a platform for collaboration with other State agencies on emergency planning, resource coordination, and operational readiness, including topics such as resource request protocols, accessibility of emergency communications, coordination with the Maryland Business Emergency Operations Center, and updates from preparedness, operations, and local support branches.

In 2025, the Engineering Division, in coordination with the MDEM and MEA, continued to support statewide emergency preparedness and response efforts through its leadership role in SCF-12. Engineering Staff maintained situational awareness, coordinated with electric utilities, and supported emergency operations for multiple weather-related and system events throughout the year.

Several significant weather events required monitoring and coordinated response. In January 2025, a statewide winter storm resulted in the declaration of a State of Emergency and full activation of the State Emergency Operations Center. The storm produced widespread snowfall, hazardous travel conditions, and peak outages exceeding 37,000 customers across utilities; however, restoration efforts were completed efficiently with minimal resource requests. Additional winter weather events in February, including freezing rain, snowstorms, and high wind conditions, led to further localized outages and required utilities to activate Incident Management Teams and establish restoration timelines.

Severe weather events later in the year, including heavy rainfall and thunderstorms in May and a statewide severe weather event in July, posed risks to electric infrastructure due to flooding and high winds. These events were managed under varying State Activation Levels, with coordinated communication among State agencies and utilities to monitor system impacts and ensure timely response.

In addition to weather-related events, Engineering Staff supported emergency coordination efforts related to the August 11, 2025 Brandon Shores transmission and substation incident, which resulted in localized load shedding but was resolved without broader system impacts (detailed below).

Throughout 2025, Engineering Staff maintained updated SCF-12 personnel rosters, utility contact lists, and emergency communication protocols to ensure readiness. Participation in SCFLG meetings further strengthened interagency coordination and ensured alignment with statewide emergency management strategies. Engineering Staff followed established MDEM procedures for emergency activation, reporting, and coordination, including the use of centralized communication platforms and standardized reporting processes. These efforts ensured effective coordination among State agencies, utilities, and local jurisdictions to support system reliability and public safety during emergency events.

## **Brandon Shores Transmission and Generation Outage Event**

On August 11, 2025, a significant reliability event occurred involving the Brandon Shores generating station and associated transmission infrastructure within BGE's service territory. Two generating units tripped offline and a substation failure resulted in the loss of multiple 230 kV transmission lines, creating emergency operating conditions in coordination with PJM Interconnection.

BGE activated its Incident Command System and, in coordination with PJM, implemented emergency measures to maintain system stability, including public conservation requests, demand response program activation, and a 5 percent system voltage reduction. As restoration efforts encountered challenges, PJM directed controlled load shedding to prevent a wider system disturbance. Approximately 4,430 customers experienced temporary outages lasting about 30 minutes before service was restored.

By that evening, key transmission elements were re-energized, allowing PJM to cancel emergency actions and return the system to normal operations. This event reflects a high-impact contingency involving the simultaneous loss of generation and transmission infrastructure and underscores the importance of coordinated regional response.

Post-event reporting and investigation are ongoing, as BGE is required to submit disturbance reports, and the North American Electric Reliability Corporation is expected to conduct an independent review. The Engineering Division continues to monitor these efforts and evaluate potential reliability and policy implications for the State.

## **Customer Complaints**

In 2025, Engineering Staff continued to work on formal complaint cases. Those cases are detailed in the Other Matters section of this report, beginning on page 67.

## **Miscellaneous**

On May 9, 2024, Governor Wes Moore signed Senate Bill 783 into law, with an effective date of July 1, 2024. This bill amends several sections of the PUA, specifically §§ 7-306, 7-709, 7-712, and 7-714. SB783 includes provisions impacting solar energy systems in Maryland, most notably the creation of a Small Solar Energy Generating System Incentive Program, which will be administered by the Commission. Under this program, eligible solar systems can apply to become a "certified system" and earn certified **solar renewable energy credits (SRECs)**. These Certified SRECs will carry a compliance value of 150% which electric suppliers can use to help meet the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) set forth in PUA § 7-703.

The Commission received 9,876 new applications for in-state photovoltaic (PV) SRECs in 2025, up from the 8,175 new applications filed in 2024. A capacity of approximately 679.64 MWs in direct current was approved in 2025, compared to 279 MWs the previous year. The approved capacity figures provided consider requests for approval of new systems, amendments to existing systems,

ownership changes, and de-certifications. Electric utilities in Maryland purchase SRECs generated in Maryland to comply with the RPS. A registry of RECs is also maintained in the PJM's Generator Attribute Tracking System Environmental Information Service (GATS-EIS).<sup>21</sup> Revenue from RECs is in addition to power sales into the wholesale market or by power purchase agreements. Aggregators combine the resources of smaller residential systems as explained on the GATS-EIS website.

PV solar is complemented by power from other **renewable sources** like wind, landfill gas, geothermal, and heat recovery in Maryland to meet State policy goals. House Bill 1007 (passed in 2021) created a carveout in RPS Tier 1 for post-2022 residential and commercial geothermal heating and cooling systems (0.05 percent - 2023, 0.15 percent - 2024, 0.25 percent - 2025, 0.5 percent - 2026, 0.75 percent - 2027, 0.1 percent - 2028 and later). It also sets Alternative Compliance Payment (ACP) amounts and alters the methods by which the Commission must measure energy savings. At least 25 percent of the post-2022 geothermal carve out must come from systems installed to serve low-income customers.

