

HOUSE BILL 1035

C5, M5

5lr2358
CF SB 937

By: **The Speaker and Delegate Wilson**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2025

Assigned to: Economic Matters

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 2025

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Public Utilities – Electricity Generation Planning – Procurement, Permitting,~~
3 ~~and Co-Location~~
4 Electricity and Gas – Emissions Reductions, Rate Regulation, Cost Recovery,
5 Infrastructure, Planning, Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, and Energy
6 Assistance Programs
7 (Next Generation Energy Act)

8 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Housing and Community Development
9 to issue loans, in addition to grants, for certain purposes relating to reducing direct
10 greenhouse gas emissions from certain multifamily residential buildings; requiring
11 the Maryland Energy Administration, in coordination with the Public Service
12 Commission and the Department of Natural Resources, to pursue certain
13 agreements with neighboring states and federal agencies related to the development
14 of new nuclear energy generating stations; expanding the sources of savings that the
15 Department of Housing and Community Development may procure and provide
16 when calculating the achievement of certain greenhouse gas emissions reduction
17 targets; requiring certain public service companies to demonstrate to the
18 Commission the reasonableness of the use of certain labor in a base rate proceeding;
19 altering the required contents of a certain plan that a gas company may file with the
20 Commission for proposed eligible infrastructure replacement projects; requiring that
21 the plan meet certain requirements for a gas company to recover certain costs;
22 altering the required findings of the Commission in considering whether to approve
23 a certain infrastructure replacement plan; authorizing the Commission to authorize
24 a gas company to use a mechanism to promptly recover certain costs for certain
25 eligible infrastructure replacement projects; requiring each electric company to

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



submit to the Commission for approval a specific rate schedule for certain large load customers; requiring the Commission, in making a certain determination on a specific rate schedule, to consider certain factors; authorizing the Commission to approve the use of certain multiyear rate plans under certain circumstances; altering the alternative forms of regulation that may be used by the Commission to regulate the regulated services of certain public service companies; authorizing an investor-owned gas company to recover certain costs associated with a gas infrastructure investment if the investor-owned gas company makes certain demonstrations at a rate setting proceeding; prohibiting certain public service companies from recovering through rates certain costs; specifying that certain contracts entered into by certain public service companies include a contract that has been executed, amended, or altered after a certain date; requiring each investor-owned electric company in the State to submit to the Commission by certain dates plans for the construction or procurement of distribution-connected front-of-the-meter energy storage devices and to construct or procure the devices in accordance with the plan; prohibiting an electricity supplier or other owner of a certain generating station from entering into a certain contract with a commercial or industrial customer under certain circumstances; authorizing the Commission to apply to a certain large load customer and a certain generating station certain costs and fees under certain circumstances; ~~establishing a procurement process for the Commission to evaluate and approve proposals and applications for dispatchable energy generation projects and nuclear energy generation projects~~ establishing certain processes and requirements for the solicitation and procurement of certain dispatchable energy generation, large capacity energy resources, nuclear energy generation, and front-of-the-meter transmission energy storage devices; requiring the Governor's Office of Small, Minority, and Women Business Affairs, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General, to provide certain assistance to potential applicants and minority investors and, in consultation with the Office of the Attorney General and a certain applicant, establish a certain plan; ~~requiring the Commission to approve orders to facilitate the financing of nuclear energy generation projects under certain circumstances; requiring each electric company to procure a certain volume of nuclear energy from a certain escrow account; requiring a certain nuclear energy generation project to sell certain energy, capacity, and ancillary services into certain markets and distribute the proceeds in a certain manner~~ requiring each electric company to procure a certain quantity of zero-emission credits from a certain escrow account; authorizing certain units of State government to issue certain competitive sealed bids for projects that are higher than the amount authorized for small procurements; requiring the Chief Procurement Officer to approve certain procurement contracts under certain circumstances; altering the authorized uses of certain compliance fee revenue paid into the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund; allowing a subtraction under the Maryland income tax for certain legislative energy relief refunds; altering the definition of "Tier 1 renewable source" for purposes of excluding energy derived from waste and refuse from being eligible for inclusion in the renewable energy portfolio standard; establishing an expedited certificate of public convenience and necessity review process for certain generating stations and energy storage devices; requiring that certain funds in the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund be used in a certain manner in a

certain fiscal year; requiring the Department of Human Services to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on certain changes necessary to implement a certain recommendation; and generally relating to ~~energy generation and procurement in Maryland~~ electricity and gas.

BY repealing

Article – Public Utilities
Section 7–701(h–1) and (i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY renumbering

Article – Public Utilities
Section 7–701(i–1)
to be Section 7–701(i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Housing and Community Development
Section 4–211(d)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – Public Utilities
Section 1–101(a), 7–224(a) and (b), and 7–701(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – Public Utilities
Section 1–101(i), (l), and (ee), 4–210, 5–305, 7–207(b)(1)(i), 7–216(a), 7–224(c),
7–505(c), 7–701(s), and 7–704(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – Public Utilities
Section 1–101(w–1) and (w–2), 4–206.1, 4–212, 4–213, 4–214, 4–504, 7–207(b)(1)(iv)
and, (v), and (vi), 7–207.4, 7–211, 7–216.2, and 7–506.1; and 7–1201 through
7–1218 7–1229 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 12. Energy Solicitation
and Procurement”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article – Public Utilities~~
~~Section 7–207(b)(1)(i)~~
~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
~~(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 13–102(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 13–117
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 9–20B–05(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – State Government
Section 9–20B–05(e) and (i)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
Article – Tax – General
Section 10–207(a)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

BY adding to
Article – Tax – General
Section 10–207(qq)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That Section(s) 7–701(h–1) and (i) of Article – Public Utilities of the Annotated Code of
Maryland be repealed.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section(s) 7–701(i–1) of Article – Public Utilities of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–701(i).

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Housing and Community Development

4–211.

(d) (1) (i) In this subsection the following words have the meanings indicated.

(ii) “Covered building” has the meaning stated in § 2–1601 of the Environment Article.

(iii) “Energy conservation project” means a project that qualifies under § 4–218 of this subtitle.

(2) For the purpose of reducing direct greenhouse gas emissions from multifamily residential buildings in accordance with the standards adopted under § 2–1602 of the Environment Article, the Administration shall develop and implement a program to provide grants AND LOANS for energy conservation projects and projects to install renewable energy generating systems in covered buildings that house primarily low- to moderate-income households.

(3) Grants AND LOANS provided under this subsection may not be used for a project to install new equipment that uses fossil fuels or improve the efficiency of existing equipment that uses fossil fuels.

(4) In each of fiscal years 2024 through 2026, the Governor shall include in the annual budget bill an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to the Department for the purpose of providing grants AND LOANS under this subsection.

(5) On or before December 1, 2023, and each December 1 thereafter, the Administration shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2–1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on the projects funded under this subsection.

Article – Public Utilities

1–101.

(a) In this division the following words have the meanings indicated.

(i) (1) “Electric company” means a person who physically transmits or distributes electricity in the State to a retail electric customer.

(2) “Electric company” does not include:

(i) the following persons who supply electricity and electricity supply services solely to occupants of a building for use by the occupants:

1. an owner/operator who holds ownership in and manages the internal distribution system serving the building; or

2. a lessee/operator who holds a leasehold interest in and manages the internal distribution system serving the building;

(ii) any person who generates on-site generated electricity; [or]

(iii) a person who transmits or distributes electricity within a site owned by the person or the person’s affiliate that is incidental to a primarily landlord-tenant relationship; OR

(IV) A PERSON WHO PROVIDES ELECTRICITY TO A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-506.1 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(1) “Electricity supplier” means a person:

(i) who sells:

1. electricity;

2. electricity supply services;

3. competitive billing services; or

4. competitive metering services; or

(ii) who purchases, brokers, arranges, or markets electricity or electricity supply services for sale to a retail electric customer.

(2) “Electricity supplier” includes an electric company, an aggregator, a broker, [and] a marketer of electricity, AND A PERSON WHO PROVIDES ELECTRICITY TO A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-506.1 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(3) “Electricity supplier” does not include:

(i) the following persons who supply electricity and electricity supply services solely to occupants of a building for use by the occupants:

1. an owner/operator who holds ownership in and manages the internal distribution system serving the building; or

2. a lessee/operator who holds a leasehold interest in and manages the internal distribution system serving the building;

(ii) a person who generates on-site generated electricity; or

(iii) a person that owns or operates equipment used for charging electric vehicles, including a person that owns or operates:

1. an electric vehicle charging station;

2. electric vehicle supply equipment; or

3. an electric vehicle charging station service company or provider.

(W-1) “PJM INTERCONNECTION” ~~OR~~, “PJM INTERCONNECTION, LLC” MEANS, OR “PJM” MEANS PJM INTERCONNECTION, LLC OR ANY SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION THAT SERVICES THE PJM REGION.

(W-2) “PJM REGION” MEANS THE CONTROL AREA ADMINISTERED BY PJM INTERCONNECTION, AS THE AREA MAY CHANGE FROM TIME TO TIME.

(ee) (1) “Retail electric customer” means a purchaser of electricity for end use in the State.

(2) “Retail electric customer” includes:

(i) a person that owns or operates equipment used for charging electric vehicles, including:

1. an electric vehicle charging station;

2. electric vehicle supply equipment; or

3. an electric vehicle charging station service company or provider; [and]

(ii) a person that charges an electric vehicle at an electric vehicle charging station that the person owns or operates; AND

(III) A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER THAT PURCHASES ELECTRICITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-506.1 OF THIS ARTICLE.

(3) “Retail electric customer” does not include:

(i) an occupant of a building in which the owner/operator or lessee/operator manages the internal distribution system serving the building and supplies electricity and electricity supply services solely to occupants of the building for use by the occupants;

(ii) a person who generates on-site generated electricity, to the extent the on-site generated electricity is consumed by that person or its tenants; or

(iii) except as provided in paragraph (2)(ii) of this subsection, a person that charges an electric vehicle at an electric vehicle charging station.

4-206.1.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY THAT IS AN INVESTOR-OWNED GAS COMPANY OR INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY.

(B) IN A BASE RATE PROCEEDING TO SET JUST AND REASONABLE RATES UNDER THIS TITLE, EACH PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY SHALL DEMONSTRATE TO THE COMMISSION THE REASONABLENESS OF THE USE OF INTERNAL LABOR IN COMPARISON TO CONTRACTUAL LABOR.

(C) TO DEMONSTRATE REASONABLENESS OF THE USE OF LABOR AS REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY SHALL PROVIDE TO THE COMMISSION, AT A MINIMUM:

(1) A COMPARISON OF THE COSTS OF INTERNAL LABOR AND CONTRACTUAL LABOR;

(2) A DEMONSTRATION OF THE REASONABLENESS OF THE DECISION TO USE CONTRACTUAL LABOR;

(3) A JUSTIFICATION FOR THE USE OF CONTRACTUAL LABOR WHEN USED INSTEAD OF INTERNAL LABOR, INCLUDING A COST-BASED RATIONALE; AND

(4) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE COMMISSION REQUIRES.

4-210.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Customer” means a retail natural gas customer.

(3) “Eligible infrastructure replacement” means a replacement or an improvement in an existing infrastructure of a gas company that:

(i) is made on or after June 1, 2013;

(ii) is designed to improve public safety or infrastructure reliability;

(iii) does not increase the revenue of a gas company by connecting an improvement directly to new customers;

(iv) reduces or has the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through a reduction in natural gas system leaks; and

(v) is not included in the current rate base of the gas company as determined in the gas company's most recent base rate proceeding.

(4) "Plan" means a plan that a gas company files under subsection [(d)] (E) of this section.

(5) "Project" means an eligible infrastructure replacement project proposed by a gas company in a plan filed under this section.

(b) It is the intent of the General Assembly that the purpose of this section is to [accelerate] ALLOW FOR THE APPROPRIATE ACCELERATION OF gas infrastructure improvements in the State [by establishing a mechanism for gas companies to promptly recover reasonable and prudent costs of investments in eligible infrastructure replacement projects separate from base rate proceedings] WHEN:

(1) NECESSARY TO ENSURE SAFETY AND IMPROVE RELIABILITY; AND

(2) CONSISTENT WITH STATE POLICY.

(C) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO ALTER A GAS COMPANY'S OBLIGATION UNDER THIS DIVISION TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO A GAS SYSTEM THAT ARE NECESSARY TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF THE GAS SYSTEM.

[(c)] (D) This section does not apply to a gas cooperative.

[(d)] (E) (1) A gas company may file with the Commission:

(i) a plan to invest in eligible infrastructure replacement projects; and

(ii) in accordance with paragraph [(4)] (5) of this subsection, a cost-recovery schedule associated with the plan that includes a fixed annual surcharge on customer bills to recover reasonable and prudent costs of proposed eligible infrastructure replacement projects.

(2) A plan under this subsection shall include:

(i) A DESCRIPTION OF EACH ELIGIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, INCLUDING THE PROJECT'S EXPECTED USEFUL LIFE;

(II) a time line for the completion of each eligible project;

~~[(ii)]~~ (III) the estimated cost of each project;

~~[(iii)]~~ (IV) a description of customer benefits under the plan; [and]

(V) A DEMONSTRATION THAT THE GAS COMPANY HAS SELECTED AND GIVEN PRIORITY TO PROJECTS BASED ON RISK TO THE PUBLIC AND COST-EFFECTIVENESS;

(VI) AN ANALYSIS THAT COMPARES THE COSTS OF PROPOSED REPLACEMENT PROJECTS WITH ALTERNATIVES TO REPLACEMENT, INCLUDING LEAK DETECTION AND REPAIR;

(VII) A PLAN FOR NOTIFYING CUSTOMERS AFFECTED BY PROPOSED PROJECTS AT LEAST 6 MONTHS IN ADVANCE OF CONSTRUCTION; AND

~~[(iv)]~~ (VIII) any other information the Commission considers necessary to evaluate the plan.

(3) A CUSTOMER NOTIFICATION PLAN REQUIRED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL PROVIDE FOR:

(I) AN INITIAL NOTIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION IN A MANNER DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION;

(II) AT LEAST TWO SUBSEQUENT NOTIFICATIONS OF CONSTRUCTION IN A MANNER DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION; AND

(III) THE COMMUNICATING OF:

1. A COMPLETE AND ACCURATE DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES; AND

2. ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS NECESSARY TO EVALUATE THE PLAN.

~~[(3)]~~ (4) (i) When calculating the estimated cost of a project under paragraph (2) of this subsection, a gas company shall include:

1 1. the pretax rate of return on the gas company's investment
2 in the project;

3 2. depreciation associated with the project, based on new
4 assets less retired plant; and

5 3. property taxes associated with the project, based on new
6 assets less retired plant.

7 (ii) The estimated project costs described in subparagraph (i) of this
8 paragraph are collectible at the same time the eligible infrastructure replacement is made.

9 (iii) The pretax rate of return under subparagraph (i)1 of this
10 paragraph shall:

11 1. be calculated using the gas company's capital structure
12 and weighted average cost of capital as the Commission approved in the gas company's
13 most recent base rate proceeding; and

14 2. include an adjustment for bad debt expenses as the
15 Commission approved in the gas company's most recent base rate proceeding.

16 **[(4)] (5)** For a plan filed under this section:

17 (i) the cost-recovery schedule shall include a fixed annual
18 surcharge that:

19 1. may not exceed \$2 each month on each residential
20 customer account; and

21 2. for each nonresidential customer account, may not be less
22 than the fixed annual surcharge applicable to a residential customer account, but shall be
23 capped under item (ii) of this paragraph; and

24 (ii) to create a surcharge cap for all customer classes, costs shall be
25 allocated to nonresidential and residential customers consistent with the proportions of
26 total distribution revenues that those classes bear in accordance with the most recent base
27 rate proceeding for the gas company.

28 **(6) FOR A GAS COMPANY TO RECOVER COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH**
29 **ELIGIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS, A PLAN SHALL**
30 **DEMONSTRATE:**

31 **(I) CUSTOMER BENEFITS; AND**

32 **(II) THAT THE GAS COMPANY HAS:**

1 **1. ANALYZED AVAILABLE COST-EFFECTIVE OPTIONS TO**
2 **DEFER, REDUCE, OR REMOVE THE NEED TO REPLACE, CONSTRUCT, OR UPGRADE**
3 **COMPONENTS OF THE GAS COMPANY'S DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE,**
4 **INCLUDING LEAK DETECTION AND REPAIR; AND**

5 **2. MET ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY**
6 **THE COMMISSION WHEN SETTING RATES UNDER THIS TITLE.**

7 **(7) A PLAN UNDER THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE FILED SEPARATELY**
8 **FROM A BASE RATE PROCEEDING.**

9 ~~[(5)]~~ **(8)** In a base rate proceeding after approval of a plan, the
10 Commission shall, in establishing a gas company's revenue requirements, take into account
11 any benefits the gas company realized as a result of a surcharge approved under the plan.

