

SENATE BILL 937

C5, M5

5lr2356
CF HB 1035

By: ~~The President and Senator Feldman~~ Senators Feldman, Attar, Brooks, Simonaire, and M. Washington

Introduced and read first time: January 28, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 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

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.



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

1 certain funds in the Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund be used in a
2 certain manner in a certain fiscal year; requiring the Department of Human Services
3 to report to the Governor and the General Assembly on certain changes necessary to
4 implement a certain recommendation; and generally relating to ~~energy generation~~
5 and procurement in Maryland electricity and gas.

6 BY repealing

7 Article – Public Utilities

8 Section 7–701(h–1) and (i)

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

11 BY renumbering

12 Article – Public Utilities

13 Section 7–701(i–1)

14 to be Section 7–701(i)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article – Corporations and Associations

19 Section 5–637(b)

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

23 Article – Housing and Community Development

24 Section 4–211(d)

25 Annotated Code of Maryland

26 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

27 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

28 Article – Public Utilities

29 Section 1–101(a), 7–224(a) and (b), and 7–701(a)

30 Annotated Code of Maryland

31 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

32 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

33 Article – Public Utilities

34 Section 1–101(i), (l), and (ee), 4–210, 5–305, 7–207(b)(1)(i), 7–216(a), 7–224(c),

35 7–505(c), 7–701(s), and 7–704(a)

36 Annotated Code of Maryland

37 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

38 BY adding to

39 Article – Public Utilities

1 Section 1–101(w–1) and (w–2), 4–206.1, 4–212, 4–213, 4–214, 4–504, 7–207(b)(1)(iv)
 2 ~~and, (v), and (vi), 7–207.4, 7–211, 7–216.2, and 7–506.1; and 7–1201 through~~
 3 ~~7–1218 7–1229~~ to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 12. Energy Solicitation
 4 and Procurement”

5 Annotated Code of Maryland
 6 (2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

7 ~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~
 8 ~~Article – Public Utilities~~
 9 ~~Section 7–207(b)(1)(i)~~
 10 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~
 11 ~~(2020 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)~~

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 13 Article – State Finance and Procurement
 14 Section 13–102(a)
 15 Annotated Code of Maryland
 16 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 BY adding to
 18 Article – State Finance and Procurement
 19 Section 13–117
 20 Annotated Code of Maryland
 21 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

22 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 23 Article – State Government
 24 Section 9–20B–05(a)
 25 Annotated Code of Maryland
 26 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

27 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 28 Article – State Government
 29 Section 9–20B–05(e) and (i)
 30 Annotated Code of Maryland
 31 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

32 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 33 Article – Tax – General
 34 Section 10–207(a)
 35 Annotated Code of Maryland
 36 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

37 BY adding to
 38 Article – Tax – General
 39 Section 10–207(qq)
 40 Annotated Code of Maryland

1 (2022 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

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

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

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

10 **Article – Corporations and Associations**

11 5-637.

12 (b) A member-regulated cooperative is subject to the following provisions of the
13 Public Utilities Article:

14 (1) § 4-212;

15 (2) § 5-103;

16 ~~[(2)] (3)~~ § 5-201;

17 ~~[(3)] (4)~~ § 5-202;

18 ~~[(4)] (5)~~ § 5-303;

19 ~~[(5)] (6)~~ § 5-304;

20 ~~[(6)] (7)~~ § 5-306;

21 ~~[(7)] (8)~~ § 7-103;

22 ~~[(8)] (9)~~ § 7-104;

23 ~~[(9)] (10)~~ § 7-203;

24 ~~[(10)] (11)~~ § 7-207;

25 ~~[(11)] (12)~~ Title 7, Subtitle 2, Part II;

26 ~~[(12)] (13)~~ § 7-302;

1 [(13)] (14) Title 7, Subtitle 5, Part I and Part II;

2 [(14)] (15) Title 7, Subtitle 7; and

3 [(15)] (16) § 13–101.

4 **Article – Housing and Community Development**

5 4–211.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 **Article – Public Utilities**

28 1–101.

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

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

1 (2) “Electric company” does not include:

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

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

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

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

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

12 (IV) A PERSON WHO PROVIDES ELECTRICITY TO A LARGE LOAD
13 CUSTOMER IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-506.1 OF THIS ARTICLE.