On April 21, 2023, the [Promoting Offshore Wind Energy Resources Act](#) (POWER Act) was signed into law committing the state to develop 8.5 gigawatts (GW) of **offshore wind** energy by 2031. The POWER Act requires that state agencies collaborate with [PJM Interconnection](#) to build the necessary transmission infrastructure to deliver offshore wind energy to key onshore locations. Additionally, the Act requires the Commission to direct PJM to conduct an analysis of both onshore and offshore transmission upgrades and expansions. In support of the state's offshore wind (OSW) policy and objectives, Staff has been working closely with PJM to discuss the approach for analyzing transmission infrastructure needs for both onshore and offshore projects.

In 2024, PJM held various meetings with Staff, MEA, and PPRP to initiate the study effort. Staff participated in discussions of various scenarios, examining potential interconnection points and different offshore wind generation totals. Three scenarios were proposed, each involving 8,500 MW of offshore wind energy distributed across a range of potential injection points for analysis. On December 5, 2024, Staff formally requested PJM to conduct an informational study to support public policy planning for offshore wind development. On March 21, 2025, PJM provided the Commission with its Maryland Offshore Wind Informational Study Results to assist with public policy planning related to offshore wind.

On June 23, 2025, the Commission requested PJM's assistance to begin the solicitation of competitive transmission proposals. On July 1, 2025, PJM responded and noted it will continue to assist Maryland with its efforts under the POWER Act. Accordingly, the Commission initiated Case No. 9800 for the future proceedings that will be required under the POWER Act.

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<sup>21</sup> Note: PJM Environmental Information Services, Inc. started to provide hourly, time-stamped certificates for PJM generation starting in March 2023, answering the growing demand for procuring and tracking carbon-free energy around the clock.

## **Grid Modernization and Distribution Energy Resource Integration Initiatives**

In 2025, the Commission undertook significant efforts under Public Conference 73 (PC73) to evaluate and address barriers to the timely development of renewable generation in Maryland, particularly as they relate to interconnection processes, regulatory requirements, and evolving federal policy considerations. PC73 was initiated to assess whether existing State regulatory frameworks and utility practices were contributing to project delays that could impact financing, including eligibility for federal incentives.

The Commission issued a notice convening PC73 on July 29, 2025, requesting comments from Staff, utilities, and stakeholders on interconnection timelines, procedural barriers, and potential regulatory improvements. Commission Technical Staff actively participated in this proceeding, filing initial comments on August 18, 2025, followed by reply comments on September 2, 2025. A legislative-style hearing was held on September 8, 2025, during which stakeholders provided input on challenges associated with interconnection delays, queue management, and project development risks.

Following the hearing, the Commission issued bench data requests to electric utilities and continued its evaluation of stakeholder feedback. On November 14, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91984, which established several key directives aimed at improving interconnection efficiency and transparency. These directives included:

- Waiving the requirement that community solar projects obtain Subscriber Organization approval prior to submitting an interconnection application, thereby enabling a more concurrent development process;
- Requiring utilities to propose revised tariff language to implement concurrent processing of program approval and interconnection;
- Directing utilities to file reports identifying causes of missed interconnection study timelines and agreement milestones;
- Requiring quarterly reporting of interconnection performance metrics through 2027; and
- Increasing transparency and accessibility of flexible interconnection options.

In addition, the Commission directed that unresolved issues raised during the proceeding be referred to the Interconnection Work Group for further development and potential regulatory action. Subsequent filings in late 2025 included utility requests for extensions and the submission of required reports addressing interconnection performance.

Overall, PC73 in 2025 represented a significant step toward modernizing Maryland's interconnection framework by identifying process inefficiencies, enhancing reporting and accountability, and initiating reforms to better align interconnection procedures with the pace of renewable energy development and associated federal incentives.

In 2025, the Commission initiated Public Conference 75 ([PC75](#)) to support implementation of the State's transmission-connected energy storage requirements under the Next Generation Energy Act (NGEA). PC75 serves as a key forum for addressing regulatory, technical, and commercial considerations associated with the procurement and deployment of large-scale, front-of-the-meter energy storage resources connected at the transmission level.

On October 15, 2025, the Commission issued a notice convening PC75 and initiating stakeholder engagement on the development of a solicitation framework for transmission-connected energy storage projects. This effort builds upon statutory requirements to procure a cumulative 1,600 MW of energy storage with a minimum four-hour duration, beginning with an initial 800 MW solicitation.

Throughout 2025, Technical Staff actively participated in meetings with Commission Advisors, MEA, and the Power Plant Research Program to evaluate key implementation issues. These included the structure of the Request for Applications, treatment of decommissioning requirements for battery energy storage systems, financial assurance mechanisms, and the allocation of risks and obligations among project developers, utilities, and other market participants.

On October 14, 2025, a Request for Information was issued to gather input from prospective applicants to inform the design of the solicitation process. Subsequently, the Commission initiated a review of the draft application framework for energy storage systems of 20 MWh or greater, which facilitated further stakeholder discussion on application requirements and evaluation criteria.

Staff also supported the development and review of a draft Request for Applications (RFA) for the initial 800 MW procurement, providing comments to the Commission by December 11, 2025. On December 24, 2025, the Commission formally issued the NGEA Energy Storage Request for Applications – Round 1, establishing the first competitive solicitation for transmission-connected energy storage resources in Maryland, with applications due in early 2026.

In parallel, Staff contributed to discussions on the need for standardized decommissioning requirements for large-scale battery energy storage systems, recognizing that additional regulatory clarity may be required to ensure consistent treatment across projects. These discussions included consideration of bonding requirements, cost estimation methodologies, and alignment with existing CPCN and environmental review processes.

