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INFORMATIONAL ONLY – Senate Bill 1083
SB1083 – Electric Distribution System Planning – Regulations, Plans, and Fund
Education, Energy, and the Environment Committee
Thursday, March 7, 2024

Potomac Edison, a subsidiary of FirstEnergy Corp., serves approximately 285,000 customers in all or parts of seven Maryland counties (Allegany, Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, Howard, Montgomery, and Washington). FirstEnergy is dedicated to safety, reliability, and operational excellence. Its ten electric distribution companies form one of the nation's largest investor-owned electric systems, serving customers in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia, and Maryland.

Informational Only

Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy would like to provide information related to Senate Bill 1083 – *Electric Distribution System Planning – Regulations, Plans, and Fund*. As written, SB-1083 would require the Public Service Commission (PSC) to adopt certain regulations to oversee electric distribution system planning in the State. It would also require electric companies in the State to submit to the Commission certain plans to upgrade certain parts of the electric distribution system in the State.

While we understand amendments have been made to this legislation that are positive, we are concerned that SB-1083 could disrupt the collaborative process of the PSC's existing Distribution System Planning (DSP) Work Group. This group has been meeting for over a year, working on what is already in statute, as a result of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 (CSNA).

The CSNA outlined the DSP process and directed the PSC to include information in a report to the General Assembly that provided information on the status of DSP planning in the State. The requested information related to promoting specific State goals related to decreasing greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency, incorporating energy storage technology, and providing additional capacity to accommodate increased distributed energy resources is already being studied. The DSP Work Group has been a collaborative effort between diverse stakeholders and is nearing results that are similar to some of the additional charges this bill places on the group. It would be more effective for the General Assembly to allow this collaborative process to complete their work, and then propose further actions from the DSP Work Group in the 2025 Session if necessary.

The DSP Work Group's final report is due to the PSC by April 30, 2024. Once filed, Potomac Edison will continue actively participating with the group to develop draft regulations. PSC approval of the final regulations, and implementation, is required by July 1, 2025. Adding additional requirements to their duties, at this late stage, is a distraction from their main focus and may jeopardize the progress this group has made to date.

Potomac Edison / FirstEnergy looks forward to continuing our work with the DSP Work Group and all stakeholders. We recognize the importance of the process and want to ensure current efforts are not disrupted.