14 (1) (1) “Electricity supplier” means a person:

15 (i) who sells:

16 1. electricity;

17 2. electricity supply services;

18 3. competitive billing services; or

19 4. competitive metering services; or

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

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

25 (3) “Electricity supplier” does not include:

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

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

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

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

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

8 1. an electric vehicle charging station;

9 2. electric vehicle supply equipment; or

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

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

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

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

19 (2) “Retail electric customer” includes:

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

22 1. an electric vehicle charging station;

23 2. electric vehicle supply equipment; or

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

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

28 **(III) A LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER THAT PURCHASES ELECTRICITY**
 29 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH § 7-506.1 OF THIS ARTICLE.**

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

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

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

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

10 **4-206.1.**

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

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

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

20 **(1) EVIDENCE THAT THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY LACKS THE**
21 **CAPACITY TO SELF-PERFORM THE CONTRACTED WORK USING INTERNAL LABOR;**

22 **(2) A JUSTIFICATION FOR THE USE OF CONTRACTUAL LABOR WHEN**
23 **USED INSTEAD OF INTERNAL LABOR, INCLUDING A COST-BASED RATIONALE THAT:**

24 **(I) COMPARES THE COSTS OF INTERNAL LABOR WITH THE**
25 **COSTS OF CONTRACTUAL LABOR; AND**

26 **(II) DEMONSTRATES THE REASONABLENESS OF THE DECISION**
27 **TO USE CONTRACTUAL LABOR; AND**

28 **(3) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT THE COMMISSION REQUIRES.**

29 **4-210.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 (2) CONSISTENT WITH STATE POLICY.

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

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

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

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

29 and

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

5 (2) A plan under this subsection shall include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (III) THE COMMUNICATING OF A COMPLETE AND ACCURATE
28 DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT ACTIVITIES; AND

29 (IV) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE COMMISSION CONSIDERS
30 NECESSARY TO EVALUATE THE PLAN.

1 [(3)] (4) (i) When calculating the estimated cost of a project under
 2 paragraph (2) of this subsection, a gas company shall include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 [(4)] (5) For a plan filed under this section:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 ~~[(6)]~~ **(9) Any adjustment for return on equity based on an approved plan**
15 **only shall be considered and determined in a subsequently filed base rate case.**

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

18 ~~(i)~~ **may hold a public hearing on the plan; and**

19 ~~(ii)~~ **shall take a final action to approve or deny the plan.**

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

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

24 ~~(i)~~ **reasonable and prudent; [and]**

25 ~~(ii)~~ **designed to improve public safety or infrastructure reliability**
26 **over the short term and long term; AND**

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

29 ~~(4)~~ ~~(i)~~ **The Commission shall approve the cost-recovery schedule**
30 **associated with the plan at the same time that it approves the plan.**

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

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

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

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

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

16 **(1) ARE PART OF A PLAN APPROVED UNDER THIS SECTION OR**
17 **IMPLEMENTED UNDER SUBSECTION (G) OF THIS SECTION; AND**

18 **(2) ACCELERATE GAS INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE**
19 **STATE.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (ii) If the actual cost of a plan is more than the amount collected
2 under the surcharge and the Commission determines that the higher costs were reasonably
3 and prudently incurred, the Commission shall authorize the gas company to increase the
4 surcharge to recover the difference, subject to the rate limit under subsection [(d)(4)] (E)(5)
5 of this section.

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

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

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

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

17 (i) reduce future base rates or surcharges; or

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

19 4-212.

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

22 (2) “CONTRACT CAPACITY” MEANS THE AMOUNT OF MONTHLY PEAK
23 LOAD REQUIREMENTS:

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

27 (II) FOR WHICH:

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

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

4 **(3) "LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER" MEANS A COMMERCIAL OR**
5 **INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER FOR RETAIL ELECTRIC SERVICE THAT:**

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

8 **(II) HAS OR IS PROJECTED TO HAVE A LOAD FACTOR OF OVER**
9 **80%.**

10 **(4) "LOAD RAMP PERIOD" MEANS THE PERIOD OF TIME FROM**
11 **COMMENCEMENT OF SERVICE UNTIL A LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER'S BILLING**
12 **CALCULATION IS BASED ON THE FULL CONTRACT CAPACITY.**