Overall, PC75 activities in 2025 established the foundational framework for Maryland's first transmission-connected energy storage procurement, advancing the State's policy objectives related to grid reliability, resource adequacy, and clean energy integration.

In 2025, the Commission advanced its efforts under Case No. [9778](#) to develop a comprehensive regulatory and operational framework for DERs, virtual power plants (VPPs), and grid services integration in Maryland. This proceeding continues to serve as a central docket for addressing the

implementation of FERC Order No. 2222 and the evolving role of DER aggregation in both wholesale and distribution system operations.

In Commission Order No. 91603, the State's electric utilities were required to file a series of conceptual reports in 2025 addressing key foundational elements necessary for DER integration. On October 10, 2025, the utilities submitted reports outlining their proposed approaches to Distributed Energy Resource Management System (DERMS) deployment, DER registration processes, device-level metering and data repositories, customer data access and sharing protocols, and communications architecture. BGE, Pepco, DPL, and PE provided detailed descriptions of their current capabilities, planned investments, and anticipated timelines for enabling DER visibility and control at scale.

In parallel, the Interconnection Work Group under PC44 continued its efforts to develop regulatory proposals addressing DER interconnection, flexible operating profiles, and aggregation frameworks. On October 10, 2025, the Work Group Leader filed a VPP regulation status report outlining progress on proposed regulations and identifying areas of non-consensus requiring further stakeholder engagement.

Following these filings, the Commission issued a Notice of Technical Conference and Request for Comments on October 14, 2025, inviting stakeholder input on the utilities' conceptual proposals and broader DER integration issues. Commission Technical Staff filed comments providing detailed analysis of DERMS implementation strategies, device-level metering challenges, cybersecurity considerations, and the need for standardized data and communications protocols. Utilities and other stakeholders also submitted comments addressing these issues, including responses to Staff's cybersecurity analysis.

A Technical Conference was held on December 3, 2025, where Engineering Staff presented its evaluation of the utilities' filings and engaged with stakeholders on key implementation challenges, including interoperability, telemetry requirements, and the feasibility of integrating distributed resources into grid operations and market participation frameworks.

Additionally, Case No. 9778 served as the docket for utility filings related to the Maryland Cost Allocation Method (MCAM), as required under COMAR 20.50.09.06R. On December 12, 2025, electric utilities filed revised tariff pages implementing MCAM provisions, including cost allocation methodologies for interconnection-related distribution upgrades. Engineering Staff reviewed these filings and supported Commission consideration of the proposed tariff revisions.

Overall, activities in Case No. 9778 during 2025 focused on establishing the technical and regulatory foundation for DER integration in Maryland, including DERMS deployment, VPP participation, interconnection reform, and cost allocation mechanisms. These efforts are critical to enabling a more flexible, data-driven, and distributed electric grid capable of supporting the State's clean energy and reliability objectives.

In 2025, the Commission advanced implementation of the Distributed Renewable Integration and Vehicle Electrification (DRIVE) Act under Case No. 9761, with a focus on time-of-use (TOU) rate

design and the development of Electric Distribution System Support Services (EDSSS) pilot programs. This proceeding represents a key component of the State’s broader grid modernization efforts to enable distributed energy resources, demand flexibility, and customer engagement.

In mid-2025, Maryland’s investor-owned electric utilities—including BGE, Pepco, DPL, and PE—filed proposed TOU tariffs and EDSSS pilot program designs in accordance with prior Commission directives. Engineering Staff actively reviewed these filings and submitted comments addressing program design, cost-effectiveness, customer participation, and implementation considerations. A legislative-style hearing was held on September 3, 2025 to evaluate the utilities’ proposals and stakeholder feedback.

On October 21, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91917, which provided comprehensive direction on the implementation of the DRIVE Act. The order approved modified TOU program structures, subject to adjustments, and directed the utilities to refile their EDSSS pilot proposals within 90 days to better align with statutory objectives. The Commission also limited program implementation to a two-year period, required enhanced cost-benefit analysis, and emphasized the need for improved program transparency, performance metrics, and customer outreach strategies.

Following the Order, utilities submitted revised filings, including updated TOU implementation plans and EDSSS pilot proposals. Notably, Pepco and DPL filed revised TOU implementation plans on December 5, 2025, incorporating updated budgets and program designs consistent with the Commission’s directives. Additional revised EDSSS proposals were filed in January 2026 pursuant to the Order’s requirements.

In parallel, Engineering Staff was directed to work collaboratively with utilities and stakeholders, including the Office of People's Counsel, to develop a proposed uniform reconciliation framework for EDSSS programs. This framework is intended to standardize cost recovery, reporting, and performance evaluation across utilities. Staff’s efforts in 2025 focused on initiating this process and coordinating with stakeholders to support timely development following the utilities’ revised filings.

Overall, activities in Case No. 9761 during 2025 were centered on refining program design and establishing a more robust regulatory structure for TOU rates and EDSSS pilot programs. These efforts are intended to support grid reliability, enhance customer participation in demand-side programs, and ensure that program costs and benefits are transparently evaluated in alignment with State policy objectives.

The Engineering Division continues to advise the Commission through written comments (**bucksheets**) for Administrative Meetings on various engineering matters filed with the Commission, or in Commissioners Meetings for various compliance filings. In 2025, the Engineering Division completed 14 gas and water and 35 electric bucksheets and supported eight bucksheets assigned to other Staff divisions.

Nine **electrical accident reports** were also filed with the Engineering Division in 2025 as compared to 12 the previous year. Staff reviews these reports for possible code violations and operation improvements.

