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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

July 17, 2026

MORATORIUM ON UTILITY SERVICE TERMINATION

Today, Governor Wes Moore announced that Maryland is experiencing unhealthy air quality conditions resulting from wildfires located in Canada and the northern United States.¹ The Maryland Department of Health (“MDH”) echoed this concern, stating that beginning today, air quality is expected to reach Code Red (unhealthy) throughout much of Maryland and Code Purple (very unhealthy) in Western Maryland.² Governor Moore advised that Marylanders take precautionary measures, and that at-risk populations, including people with respiratory problems or heart conditions, “stay indoors and keep your windows closed to keep yourself safe.” Consistent with its Air Quality Action Guide, MDH further advised that air conditioning can improve air quality indoors.

Maryland Annotated Code, Public Utilities Article (“PUA”) § 2-112 grants the Commission the specific and incidental powers to carry out its functions. PUA § 2-113 requires the Commission to supervise and regulate public service companies to ensure their operation in the public interest, and in doing so, to consider public safety. Given the unhealthy air quality resulting from the wildfires and the advice by MDH to remain indoors and utilize air conditioning,

¹ <https://health.maryland.gov/newsroom/Pages/Governor%20Moore%20announces%20Code%20Red%20air%20quality%20condition%20in%20Maryland%20resulting%20from%20wildfire%20smoke.aspx>.

² <https://health.maryland.gov/newsroom/Pages/Maryland-Department-of-Health,-Department-of-the-Environment-urge-Marylanders-to-take-precautions-in-Code-Red-Air-Quality.aspx>.

the Commission finds that the termination of electric service represents a risk to public health that justifies temporary emergency relief. Therefore, as an emergency action incidental to its supervisory authority to ensure the public interest and to consider public safety pursuant to PUA §§ 2-112 and 2-113, the Commission temporarily orders a moratorium on electric service disconnections related to nonpayment of bills by public service companies operating in Maryland. This moratorium will begin immediately and continue for seven days from the date of this Order.

By Direction of the Commission,

/s/ Andrew S. Johnston

Andrew S. Johnston
Executive Secretary