12 ~~[(6)]~~ **(9)** Any adjustment for return on equity based on an approved plan
13 only shall be considered and determined in a subsequently filed base rate case.

14 ~~[(e)]~~ **(F)** (1) Within 180 days after a gas company files a plan, the
15 Commission:

16 (i) may hold a public hearing on the plan; and

17 (ii) shall take a final action to approve or deny the plan.

18 (2) Within 150 days after a gas company files an amendment to an
19 approved plan, the Commission shall take final action to approve or deny the amendment.

20 (3) The Commission may approve a plan if it finds that the investments
21 and estimated costs of eligible infrastructure replacement projects are:

22 (i) reasonable and prudent; [and]

23 (ii) designed to improve public safety or infrastructure reliability
24 over the short term and long term; AND

25 **(III) REQUIRED TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF THE GAS SYSTEM**
26 **AFTER CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO REPLACEMENT.**

27 (4) (i) The Commission shall approve the cost-recovery schedule
28 associated with the plan at the same time that it approves the plan.

29 (ii) Costs recovered under the schedule approved in subparagraph (i)
30 of this paragraph may relate only to the projects within the plan approved by the
31 Commission.

1 (5) The Commission may not consider a revenue requirement or
2 rate-making issue that is not related to the plan when reviewing a plan for approval or
3 denial unless the plan is filed in conjunction with a base rate case.

4 ~~[(f)]~~ (G) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, if the Commission
5 does not take final action on a plan within the time period required under subsection [(e)]
6 (F) of this section, the gas company may implement the plan.

7 (2) If a gas company implements a plan that the Commission has not
8 approved, the gas company shall refund to customers any amount of the surcharge that the
9 Commission later determines is not reasonable or prudent, including interest.

10 (H) THE COMMISSION MAY AUTHORIZE A GAS COMPANY TO USE A
11 MECHANISM TO PROMPTLY RECOVER REASONABLE AND PRUDENT COSTS OF
12 INVESTMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE INFRASTRUCTURE REPLACEMENT PROJECTS THAT:

13 (1) ARE PART OF A PLAN APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION OR
14 IMPLEMENTED UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION; AND

15 (2) ACCELERATE GAS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE
16 STATE.

17 ~~[(g)]~~ (I) (1) (i) A surcharge under this section shall be in effect for 5 years
18 from the date of initial implementation of an approved plan.

19 (ii) 1. Before the end of the 5-year period, the gas company shall
20 file a base rate case application.

21 2. In a base rate proceeding filed under subsubparagraph 1
22 of this subparagraph, if a plan approved by the Commission remains in effect:

23 A. eligible infrastructure project costs included in base rates
24 in accordance with a final Commission order on the base rate case shall be removed from a
25 surcharge; and

26 B. the surcharge mechanism shall continue for eligible future
27 infrastructure project costs that are not included in the base rate case.

28 (2) (i) If the actual cost of a plan is less than the amount collected under
29 a surcharge, the gas company shall refund to customers the difference on customer bills,
30 including interest.

31 (ii) If the actual cost of a plan is more than the amount collected
32 under the surcharge and the Commission determines that the higher costs were reasonably
33 and prudently incurred, the Commission shall authorize the gas company to increase the

surcharge to recover the difference, subject to the rate limit under subsection [(d)(4)] (E)(5) of this section.

[(h)] (J) Each year a gas company shall file with the Commission a reconciliation to adjust the amount of a surcharge to account for any difference between the actual cost of a plan and the actual amount recovered under the surcharge.

[(i)] (K) If, after approving a surcharge in a plan, the Commission establishes new base rates for the gas company that include costs on which the surcharge is based, the gas company shall file a revised rate schedule with the Commission that subtracts those costs from the surcharge.

[(j)] (L) (1) The Commission may review a previously approved plan.

(2) If the Commission determines that an investment of a project or cost of a project no longer meets the requirements of subsection [(e)(3)] (F)(3) of this section, the Commission may:

(i) reduce future base rates or surcharges; or

(ii) alter or rescind approval of that part of the plan.

4-212.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "CONTRACT CAPACITY" MEANS THE AMOUNT OF MONTHLY PEAK LOAD REQUIREMENTS:

(I) THAT IS MUTUALLY AGREED TO BY AN ELECTRIC COMPANY AND A LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER FOR EACH MONTH REMAINING IN A CONTRACT TERM AFTER THE LOAD RAMP PERIOD HAS ENDED; AND

(II) FOR WHICH:

1. THE ELECTRIC COMPANY AGREES TO PROVIDE ALL OF THE COMPONENTS OF RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE SUBJECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS IN ITS TARIFFS; AND

2. THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER AGREES TO PURCHASE SERVICE AT THAT LOAD LEVEL FOR THE STATED TERM OF THE CONTRACT AND UNDER THE SAME TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THOSE STATED IN THE CONTRACT.

1 (3) “LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER” MEANS A COMMERCIAL OR
2 INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER FOR RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE THAT:

3 (I) HAS OR IS PROJECTED TO HAVE AN AGGREGATE MONTHLY
4 DEMAND OF AT LEAST 100 MEGAWATTS; AND

5 (II) HAS OR IS PROJECTED TO HAVE A LOAD FACTOR OF OVER
6 80%.

7 (4) “LOAD RAMP PERIOD” MEANS THE PERIOD OF TIME FROM
8 COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICE UNTIL A LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER’S BILLING
9 CALCULATION IS BASED ON THE FULL CONTRACT CAPACITY.

10 (B) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT RESIDENTIAL
11 RETAIL ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS IN THE STATE SHOULD NOT BEAR THE FINANCIAL
12 RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS INTERCONNECTING TO THE
13 ELECTRIC SYSTEM SERVING THE STATE.

14 (C) (1) (I) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2026, EACH
15 INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY AND EACH ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE SHALL
16 SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL A SPECIFIC RATE SCHEDULE FOR
17 LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS THAT ACCOMPLISHES THE INTENT OF SUBSECTION (B) OF
18 THIS SECTION.

19 (II) EACH MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY THAT RECEIVES AN
20 APPLICATION FOR RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE FROM A LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER
21 SHALL SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL A SPECIFIC RATE SCHEDULE
22 FOR LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS.

23 (2) (I) SERVICE UNDER A SPECIFIC RATE SCHEDULE SHALL BE
24 AVAILABLE TO LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS THAT WILL USE, WITHIN THE INITIAL
25 CONTRACT TERM:

26 1. A MONTHLY MAXIMUM DEMAND OF MORE THAN 100
27 MEGAWATTS AT A SINGLE LOCATION; OR

28 2. AN AGGREGATED CONTRACT CAPACITY IN THE
29 ELECTRIC COMPANY’S SERVICE TERRITORY OF MORE THAN 100 MEGAWATTS.

30 (II) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (III) OF THIS
31 PARAGRAPH, LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS THAT QUALIFY FOR A SPECIFIC RATE
32 SCHEDULE AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THAT SCHEDULE:

1 1. SHALL TAKE SERVICE UNDER THE SPECIFIC RATE
2 SCHEDULE; AND

3 2. MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE SERVICE UNDER ANY
4 OTHER EXISTING SCHEDULE.

5 (III) A SPECIFIC RATE SCHEDULE DOES NOT APPLY TO THE
6 FACILITY OF AN EXISTING LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER THAT HAS SIGNED A SERVICE
7 AGREEMENT BEFORE THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE SCHEDULE IF:

8 1. THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER'S EXISTING LOAD DOES
9 NOT EXPAND BY MORE THAN 25 MEGAWATTS AT THAT FACILITY UNDER THE
10 EXISTING SERVICE AGREEMENT; OR

11 2. THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER DOES NOT SIGN A NEW
12 SERVICE AGREEMENT TO EXPAND THE FACILITY'S LOAD BY MORE THAN 25
13 MEGAWATTS ABOVE THE CONTRACT CAPACITY OF THE EXISTING SERVICE
14 AGREEMENT.

15 (D) IN MAKING A DETERMINATION ON WHETHER TO APPROVE A SPECIFIC
16 RATE SCHEDULE SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, THE
17 COMMISSION SHALL CONSIDER WHETHER THE RATE SCHEDULE:

18 (1) REQUIRES A LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER TO COVER THE JUST AND
19 REASONABLE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ANY ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OR
20 DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM BUILDOUT REQUIRED TO:

21 (I) INTERCONNECT THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER TO THE
22 ELECTRIC SYSTEM SERVING THE STATE; OR

23 (II) SERVE THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER;

24 (2) PROTECTS RESIDENTIAL RETAIL ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS FROM
25 THE FINANCIAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS THROUGH THE
26 USE OF:

27 (I) LOAD RAMP PERIODS;

28 (II) MINIMUM BILLING DEMAND FOR ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION
29 AND TRANSMISSION SERVICE THAT IS A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF A LARGE LOAD
30 CUSTOMER'S CONTRACT CAPACITY;

31 (III) LONG-TERM CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS AND EXIT FEES;

1 (IV) GUARANTEE OR COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS; AND

2 (V) PENALTIES AND REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR
3 THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER IF THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER DELAYS OR CANCELS
4 A PROJECT AFTER THE ELECTRIC COMPANY HAS BEGUN BUILDOUT TO
5 ACCOMMODATE THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER; AND

6 (3) SUFFICIENTLY ENSURES THAT THE ALLOCATION OF COSTS TO
7 LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS UNDER THE SCHEDULE DOES NOT RESULT IN CUSTOMERS
8 THAT ARE NOT LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS UNREASONABLY SUBSIDIZING THE COSTS
9 OF LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS UNDER THE SCHEDULE.

10 (E) BEFORE SIGNING A CONTRACT FOR SERVICE UNDER A SPECIFIC RATE
11 SCHEDULE SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A LARGE LOAD
12 CUSTOMER UNDER THE SCHEDULE IS REQUIRED TO:

13 (1) SUBMIT A REQUEST FOR A LOAD STUDY TO DETERMINE THE
14 NECESSARY CONTRACT CAPACITY FOR THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER AND PAY ANY
15 APPLICABLE FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE STUDY;

16 (2) DESIGNATE A SPECIFIC SITE WHERE THE LARGE LOAD
17 CUSTOMER'S PROJECT WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AND SERVED BY THE ELECTRIC
18 COMPANY;

19 (3) OWN OR HAVE THE EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO USE THE LAND
20 DESIGNATED IN ITEM (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION FOR THE PROJECT; AND

21 (4) MEET ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED UNDER THE RATE
22 SCHEDULE.

23 (F) (1) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT
24 REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

25 (2) THE REGULATIONS SHALL:

26 (I) ESTABLISH MINIMUM NOTICE REQUIREMENTS AND
27 DEADLINES RELATED TO LOAD STUDY REQUESTS AND CONTRACT TERMINATIONS
28 AND ADJUSTMENTS;

29 (II) IF CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE COMMISSION, SPECIFY
30 COMMON FORMS OF ACCEPTABLE COLLATERAL TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF
31 THIS SECTION; AND

(III) ESTABLISH DEADLINES RELATED TO COMPLETION OF LOAD STUDIES AND PAYMENT OF FEES.

4-213.

(A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY THAT IS AN ELECTRIC COMPANY, GAS COMPANY, OR COMBINATION GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY.

(B) UNLESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW, THE COMMISSION MAY APPROVE THE USE OF A MULTIYEAR RATE PLAN FOR DISTRIBUTION BASE RATES ONLY IF THE PLAN:

(1) DEMONSTRATES THE CUSTOMER BENEFITS OF THE INVESTMENT; AND

(2) DOES NOT ALLOW FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY TO FILE FOR RECONCILIATION OF COST OR REVENUE VARIANCES OF THE APPROVED REVENUE COMPONENT USED BY THE COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH JUST AND REASONABLE RATES.

(C) A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY THAT FILES OR HAS FILED AN APPLICATION FOR A MULTIYEAR RATE PLAN MAY NOT SUBSEQUENTLY FILE FOR RECONCILIATION OF COST OR REVENUE VARIANCES OF THE APPROVED REVENUE COMPONENT USED BY THE COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH THE MULTIYEAR RATES UNLESS THE FILING FOR RECONCILIATION WAS MADE ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025.

4-214.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, "NONPIPELINE ALTERNATIVE" MEANS AN INVESTMENT OR ACTIVITY THAT DEFERS, REDUCES, OR ELIMINATES THE NEED TO CONSTRUCT A NEW GAS PIPELINE.

(B) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO RESTRICT AN INVESTOR-OWNED GAS COMPANY'S ABILITY TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS TO ITS GAS SYSTEM TO ENSURE THE SAFE AND RELIABLE OPERATION OF THE SYSTEM.

(C) AN INVESTOR-OWNED GAS COMPANY MAY RECOVER REASONABLE AND PRUDENT COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH A PLANNED GAS INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT IF THE INVESTOR-OWNED GAS COMPANY DEMONSTRATES AT A RATE SETTING PROCEEDING:

(1) THE CUSTOMER BENEFITS OF THE INVESTMENT;

1 (2) THAT THE INVESTOR-OWNED GAS COMPANY ANALYZED
2 COST-EFFECTIVE OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO DEFER, REDUCE, OR ELIMINATE THE
3 NEED TO REPLACE, UPGRADE, OR CONSTRUCT NEW COMPONENTS, INCLUDING AN
4 ANALYSIS OF:

5 (I) FOR NEW INVESTMENTS UNRELATED TO SAFETY,
6 NONPIPELINE ALTERNATIVES; AND

7 (II) LEAK DETECTION AND REPAIR; AND

8 (3) THE ESTIMATED RISK REDUCTION ASSOCIATED WITH A
9 SAFETY-RELATED INVESTMENT, IF APPLICABLE.

10 4-504.

11 (A) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY THAT IS
12 AN INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY, GAS COMPANY, OR COMBINATION GAS
13 AND ELECTRIC COMPANY.

14 (B) A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY MAY NOT RECOVER THROUGH RATES ANY
15 COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH:

16 (1) MEMBERSHIP, DUES, SPONSORSHIPS, OR CONTRIBUTIONS TO AN
17 INDUSTRY TRADE ASSOCIATION, GROUP, OR RELATED ENTITY EXEMPT FROM
18 TAXATION UNDER § 501(C)(6) OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE CODE; OR

19 (2) THE ACQUISITION, USE, OR ALLOCATION OF COSTS ASSOCIATED
20 WITH A PRIVATE PLANE THAT IS OWNED OR LEASED BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE
21 COMPANY OR ITS HOLDING COMPANY.

22 5-305.

23 (a) This section applies to a project by an investor-owned gas company, electric
24 company, or combination gas and electric company involving the construction,
25 reconstruction, installation, demolition, restoration, or alteration of any underground gas
26 or electric infrastructure of the company, and any related traffic control activities.

27 (b) An investor-owned gas company, electric company, or combination gas and
28 electric company shall require a contractor or subcontractor on a project described in
29 subsection (a) of this section to pay its employees not less than the prevailing wage rate
30 determined solely by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry in a process substantially
31 similar to the process established under Title 17, Subtitle 2 of the State Finance and
32 Procurement Article.

(c) In accordance with Title 3, Subtitle 5 of the Labor and Employment Article, the Maryland Department of Labor shall enforce the requirement under subsection (b) of this section for contractors and subcontractors to pay employees not less than the prevailing wage rate determined solely by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

(D) A CONTRACT ENTERED INTO AFTER MARCH 1, 2024, BY AN INVESTOR-OWNED GAS COMPANY, ELECTRIC COMPANY, OR COMBINATION GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY THAT IS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION, DEMOLITION, RESTORATION, OR ALTERATION OF ANY UNDERGROUND GAS OR ELECTRIC INFRASTRUCTURE, AND ANY RELATED TRAFFIC CONTROL ACTIVITIES, INCLUDES A CONTRACT THAT HAS BEEN EXECUTED, AMENDED, OR ALTERED AFTER MARCH 1, 2024.

7-211.

(A) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT IT IS THE POLICY OF THE STATE TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CLEAN, CARBON-FREE NUCLEAR POWER, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INNOVATIVE DESIGNS.

(B) THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION, IN COORDINATION WITH THE COMMISSION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, SHALL PURSUE:

(1) COST-SHARING AGREEMENTS WITH NEIGHBORING STATES IN THE PJM REGION TO MITIGATE THE RISKS OF DEVELOPING NEW NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATING STATIONS; AND

(2) AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERAL AGENCIES REGARDING THE SITING OF SMALL MODULAR REACTORS:

(I) ON FEDERAL LAND; OR

(II) ON OR NEAR FEDERAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING MILITARY AND NATIONAL SECURITY INSTALLATIONS.