In 2025, the **Pipeline Safety Group** continued inspection of jurisdictional gas and hazardous liquid pipeline operators to ensure compliance with applicable pipeline safety regulations. The Commission's Pipeline Safety Group conducted two jurisdictional pipeline incident investigations in 2025:

- **Chesapeake Utilities:** on **March 13, 2025**, an explosion occurred at a residential structure located at 409 Wood Dick Drive in Cambridge. The explosion resulted in the complete loss of the town house and damage to the adjoining town houses. There were no fatalities or injuries as a result of the explosion. According to the State Fire Marshall's Office, as of February 5, 2026, there is no evidence that has been identified which would implicate the natural gas system nor "Chesapeake Gas" as having contributed to or being a causal factor in the event. The incident currently remains under investigation by the State Fire Marshall's Office.
- **BGE:** on **July 1, 2025**, an explosion occurred at 8120 Callo Lane in Rosedale. No injuries or fatalities were reported as a result of this event. The explosion resulted in the complete destruction of the home and its contents. At the time of the explosion the homeowner and his family were away on vacation. No issues were found associated with the utility's side of the gas meter and riser. A review of the gas flow through the meter determined that there was a sudden spike in gas flow in the early morning hours of June 30, 2025. Several months later the homeowner was charged with arson.

On August 16, 2016, Washington Gas was involved in an apartment building explosion at the Flower Branch Apartments in Silver Spring. As a result of the explosion and subsequent deaths and injuries, the Commission initiated Case No. [9622](#) to investigate the incident and the company's actions. As a result of the investigation, Washington Gas proposed a program to replace **mercury service regulators**. The Commission approved the company's plan and required Washington Gas to file annual reports detailing progress made in the previous calendar year. On February 10, 2026, Washington Gas filed its annual report, in which it indicated that in its first six years of implementing the plan it has replaced 20,391 mercury regulators, of which 16,509 were through the company's replacement program. The remainder of the mercury regulators were replaced through routine maintenance work and other programs.

In 2021, House Bill 345 (the Flower Branch Act) was passed which required operators with regulators located inside multi-family structures to relocate those regulators to an outside location. The Act required those operators to file a plan for approval by the Commission detailing the estimated number of regulators located inside multi-family structures and the plan for relocating those regulators. Three of Maryland's eight jurisdictional natural gas companies had regulators within multi-family structures—Easton Utilities with one location, BGE with 8,209 identified sites, and Washington Gas with approximately 1,617 identified sites. In 2022, Easton

completed its one relocation. In 2025, BGE managed to relocate 1,089 regulators and Washington Gas was able to relocate 148 regulators.

Every year, the Engineering Division's **Pipeline Safety Program** is audited by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) of the U.S. Department of Transportation as part of its agreement with PHMSA. The Commission's senior pipeline and hazardous liquid safety engineers must be fully trained for their roles by PHMSA for enforcement of federal pipeline safety regulations within the State. The audit is conducted by PHMSA to ensure that the Pipeline Safety Group is conducting inspections of its jurisdictional operators according to PHMSA's State Guidelines and the Pipeline Safety Group's own procedures. In 2025, the Pipeline Safety Group was audited on its 2024 inspections—the group received a score of 99 percent for its State Gas Program and 100 percent for its State Hazardous Liquids Program. In early 2025, the Commission's remaining jurisdictional hazardous liquids operator abandoned its pipeline within Baltimore City. As a result, the Commission's Hazardous Liquids Program will no longer exist until such a time as a new jurisdictional operator begins to operate within Maryland.

The Pipeline Safety Group was active throughout the state conducting routine pipeline safety inspections and continues to evaluate the progress of mitigation of leaks caused by failed mechanical gas couplings in Prince George's County.

**Meter referee tests** are performed at a customer's request to verify meter accuracy. In 2025, Engineering performed referee tests for 49 electric meters and six gas meters.

The Engineering Division performs **annual inspections** of the operations and maintenance records of Maryland public service companies to ensure their compliance with applicable Commission regulations. Engineering Division inspections performed in 2025:

- Meter shop – 20
- Private water systems – 34
- Sewerage collection systems – 1
- LPG/Propane Operator meter testing – 9
- Electric companies – 5
- Gas system inspection days – 694.8
- Hazardous liquid system inspection days – 7.3

#### **Staff Counsel Division (*Lloyd J. Spivak, Staff Counsel*)**

**THE STAFF COUNSEL** Division directs and coordinates the preparation and presentation of the Technical Staff's position in matters pending before the Commission under the supervision of the Executive Director. In performing its duties, the Staff Counsel Division identifies issues in public service company applications and evaluates the applications for legal sufficiency and compliance with the Public Utilities Article, the Code of Maryland Regulations, utility tariffs, and other applicable law. In addition, the Staff Counsel supports Staff in initiating investigations and complaints. The Staff Counsel Division attorneys are the final reviewers of the Technical Staff's

testimony, reports, proposed legislation analysis, and comments before submission to the Executive Director. Additionally, the attorneys draft and coordinate the promulgation and issuance of regulations, review and comment on items handled administratively, provide legal services to each division under the Office of Executive Director, and respond to inquiries from utilities, legislators, regulators, and consumers.

During 2025, Staff Counsel attorneys participated in a wide variety of matters involving all types of public service companies. The Staff Counsel Division's work included review of rates charged by public service companies, consideration of numerous requests for CPCNs, community solar projects, review of SOS matters, telecommunications filings, supplier regulatory and enforcement issues, transportation matters, and electric reliability matters. The Staff Counsel Division also was involved in a variety of efforts intended to address the EmPOWER Maryland Act of 2008, climate change issues, and the continued implementation of the Maryland RPS Program.