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

17 **(C) (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2026, EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY**
18 **SHALL SUBMIT TO THE COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL A SPECIFIC RATE SCHEDULE**
19 **FOR LARGE LOAD CUSTOMERS THAT ACCOMPLISHES THE INTENT OF SUBSECTION**
20 **(B) OF THIS SECTION.**

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

24 **1. A MONTHLY MAXIMUM DEMAND OF MORE THAN 100**
25 **MEGAWATTS AT A SINGLE LOCATION; OR**

26 **2. AN AGGREGATED CONTRACT CAPACITY IN THE**
27 **ELECTRIC COMPANY'S SERVICE TERRITORY OF MORE THAN 100 MEGAWATTS.**

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

31 **1. SHALL TAKE SERVICE UNDER THE SPECIFIC RATE**
32 **SCHEDULE; AND**

1 **2. MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO TAKE SERVICE UNDER ANY**
2 **OTHER EXISTING SCHEDULE.**

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

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

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

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

16 **(1) SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (E) OF THIS SECTION, REQUIRES A**
17 **LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER TO COVER THE JUST AND REASONABLE COSTS ASSOCIATED**
18 **WITH ANY ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM BUILDOUT**
19 **REQUIRED TO:**

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

22 **(II) SERVE THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER;**

23 **(2) PROTECTS ELECTRIC SYSTEM RELIABILITY, INCLUDING**
24 **PROTECTING ELECTRIC SYSTEM RELIABILITY THROUGH THE USE OF:**

25 **(I) LOAD RAMP PERIODS;**

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

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

30 **(IV) GUARANTEE OR COLLATERAL REQUIREMENTS; AND**

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

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

9 (E) THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ANY ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OR
10 DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM BUILDOUT REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(1) OF THIS
11 SECTION MAY BE PAID OVER MULTIPLE YEARS OF A LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER'S
12 CONTRACT FOR SERVICE, NOT TO EXCEED 5 YEARS.

13 (F) BEFORE SIGNING A CONTRACT FOR SERVICE UNDER A SPECIFIC RATE
14 SCHEDULE SUBMITTED UNDER SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, A LARGE LOAD
15 CUSTOMER UNDER THE SCHEDULE IS REQUIRED TO:

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

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

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

24 (4) MEET ANY OTHER REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED UNDER THE RATE
25 SCHEDULE.

26 (G) (1) ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT
27 REGULATIONS TO CARRY OUT THIS SECTION.

28 (2) THE REGULATIONS SHALL:

29 (1) ESTABLISH MINIMUM NOTICE REQUIREMENTS AND
30 DEADLINES RELATED TO LOAD STUDY REQUESTS AND CONTRACT TERMINATIONS
31 AND ADJUSTMENTS;

1 (II) IF CONSIDERED NECESSARY BY THE COMMISSION, SPECIFY
2 COMMON FORMS OF ACCEPTABLE COLLATERAL TO SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF
3 THIS SECTION; AND

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

6 4-213.

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

10 (B) (1) A PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY MAY FILE A MULTIYEAR RATE PLAN
11 FOR DISTRIBUTION RATES.

12 (2) A MULTIYEAR RATE PLAN UNDER THIS SUBSECTION:

13 (I) SHALL DEMONSTRATE THAT THE PLAN IS IN THE PUBLIC
14 INTEREST; AND

15 (II) MAY NOT ALLOW FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY TO
16 FILE FOR RECONCILIATION OF COST OR REVENUE VARIANCES THAT DIFFER FROM
17 THE FORECASTS USED BY THE COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH THE JUST AND
18 REASONABLE RATE.

19 (C) UNLESS OTHERWISE AUTHORIZED BY LAW, THE COMMISSION MAY
20 APPROVE THE USE OF A MULTIYEAR RATE PLAN THAT MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS
21 OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

22 4-214.