(C) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1, 2026, THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION SHALL REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, ON:

(1) THE STATUS OF THE EFFORTS MADE UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING AN ASSESSMENT OF ANY OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER STATES, FEDERAL AGENCIES, AND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PARTNERS IN A MULTISTATE PROCUREMENT OF NEW NUCLEAR ENERGY TECHNOLOGY; AND

(2) AN EVALUATION AND STATUS OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY
PROCUREMENT PROCESS ESTABLISHED UNDER SUBTITLE 12, ~~PART II~~ PART III OF
THIS TITLE.

7-216.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) (i) “Energy storage device” means a resource capable of absorbing
electrical energy, storing it for a period of time, and delivering the energy for use at a later
time as needed, regardless of where the resource is located on the electric [distribution]
system.

(ii) “Energy storage device” includes all types of electric storage
technologies, regardless of their size, storage medium, or operational purpose, including:

1. thermal storage;

2. electrochemical storage;

3. [virtual power plants] THERMO-MECHANICAL
STORAGE; and

4. hydrogen-based storage.

(3) “Investor-owned electric company” means an electric company that is
not a municipal electric utility or an electric cooperative.

7-216.2.

(A) IN THIS SECTION, “ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE” HAS THE MEANING
STATED IN § 7-216 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(B) (1) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT THE
STATE HAS A GOAL OF REACHING AT LEAST 150 MEGAWATTS OF
DISTRIBUTION-CONNECTED FRONT-OF-THE-METER ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES.

(2) ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2025, AND ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2026,
THE COMMISSION SHALL NOTIFY EACH INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY OF
ITS PROPORTION OF THE GOAL ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, BASED ON:

(I) THE ELECTRIC COMPANY’S SERVICE LOAD; OR

(II) OTHER CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION.

1 (C) (1) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2025, THE COMMISSION SHALL
2 REQUIRE EACH INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY TO SUBMIT A PLAN TO
3 ACHIEVE UP TO ONE-THIRD OF THE PROPORTION OF DISTRIBUTION-CONNECTED
4 FRONT-OF-THE-METER ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES NECESSARY TO REACH THE
5 ELECTRIC COMPANY'S APPORTIONMENT OF THE GOAL STATED IN SUBSECTION (B)
6 OF THIS SECTION.

7 (2) ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL
8 REQUIRE EACH INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY TO SUBMIT A PLAN FOR THE
9 BALANCE OF THE PROPORTION OF DISTRIBUTION-CONNECTED
10 FRONT-OF-THE-METER ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES NECESSARY TO REACH THE
11 ELECTRIC COMPANY'S APPORTIONMENT OF THE GOAL STATED IN SUBSECTION (B)
12 OF THIS SECTION.

13 (3) ON OR BEFORE MAY 1, 2026, FOR PLANS SUBMITTED IN
14 ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AND ON OR BEFORE MAY
15 1, 2027, FOR PLANS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS
16 SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL:

17 (I) EVALUATE EACH PLAN;

18 (II) ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENTS ON EACH PLAN; AND

19 (III) ISSUE AN ORDER FOR EACH PLAN THAT:

20 1. APPROVES THE PLAN;

21 2. APPROVES THE PLAN WITH MODIFICATIONS THAT
22 THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS NECESSARY; OR

23 3. REJECTS THE PLAN, WITH AN EXPLANATION OF THE
24 REASONS FOR THE REJECTION.

25 (4) THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES CONSTRUCTED OR PROCURED
26 UNDER EACH PLAN SHALL INCLUDE A COMBINATION OF DEVICES OWNED BY THE
27 INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY AND DEVICES OWNED BY A THIRD PARTY,
28 WITH A GOAL OF 30% OF THE DEVICES BEING OWNED BY A THIRD PARTY.

29 (5) (I) THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES THAT ARE CONSTRUCTED
30 OR PROCURED UNDER A PLAN SUBMITTED BY NOVEMBER 1, 2025, SHALL BE
31 OPERATIONAL BY NOVEMBER 1, 2027.

1 (II) THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES THAT ARE CONSTRUCTED
2 OR PROCURED UNDER A PLAN SUBMITTED BY NOVEMBER 1, 2026, SHALL BE
3 OPERATIONAL BY NOVEMBER 1, 2028.

4 (III) THE COMMISSION MAY EXTEND A DEADLINE UNDER THIS
5 PARAGRAPH FOR GOOD CAUSE.

6 (D) THE COMMISSION SHALL REQUIRE EACH PLAN TO DEMONSTRATE THAT
7 THE CONSTRUCTION OR PROCUREMENT OF EACH ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE:

8 (1) IS COST-EFFECTIVE IN CONSIDERATION OF A COST-BENEFIT
9 ANALYSIS, INCLUDING A DEMONSTRATION OF ANY:

10 (I) AVOIDED OR DELAYED TRANSMISSION, DISTRIBUTION, AND
11 GENERATION COSTS; AND

12 (II) AVOIDED EMISSIONS IN THE SHORT TERM AND PROJECTED
13 EMISSIONS IN THE LONG TERM, MEASURED USING THE SOCIAL COST OF CARBON, AS
14 DETERMINED BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AS OF JANUARY
15 1, 2025;

16 (2) CAN BE COMPLETED WITHIN 18 MONTHS AFTER THE PLAN IS
17 APPROVED; AND

18 (3) COMPLIES WITH ANY OTHER FACTORS DETERMINED BY THE
19 COMMISSION.

20 (E) (1) A DEVELOPER OF A THIRD-PARTY-OWNED ENERGY STORAGE
21 DEVICE CONSTRUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION SHALL ENSURE THAT
22 WORKERS ARE PAID NOT LESS THAN THE PREVAILING WAGE RATE DETERMINED
23 UNDER TITLE 17, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT
24 ARTICLE.

25 (2) AN ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE CONSTRUCTED AND OWNED BY AN
26 ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL BE CONSTRUCTED BY:

27 (I) EMPLOYEES OF THE ELECTRIC COMPANY; OR

28 (II) CONTRACTORS THAT SHALL ENSURE THAT WORKERS
29 CONSTRUCTING THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE ARE PAID NOT LESS THAN THE
30 PREVAILING WAGE RATE DETERMINED UNDER TITLE 17, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE
31 FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

1 **(3) (I) AN INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL**
2 **OPERATE AND MAINTAIN ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES INSTALLED BY THE ELECTRIC**
3 **COMPANY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.**

4 **(II) IN PERFORMING THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS**
5 **REQUIRED UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AN INVESTOR-OWNED**
6 **ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL MEET WITH THE EMPLOYEE BARGAINING UNIT'S LABOR**
7 **REPRESENTATIVE AND CONFER IN GOOD FAITH REGARDING THE VIABILITY OF:**

8 **1. ALLOCATING MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS WORK**
9 **TO CURRENT BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES;**

10 **2. TRAINING CURRENT BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES**
11 **TO PERFORM MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS WORK;**

12 **3. HIRING QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO PERFORM**
13 **MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION WORK;**

14 **4. TRAINING NEWLY HIRED INDIVIDUALS TO PERFORM**
15 **MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS WORK; AND**

16 **5. MAINTAINING AND OPERATING STORAGE DEVICES IN**
17 **ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (4) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

18 **(4) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, AN**
19 **INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY MAY CONTRACT ANY WORK UNDER THIS**
20 **SECTION NOT CONDUCTED BY THE COMPANY'S EMPLOYEE BARGAINING UNIT TO A**
21 **QUALIFIED CONTRACTOR.**

22 **(II) AN INVESTOR-OWNED ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL**
23 **REQUIRE A CONTRACTOR OR SUBCONTRACTOR ON A PROJECT UNDER THIS SECTION**
24 **TO:**

25 **1. PAY THE AREA PREVAILING WAGE RATE DETERMINED**
26 **BY THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY, INCLUDING WAGES AND FRINGE**
27 **BENEFITS; AND**

28 **2. OFFER HEALTH CARE AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO**
29 **THE EMPLOYEES WORKING ON THE PROJECT.**

30 **(F) (1) EACH ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT CONSTRUCTED IN**
31 **ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE A PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING**
32 **PLAN.**

1 **(2) THE PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING PLAN SHALL INCLUDE A PLAN**
2 **TO MAXIMIZE THE RECYCLING OR REUSE OF ALL QUALIFYING COMPONENTS OF**
3 **EACH ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE.**

4 **(3) THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF AN ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE MAY**
5 **SUBMIT A REVISED RECYCLING AND REUSE PLAN THAT INCORPORATES EMERGING**
6 **RECYCLING AND REUSE OPPORTUNITIES UP TO 1 YEAR BEFORE EXECUTING THE**
7 **DECOMMISSIONING PLAN.**

8 7-224.

9 (a) (1) Beginning January 1, 2025, and on or before January 1 every 3 years,
10 starting in 2027, the Department shall procure or provide to low-income individuals energy
11 efficiency and conservation programs and services, demand response programs and
12 services, and beneficial electrification programs and services that achieve the greenhouse
13 gas emissions reduction targets established for the Department under paragraph (2) of this
14 subsection.

15 (2) For the period 2025–2033, the programs and services required under
16 paragraph (1) of this subsection shall be on a trajectory to achieve greenhouse gas
17 reductions after 2027 of at least 0.9% of the baseline determined under subsection (b) of
18 this section.

19 (3) (i) When establishing greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets
20 under this subsection, the Commission shall measure the greenhouse gas emissions from
21 electricity using current data and projections from the Department of the Environment.

22 (ii) The greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets established
23 under this subsection shall be measured in metric tons.

24 (4) The greenhouse gas reductions achieved to meet the targets established
25 under paragraph (2) of this subsection shall count toward the achievement of the
26 greenhouse gas reduction target established under § 7-223(b) of this subtitle.

27 (5) The target greenhouse gas savings shall be achieved based on the
28 3-year average of the Department's plan submitted in accordance with subsection (d) of
29 this section.

30 (6) For 2025 and 2026:

31 (i) the Commission shall, after making appropriate findings,
32 determine whether the Department's existing 2024–2026 plan must be modified to comply
33 with:

34 1. the targets established in this subsection; and

2. § 7–225(d) of this subtitle; and

(ii) the Department:

1. shall provide information as required by the Commission to assist in making the determination in item (i) of this paragraph; and

2. is only required to file new plans in accordance with subsection (d) of this section and § 7–225 of this subtitle if directed by the Commission.

(b) As a baseline for determining greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets under this section, the Commission shall use the greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the direct consumption of gas and electricity by low-income residential households in 2016, as determined by the Department of the Environment.

(c) **[(1) The] WHEN CALCULATING THE ACHIEVEMENT OF GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS UNDER THIS SECTION, THE Department may procure or provide savings that are achieved through [funding sources that meet the standards of program funding through utility rates or the U.S. Department of Energy] ALL FUNDING SOURCES, TO THE EXTENT THAT THE SAVINGS FROM THOSE FUNDING SOURCES ARE ACHIEVED:**

(1) IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH REQUIREMENTS OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY; OR

(2) IN A MANNER OTHERWISE CONSISTENT WITH THE ENERGY SAVINGS REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO THOSE FUNDING SOURCES.

[(2) The Department may use the savings achieved through all funding sources toward calculating the targeted greenhouse gas reductions if the funding sources meet the standards of programs funded through:

(i) a surcharge under § 7–222 of this subtitle; or

(ii) the U.S. Department of Energy.]

7–505.

(c) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including subsection (d) of this section, AND SUBJECT TO § 4–213 OF THIS ARTICLE, the Commission may regulate the regulated services of an electric company through alternative forms of regulation.

(2) The Commission may adopt an alternative form of regulation under this section if the Commission finds, after notice and hearing, that the alternative form of regulation:

(i) protects consumers;

(ii) ensures the quality, availability, and reliability of regulated electric services; and

(iii) is in the interest of the public, including shareholders of the electric company.

(3) Alternative forms of regulation may include:

(i) price regulation, including price freezes or caps;

(ii) revenue regulation;

(iii) ranges of authorized return;

(iv) rate of return;

(v) categories of services; or

(vi) price-indexing.

7-506.1.

~~(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.~~

~~(2) "CONSTRUCTION" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-207 OF THIS TITLE.~~

~~(3) "LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER" MEANS A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER WITH AN EXPECTED LOAD DEMAND OF AT LEAST 100 MEGAWATTS.~~

~~(B)~~ (A) (1) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO:

(I) AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER OR OTHER OWNER OF A GENERATING STATION THAT ENTERS INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF THE DIRECT SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER IN A WAY THAT BYPASSES:

1. INTERCONNECTION OF THE LOAD WITH THE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS; OR

2. THE DISTRIBUTION SERVICES OF AN ELECTRIC COMPANY; AND

(II) A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER THAT ENTERS INTO A CONTRACT WITH AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER OR OTHER OWNER OF A GENERATING STATION FOR THE PROVISION OF THE DIRECT SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY AS SPECIFIED IN ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.

(2) THIS SECTION DOES NOT APPLY TO THE USE OF ELECTRICITY FROM AN ON-SITE GENERATING STATION THAT HAS BEEN APPROVED UNDER § 7-207.1 OF THIS TITLE.

~~**(C) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY FEDERAL LAW AND SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER OR OTHER OWNER OF A GENERATING STATION MAY NOT ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF THE DIRECT SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER IN A WAY THAT BYPASSES:**~~

~~**(1) INTERCONNECTION WITH THE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS; OR**~~

~~**(2) THE DISTRIBUTION SERVICES OF AN ELECTRIC COMPANY.**~~

~~**(D) AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER OR OTHER OWNER OF A GENERATING STATION MAY ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF THE DIRECT SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO A LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER IN A WAY THAT BYPASSES INTERCONNECTION WITH THE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS OR THE DISTRIBUTION SERVICES OF AN ELECTRIC COMPANY IF THE GENERATING STATION:**~~

~~**(1) (I) INCREASES ITS GENERATION OUTPUT FROM EXISTING LEVELS TO A LEVEL THAT MEETS 100% OF THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER'S EXPECTED LOAD DEMAND; OR**~~

~~**(II) CREATES NEW GENERATION OUTPUT AT A LEVEL THAT MEETS 100% OF THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER'S EXPECTED LOAD DEMAND; AND**~~

~~**(2) OBTAINS, IF NECESSARY:**~~

~~**(I) A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GENERATING STATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-207 OF THIS TITLE AND ANY OTHER ASSOCIATED STANDARD; AND**~~

~~(H) ANY OTHER STANDARD SITING APPROVALS AND PERMITS
RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GENERATING STATION.~~

(B) THE COMMISSION MAY APPLY TO A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL
CUSTOMER AND ANY GENERATING STATION SUPPLYING ELECTRICITY TO THE
COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER IN THE MANNER SPECIFIED IN
SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION:

(1) ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT COSTS, FEES, AND OBLIGATIONS THAT
ARE NORMALLY APPLIED TO RETAIL ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS IN THE SERVICE
TERRITORY IN WHICH THE COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER OR
GENERATING STATION IS LOCATED OR INTERCONNECTED IF THE COMMISSION
DETERMINES THAT THE DIRECT OR INDIRECT COSTS, FEES, AND OBLIGATIONS
SHOULD BE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER AND
ANY GENERATING STATION SUPPLYING ELECTRICITY TO THE COMMERCIAL OR
INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER; AND

(2) ANY AVOIDED WHOLESALE COSTS THAT THE COMMISSION
DETERMINES HAVE BEEN OR MAY BE SHIFTED INAPPROPRIATELY TO OTHER RETAIL
ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS AS A RESULT OF THE PROVISION OF THE DIRECT SUPPLY OF
ELECTRICITY AS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (A)(1) OF THIS SECTION, INCLUDING:

(I) TRANSMISSION COSTS;

(II) ENERGY COSTS;

(III) CAPACITY COSTS; AND

(IV) ANCILLARY SERVICES COSTS.

SUBTITLE 12. ENERGY SOLICITATION AND PROCUREMENT.

PART I. ~~EMERGENCY ENERGY PROCUREMENT~~ DEFINITIONS; GENERAL PROVISIONS.

7-1201.

(A) IN THIS PART THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
INDICATED.

(B) “DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION” MEANS A GENERATING
STATION OR ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE WITH:

(1) AN EFFECTIVE LOAD CARRYING CAPABILITY OF AT LEAST 65%, AS DETERMINED BY PJM INTERCONNECTION'S MOST RECENT ELCC CLASS RATINGS; AND

(2) A LOWER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS PROFILE THAN COAL OR OIL ENERGY GENERATING STATIONS.

(C) "EFFECTIVE LOAD CARRYING CAPABILITY" OR "ELCC" MEANS THE EXPECTED CAPACITY CONTRIBUTION OF AN ENERGY RESOURCE DURING PJM INTERCONNECTION'S OPERATING HOURS WHEN THERE IS HIGH ELECTRICITY DEMAND AND LOW RESOURCE OUTPUT.