### **Telecommunications, Gas, and Water Division (*Brandon W. Bowser, Director*)**

THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS, GAS, and Water Division assists the Commission in regulating the delivery of wholesale and retail telecommunications services, retail natural gas services, and water services in the state of Maryland. The Division's output generally constitutes recommendations to the Commission but also includes publication of industry status reports and responses to inquiries from elected officials, media representatives, members of the public, and industry stakeholders. In addition, similar to other Technical Staff divisions, this Division assists the Commission's Consumer Affairs Division in the resolution of consumer complaints, on an as-needed basis, and leads or participates in industry work groups. The Division's analyses and recommendations to the Commission may appear as written comments, expert testimony in formal proceedings, special topical studies requested by the Commission, formal comments on filings submitted by the utilities or by other parties, comments on proposed legislation, proposed regulations, and public presentations. Finally, the Division aids other divisions as needed.

In 2025, the Division received approximately 59 administrative filings consisting of tariff changes, compliance filings from rate cases, annual revisions, and related matters.

Of the administrative filings received, 32 were telecommunications, 23 were natural gas, and four were water. The Division also developed or presented testimony in 14 cases, rulemakings, and public conferences before the Commission. These included two natural gas base rate proceedings, one water base rate proceeding, eight natural gas purchased gas adjustment charge proceedings, one case regarding the future of natural gas in Maryland, one case regarding pilot thermal energy network systems, and one public conference regarding an income mechanism to assist low-and-moderate-income customers.

In **telecommunications**, the Division reviews applications for authority to provide telephone services from local and intrastate toll service providers, reviews tariff filings from such providers, monitors the administration of telephone numbering resources for the State, is responsible for reviewing FCC compliance filings by carriers, administers the certification of all payphone

providers in the State, and monitors the provision of low income services, E911 (Enhanced 9-1-1) and telecommunications relay services.

In the **natural gas** industry, the Division focuses on retail natural gas competition policy and implementation of customer choice. The Division participates as a party in contested cases before the Commission to ensure that safe, reliable and economical gas service is provided throughout the State. Staff contributes to formal cases by providing testimony on rate of return, capital structure, rate design, and cost of service. In addition, the Division provides recommendations to the Commission on consumer protections, consumer education, codes of conduct, mergers, debt and equity issuances, and other issues related to natural gas. The Division also conducts research and analysis on the procurement of natural gas for distribution to retail customers.

In the **water** industry, the Division focuses on retail prices and other retail issues arising in the provision of safe and economical water services in the State. While only one water company made a base rate case filing with the Commission in 2025, Staff was actively engaged with the State's regulated water companies and related issues.

Finally, Division Staff supported the Commission with comments on various pending legislation, as requested.

### **Transportation Division (*Mark C. Gorman, Director*)**

**THE TRANSPORTATION DIVISION** enforces the laws and regulations of the Commission pertaining to the safety, rates, and service of transportation companies operating in intrastate commerce in Maryland. The Commission's jurisdiction extends to most intrastate passenger-for-hire carriers by motor vehicle (total 1,123); intrastate for-hire railroads; and taxicabs in Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Charles County, Cumberland, and Hagerstown (total 1,357).

The Commission is also responsible for licensing drivers of **taxicabs** in Baltimore City, Charles County, Cumberland, Hagerstown, and other **passenger-for-hire vehicles** that carry 15 or fewer passengers (total 3,467). The Commission is also responsible for regulating **Transportation Network Operators** (TNOs) who provide transportation network services (total 208,144).

The Transportation Division monitors the safety of vehicles operated (total 7,139 non-TNO vehicles, including taxicabs, and 378,333 TNO vehicles), limits of liability insurance, schedules of operation, rates, and service provided for all regulated carriers, except railroads (only entry, exit, service and rates are regulated for railroads that provide intrastate service). If problems arise in any of these areas that cannot be resolved at the staff level, the Division requests proceedings by the Commission which may result in the suspension or revocation of operating authority or the institution of civil penalties.

During 2025, Transportation Division staff continued to conduct vehicle inspections and report results via on-site recording of inspection data and electronic transmission of information to the Commission's databases and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's Safety and Fitness

Electronic Records (SAFER) System. SAFER provides online carrier safety data and related services to the industry and the public.

Transportation Division staff continued their investigation involving a company, Yazam, Inc. d/b/a Empower, believed to be providing passenger for-hire transportation without the proper Commission permits. The company asserts that the Commission has no regulatory authority over its operations and is therefore contesting the requirement to be permitted in the state.

Technical Staff filed a complaint against the company resulting in the Commission initiating Case No. [9732](#). In the complaint, Commission staff requested that the Commission determine the jurisdictional dispute in addition to requesting sanctions against the company for denying multiple requests to obtain the permits and continuing to operate without the proper permits.

On October 3, 2025, a Public Utility Law Judge issued a ruling that asserts the Commission's jurisdiction over the company by stating, "Empower is a company that operates in the State using a digital network to connect passengers to transportation network operators or transportation network partners for transportation network service, and as such, is a TNC as defined by PUA § 10-101(1)."

Additionally, the Transportation Division maintained its regular enforcement of for-hire operations in 2025 through field investigations and joint enforcement projects with local law enforcement officials and regulators in other jurisdictions.

Administratively, in addition to its daily regulatory functions, the Transportation Division completed its search for a State-approved vendor to assist with planning and designing a streamlined and updated IT process through automation. Throughout 2025, Transportation Division staff worked closely with the company contracted to assist with the project, Aileron, to plan and implement the requirements of the first module. The module involves the design and implementation of a fully electronic passenger for-hire driver's license application process, which will negate the need for paper. The new electronic process will be more user friendly, decrease the need for in-person interaction, and have the ability to accept all required documentation electronically.

Finally, Division Staff supported the Commission with comments on various pending legislation, as requested.

**Office of Utility Cybersecurity (*Ben Abramovitz, Director*)**

[DURING THE 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION](#), the Maryland General Assembly enacted House Bill 969 (HB 969) entitled —Public Service Commission – Cybersecurity Staffing and Assessments, alternatively known as the Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity Act of 2023 (or the Act). As introduced, the Act was focused on establishing minimum cybersecurity standards for public service companies and hiring cybersecurity experts on its Staff to advise the Commission and

perform certain duties. To that end the Commission established an Office of Cybersecurity (OC) in 2023 and fully staffed it in 2024.

In 2024, the Commission fulfilled the Act's requirements to establish minimum cybersecurity standards and best practices for regulated entities by implementing new regulations in COMAR 20.06 that became effective December 12, 2024. In addition to establishing various cybersecurity definitions, these regulations establish standards for good cybersecurity practice, cybersecurity periodic briefings, cybersecurity incident reporting, zero trust implementation, periodic assessments of cybersecurity devices and supply chain risk, cybersecurity contacts, and specific information requests related to cybersecurity incidents or other information reasonably related to cybersecurity. The regulations also establish compliance requirements and enforcement measures, including notice of proposed violations, consent orders, civil penalties, stays of enforcement, and confidentiality requirements.

In 2025, the Cybersecurity team performed cybersecurity audits on many of the regulated public utilities. The audits were conducted in person with utility cybersecurity leadership. The audits found a mixture of success and needs for improvements; the Cybersecurity team has followed up with companies with requested improvements. The Cybersecurity Audit Worksheet is the main approved vehicle for compliance and is based on the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) Cybersecurity Framework 2.0 Standard, as well as North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) Critical Infrastructure Protection, and NARUC recommendations. The cybersecurity audit worksheet and process is being updated in 2026.

The Commission's Cybersecurity Reporting Work Group (CSRWG) has been meeting on a semi-monthly basis. This group extends to all regulated utilities and discusses critical cybersecurity issues and events impacting the utility and critical infrastructure industries and provides critical insight and information sharing between leaders and regulators with the goal of reducing the likelihood and severity of a cybersecurity incident.

The Act also required the Commission to conduct and submit an evaluation of the public service companies' assessments to the State Chief Information Security Officer by January 1, 2025, which was successfully completed. In addition, the 2023 Maryland General Assembly Joint Chairmen's Report also required a report from the Commission by July 1, 2024, on cybersecurity protections for utilities, which was successfully completed.

On April 11, 2025, the Commission issued Order No. 91603 in Case No. 9778, for the purpose of directing the OC to formally develop and submit recommendations directly addressing its critical mandates. This report summarizes activities relating to the regulatory implementation and cybersecurity oversight of Distributed Energy Resource Aggregators (DERAs), consistent with the Commission's ongoing effort to enhance the cyber posture of Maryland's critical energy infrastructure. Specifically, the report addresses the Commission's directives for the OC to: (1) provide the status of efforts in collaboration with the CSRWG; (2) address the appropriateness of further pursuing DERA cybersecurity within COMAR 20.06; (3) include consideration of the potential implementation of the NARUC/DOE Cybersecurity Baselines for Electric Distribution

Systems and Distributed Energy Resources (DERs); and (4) identify any non-consensus issues where Commission direction is needed to advance regulatory development.

This effort is part of the Commission's goal to implement virtual power plants (VPPs) quickly and effectively in Maryland, consistent with the DRIVE Act, and for eventual participation in the PJM markets once the implementation of FERC Order No. 2222 is completed. VPPs are considered critical solutions to support rapid load growth, minimize costs to ratepayers, and maintain a resilient, reliable, and secure grid.

The OC identified significant challenges associated with establishing and regulating the cybersecurity standards for DERs, DERAs, and VPPs. To comprehensively understand these issues and formulate actionable recommendations, the OC collaborated with key stakeholders, including the CSRWG, members of the Maryland Cybersecurity Council Critical Infrastructure Committee, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Idaho National Laboratory (INL), NARUC, and several public utility commissions. While a complete consensus has not been achieved, the feedback and recommendations provided serve as the foundation for the recommendations outlined in the subsequent sections.

### **Collaborative Process and Status Update**

Collaboration with the Cybersecurity Reporting Work Group (CSRWG)

The Commission directed that the topic of DERA cybersecurity be addressed by the OC and CSRWG. The OC, working through the CSRWG, has undertaken the necessary stakeholder consultation to develop and refine recommended regulatory amendments. The CSRWG utilized input from external partners, such as INL, to review draft regulation language and develop state-specific cybersecurity baselines for DER and DERA owners/operators. This work focused on ensuring consistency with existing frameworks and security objectives.

### **Current Status of DERA Cybersecurity Regulation**

The Commission previously concluded that it is appropriate to further address DERA cybersecurity within its COMAR 20.06 regulations. The OC has developed language for COMAR 20.06 to introduce specific cybersecurity requirements based on widely accepted and achievable frameworks today.

The current Application for License to Operate as a Distributed Energy Resource Aggregator already incorporates foundational cybersecurity principles mandated by Order No. 91597 in Case No. 9761. Principles include: (1) Technical Competency: Applicants must affirm their technical, operational, and organizational capability, including a commitment to regulatory and cybersecurity best practices to ensure safe, reliable, and compliant aggregation of DER assets; and (2) Code of Conduct Compliance. As a condition of approval, the applicant must agree to employ strict data protection policies and take appropriate technical and organizational measures to manage cyber risks. This includes ensuring security consistent with applicable NIST, NERC, and any

other cybersecurity frameworks and standards as required by the Commission. The underlying principles derive from the DOE DER Aggregator Code of Conduct.