(D) "EFFECTIVE NAMEPLATE CAPACITY" MEANS THE AMOUNT OF ENERGY AN ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE CAN DELIVER CONTINUOUSLY TO THE ELECTRIC SYSTEM OVER A PERIOD OF AT LEAST 4 HOURS.

~~(D)~~ (E) "ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-216 OF THIS TITLE.

~~(E)~~ (F) "GENERATING STATION" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-207 OF THIS TITLE.

(G) "LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE" MEANS A GENERATING STATION OR ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE THAT:

(1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025:

(I) HAS APPLIED TO PJM FOR INTERCONNECTION APPROVAL;

OR

(II) HAS BEEN APPROVED BY PJM FOR INTERCONNECTION;

AND

(2) HAS A CAPACITY RATING EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 20 MEGAWATTS AFTER ACCOUNTING FOR THE EFFECTIVE LOAD CARRYING CAPABILITY.

7-1202.

(A) AN APPLICATION FOR A PROPOSED PROJECT UNDER PARTS III AND IV OF THIS SUBTITLE IS SUBJECT TO A COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT.

(B) A COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT SHALL:

1 (1) PROMOTE INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES
2 AND SMALL, MINORITY, WOMEN-OWNED, AND VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE
3 CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRY;

4 (2) ENSURE THE TIMELY, SAFE, AND EFFICIENT COMPLETION OF THE
5 PROJECT BY:

6 (I) FACILITATING A STEADY SUPPLY OF HIGHLY SKILLED
7 CRAFT WORKERS WHO SHALL BE PAID NOT LESS THAN THE PREVAILING WAGE RATE
8 DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY UNDER TITLE 17,
9 SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE; AND

10 (II) GUARANTEEING THAT THE CONSTRUCTION WORK
11 PERFORMED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT WILL BE SUBJECT TO AN
12 AGREEMENT THAT:

13 1. ESTABLISHES THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF
14 EMPLOYMENT AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF THE PROJECT OR A PORTION OF THE
15 PROJECT;

16 2. GUARANTEES AGAINST STRIKES, LOCKOUTS, AND
17 SIMILAR DISRUPTIONS;

18 3. ENSURES THAT ALL WORK ON THE PROJECT FULLY
19 CONFORMS TO ALL RELEVANT STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS, RULES, AND
20 REGULATIONS, INCLUDING ALL REQUIRED TRAINING FOR EMPLOYEES;

21 4. CREATES MUTUALLY BINDING PROCEDURES FOR
22 RESOLVING LABOR DISPUTES ARISING DURING THE TERM OF THE DISPATCHABLE
23 ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT;

24 5. SETS FORTH OTHER MECHANISMS FOR
25 LABOR-MANAGEMENT COOPERATION ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND
26 CONCERN, INCLUDING PRODUCTIVITY, QUALITY OF WORK, SAFETY, AND HEALTH;
27 AND

28 6. BINDS ALL CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS TO
29 THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF APPROPRIATE
30 PROVISIONS IN ALL RELEVANT SOLICITATION AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS;

31 (3) PROMOTE SAFE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT BY ENSURING
32 THAT AT LEAST 80% OF THE CRAFT WORKERS ON THE PROJECT HAVE COMPLETED
33 A 10-HOUR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION COURSE;

(4) PROMOTE CAREER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MANUFACTURING, MAINTENANCE, AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS, VETERANS, WOMEN, MINORITIES, AND FORMERLY INCARCERATED INDIVIDUALS;

(5) INCLUDE PROVISIONS FOR LOCAL HIRING AND THE HIRING OF HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED GROUPS;

(6) USE LOCALLY, SUSTAINABLY, AND DOMESTICALLY MANUFACTURED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE;

(7) REQUIRE THE USE OF SKILLED LOCAL LABOR, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURING COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT, USING METHODS INCLUDING OUTREACH, HIRING, AND REFERRAL METHODS THAT ARE AFFILIATED WITH REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE; AND

(8) AUTHORIZE THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND THE COMMISSION TO CONSIDER, REVIEW, AND ENFORCE A STORAGE DEVELOPER OR ENERGY DEVELOPER'S COMPLIANCE WITH ANY COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT.

7-1203.

THE COMMISSION MAY CONTRACT FOR THE SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS AND EXPERTS TO IMPLEMENT AND EXECUTE ANY PART OF THIS SUBTITLE.

7-1204. RESERVED.

7-1205. RESERVED.

PART II. DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION AND LARGE CAPACITY RESOURCES.

7-1206.

(A) (1) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2025, AND AT OTHER TIMES AS PROVIDED IN SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE ONE OR MORE ~~COMPETITIVE~~ SOLICITATIONS FOR PROPOSALS FOR ~~CONSTRUCTING OR EXPANDING DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION IN THE STATE~~ THE CONSTRUCTION OR EXPANSION OF:

(I) DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION; AND

1 (II) LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCES.

2 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL SET THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE
3 SOLICITATION PERIOD TO BE NOT SOONER THAN ~~120~~ 30 DAYS AFTER ISSUING THE
4 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ~~IS ISSUED~~ UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

5 (B) THE COMMISSION MAY PROVIDE FOR AN ADDITIONAL SOLICITATION
6 PERIOD IF THE CAPACITY SPECIFIED UNDER ~~§ 7-1203(B)(1)~~ § 7-1208(D)(1) OF THIS
7 SUBTITLE HAS NOT BEEN MET DURING THE INITIAL SOLICITATION PERIOD.

8 (C) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE TO THE POWER PLANT RESEARCH
9 PROGRAM A COPY OF EACH PROPOSAL RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE
10 SOLICITATION.

11 (D) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
12 THE COMMISSION MAY NOT APPROVE OR DEVELOP A FINANCIAL COMMITMENT FOR
13 THE COSTS RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OR OPERATION OF A DISPATCHABLE
14 ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT OR LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE PROJECT
15 APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS PART ~~MAY NOT BE RECOVERED THROUGH~~
16 ~~UTILITY RATES.~~

17 (2) A DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT OR LARGE
18 CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE PROJECT APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS
19 PART MAY PARTICIPATE IN OTHER PROCESSES UNDER WHICH RATEPAYER FUNDS
20 ARE AWARDED TO DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION OR LARGE CAPACITY
21 ENERGY RESOURCES.

22 ~~7-1203.~~

23 ~~(A) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS EXTENDED BY~~
24 ~~MUTUAL CONSENT OF THE PARTIES, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE,~~
25 ~~CONDITIONALLY APPROVE, OR DENY A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO A~~
26 ~~SOLICITATION ISSUED UNDER § 7-1202 OF THIS SUBTITLE WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER~~
27 ~~THE CLOSE OF THE SOLICITATION PERIOD.~~

28 7-1207.

29 THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE SPECIFICATIONS IN A SOLICITATION
30 ISSUED UNDER § 7-1206 OF THIS SUBTITLE THAT REQUIRE EACH PROPOSAL FOR A
31 DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT AND LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY
32 RESOURCE PROJECT TO:

1 (1) IF THE PROJECT IS A NATURAL GAS ENERGY GENERATING
2 STATION, ENSURE THAT THE PROJECT CAN BE CONVERTED TO USE ONLY HYDROGEN
3 OR A ZERO-EMISSIONS BIOFUEL AS THE ENERGY SOURCE WHEN THE COMMISSION
4 DETERMINES THAT THE CONVERSION IS FEASIBLE;

5 (2) INCLUDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE TIMELINE FOR
6 CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING:

7 (I) IDENTIFYING THE ENTITY THAT HAS OWNERSHIP OR SITE
8 CONTROL OF THE PROJECT SITE;

9 (II) QUEUE POSITION FOR PJM APPROVAL;

10 (III) THE ABILITY TO PROCURE MATERIALS, INCLUDING
11 TURBINES AND OTHER PIPELINE MATERIALS; AND

12 (IV) ANY INFORMATION THAT DEMONSTRATES THE
13 APPLICANT'S:

14 1. READINESS TO APPLY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC
15 CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER § 7-207 OR § 7-207.4 OF THIS TITLE AS SOON
16 AS IS REASONABLY FEASIBLE AFTER RECEIVING APPROVAL FOR THE PROJECT,
17 INCLUDING THE ANTICIPATED APPLICATION DATE; AND

18 2. ABILITY TO DEVELOP THE PROJECT WITHIN THE
19 TIMELINE PRESENTED;

20 (3) INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCATION OF THE PROJECT
21 SITE, INCLUDING:

22 (I) THE PROXIMITY OF THE SITE TO EXISTING TRANSMISSION
23 LINE AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY; AND

24 (II) WHETHER THE PROJECT WOULD BE RETROFITTING A
25 CURRENT OR PREVIOUS GENERATING STATION SITE;

26 (4) IF APPLICABLE, INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF:

27 (I) THE TYPE AND AMOUNT OF CO-LOCATED ENERGY
28 GENERATION FROM TIER 1 RENEWABLE SOURCES, AS DEFINED IN § 7-701 OF THIS
29 TITLE, THAT WOULD BE USED WITH THE PROJECT;

30 (II) THE AMOUNT OF CO-LOCATED ENERGY STORAGE THAT
31 WOULD BE USED WITH THE PROJECT;

1 (III) THE USE OF CARBON CAPTURE OR SEQUESTRATION
2 TECHNOLOGY TO MITIGATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM THE PROJECT; AND

3 (IV) THE AMOUNT OF HYDROGEN OR ZERO-EMISSIONS
4 BIOFUELS THAT THE PROJECT WILL MIX WITH NATURAL GAS FOR ENERGY
5 GENERATION; AND

6 (5) STATE THE EMISSIONS INTENSITY OF THE GENERATION OUTPUT
7 OVER THE LIFE OF THE PROJECT.

8 7-1208.

9 (A) (1) WITHIN 45 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE
10 SOLICITATION PERIOD SET IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-1206 OF THIS SUBTITLE OR
11 SOONER AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION, THE POWER PLANT RESEARCH
12 PROGRAM SHALL RECOMMEND TO THE COMMISSION PROPOSALS TO BE
13 AUTHORIZED TO UTILIZE THE EXPEDITED CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
14 AND NECESSITY PROCESS UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS TITLE.

15 (2) THE POWER PLANT RESEARCH PROGRAM SHALL BASE ITS
16 RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE INFORMATION IN THE PROPOSALS RECEIVED AND THE
17 SPECIFICATIONS LISTED IN §§ 7-1207 AND 7-1209 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

18 (B) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION AND AFTER
19 CONSIDERING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE POWER PLANT RESEARCH
20 PROGRAM MADE UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, UNLESS THE
21 COMMISSION GRANTS A REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION FOR GOOD CAUSE, NOT LATER
22 THAN 60 DAYS AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE SOLICITATION PERIOD THE COMMISSION
23 SHALL APPROVE, CONDITIONALLY APPROVE, OR DENY A PROPOSAL SUBMITTED IN
24 RESPONSE TO A SOLICITATION ISSUED UNDER § 7-1206 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

25 (C) IN ADDITION TO THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN § 7-1207 OF THIS
26 SUBTITLE, THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE WHICH PROPOSALS TO APPROVE
27 BASED ON THE FACTORS AND REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN § 7-1209 OF THIS
28 SUBTITLE.

29 ~~(B)~~ (D) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE
30 COMBINED TOTAL CAPACITY OF DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS
31 AND LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE PROJECTS APPROVED UNDER THIS
32 SECTION SHALL BE GREATER THAN THE COMBINED SUMMER PEAK CAPACITY
33 PROFILE OF COAL AND OIL ENERGY GENERATING STATIONS IN THE STATE AS
34 OUTLINED UNDER TABLE 9 OF THE COMMISSION'S TEN-YEAR PLAN (2024-2033)
35 OF ELECTRIC COMPANIES IN MARYLAND.

(2) THE COMBINED TOTAL CAPACITY OF NATURAL GAS DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS AND LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE PROJECTS APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT EXCEED THE COMBINED SUMMER PEAK CAPACITY PROFILE OF COAL AND OIL ENERGY GENERATING STATIONS IN THE STATE AS OUTLINED UNDER TABLE 9 OF THE COMMISSION'S TEN-YEAR PLAN (2024-2033) OF ELECTRIC COMPANIES IN MARYLAND.

~~(C) ON AND BEFORE JUNE 30, 2030, A DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE EXPEDITED CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY PROCESS UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS TITLE.~~

(E) EVERY 5 YEARS AFTER THE DATE THAT A NATURAL GAS DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT OR LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE PROJECT BECOMES OPERATIONAL UNDER A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY ISSUED UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS TITLE, THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE NATURAL GAS DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION OR LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE SHALL SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION A REPORT REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY OF CONVERTING THE NATURAL GAS DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION OR LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE TO THE USE OF ONLY HYDROGEN OR ZERO-EMISSIONS BIOFUEL.

(F) AN APPROVAL OR CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF A PROJECT UNDER THIS SECTION DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE PROJECT WILL BE ISSUED A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER § 7-207 OR § 7-207.4 OF THIS TITLE.

~~7-1204.~~

~~THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE SPECIFICATIONS IN A SOLICITATION ISSUED UNDER § 7-1202 OF THIS SUBTITLE THAT REQUIRE EACH PROPOSAL FOR A DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT TO:~~

~~(1) FOR A NATURAL GAS ENERGY GENERATING STATION, ENSURE THAT THE PROJECT CAN BE CONVERTED TO USE ONLY HYDROGEN OR A ZERO-EMISSIONS BIOFUEL AS THE ENERGY SOURCE WHEN THE CONVERSION IS FEASIBLE, AS DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION;~~

~~(2) INCLUDE A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS THAT SHALL INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:~~

~~(I) A DETAILED INPUT-OUTPUT ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF
THE PROJECT ON INCOME, EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, AND TAXES IN THE STATE;~~

~~(II) DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING ASSUMED
EMPLOYMENT IMPACTS IN THE STATE, INCLUDING THE EXPECTED DURATION OF
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, THE SALARY OF EACH POSITION, AND OTHER
SUPPORTING EVIDENCE OF EMPLOYMENT IMPACTS;~~

~~(III) AN ANALYSIS OF ANY IMPACT ON RESIDENTIAL,
COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL RATEPAYERS OVER THE LIFE OF THE PROJECT;~~

~~(IV) AN ANALYSIS OF ANY LONG-TERM EFFECT ON ENERGY AND
CAPACITY MARKETS AS A RESULT OF THE PROJECT;~~

~~(V) AN ANALYSIS OF ANY IMPACT THE PROJECT WOULD HAVE
ON BUSINESSES IN THE STATE;~~

~~(VI) AN ANALYSIS OF THE ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL
BENEFITS, HEALTH BENEFITS, AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROJECT TO
THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE; AND~~

~~(VII) AN ANALYSIS OF OTHER BENEFITS RESULTING FROM THE
PROJECT, INCLUDING INCREASED IN-STATE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND
MAINTENANCE NEEDS, AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASES;~~

~~(3) INCLUDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE TIMELINE FOR
CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING:~~

~~(I) IDENTIFYING THE ENTITY THAT HAS OWNERSHIP OR SITE
CONTROL OF THE PROJECT SITE;~~

~~(II) QUEUE POSITION FOR PJM INTERCONNECTION APPROVAL;
AND~~

~~(III) THE ABILITY TO PROCURE MATERIALS, INCLUDING
TURBINES AND OTHER PIPELINE MATERIALS;~~

~~(4) INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCATION OF THE PROJECT
SITE, INCLUDING:~~

~~(I) THE PROXIMITY OF THE SITE TO EXISTING TRANSMISSION
LINES AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY; AND~~

~~(H) WHETHER THE PROJECT WOULD BE RETROFITTING A
CURRENT OR PREVIOUS GENERATING STATION SITE; AND~~

~~(5) IF APPLICABLE, INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF:~~

~~(I) THE TYPE AND AMOUNT OF CO-LOCATED ENERGY
GENERATION FROM TIER 1 RENEWABLE SOURCES, AS DEFINED IN § 7-701 OF THIS
TITLE, THAT WOULD BE USED WITH THE PROJECT;~~

~~(H) THE AMOUNT OF CO-LOCATED ENERGY STORAGE THAT
WOULD BE USED WITH THE PROJECT;~~

~~(HH) THE USE OF CARBON CAPTURE OR SEQUESTRATION
TECHNOLOGY TO MITIGATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM THE PROJECT; AND~~

~~(IV) THE AMOUNT OF HYDROGEN OR ZERO-EMISSIONS
BIOFUELS THAT THE PROJECT WILL MIX WITH NATURAL GAS FOR ENERGY
GENERATION.~~

~~7-1205.~~

~~(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL USE THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA TO EVALUATE
AND COMPARE PROPOSALS FOR DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS
SUBMITTED DURING A SOLICITATION PERIOD UNDER § 7-1202 OF THIS SUBTITLE:~~

~~(1) THE LOWEST-COST IMPACT ON RATEPAYERS;~~

~~(2) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS SUBMITTED
UNDER § 7-1204 OF THIS SUBTITLE DEMONSTRATES POSITIVE NET ECONOMIC,
ENVIRONMENTAL, AND HEALTH BENEFITS TO THE STATE;~~

~~(3) THE TIMELINE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT,
INCLUDING:~~

~~(I) IDENTIFYING THE ENTITY THAT HAS OWNERSHIP OR SITE
CONTROL OF THE PROJECT SITE;~~

~~(H) POSITION IN THE PJM INTERCONNECTION QUEUE; AND~~

~~(HH) ABILITY TO PROCURE MATERIALS, INCLUDING TURBINES
AND OTHER PIPELINE MATERIALS;~~

~~(4) THE LOCATION OF THE PROJECT SITE, INCLUDING THE
PROXIMITY OF THE SITE TO EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINES AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY;~~

~~(5) WHETHER THE PROJECT WOULD BE RETROFITTING A CURRENT OR PAST GENERATING STATION SITE; AND~~

~~(6) IF APPLICABLE:~~

~~(i) THE TYPE AND AMOUNT OF CO-LOCATED ENERGY GENERATION FROM TIER 1 RENEWABLE SOURCES, AS DEFINED IN § 7-701 OF THIS TITLE, THAT WOULD BE USED WITH THE PROJECT;~~

~~(ii) THE AMOUNT OF CO-LOCATED ENERGY STORAGE THAT WOULD BE USED WITH THE PROJECT;~~

~~(iii) THE USE OF CARBON CAPTURE OR SEQUESTRATION TECHNOLOGY TO MITIGATE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS FROM THE PROJECT; AND~~

~~(iv) THE AMOUNT OF HYDROGEN OR ZERO EMISSIONS BIOFUELS THAT THE PROJECT WILL MIX WITH NATURAL GAS FOR ENERGY GENERATION.~~

~~(B) IN EVALUATING AND COMPARING A PROPOSAL FOR A DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION MAY CONTRACT FOR THE SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS AND EXPERTS.~~

~~7-1206. RESERVED.~~

~~7-1207. RESERVED.~~

7-1209.