The above is in review by the Commission and will be decided at a future time. The cybersecurity group continues to evaluate and review DER rules and regulations in other jurisdictions; plus, rules already implemented by PJM in order to make sure that anything done does not overlap with existing cybersecurity regulations.

As the Commission looks toward the integration of DERAs and VPPs, the focus has shifted toward harmonizing rapid technological deployment with stringent security protocols. While significant progress has been made—most notably in incorporating foundational cybersecurity principles into DERA licensing requirements—the OC continues to navigate the complexities of regulating a decentralized energy grid. By leveraging national standards such as NIST CSF 2.0 and collaborating with federal partners like DOE and INL, the Commission is ensuring that Maryland’s regulatory framework remains both technically sound and resilient.

Ultimately, the refinement of the Cybersecurity Audit Worksheet in 2026 and the pending determinations regarding DERA-specific regulations within COMAR 20.06, represent the next phase in securing the state’s energy future. The Commission remains dedicated to a collaborative, iterative process that balances the necessity of innovation with the absolute requirement of grid security, ensuring that the distributed grid does not compromise the reliability of Maryland’s utility services.

**Public Utility Law Judge Division (*Kristin Case Lawrence, Chief Public Utility Law Judge*)**

**AS REQUIRED BY** the Public Utilities Article, the Division is a separate organizational unit reporting directly to the Commission and includes four attorney Public Utility Law Judges (PULJs) including the Chief Public Utility Law Judge. Typically, the Commission delegates to the Division proceedings pertaining to the following: applications for construction of power plants and high-voltage transmission lines; rates and other matters for gas, electric, and telephone companies; purchased gas and electric fuel rate adjustments reviews; bus, passenger common carrier, water, and sewage disposal company proceedings; plant and equipment depreciation proceedings; and consumer complaints, as well as other complaints not resolved at the administrative level. In addition, the Division hears matters pertaining to certain taxicab permit holders and matters regarding Baltimore City, Cumberland, and Hagerstown taxicab drivers, as well as passenger-for-hire drivers, including transportation network operators (TNO).

While most of the Division’s activities concern delegated cases from the Commission, the Commission also may conduct its proceedings in three-member panels which may include one PULJ. As a panel member, a PULJ participates as a voting member in the hearings and in the panel’s final decision. The decision of a three-member panel constitutes the final order of the Commission.

In delegated cases, the PULJs conduct formal proceedings in the matters referred to the Division and file proposed orders which contain findings of fact and conclusions of law. During 2025, the Commission delegated 97 cases to the Division: 73 non-transportation-related matters and 24 transportation matters of which six were taxicab-related and 18 were for-hire related; none were TNO-related. These transportation matters include license applications and disciplinary proceedings involving requests for imposition of fines or civil penalties against carriers for violations of applicable statutes or regulations.

The PULJ Division held 203 hearings and issued 72 proposed orders in 2025. Unless an appeal is noted with the Commission or the Commission takes action on its own motion, a proposed order becomes the final order of the Commission after the specified time period for appeal as noted in the proposed order which may be no less than seven days and no more than 30 days. There were 12 appeals/requests for reconsideration filed with the Commission resulting from a proposed order: nine related to non-transportation matters; and three related to a for-hire matter. The Commission did not issue any orders on appeal that reversed a proposed order. The Commission issued three orders on appeal remanding matters back to the PULJs for further proceedings, one was a non-transportation related matter and two were related to passenger-for-hire transportation matters.

#### **Work Groups led by Public Utility Law Judges:**

##### **Montgomery County Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program—[PC54](#)**

[PUA § 7-510.3](#) created a Community Choice Aggregation Pilot Program and required the Commission to establish a work group, adopt regulations on or before December 31, 2023, and create a pilot program to begin on the earlier of the date that a county gives notice to the Commission of its intention to initiate a process to form a community choice aggregator or April 1, 2024. The Commission initiated PC54 on July 22, 2021 to establish a Community Choice Aggregation Work Group and to receive comments and inquiries. The work group began meeting on September 20, 2021.

The work group filed a report on January 24, 2023 with draft regulations. On January 25, 2023, the Commission initiated a rulemaking, [RM80](#), and held a session on February 23, 2023. On March 15, 2023, the Commission issued an order directing the work group to revise the proposed regulations to be filed by April 25, 2023.

The work group filed revised draft regulations on April 25, 2023 and then filed proposed regulations on June 30, 2023. The Commission conducted a hearing on August 8, 2023. The proposed regulations were published for notice and comment in the *Maryland Register* dated November 17, 2023. The Commission conducted a rulemaking session on January 10, 2024 adopting the proposed regulations.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FISCAL YEAR 2025			
<b>C90G001 – General Administration and Hearings</b>			
Salaries and Wages			\$11,117,282
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$11,117,282	
Technical and Special Fees			\$211,949
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$211,949	
Operating Expenses			\$4,259,077
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$3,784,708	
	Retail Choice Customer Education and Protection Fund	\$474,369	
<b>Total Disbursements for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$15,588,309</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$15,113,940	
	Retail Choice Customer Education and Protection Fund	\$474,369	
Reverted Appropriation			\$553,777
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$553,777	
<b>Total Appropriation for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$16,142,086</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$15,667,717	
	Retail Choice Customer Education and Protection Fund	\$474,369	
<b>C90G002 – Telecommunications, Gas and Water Division</b>			
Salaries and Wages			\$334,815
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$334,815	
Operating Expenses			\$8,376
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$8,376	
<b>Total Disbursements for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$343,191</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$343,191	
Reverted Appropriation			\$340,033
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$340,033	
<b>Total Appropriation for</b>			<b>\$683,224</b>

<b>FY 2025</b>			
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$683,224	
<b>C90G003 – Engineering Division</b>			
Salaries and Wages			\$2,785,906
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$2,011,430	
	Federal Fund	\$774,476	
Operating Expenses			\$234,434
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$53,393	
	Federal Fund	\$181,041	
<b>Total Disbursements for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$3,020,340</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$2,064,823	
	Federal Fund	\$955,517	
Reverted Appropriation			\$467,336
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$435,034	
	Federal Fund	\$32,302	
<b>Total Appropriation for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$3,487,676</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$2,499,857	
	Federal Fund	\$987,819	
<b>C90G004 – Accounting Investigations Division</b>			
Salaries and Wages			\$1,002,252
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,002,252	
Operating Expenses			\$4,419
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$4,419	
<b>Total Disbursements for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$1,006,671</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,006,671	
Reverted Appropriation			\$173,126
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$173,126	
<b>Total Appropriation for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$1,179,797</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,179,797	
<b>C90G005 – Common Carrier Investigations Division (Transportation)</b>			
Salaries and Wages			\$1,784,329

	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,678,711	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$105,619	
Technical and Special Fees			\$218,423
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$0	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$218,423	
Operating Expenses			\$92,011
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$83,144	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$8,867	
<b>Total Disbursements for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$2,094,763</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,761,854	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$332,908	
Reverted Appropriation			\$313,965
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$313,965	
<b>Total Appropriation for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$2,408,727</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$2,075,819	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$332,908	
<b>C90G006 – Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission</b>			
Operating Expenses			\$531,176
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$531,176	
<b>Total Disbursements for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$531,176</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$531,176	
Reverted Appropriation			\$0
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$0	
<b>Total Appropriation for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$531,176</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$531,176	
<b>C90G007 – Electricity Division</b>			
Salaries and Wages			\$510,235
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$510,235	
Operating Expenses			\$14,634
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$14,634	

<b>Total Disbursements for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$524,869</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$524,869	
Reverted Appropriation			\$201,560
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$201,560	
<b>Total Appropriation for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$726,429</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$726,429	
<b>C90G008 – Public Utility Law Judge Division</b>			
Salaries and Wages			\$1,187,770
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,187,770	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$0	
Operating Expenses			\$8,263
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$8,263	
<b>Total Disbursements for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$1,196,032</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,196,032	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$0	
Reverted Appropriation			\$1,560
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,560	
<b>Total Appropriation for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$1,197,592</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,197,592	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$0	
<b>C90G009 – Staff Counsel Division</b>			
Salaries and Wages			\$1,417,965
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,417,965	
Operating Expenses			\$4,113
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$4,113	
<b>Total Disbursements for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$1,422,078</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,422,078	
Reverted Appropriation			\$330,317
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$330,317	
<b>Total Appropriation for</b>			<b>\$1,752,395</b>

<b>FY 2025</b>			
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,752,395	
<b>C90G0010 – Energy Analysis and Planning Division</b>			
Salaries and Wages			\$1,014,816
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,014,816	
Operating Expenses			\$6,087
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$6,087	
<b>Total Disbursements for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$1,020,903</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,020,903	
Reverted Appropriation			\$416,080
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$416,080	
<b>Total Appropriation for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$1,436,983</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$1,436,983	
<b>SUMMARY OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION</b>			
<b>FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025:</b>			
Salaries and Wages			\$21,155,371
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$20,275,276	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$105,619	
	Federal Fund	\$774,476	
Technical and Special Fees			\$430,372
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$211,949	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$218,423	
Operating Expenses			\$5,162,590
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$4,498,313	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$8,867	
	Retail Choice Customer Education and Protection Fund	\$474,369	
	Federal Fund	\$181,041	
<b>Total Disbursements for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$26,748,332</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$24,985,538	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$332,908	

	Retail Choice Customer Education and Protection Fund	\$474,369	
	Federal Fund	\$955,517	
Reverted Appropriation			\$2,797,753
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$2,765,451	
	Federal Fund	\$32,302	
<b>Total Appropriations for FY 2025</b>			<b>\$29,546,085</b>
	Public Utility Regulation Fund	\$27,750,989	
	For-Hire Driving Services Enforcement Fund	\$332,908	
	Retail Choice Customer Education and Protection Fund	\$474,369	
	Federal Fund	\$987,819	
<b>Assessments collected during Fiscal Year 2025:</b>			\$37,139,145.36
<b>Other Fees and Revenues collected during Fiscal Year 2025:</b>			
	1) Fines and Citations		
	Clean Air Initiative		\$170,156
	Retail Choice Customer Education & Protection Fund		\$0
	2) For-Hire Driving Services Permit Fees		\$151
	3) Meter Test		\$550
	4) Filing Fees		\$606,758
	5) Miscellaneous Fees		\$1,642
	6) Administrative Support		\$0
	Total other fees and revenues:		\$1,012,105
Interest Earned on Customer Investment Fund balance			\$11,347
Interest Earned on Offshore Wind Energy Fund balance			\$23,286
<b>Assessments collected that were remitted to other state agencies during Fiscal Year 2025 from the Public Utility Regulation Fund:</b>			
	1) Office of People's Counsel		\$8,588,614
	2) Railroad Safety Program		\$470,850