(A) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION MAY APPROVE UP TO 10 PROPOSALS TO BE ELIGIBLE TO UNDERGO THE EXPEDITED CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY PROCESS UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS TITLE.

(2) THE COMMISSION MAY APPROVE MORE THAN 10 PROPOSALS TO BE ELIGIBLE TO UNDERGO THE EXPEDITED CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY PROCESS UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS TITLE ONLY IF THE COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT:

(I) THE COMMISSION HAS SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO COMPLETE THAT NUMBER OF EXPEDITED REVIEWS OF APPLICATIONS FOR A

CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS TITLE; AND

(II) THE NUMBER OF EXPEDITED REVIEWS OF APPLICATIONS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS TITLE IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST.

(3) IF NOT MORE THAN 10 PROJECTS RESPOND TO A SOLICITATION ISSUED UNDER § 7-1206 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE, SUBJECT TO § 7-1208(D)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE, ALL PROJECTS THAT APPLY FOR THE SOLICITATION.

(B) (1) FOR THE PURPOSE OF THIS SUBSECTION, A TRANSMISSION ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE SHALL BE CONSIDERED A NON-EMISSIONS-EMITTING PROJECT.

(2) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE 4 NON-EMISSIONS-EMITTING PROJECTS TO EVERY 1 EMISSIONS-EMITTING PROJECT.

(3) THE COMMISSION MAY WAIVE THE REQUIREMENT UNDER PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION IF A SUFFICIENT NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENT ARE NOT RECEIVED.

(C) (1) IN DETERMINING WHICH PROPOSALS TO APPROVE, THE COMMISSION SHALL PRIORITIZE DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS OVER LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCES.

(2) IN ADDITION TO THE PRIORITIZATION IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, IF THE COMMISSION RECEIVES MORE THAN 10 PROPOSALS OR DETERMINES THAT MORE THAN 10 PROPOSALS MAY BE APPROVED UNDER § 7-1208 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE COMMISSION SHALL BASE THE APPROVALS ON:

(I) WHICH PROJECTS WILL PROVIDE THE HIGHEST CAPACITY VALUE TO THE STATE;

(II) THE TIMELINESS OF A PROJECT TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION;

(III) THE TIMELINESS OF A PROJECT TO BEGIN OPERATION; AND

(IV) WHICH PROJECTS HAVE THE LOWEST EMISSIONS INTENSITY.

1 (D) THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE WHEN THE PROCEEDINGS FOR A
2 CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS
3 TITLE WILL BEGIN FOR A PROPOSAL APPROVED UNDER THIS PART.

4 (E) THE COMMISSION MAY CONTRACT FOR THE SERVICES OF
5 INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS AND EXPERTS IN EVALUATING AND COMPARING
6 WHETHER A PROPOSAL SHALL BE APPROVED TO BE ELIGIBLE TO UNDERGO AN
7 EXPEDITED CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY PROCESS
8 UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS TITLE.

9 (F) A PROPOSAL THAT IS NOT APPROVED TO BE ELIGIBLE TO UNDERGO AN
10 EXPEDITED CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY PROCESS
11 UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS TITLE MAY APPLY FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC
12 CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER § 7-207 OF THIS TITLE.

13 7-1210. RESERVED.

14 7-1211. RESERVED.

15 ~~PART II.~~ PART III. NUCLEAR ENERGY ~~PROCUREMENT.~~

16 ~~7-1208.~~ 7-1212.

17 (A) (1) AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF COMMISSION REGULATIONS
18 IMPLEMENTING THIS PART, A PERSON MAY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE
19 COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION
20 PROJECT, INCLUDING AN APPLICATION TO UPGRADE THE GENERATION
21 CAPABILITIES OF AN EXISTING NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION.

22 (2) FOR AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
23 PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE SHALL
24 BE BASED ONLY ON ANY NEW GENERATION PROPOSED IN THE APPLICATION,
25 INCLUDING NEW GENERATION AT AN EXISTING NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATING
26 STATION.

27 (B) (1) ON RECEIPT OF AN APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED
28 NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT, THE COMMISSION SHALL:

29 (I) OPEN AN APPLICATION PERIOD DURING WHICH OTHER
30 INTERESTED PERSONS MAY SUBMIT APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED
31 NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT; AND

(II) PROVIDE NOTICE THAT THE COMMISSION IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR APPROVAL OF PROPOSED NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS.

(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL SET THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE APPLICATION PERIOD TO BE NOT SOONER THAN 90 DAYS AFTER THE NOTICE PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE AT LEAST TWO ADDITIONAL APPLICATION PERIODS BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2031.

(D) THE COMMISSION MAY PROVIDE ADDITIONAL APPLICATION PERIODS THAT MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

~~7-1209.~~ 7-1213.

~~(A) UNLESS EXTENDED BY MUTUAL CONSENT OF THE PARTIES~~ SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE, CONDITIONALLY APPROVE, OR DENY AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER § 7-1208 § 7-1212 OF THIS SUBTITLE WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE APPLICATION PERIOD.

(B) THE COMMISSION MAY EXTEND THE TIME TO APPROVE, CONDITIONALLY APPROVE, OR DENY AN APPLICATION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION FOR GOOD CAUSE.

~~7-1210.~~ 7-1214.

AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED FOR A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT UNDER ~~§ 7-1208~~ § 7-1212 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL INCLUDE:

(1) A DETAILED DESCRIPTION AND FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECT;

(2) THE PROPOSED METHOD OF FINANCING THE PROJECT, INCLUDING DOCUMENTATION DEMONSTRATING THAT THE APPLICANT HAS APPLIED FOR ALL CURRENT ELIGIBLE STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS, REBATES, TAX CREDITS, LOAN GUARANTEES, AND OTHER PROGRAMS AVAILABLE TO OFFSET THE COST OF THE PROJECT OR PROVIDE TAX ADVANTAGES;

(3) A COMMITMENT THAT THE APPLICANT WILL USE BEST EFFORTS TO APPLY FOR ALL ELIGIBLE STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS, REBATES, TAX CREDITS, LOAN GUARANTEES, OR OTHER SIMILAR BENEFITS AS THOSE BENEFITS BECOME AVAILABLE;

1 (4) A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS THAT SHALL INCLUDE, AT A MINIMUM:

2 (I) A DETAILED INPUT-OUTPUT ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF
3 THE PROJECT ON INCOME, EMPLOYMENT, WAGES, AND TAXES IN THE STATE;

4 (II) DETAILED INFORMATION CONCERNING ASSUMED
5 EMPLOYMENT IMPACTS IN THE STATE, INCLUDING THE EXPECTED DURATION OF
6 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, THE SALARY OF EACH POSITION, AND OTHER
7 SUPPORTING EVIDENCE OF EMPLOYMENT IMPACTS;

8 (III) AN ANALYSIS OF ANY IMPACT ON RESIDENTIAL,
9 COMMERCIAL, AND INDUSTRIAL RATEPAYERS OVER THE LIFE OF THE PROJECT;

10 (IV) AN ANALYSIS OF ANY LONG-TERM EFFECT ON ENERGY AND
11 CAPACITY MARKETS AS A RESULT OF THE PROJECT;

12 (V) AN ANALYSIS OF ANY IMPACT THE PROJECT WOULD HAVE
13 ON BUSINESSES IN THE STATE;

14 (VI) AN ANALYSIS OF THE ANTICIPATED ENVIRONMENTAL
15 BENEFITS, HEALTH BENEFITS, AND ~~ENVIRONMENTAL~~ ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF THE
16 PROJECT TO THE CITIZENS OF THE STATE; AND

17 (VII) AN ANALYSIS OF OTHER BENEFITS RESULTING FROM THE
18 PROJECT, INCLUDING INCREASED IN-STATE CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND
19 MAINTENANCE NEEDS, AND EQUIPMENT PURCHASES;

20 (5) A PROPOSED LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE FOR THE PROJECT
21 THAT SHALL SPECIFY A PRICE FOR THE GENERATION ATTRIBUTES, INCLUDING THE
22 ENERGY, CAPACITY, ANCILLARY SERVICES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL ATTRIBUTES;

23 (6) A DECOMMISSIONING AND WASTE STORAGE PLAN FOR THE
24 PROJECT, INCLUDING PROVISIONS FOR DECOMMISSIONING OR WASTE STORAGE AS
25 REQUIRED BY THE U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION;

26 (7) A COMMITMENT TO ABIDE BY THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN
27 ~~§ 7-1213~~ § 7-1202 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

28 (8) A DESCRIPTION OF THE APPLICANT'S PLAN FOR ENGAGING SMALL
29 BUSINESSES, AS DEFINED IN § 14-501 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT
30 ARTICLE;

(9) IF APPLICABLE, THE STATEMENT SPECIFIED IN ~~§ 7-1211(C)(2)~~ § 7-1215(B)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(10) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE COMMISSION REQUIRES.

~~7-1211.~~ 7-1215.

(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL USE THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA TO EVALUATE AND COMPARE APPLICATIONS FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS SUBMITTED DURING AN APPLICATION PERIOD UNDER ~~§ 7-1208~~ § 7-1212 OF THIS SUBTITLE:

(1) THE LOWEST COST IMPACT ON RATEPAYERS OF THE PRICE SET UNDER A PROPOSED LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE;

(2) POTENTIAL REDUCTIONS IN TRANSMISSION CONGESTION PRICES WITHIN THE STATE;

(3) POTENTIAL CHANGES IN CAPACITY PRICES WITHIN THE STATE;

(4) POTENTIAL REDUCTIONS IN LOCATIONAL MARGINAL PRICING;

(5) POTENTIAL LONG-TERM CHANGES IN CAPACITY PRICES WITHIN THE STATE FROM THE PROJECT AS IT COMPARES TO CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES;

(6) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS SUBMITTED UNDER ~~§ 7-1210~~ § 7-1214 OF THIS SUBTITLE DEMONSTRATES POSITIVE NET ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND HEALTH BENEFITS TO THE STATE;

(7) THE EXTENT TO WHICH AN APPLICANT'S PLAN FOR ENGAGING SMALL BUSINESSES MEETS THE GOALS SPECIFIED IN TITLE 14, SUBTITLE 5 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE;

(8) THE EXTENT TO WHICH AN APPLICANT'S PLAN PROVIDES FOR THE USE OF SKILLED LABOR, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURING COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT, THROUGH OUTREACH, HIRING, OR REFERRAL SYSTEMS THAT ARE AFFILIATED WITH REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE;

(9) THE EXTENT TO WHICH AN APPLICANT'S PLAN PROVIDES FOR THE USE OF AN AGREEMENT DESIGNED TO ENSURE THE USE OF SKILLED LABOR AND TO PROMOTE THE PROMPT, EFFICIENT, AND SAFE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT,

1 PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION, MANUFACTURING, AND
2 MAINTENANCE OF THE PROJECT;

3 (10) THE EXTENT TO WHICH AN APPLICANT'S PLAN PROVIDES FOR
4 COMPENSATION TO ITS EMPLOYEES AND SUBCONTRACTORS CONSISTENT WITH
5 WAGES OUTLINED UNDER TITLE 17, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND
6 PROCUREMENT ARTICLE;

7 (11) SITING AND PROJECT FEASIBILITY;

8 (12) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PROJECT WOULD REQUIRE
9 TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE
10 STATE; AND

11 (13) ANY OTHER CRITERIA THAT THE COMMISSION DETERMINES ARE
12 APPROPRIATE.

13 (B) ~~IN EVALUATING AND COMPARING AN APPLICATION FOR A NUCLEAR~~
14 ~~ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE~~
15 ~~COMMISSION MAY CONTRACT FOR THE SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS~~
16 ~~AND EXPERTS.~~

17 ~~(C)~~ (1) IN THIS PARAGRAPH, "MINORITY" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS
18 A MEMBER OF ANY OF THE GROUPS LISTED IN § 14-301(K)(1)(I) OF THE STATE
19 FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.

20 (2) IF AN APPLICANT IS SEEKING INVESTORS IN A PROPOSED
21 NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT, THE APPLICANT SHALL TAKE THE
22 FOLLOWING STEPS BEFORE THE COMMISSION MAY APPROVE THE PROPOSED
23 PROJECT:

24 (I) MAKE SERIOUS, GOOD-FAITH EFFORTS TO SOLICIT AND
25 INTERVIEW A REASONABLE NUMBER OF MINORITY INVESTORS;

26 (II) AS PART OF THE APPLICATION, SUBMIT A STATEMENT TO
27 THE COMMISSION THAT LISTS THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF ALL MINORITY
28 INVESTORS INTERVIEWED AND WHETHER OR NOT ANY OF THOSE INVESTORS HAVE
29 PURCHASED AN EQUITY SHARE IN THE ENTITY SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION;

30 (III) SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE
31 COMMISSION THAT REQUIRES THE APPLICANT TO AGAIN MAKE SERIOUS,
32 GOOD-FAITH EFFORTS TO SOLICIT AND INTERVIEW A REASONABLE NUMBER OF
33 MINORITY INVESTORS IN ANY FUTURE ATTEMPTS TO RAISE VENTURE CAPITAL OR
34 ATTRACT NEW INVESTORS TO THE PROJECT;

(IV) SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COMMISSION THAT REQUIRES THE APPLICANT TO USE BEST EFFORTS AND EFFECTIVE OUTREACH TO OBTAIN, AS A GOAL, CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS FOR THE PROJECT THAT ARE MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, AS SUPPORTED BY A DISPARITY STUDY; AND

(V) SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE COMMISSION AND SKILLED LABOR ORGANIZATIONS THAT REQUIRES THE APPLICANT TO FOLLOW THE PORTIONS OF THE APPLICANT'S PLAN THAT RELATE TO THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN SUBSECTION (A)(8) AND (9) OF THIS SECTION.

(3) THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SMALL, MINORITY, AND WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, SHALL PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO ALL POTENTIAL APPLICANTS AND POTENTIAL MINORITY INVESTORS TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)(I) AND (III) OF THIS SUBSECTION.

~~7-1212.~~ 7-1216.

(A) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT APPROVE AN APPLICATION FOR A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT SUBMITTED UNDER ~~§ 7-1208~~ § 7-1212 OF THIS SUBTITLE UNLESS:

(1) THE PROJECT IS CONNECTED TO THE ELECTRIC ~~DISTRIBUTION~~ SYSTEM SERVING THE STATE;

(2) OVER THE DURATION OF THE PROPOSED LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE, THE PROJECTED NET RATE IMPACT FOR AN AVERAGE RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER, BASED ON ANNUAL CONSUMPTION OF 12,000 KILOWATT-HOURS AND COMBINED WITH THE PROJECTED NET RATE IMPACT OF OTHER NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS, DOES NOT EXCEED AN AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION;

(3) OVER THE DURATION OF THE PROPOSED LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE, THE PROJECTED NET RATE IMPACT FOR ALL NONRESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS, CONSIDERED AS A BLENDED AVERAGE AND COMBINED WITH THE PROJECTED NET RATE IMPACT OF OTHER NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS, DOES NOT EXCEED A PERCENTAGE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION OF NONRESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS' TOTAL ANNUAL ELECTRIC BILLS; AND

(4) THE PRICE SPECIFIED IN THE PROPOSED LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE DOES NOT EXCEED AN AMOUNT DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION.

(B) WHEN CALCULATING THE PROJECTED NET AVERAGE RATE IMPACTS FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPLY THE SAME NET LONG-TERM COST PER MEGAWATT-HOUR TO RESIDENTIAL AND NONRESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS.

(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL KEEP CONFIDENTIAL ANY AMOUNTS DETERMINED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

~~7-1213.~~

~~(A) AN APPLICATION FOR A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT SUBMITTED UNDER § 7-1208 OF THIS SUBTITLE IS SUBJECT TO A COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT.~~

~~(B) A COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT SHALL:~~

~~(1) BE APPLICABLE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT;~~

~~(2) PROMOTE INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SMALL, MINORITY, WOMEN-OWNED, AND VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE RENEWABLE ENERGY INDUSTRY;~~

~~(3) ENSURE THE TIMELY, SAFE, AND EFFICIENT COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT BY:~~

~~(I) FACILITATING A STEADY SUPPLY OF HIGHLY SKILLED CRAFT WORKERS WHO SHALL BE PAID NOT LESS THAN THE PREVAILING WAGE RATE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY UNDER TITLE 17, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE; AND~~

~~(II) GUARANTEEING THAT THE CONSTRUCTION WORK PERFORMED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT WILL BE SUBJECT TO AN AGREEMENT THAT:~~

~~1. IS WITH ONE OR MORE LABOR ORGANIZATIONS; AND~~

~~2. ESTABLISHES, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION, THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF THE PROJECT OR A PORTION OF THE PROJECT;~~

~~(4) PROMOTE SAFE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT BY ENSURING THAT AT LEAST 80% OF THE CRAFT WORKERS ON THE PROJECT HAVE COMPLETED~~

~~AN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION 10-HOUR OR 30-HOUR COURSE;~~

~~(5) PROMOTE CAREER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MANUFACTURING, MAINTENANCE, AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS, VETERANS, WOMEN, AND MINORITIES;~~

~~(6) PROVIDE FOR BEST EFFORTS AND EFFECTIVE OUTREACH TO OBTAIN, AS A GOAL, THE USE OF A WORKFORCE INCLUDING MINORITIES, TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE;~~

~~(7) REFLECT A 21ST-CENTURY LABOR MANAGEMENT APPROACH BY DEVELOPERS AND SUPPLIERS BASED ON COOPERATION, HARMONY, AND PARTNERSHIP THAT PROACTIVELY SEEKS TO ENSURE THAT WORKERS CAN FREELY CHOOSE TO BOTH ORGANIZE AND COLLECTIVELY BARGAIN;~~

~~(8) PROVIDE PLANS TO USE DOMESTIC IRON, STEEL, AND MANUFACTURED GOODS TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE BY DISCLOSING CONTRACTED SUPPLIERS;~~

~~(9) USE LOCALLY AND DOMESTICALLY MANUFACTURED CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS AND COMPONENTS;~~

~~(10) MAXIMIZE THE USE OF SKILLED LOCAL LABOR, PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION AND MANUFACTURING COMPONENTS OF THE PROJECT, USING METHODS INCLUDING OUTREACH, HIRING, OR REFERRAL METHODS THAT ARE AFFILIATED WITH REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS UNDER TITLE 11, SUBTITLE 4 OF THE LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT ARTICLE;~~

~~(11) GUARANTEE AGAINST STRIKES, LOCKOUTS, AND SIMILAR DISRUPTIONS;~~

~~(12) ENSURE THAT ALL WORK ON THE PROJECT FULLY CONFORMS TO ALL RELEVANT STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS, RULES, AND REGULATIONS;~~

~~(13) CREATE MUTUALLY BINDING PROCEDURES FOR RESOLVING LABOR DISPUTES ARISING DURING THE TERM OF THE PROJECT;~~

~~(14) SET FORTH OTHER MECHANISMS FOR LABOR MANAGEMENT COOPERATION ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND CONCERN, INCLUDING PRODUCTIVITY, QUALITY OF WORK, SAFETY, AND HEALTH; AND~~

~~(15) BIND ALL CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS TO THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF APPROPRIATE PROVISIONS IN ALL RELEVANT SOLICITATION AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS.~~

~~7-1214.~~ 7-1217.

(A) AN ORDER THE COMMISSION ISSUES APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT SUBMITTED UNDER ~~§ 7-1208~~ § 7-1212 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL:

(1) SPECIFY THE LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE;

(2) SPECIFY THE DURATION OF THE LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE, NOT TO EXCEED 30 YEARS;

(3) PROVIDE THAT:

(I) A PAYMENT MAY NOT BE MADE UNDER A LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE UNTIL ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IS GENERATED BY THE PROJECT; AND

(II) RATEPAYERS AND THE STATE SHALL BE HELD HARMLESS FOR ANY COST OVERRUNS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROJECT; AND

(4) REQUIRE THAT ANY DEBT INSTRUMENT ISSUED IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROJECT INCLUDE LANGUAGE SPECIFYING THAT THE DEBT INSTRUMENT DOES NOT ESTABLISH A DEBT, AN OBLIGATION, OR A LIABILITY OF THE STATE.

(B) AN ORDER APPROVING A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT VESTS THE OWNER OF THE PROJECT WITH THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE PAYMENTS ACCORDING TO THE TERMS IN THE ORDER.

(C) ON OR BEFORE MARCH 1 EACH YEAR, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ENERGY, AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE HOUSE ECONOMIC MATTERS COMMITTEE ON:

(1) APPLICANT COMPLIANCE WITH THE MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION GOALS UNDER ~~§ 7-1211(C)~~ § 7-1215(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND

(2) WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT UNDER ~~§ 7-1213~~ § 7-1202 OF THIS SUBTITLE:

(I) THE AVAILABILITY AND USE OF OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES AND SMALL, MINORITY, WOMEN-OWNED, AND VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES;

(II) THE SUCCESS OF EFFORTS TO PROMOTE CAREER TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE MANUFACTURING, MAINTENANCE, AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRIES FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS, VETERANS, WOMEN, AND MINORITIES; AND

(III) COMPLIANCE WITH THE MINORITY WORKFORCE GOAL UNDER ~~§ 7-1213(B)~~ § 7-1202 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

~~7-1215, 7-1218.~~

(A) ~~(1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, IF~~ IF THE COMMISSION APPROVES ~~PROPOSALS THAT DEMONSTRATE~~ AN APPLICATION THAT DEMONSTRATES, BASED ON THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN ~~§ 7-1210~~ § 7-1214 OF THIS SUBTITLE, POSITIVE NET ECONOMIC, IMPACTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL, AND HEALTH BENEFITS TO THE STATE, THE COMMISSION SHALL ~~APPROVE ORDERS TO FACILITATE THE FINANCING OF NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS~~ ISSUE AN ORDER IN COMPLIANCE WITH § 7-1217 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

~~(2) WHEN CALCULATING THE NET BENEFITS TO THE STATE UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION MAY CONTRACT FOR THE SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS AND EXPERTS.~~

(B) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ~~APPROVE~~ ISSUE AN ORDER TO FACILITATE THE FINANCING OF A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT UNLESS THE PROJECT IS SUBJECT TO A COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT UNDER ~~§ 7-1213~~ § 7-1202 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

~~7-1216, 7-1219.~~

(A) THE FINDINGS AND EVIDENCE RELIED ON BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM UNDER TITLE 14, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE ARE INCORPORATED IN THIS SECTION.

(B) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND AUTHORIZED BY THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION, AN APPLICANT APPROVED FOR A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT UNDER ~~§ 7-1209~~ § 7-1213 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL COMPLY WITH THE STATE'S MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM.

(C) (1) WITHIN 6 MONTHS AFTER THE ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER THAT APPROVES A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT AND INCLUDES A

1 LONG-TERM PRICING COMPONENT, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SMALL,
2 MINORITY, AND WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE
3 OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE APPROVED APPLICANT, SHALL ESTABLISH A
4 CLEAR PLAN FOR SETTING REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE MINORITY BUSINESS
5 ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION GOALS AND PROCEDURES FOR EACH PHASE OF THE
6 NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT.

7 (2) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE, THE GOALS AND PROCEDURES SET
8 IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE BASED ON
9 THE REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE 14, SUBTITLE 3 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND
10 PROCUREMENT ARTICLE AND THE REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTING THAT SUBTITLE.

11 (3) EVERY 6 MONTHS FOLLOWING THE ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER THAT
12 APPROVES A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT AND INCLUDES A
13 LONG-TERM PRICING COMPONENT, THE APPROVED APPLICANT SHALL SUBMIT A
14 REPORT ON THE PROGRESS MADE TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT MINORITY
15 BUSINESS ENTERPRISE GOALS AND PROCEDURES TO THE COMMISSION.

16 ~~7-1217.~~ 7-1220.

17 (A) IN THIS SECTION, "ZERO-EMISSION CREDIT" MEANS THE DIFFERENCE
18 BETWEEN THE PRICE THAT A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION WITH A
19 LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE APPROVED IN AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER § 7-1217
20 OF THIS SUBTITLE MAY RECEIVE ON THE WHOLESALE MARKET AND THE COST OF
21 CONSTRUCTING THE NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION.

22 (B) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT:

23 (1) ESTABLISH THE NUCLEAR ENERGY LONG-TERM PRICING
24 PURCHASE OBLIGATION SUFFICIENTLY IN ADVANCE TO ALLOW AN ELECTRIC
25 COMPANY TO REFLECT NUCLEAR ENERGY LONG-TERM PRICING COSTS AS A
26 NONBYPASSABLE SURCHARGE ~~PAID BY ALL DISTRIBUTION CUSTOMERS OF THE~~
27 ~~ELECTRIC COMPANY~~ THAT IS ADDED TO THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S BASE
28 DISTRIBUTION RATE ON CUSTOMER BILLS;

29 ~~(2) ESTABLISH A NONBYPASSABLE SURCHARGE THAT ALLOWS AN~~
30 ~~ELECTRIC COMPANY TO RECOVER ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PURCHASE OF~~
31 ~~NUCLEAR ENERGY FROM ALL DISTRIBUTION CUSTOMERS OF THE ELECTRIC~~
32 ~~COMPANY;~~

33 ~~(3) ESTABLISH AN ESCROW ACCOUNT THAT IS UNDER COMMISSION~~
34 ~~SUPERVISION; AND~~

~~(4)~~ DEFINE RULES THAT FACILITATE AND ENSURE THE SECURE AND
TRANSPARENT TRANSFER OF REVENUES AND LONG-TERM PRICING PAYMENTS
AMONG PARTIES;

(3) DEFINE THE TERMS AND PROCEDURES OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY
LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE OBLIGATIONS, INCLUDING:

(I) ESTABLISHING A FORMULA AND PROCESS TO ADJUST THE
VALUE OF THE LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE EVERY 2 YEARS BASED ON
PROJECTED WHOLESALE MARKET PRICES ADJUSTED BY THE LOCATIONAL VALUE
AND EARNING POTENTIAL IN THE PJM REGION OF THE NUCLEAR ENERGY
GENERATING STATION; AND

(II) ESTABLISHING A PER MEGAWATT HOUR CAP ON ANY
LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE SPECIFIED IN AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER § 7-1217
OF THIS SUBTITLE;

(4) REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH AN ESCROW ACCOUNT;
AND

(5) TO MEET THE TOTAL STATEWIDE LONG-TERM PRICING PURCHASE
OBLIGATION FOR ALL APPLICATIONS APPROVED IN AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER §
7-1217 OF THIS SUBTITLE, REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO ANNUALLY ESTABLISH
EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY'S ZERO-EMISSION CREDIT PURCHASE OBLIGATION
BASED ON THE MOST RECENT FINAL ELECTRICITY SALES DATA AS REPORTED BY
PJM INTERCONNECTION AND MEASURED AT THE CUSTOMER'S METER IN
PROPORTION TO THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S SHARE OF STATEWIDE LOAD.

~~(B) (C)~~ (1) EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY SHALL PROCURE FROM THE
ESCROW ACCOUNT ESTABLISHED BY REGULATION UNDER THIS SECTION A ~~VOLUME~~
~~QUANTITY OF NUCLEAR ENERGY~~ ZERO-EMISSION CREDITS EQUAL TO THE ELECTRIC
COMPANY'S RESPECTIVE PERCENTAGE OF RETAIL ELECTRIC SALES EACH YEAR.

(2) ~~(H)~~ SUBJECT TO ANY ESCROW ACCOUNT RESERVE
REQUIREMENT THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHES, IF THERE ~~IS~~ ARE INSUFFICIENT
~~NUCLEAR ENERGY~~ ZERO-EMISSION CREDITS AVAILABLE TO SATISFY THE ELECTRIC
COMPANIES' ~~NUCLEAR ENERGY OBLIGATION~~ ZERO-EMISSION CREDIT PURCHASE
OBLIGATIONS, THE OVERPAYMENT SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ELECTRIC
COMPANIES TO BE REFUNDED OR CREDITED TO EACH DISTRIBUTION CUSTOMER
BASED ON THE CUSTOMER'S CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY THAT IS
SUBJECT TO THE RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD.

~~(H) SUBJECT TO ANY ESCROW ACCOUNT RESERVE
REQUIREMENT THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHES, THE CALCULATION OF AN~~

~~ELECTRIC COMPANY'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PURCHASE OBLIGATION SHALL BE BASED ON FINAL ELECTRICITY SALES DATA AS REPORTED BY PJM INTERCONNECTION AND MEASURED AT THE CUSTOMER METER.~~

~~(3) FOR EACH LONG TERM PRICING SCHEDULE FOR WHICH A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT RECEIVES PAYMENT, THE PROJECT SHALL:~~

~~(I) SELL ALL ENERGY, CAPACITY, AND ANCILLARY SERVICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE CREATION OF THE LONG TERM PRICING INTO THE MARKETS OPERATED BY PJM INTERCONNECTION; AND~~

~~(H) DISTRIBUTE THE PROCEEDS RECEIVED FROM THE SALES UNDER ITEM (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH TO ELECTRIC COMPANIES TO BE REFUNDED OR CREDITED TO EACH DISTRIBUTION CUSTOMER BASED ON THE CUSTOMER'S CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD.~~

~~(C)~~ (D) A DEBT, AN OBLIGATION, OR A LIABILITY OF A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT OR OF AN OWNER OR OPERATOR OF A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT MAY NOT BE CONSIDERED A DEBT, AN OBLIGATION, OR A LIABILITY OF THE STATE.

~~7-1218.~~ 7-1221.

ON OR BEFORE JULY 1, 2027, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS PART.

7-1222. RESERVED.

7-1223. RESERVED.

PART IV. TRANSMISSION ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES.

7-1224.

(A) THE COMMISSION SHALL, BY REGULATION OR ORDER, ESTABLISH A COMPETITIVE PROCESS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF PROJECTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF FRONT-OF-THE-METER TRANSMISSION ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES IN THE STATE.

(B) (1) (I) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE A PROCUREMENT SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS FOR THE

CONSTRUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF FRONT-OF-THE-METER TRANSMISSION
ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES.

(II) THE PROCUREMENT SOLICITATION SHALL BE FOR A
MAXIMUM OF 800 MEGAWATTS OF CUMULATIVE ENERGY STORAGE CAPACITY, AS
MEASURED IN EFFECTIVE NAMEPLATE CAPACITY.

(2) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE
A DECISION ON WHETHER TO APPROVE ONE OR MORE PROPOSALS IN ACCORDANCE
WITH § 7-1226(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(3) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
PARAGRAPH, THE TRANSMISSION ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES PROCURED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE OPERATIONAL WITHIN 24 MONTHS
AFTER A PROJECT IS SELECTED BY THE COMMISSION.

(II) THE COMMISSION MAY EXTEND THE OPERATING DEADLINE
UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN.

(C) (1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2027, THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE
A SECOND PROCUREMENT SOLICITATION FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF PROJECTS
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF FRONT-OF-THE-METER
TRANSMISSION ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES.

(2) THE PROCUREMENT SOLICITATION SHALL BE FOR A MAXIMUM OF
800 MEGAWATTS OF CUMULATIVE ENERGY STORAGE CAPACITY, AS MEASURED IN
EFFECTIVE NAMEPLATE CAPACITY.

(3) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2027, THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE
A DECISION ON WHETHER TO APPROVE ONE OR MORE PROPOSALS IN ACCORDANCE
WITH § 7-1226(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(4) (I) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN SUBPARAGRAPH (II) OF THIS
PARAGRAPH, THE TRANSMISSION ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES PROCURED IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SUBSECTION SHALL BE OPERATIONAL WITHIN 24 MONTHS
AFTER A PROJECT IS SELECTED BY THE COMMISSION.

(II) THE COMMISSION MAY EXTEND THE OPERATING DEADLINE
UNDER SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN.

7-1225.

1 (A) THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE SPECIFICATIONS IN A
2 PROCUREMENT SOLICITATION ISSUED UNDER § 7-1224 OF THIS SUBTITLE THAT
3 REQUIRE EACH PROPOSAL TO:

4 (1) INCLUDE A PROPOSED PRICING SCHEDULE FOR THE
5 TRANSMISSION ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT THAT:

6 (I) IS FOR AT LEAST 15 YEARS; AND

7 (II) REPRESENTS THE ANTICIPATED MONTHLY WHOLESALE
8 VALUE OF CAPACITY PER MEGAWATT AND OTHER BENEFITS IDENTIFIED IN A
9 COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS, BUT NOT INCLUDING ANY ANTICIPATED WHOLESALE
10 ENERGY AND ANCILLARY SERVICES REVENUE;

11 (2) INCLUDE A COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS OF THE PROJECT AND
12 PROPOSED PRICING SCHEDULE COMPARISON ON A DOLLAR-PER-MEGAWATT-HOUR
13 BASIS, INCLUDING AN ANALYSIS OF:

14 (I) THE LOCATIONAL VALUE AND TIME TO DEPLOYMENT OF
15 THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES;

16 (II) THE VALUE OF LONG-DURATION STORAGE, INCLUDING ITS
17 CAPACITY ACCREDITATION VALUE FOR RESOURCE ADEQUACY AS MEASURED IN
18 PJM INTERCONNECTION'S EFFECTIVE LOAD CARRYING CAPABILITY CLASS
19 RATINGS;

20 (III) AVOIDED OR DELAYED TRANSMISSION, GENERATION, AND
21 DISTRIBUTION COSTS;

22 (IV) AVOIDED EMISSIONS IN THE SHORT TERM AND PROJECTED
23 AVOIDED EMISSIONS IN THE LONG TERM, MEASURED USING THE SOCIAL COST OF
24 CARBON, AS DETERMINED BY THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY AS
25 OF JANUARY 1, 2025;

26 (V) THE VALUE OF THE RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF ENERGY
27 STORAGE DEVICES;

28 (VI) THE VALUE OF RELIABILITY DURING PERIODS OF ELECTRIC
29 SYSTEM STRESS, INCLUDING THE ABILITY TO DELIVER CAPACITY DURING PERIODS
30 OF EXTREME WEATHER, FUEL SCARCITY, AND LARGE UNPLANNED RESOURCE
31 OUTAGES; AND

32 (VII) ANY OTHER AVOIDED COSTS;

1 (3) ENSURE THAT THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF THE PROJECT HAS
2 THE CAPABILITY TO EXPORT ELECTRICITY FOR SALE ON THE WHOLESALE MARKET
3 AND BID INTO THE PJM CAPACITY MARKET UNDER AN AGREEMENT WITH PJM
4 INTERCONNECTION;

5 (4) ENSURE THAT THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES CAN DELIVER
6 THEIR EFFECTIVE NAMEPLATE CAPACITY;

7 (5) INCORPORATE A COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT;

8 (6) ATTEST IN WRITING THAT ALL CONTRACTORS AND
9 SUBCONTRACTORS WORKING ON THE PROJECT HAVE BEEN IN COMPLIANCE WITH
10 FEDERAL AND STATE WAGE AND HOUR LAWS FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING 3
11 YEARS OR THE DURATION OF THE CONTRACTOR'S OR SUBCONTRACTOR'S BUSINESS
12 OPERATION, WHICHEVER IS LONGER; AND

13 (7) ENSURE A COMPETITIVE BIDDING PROCESS, INCLUDING BY
14 REDACTING PROPRIETARY INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THE COMMISSION.

15 (B) AN ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE SHALL BE CONSIDERED CAPABLE OF
16 DELIVERING ITS EFFECTIVE NAMEPLATE CAPACITY UNDER THIS SECTION IF:

17 (1) THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE WILL HAVE THE CAPACITY
18 INTERCONNECTION RIGHTS WITH PJM INTERCONNECTION EQUAL TO ITS
19 EFFECTIVE NAMEPLATE CAPACITY; OR

20 (2) (I) THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE WILL HAVE SURPLUS
21 INTERCONNECTION SERVICE WITH PJM INTERCONNECTION; AND

22 (II) THE ABILITY OF THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE TO DELIVER
23 ITS EFFECTIVE NAMEPLATE CAPACITY WILL BE LIMITED ONLY BY THE GENERATION
24 OF ANOTHER NONENERGY STORAGE GENERATION RESOURCE WITH WHICH THE
25 ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE SHARES A POINT OF INTERCONNECTION TO THE
26 ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION SYSTEM.

27 (C) FRONT-OF-THE-METER TRANSMISSION ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES
28 PAIRED WITH TIER 1 OR TIER 2 RENEWABLE SOURCES, AS DEFINED UNDER § 7-701
29 OF THIS TITLE, MAY BE INCLUDED IN A PROPOSAL IN RESPONSE TO A PROCUREMENT
30 SOLICITATION UNDER § 7-1224 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

31 7-1226.

32 (A) IN SELECTING A PROPOSAL FOR A FRONT-OF-THE-METER
33 TRANSMISSION ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE PROJECT, THE COMMISSION:

1 **(1) SHALL SPECIFY:**

2 **(I) A 15-YEAR PRICING SCHEDULE THAT USES A MONTHLY**
3 **FIXED PRICE FOR EACH MEGAWATT THAT REPRESENTS THE ANTICIPATED**
4 **WHOLESALE VALUE OF CAPACITY FOR THE FRONT-OF-THE-METER TRANSMISSION**
5 **ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE AND THE BENEFITS IDENTIFIED IN § 7-1225(A)(2) OF**
6 **THIS SUBTITLE;**

7 **(II) THAT EACH ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER SHALL BE**
8 **RESPONSIBLE FOR PURCHASING STORAGE CAPACITY CREDITS AT THE MONTHLY**
9 **FIXED PRICE SCHEDULE PROPORTIONAL TO THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER'S**
10 **CAPACITY OBLIGATION;**

11 **(III) THAT ALL PJM CAPACITY MARKET REVENUE EARNED BY**
12 **THE ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT BE TRANSMITTED TO THE COMMISSION TO BE**
13 **HELD IN ESCROW FOR DISTRIBUTION TO ELECTRIC COMPANIES TO BE REFUNDED**
14 **OR CREDITED TO EACH DISTRIBUTION CUSTOMER PROPORTIONAL TO THE**
15 **ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER'S MONTHLY CAPACITY PURCHASE OBLIGATION;**

16 **(IV) THAT THE ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT SHALL RETAIN ANY**
17 **ENERGY AND ANCILLARY SERVICES REVENUE EARNED;**

18 **(V) THAT ELECTRIC COMPANIES MUST JOINTLY SELECT AN**
19 **ESCROW ADMINISTRATOR, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMISSION; AND**

20 **(VI) FOR ANY COST RECOVERY BY AN ELECTRIC COMPANY, THAT**
21 **THE RECOVERY SHALL BE DONE THROUGH A NONBYPASSABLE SURCHARGE**
22 **ESTABLISHED BY THE ELECTRIC COMPANY THAT IS ADDED TO THE ELECTRIC**
23 **COMPANY'S BASE DISTRIBUTION RATE OR SUPPLY RATE ON CUSTOMER BILLS;**

24 **(2) SHALL SPECIFY THAT FOR CONTINUED RECEIPT OF PAYMENT**
25 **UNDER ITEM (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION, AN APPLICANT SHALL DEMONSTRATE, TO**
26 **THE SATISFACTION OF THE COMMISSION, THAT THE APPLICANT'S ENERGY STORAGE**
27 **DEVICE IS AVAILABLE;**

28 **(3) SHALL INCORPORATE PENALTIES FOR NONPERFORMANCE AND**
29 **UNDERPERFORMANCE IN THE CONTRACT, INCLUDING WITHHOLDING OF PAYMENT**
30 **THAT REFLECTS THE DEGREE OF UNDERPERFORMANCE, FOR ENERGY STORAGE**
31 **DEVICES THAT FAIL TO MEET AVAILABILITY METRICS;**

32 **(4) MAY TERMINATE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES FROM THE PROGRAM**
33 **IF DEVICE PERFORMANCE DOES NOT IMPROVE AFTER APPROPRIATE NOTICE AND**
34 **OPPORTUNITY TO CURE;**

1 (5) SHALL CONSIDER OTHER NONPRICE FACTORS TO ENSURE
2 PROJECT DELIVERABILITY WITHIN 24 MONTHS AFTER THE AWARD DATE, SUCH AS:

3 (I) PROJECT MATURITY DATES;

4 (II) INTERCONNECTION QUEUE STATUS;

5 (III) SITE CONTROL;

6 (IV) DEVELOPER EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING PROCURING,
7 CONSTRUCTING, AND OPERATING FRONT-OF-THE-METER TRANSMISSION ENERGY
8 STORAGE DEVICES;

9 (V) ANY EVIDENCE OF KEY DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES TO
10 SUBSTANTIATE PROJECT DELIVERABILITY WITHIN 24 MONTHS AFTER THE AWARD
11 DATE;

12 (VI) SAFETY PLANS; AND

13 (VII) ANY OTHER RELEVANT NONPRICE FACTORS AS
14 DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION; AND

15 (6) SHALL REQUIRE, AT A MINIMUM, ALL ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES
16 THAT UTILIZE LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES TO COMPLY WITH THE MOST UP-TO-DATE
17 REVISION OF THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION 855: STANDARD FOR
18 THE INSTALLATION OF STATIONARY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS IN EFFECT AT THE
19 PROJECT'S FINAL PERMIT APPLICATION DATE.

20 (B) (1) EACH ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT SHALL INCLUDE A PROPOSED
21 DECOMMISSIONING PLAN.

22 (2) THE PROPOSED DECOMMISSIONING PLAN SHALL INCLUDE A PLAN
23 TO MAXIMIZE THE RECYCLING OR REUSE OF ALL QUALIFYING COMPONENTS OF
24 EACH ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE.

25 (3) THE OWNER OR OPERATOR OF AN ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE MAY
26 SUBMIT A REVISED RECYCLING AND REUSE PLAN THAT INCORPORATES EMERGING
27 RECYCLING AND REUSE OPPORTUNITIES UP TO 1 YEAR BEFORE EXECUTING THE
28 DECOMMISSIONING PLAN.

29 (C) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

1 (1) AFTER GIVING PUBLIC NOTICE, HOLD ONE OR MORE PUBLIC
2 HEARINGS TO RECEIVE PUBLIC COMMENT AND EVALUATE THE PROPOSALS; AND

3 (2) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION, ISSUE ONE OR
4 MORE ORDERS TO SELECT A PROPOSAL OR PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT.

5 (D) THE COMMISSION MAY END THE SOLICITATION PROCESS WITHOUT
6 SELECTING A PROPOSAL IF THE COMMISSION FINDS THAT NONE OF THE PROPOSALS
7 ADEQUATELY SUPPORT THE GOALS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE,
8 INCLUDING THE GOAL OF SECURING AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE ELECTRICAL SERVICE
9 FOR MARYLAND RESIDENTS.

10 7-1227.

11 (A) FOR ANY PROPOSAL SELECTED UNDER THIS PART, THE COMMISSION
12 MAY ADOPT CONDITIONS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF FACILITIES
13 INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSAL.

14 (B) AN ORDER SELECTING A PROPOSAL UNDER § 7-1226 OF THIS SUBTITLE
15 BESTOWS THE SAME RIGHTS TO THE SELECTED PROPOSAL THAT A GENERATING
16 SYSTEM WOULD OTHERWISE BE GRANTED THROUGH A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC
17 CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER § 7-207 OF THIS TITLE IF THE SELECTED
18 PROPOSAL IS REVIEWED UNDER AN ALTERNATIVE PROCESS AS DETERMINED BY THE
19 COMMISSION.

20 7-1228.

21 ANY TRANSMISSION ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE BUILT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
22 THIS SUBTITLE SHALL COUNT TOWARD THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE
23 DEPLOYMENT GOALS UNDER § 7-216.1 OF THIS TITLE.

24 7-1229.

25 ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL REPORT, IN
26 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE, TO THE
27 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROCUREMENT PROCESS
28 ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS PART.

29 Article – State Finance and Procurement

30 13-102.

31 (a) The following procurement methods are authorized at the procurement
32 officer's discretion, where applicable:

- 1 (1) competitive sealed bids under § 13–103 of this subtitle;
2 (2) competitive sealed proposals under § 13–104 or § 13–105 of this
3 subtitle;
4 (3) noncompetitive negotiation under § 13–106 of this subtitle;
5 (4) sole source procurement under § 13–107 of this subtitle;
6 (5) emergency or expedited procurement under § 13–108 of this subtitle;
7 (6) small procurement under § 13–109 of this subtitle;
8 (7) an intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreement under §
9 13–110 of this subtitle;
10 (8) auction bids under § 13–111 of this subtitle;
11 (9) architectural, engineering, and land surveying services qualification
12 based selection under § 13–112 of this subtitle;
13 (10) master contracting under § 13–113 of this subtitle; [or]
14 (11) pay–for–success contracting under § 13–112.1 of this subtitle; OR
15 (12) LEGISLATIVE FAST–TRACK PROCUREMENTS UNDER § 13–117 OF
16 THIS SUBTITLE.
17 13–117.

18 **(A) IT IS THE INTENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO:**

- 19 **(1) RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR STATE AGENCIES TO BE RESPONSIVE**
20 **TO THE REQUESTS AND LEGISLATIVE DIRECTIVES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;**
21 **(2) REDUCE THE TIME IT TAKES FOR STATE AGENCIES TO PROCURE**
22 **CONSULTANTS TO ASSIST WITH LEGISLATIVE MANDATES THAT HAVE DEADLINES**
23 **SPECIFIED IN LAW; AND**
24 **(3) BE TIMELY IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL,**
25 **ENERGY, AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS RELATED ISSUES.**

26 **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO THE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANTS**
27 **THAT:**

1 (1) ARE LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED WITH SPECIFIC TIME FRAMES
2 ESTABLISHED IN LAW; AND

3 (2) WILL ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED ONLY TO CLIMATE CHANGE, THE
4 ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.

5 (C) THE FOLLOWING UNITS ARE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE COMPETITIVE
6 SEALED BIDS HIGHER THAN THEIR DESIGNATED SMALL PROCUREMENT
7 DELEGATION AUTHORITIES:

8 (1) THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION;

9 (2) THE OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL;

10 (3) THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION;

11 (4) THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT; AND

12 (5) THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

13 (D) BEFORE AWARDING A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT UNDER THIS SECTION,
14 THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER SHALL OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF:

15 (1) THE HEAD OF THE UNIT; AND

16 (2) THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER, OR THEIR DESIGNEE.

17 (E) (1) THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER, OR THEIR DESIGNEE,
18 SHALL APPROVE A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT SUBMITTED UNDER THIS SECTION IF
19 IT COMPLIES WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION.

20 (2) IF THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER, OR THEIR DESIGNEE,
21 DOES NOT APPROVE A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT SUBMITTED UNDER THIS SECTION
22 WITHIN 5 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER RECEIVING THE CONTRACT, THE CONTRACT SHALL
23 BE CONSIDERED APPROVED.

24 Article – State Government

25 9–20B–05.

26 (a) There is a Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund.

27 (e) The Fund consists of:

(1) all of the proceeds from the sale of allowances under § 2–1002(g) of the Environment Article;

(2) money appropriated in the State budget to the Program;

(3) repayments and prepayments of principal and interest on loans made from the Fund;

(4) interest and investment earnings on the Fund;

(5) compliance fees paid under § 7–705 of the Public Utilities Article;

(6) money received from any public or private source for the benefit of the Fund;

(7) money transferred from the Public Service Commission under [§ 7–207.2(c)(3)] **§ 7–207.2(D)(3)** of the Public Utilities Article; and

(8) money distributed under § 2–614.1 of the Tax – General Article.

(i) (1) Except as provided in [paragraph] PARAGRAPHS (2) AND (3) of this subsection, compliance fees paid under § 7–705(b) of the Public Utilities Article may be used only to make loans and grants to support the creation of new Tier 1 renewable energy sources in the State that are owned by or directly benefit:

(i) low– to moderate–income communities located in a census tract with an average median income at or below 80% of the average median income for the State;
or

(ii) overburdened or underserved communities, as defined in § 1–701 of the Environment Article.

(2) Compliance fees paid under § 7–705(b)(2)(i)2 of the Public Utilities Article shall be accounted for separately within the Fund and may be used only to make loans and grants to support the creation of new solar energy sources in the State that are owned by or directly benefit:

(i) low– to moderate–income communities located in a census tract with an average median income at or below 80% of the average median income for the State;

(ii) overburdened or underserved communities, as defined in § 1–701 of the Environment Article; or

(iii) households with low to moderate income, as defined in § 9–2016 of this title.

(3) (I) SUBJECT TO SUBPARAGRAPHS (II), (III), AND (IV) OF THIS PARAGRAPH, COMPLIANCE FEES PAID UNDER § 7-705 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES ARTICLE MAY BE USED TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO ELECTRIC COMPANIES TO BE REFUNDED OR CREDITED TO EACH RESIDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION CUSTOMER BASED ON THE CUSTOMER'S CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY THAT IS SUBJECT TO THE RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD.

(II) THE REFUNDING OR CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO RESIDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION CUSTOMERS SHALL BE IDENTIFIED ON THE CUSTOMER'S BILL AS A LINE ITEM IDENTIFIED AS A "LEGISLATIVE ENERGY RELIEF REFUND".

(III) AN ELECTRIC COMPANY AWARDED A GRANT UNDER THIS PARAGRAPH:

1. MAY NOT RETAIN ANY OF THE GRANT FUNDS TO COVER OVERHEAD EXPENSES; AND

2. SHALL PROVIDE ALL OF THE GRANT FUNDS TO RESIDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION CUSTOMERS.

(IV) THE PROCESS UNDER SUBPARAGRAPHS (I) AND (II) OF THIS PARAGRAPH RELATED TO THE REFUNDING OR CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO RESIDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION CUSTOMERS SHALL BE DIRECTED AND OVERSEEN BY THE COMMISSION.

SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Tax – General

10-207.

(a) To the extent included in federal adjusted gross income, the amounts under this section are subtracted from the federal adjusted gross income of a resident to determine Maryland adjusted gross income.

(QQ) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, "LEGISLATIVE ENERGY RELIEF REFUND" MEANS A CREDIT AGAINST A PERSON'S ELECTRIC UTILITY BILL THAT IS OFFERED THROUGH GRANTS PROVIDED TO ELECTRIC COMPANIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 9-20B-05(I)(3) OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

(2) THE SUBTRACTION UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION INCLUDES THE AMOUNT OF A LEGISLATIVE ENERGY RELIEF REFUND RECEIVED BY A PERSON DURING THE TAXABLE YEAR.

SECTION ~~4~~ 5. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Utilities

7–701.

(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.

(s) “Tier 1 renewable source” means one or more of the following types of energy sources:

(1) solar energy, including energy from photovoltaic technologies and solar water heating systems;

(2) wind;

(3) qualifying biomass;

(4) methane from the anaerobic decomposition of organic materials in a landfill or wastewater treatment plant;

(5) geothermal, including energy generated through geothermal exchange from or thermal energy avoided by, groundwater or a shallow ground source;

(6) ocean, including energy from waves, tides, currents, and thermal differences;

(7) a fuel cell that produces electricity from a Tier 1 renewable source under item (3) or (4) of this subsection;

(8) a small hydroelectric power plant of less than 30 megawatts in capacity that is licensed or exempt from licensing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission;

(9) poultry litter-to-energy;

(10) [waste-to-energy;

(11) refuse-derived fuel;

(12)] thermal energy from a thermal biomass system; and

[(13)] (11) raw or treated wastewater used as a heat source or sink for a heating or cooling system.

7–704.

(a) (1) Energy from a Tier 1 renewable source:

(i) is eligible for inclusion in meeting the renewable energy portfolio standard regardless of when the generating system or facility was placed in service; and

(ii) may be applied to the percentage requirements of the standard for either Tier 1 renewable sources or Tier 2 renewable sources.

(2) (i) Energy from a Tier 1 renewable source under § 7–701(s)(1), (5), OR (9) [(10), or (11)] of this subtitle is eligible for inclusion in meeting the renewable energy portfolio standard only if the source is connected with the electric distribution grid serving Maryland.

(ii) Energy from a Tier 1 renewable source under [§ 7–701(s)(13)] § 7–701(S)(11) of this subtitle is eligible for inclusion in meeting the renewable energy portfolio standard only if the source:

1. is connected with the electric distribution grid serving Maryland; or

2. processes wastewater from Maryland residents.

(iii) If the owner of a solar generating system in this State chooses to sell solar renewable energy credits from that system, the owner must first offer the credits for sale to an electricity supplier or electric company that shall apply them toward compliance with the renewable energy portfolio standard under § 7–703 of this subtitle.

(3) Energy from a Tier 1 renewable source under § 7–701(s)(8) of this subtitle is eligible for inclusion in meeting the renewable energy portfolio standard if it is generated at a dam that existed as of January 1, 2004, even if a system or facility that is capable of generating electricity did not exist on that date.

(4) Energy from a Tier 2 renewable source under § 7–701(t) of this subtitle is eligible for inclusion in meeting the renewable energy portfolio standard if it is generated at a system or facility that existed and was operational as of January 1, 2004, even if the facility or system was not capable of generating electricity on that date.

SECTION 6. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Public Utilities

7–207.

(b) (1) (i) Unless a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction is first obtained from the Commission, a person may not begin construction in the State of:

1. a generating station; [or]

2. a qualified generator lead line; OR

3. AN ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE THAT IS PART OF A PROPOSAL ~~ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION DURING A SOLICITATION PERIOD UNDER § 7-1202~~ APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER § 7-1206 OF THIS TITLE.

(IV) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER PROVISION OF THIS SECTION, A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GENERATING STATION THAT IS PART OF A PROPOSAL ~~ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION DURING A SOLICITATION PERIOD UNDER § 7-1202~~ APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER § 7-1206 OF THIS TITLE SHALL BE ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-207.4 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(V) WHEN A PERSON APPLIES FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GENERATING STATION UNDER THIS SECTION, THE APPLICATION SHALL STATE WHETHER THE PROPOSED GENERATING STATION OR THE PROPOSED MODIFICATION IS PART OF A PROPOSAL ~~ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION DURING A SOLICITATION PERIOD UNDER § 7-1202 OF THIS TITLE.~~ APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER § 7-1206 OF THIS TITLE.

(VI) 1. THE COMMISSION MAY PRIORITIZE THE REVIEW OF AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS SUBTITLE OVER THE REVIEW OF AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER THIS SECTION.

2. THE COMMISSION MAY EXTEND THE TIME FOR THE REVIEW OF AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER THIS SECTION IF, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SUBSUBPARAGRAPH 1 OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, THE COMMISSION HAS PRIORITIZED THE REVIEW OF AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS SUBTITLE OVER THE REVIEW OF THE APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER THIS SECTION.

7-207.4.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "CONSTRUCTION" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-207 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(3) (I) "DISPATCHABLE ENERGY ~~GENERATING~~ GENERATION PROJECT" MEANS A GENERATING STATION OR ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE:

~~1. THAT IS PART OF A PROPOSAL ACCEPTED BY THE COMMISSION DURING A SOLICITATION PERIOD UNDER § 7-1202 OF THIS TITLE; OR~~

~~2. ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025, IS WAITING FOR APPROVAL OR HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR INTERCONNECTION BY PJM THAT IS PART OF A PROPOSAL APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER § 7-1206 OF THIS TITLE.~~

(II) "DISPATCHABLE ENERGY ~~GENERATING~~ GENERATION PROJECT" INCLUDES ANY ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE NECESSARY TO INTERCONNECT THE GENERATING STATION TO THE ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM.

(4) "ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-216 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(5) "GENERATING STATION" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-207 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

(6) "LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE" MEANS A GENERATING STATION THAT:

(I) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025:

1. HAS APPLIED TO PJM FOR INTERCONNECTION APPROVAL; OR

2. HAS BEEN APPROVED BY PJM FOR INTERCONNECTION;

(II) HAS A CAPACITY RATING EQUAL TO OR GREATER THAN 20 MEGAWATTS AFTER ACCOUNTING FOR THE EFFECTIVE LOAD CARRYING CAPABILITY; AND

(III) IS PART OF A PROPOSAL APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER § 7-1206 OF THIS TITLE.

1 (7) “QUALIFYING PROJECT” MEANS A DISPATCHABLE ENERGY
2 GENERATION PROJECT OR LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE PROJECT THAT
3 HAS BEEN APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION UNDER § 7-1208 OF THIS TITLE.

4 (B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE
5 OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A
6 ~~DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION~~ QUALIFYING PROJECT.

7 (C) UNLESS A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY IS
8 FIRST OBTAINED FROM THE COMMISSION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION OR
9 § 7-207 OF THIS SUBTITLE, A PERSON MAY NOT CONSTRUCT A ~~DISPATCHABLE~~
10 ~~ENERGY GENERATION~~ QUALIFYING PROJECT.

11 ~~(D) WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER THE SUBMISSION OF AN APPLICATION FOR A~~
12 ~~CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY THAT STATES THAT THE~~
13 ~~APPLICATION IS FOR A DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT, THE~~
14 ~~COMMISSION SHALL:~~

15 ~~(1) VERIFY THAT THE GENERATING STATION OR ENERGY STORAGE~~
16 ~~DEVICE IS A DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT; AND~~

17 ~~(2) NOTIFY THE APPLICANT AND RELEVANT ENTITIES IN~~
18 ~~ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-207(C) OF THIS SUBTITLE THAT THE APPLICATION IS~~
19 ~~SUBJECT TO AN EXPEDITED REVIEW PROCESS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION.~~

20 (D) A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY ISSUED
21 UNDER THIS SECTION BESTOWS THE SAME RIGHTS AS A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC
22 CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY ISSUED UNDER § 7-207 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

23 (E) A PERSON APPLYING FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
24 AND NECESSITY UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL:

25 (1) AT LEAST 45 DAYS BEFORE SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION UNDER
26 THIS SECTION, NOTIFY THE COMMISSION AND THE POWER PLANT RESEARCH
27 PROGRAM; AND

28 (2) UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED UNDER THIS SECTION, COMPLETE
29 ALL PRE-APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS BEFORE SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION.

30 (F) (1) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION,
31 THE TIMELINES ASSOCIATED WITH THE NORMAL PRE-APPLICATION
32 REQUIREMENTS UNDER § 7-207 OF THIS SUBTITLE, INCLUDING THE
33 REQUIREMENTS UNDER COMAR 20.79.01.04 AND COMAR 20.79.01.05, SHALL BE
34 SHORTENED TO 45 DAYS FOR APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED UNDER THIS SECTION.

1 (2) IF THE PROPOSED LOCATION OF A QUALIFYING PROJECT IS IN AN
2 OVERBURDENED COMMUNITY OR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY, AS DEFINED IN §
3 1-701 OF THE ENVIRONMENT ARTICLE, THE TIMELINE FOR THE PRE-APPLICATION
4 REQUIREMENTS UNDER COMAR 20.79.01.04 AND COMAR 20.79.01.05 SHALL
5 REMAIN AT 90 DAYS.

6 (G) ONCE FIVE APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED UNDER THIS SECTION
7 WITHIN A 2-MONTH PERIOD, THE COMMISSION MAY DELAY PROCESSING ANY
8 SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED UNDER THIS SECTION WITHOUT
9 IMPACTING THE TIMELINES SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION.

10 ~~(F)~~ (H) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

11 (1) EXPEDITE ALL PROCEEDINGS FOR THE REVIEW AND
12 APPROVAL OF A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR A
13 ~~DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT AND PRIORITIZE THESE~~
14 ~~PROCEEDINGS, IF NECESSARY, OVER OTHER MATTERS; AND QUALIFYING PROJECT;~~
15 AND

16 (II) TAKE FINAL ACTION ON A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC
17 CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR A ~~DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION~~
18 QUALIFYING PROJECT NOT LATER THAN 6 MONTHS 295 DAYS AFTER THE
19 ~~COMMISSION MAKES THE VERIFICATION UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(1) OF THIS~~
20 ~~SECTION THE POWER PLANT RESEARCH PROGRAM DETERMINES THAT THE~~
21 APPLICATION IS COMPLETE IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMAR 20.79.01.10.

22 (2) ~~A STATE AGENCY SHALL SUBMIT ANY RECOMMENDED LICENSING~~
23 ~~CONDITIONS OR TESTIMONY REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF~~
24 ~~PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR A DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION~~
25 ~~PROJECT NOT LATER THAN 90 DAYS AFTER THE DATE THE COMMISSION MAKES THE~~
26 ~~VERIFICATION UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(1) OF THIS SECTION~~ THE COMMISSION MAY
27 EXTEND THE TIME TO TAKE FINAL ACTION ON A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC
28 CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER THIS SECTION IF AN APPLICANT FAILS TO
29 COMPLY WITH THE LAW, REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, OR COMMISSION ORDERS
30 ASSOCIATED WITH OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND
31 NECESSITY.

32 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW OR REGULATION, IN ORDER
33 TO MEET THE REQUIRED TIMELINES FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF
34 PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION
35 MAY REVIEW AND DETERMINE WHETHER TO APPROVE DECOMMISSIONING PLANS
36 FOR A QUALIFYING PROJECT AFTER THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
37 AND NECESSITY HAS BEEN ISSUED.

~~(F) IF A PROPOSED SITE FOR A DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION QUALIFYING PROJECT WAS PREVIOUSLY OR IS CURRENTLY USED FOR ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND HAS A HIGHER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION PROFILE COMPARED TO THE DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT;~~

~~(1) THE APPLICANT IS EXEMPT FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF COMAR 20.79.01.04 AND COMAR 20.79.01.05; AND~~

~~(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL PRESUME THE PROPOSED SITE IS APPROPRIATE AND CONSISTENT WITH THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR A NEW OR EXPANDED GENERATING STATION.~~

~~(G) THE COMMISSION, THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND ANY OTHER IMPACTED STATE AGENCY SHALL WAIVE OR EXPEDITE ANY REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS OR DECISIONS TO COMPLY WITH THE TIME FRAMES SET FORTH IN THIS SECTION.~~

(I) IN EVALUATING AN APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION MAY CONTRACT FOR THE SERVICES OF INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS AND EXPERTS.

SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before January 15, 2026, the Public Service Commission shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on:

(1) the status of developing regulations for the establishment and purchase of zero-emission credits in accordance with § 7-1220 of the Public Utilities Article, as enacted by Section 3 of this Act; and

(2) whether any legislative action is necessary to implement the zero-emission credit provisions in § 7-1220 of the Public Utilities Article, as enacted by Section 3 of this Act.

SECTION 8. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That a presently existing obligation or contract right may not be impaired in any way by this Act.

SECTION 9. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 5 of this Act shall apply:

(1) except as specified in item (2) of this section, to all renewable energy portfolio standard compliance years starting on or after January 1, 2025; and

(2) beginning July 1, 2026, and to each renewable energy portfolio standard compliance year thereafter, for each facility owned by a public instrumentality of the State.

1 SECTION ~~5~~ 10. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the General Assembly
2 supports the extension or renewal of the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission license
3 for the Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant's nuclear reactors in the years 2034 and 2036.

4 SECTION 11. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

5 (a) (1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, from the alternative
6 compliance fees paid into the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund in accordance
7 with § 7-705 of the Public Utilities Article, a portion shall be used to provide grant awards
8 to electric companies, including electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities, to be
9 refunded or credited to residential distribution customers for electric service in fiscal 2026
10 in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

11 (2) The Governor may transfer by budget amendment the funds described
12 in paragraph (1) of this subsection to the Public Service Commission to be awarded to
13 electric companies, including electric cooperatives and municipal electric utilities.

14 (b) The funds described in subsection (a)(1) of this section shall be distributed:

15 (1) in accordance with § 9-20B-05(i)(3) of the State Government Article,
16 as enacted by Section 3 of this Act;

17 (2) twice during the 2026 fiscal year; and

18 (3) to residential distribution customers as follows:

19 (i) half of the amount granted under subsection (a)(1) to be refunded
20 or credited during a peak summer month; and

21 (ii) half of the amount granted under subsection (a)(1) to be refunded
22 or credited during a peak winter month.

23 SECTION 12. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That Section 4 of this Act shall be
24 applicable to all taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

25 SECTION 13. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 1,
26 2026, the Department of Human Services shall report to the Governor and, in accordance
27 with § 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on any legislative or
28 regulatory changes necessary to implement the recommendation to combine all energy
29 assistance programs operated by the State into one program as discussed in the
30 Department of Legislative Services Office of Program Evaluation and Government
31 Accountability's February 2025 "Evaluation of the Office of Home Energy Programs".

32 SECTION ~~6~~ 14. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
33 July June 1, 2025. Section 4 6 of this Act shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and
34 1 month and, at the end of June 30, 2030, Section ~~4~~ 6 of this Act, with no further action
35 required by the General Assembly, shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.