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

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

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

1 **(1) THE CUSTOMER BENEFITS OF THE INVESTMENT;**

2 **(2) THAT THE INVESTOR-OWNED GAS COMPANY ANALYZED**
3 **COST-EFFECTIVE OPTIONS THAT ACHIEVE SAFETY BENEFITS COMPARABLE TO THE**
4 **INVESTMENTS AND DEFER, REDUCE, OR ELIMINATE THE NEED TO REPLACE,**
5 **UPGRADE, OR CONSTRUCT NEW COMPONENTS, INCLUDING AN ANALYSIS OF:**

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

8 **(II) LEAK DETECTION AND REPAIR; AND**

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

11 **4-504.**

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

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

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

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

23 **5-305.**

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

28 **(b) An investor-owned gas company, electric company, or combination gas and**
29 **electric company shall require a contractor or subcontractor on a project described in**
30 **subsection (a) of this section to pay its employees not less than the prevailing wage rate**
31 **determined solely by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry in a process substantially**

1 similar to the process established under Title 17, Subtitle 2 of the State Finance and
2 Procurement Article.

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

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

14 **7-211.**

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

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

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

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

26 **(i) ON FEDERAL LAND; OR**

27 **(ii) ON OR NEAR FEDERAL FACILITIES, INCLUDING MILITARY**
28 **AND NATIONAL SECURITY INSTALLATIONS.**

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

32 **(1) THE STATUS OF THE EFFORTS MADE UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF**
33 **THIS SECTION, INCLUDING AN ASSESSMENT OF ANY OPPORTUNITIES TO**
34 **PARTICIPATE WITH OTHER STATES, FEDERAL AGENCIES, AND PUBLIC OR PRIVATE**

1 PARTNERS IN A MULTISTATE PROCUREMENT OF NEW NUCLEAR ENERGY
2 TECHNOLOGY; AND

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

6 7-216.

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

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

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

14 1. thermal storage;

15 2. electrochemical storage;

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

18 4. hydrogen-based storage.

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

21 7-216.2.

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

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

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

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

1 **(II) OTHER CRITERIA ESTABLISHED BY THE COMMISSION.**

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

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

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

18 **(I) EVALUATE EACH PLAN;**

19 **(II) ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENTS ON EACH PLAN; AND**

20 **(III) ISSUE AN ORDER FOR EACH PLAN THAT:**

21 **1. APPROVES THE PLAN;**

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

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

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

30 **(5) (I) THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES THAT ARE CONSTRUCTED**
31 **OR PROCURED UNDER A PLAN SUBMITTED BY NOVEMBER 1, 2025, SHALL BE**
32 **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

1 2. § 7–225(d) of this subtitle; and

2 (ii) the Department:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 ~~7–506.1.~~ 7–505.

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

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

- 1 (i) protects consumers;
- 2 (ii) ensures the quality, availability, and reliability of regulated
3 electric services; and
- 4 (iii) is in the interest of the public, including shareholders of the
5 electric company.
- 6 (3) Alternative forms of regulation may include:
- 7 (i) price regulation, including price freezes or caps;
- 8 (ii) revenue regulation;
- 9 (iii) ranges of authorized return;
- 10 (iv) rate of return;
- 11 (v) categories of services; or
- 12 (vi) price-indexing.

13 **7-506.1.**

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

16 (2) **“CONSTRUCTION” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-207 OF THIS**
17 **TITLE.**

18 (3) **“LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER” MEANS A COMMERCIAL OR**
19 **INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMER WITH AN EXPECTED LOAD DEMAND OF AT LEAST 100**
20 **MEGAWATTS.**

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

24 (C) **EXCEPT AS PROVIDED BY FEDERAL LAW AND ~~SUBSECTION (D)~~**
25 **SUBSECTIONS (D) AND (F) OF THIS SECTION AND UNTIL THE STATE CEASES TO BE A**
26 **NET IMPORTER OF ELECTRICITY, AN ELECTRICITY SUPPLIER OR OTHER OWNER OF**
27 **A GENERATING STATION MAY NOT ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF**
28 **THE DIRECT SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO A COMMERCIAL OR INDUSTRIAL**
29 **CUSTOMER IN A WAY THAT BYPASSES:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 **(I) A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**
17 **FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE GENERATING STATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
18 **7-207 OF THIS TITLE AND ANY OTHER ASSOCIATED STANDARD; AND**

19 **(II) ANY OTHER STANDARD SITING APPROVALS AND PERMITS**
20 **RELATED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF A GENERATING STATION.**

21 **(E) THE COMMISSION MAY APPLY TO A LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER AND ANY**
22 **GENERATING STATION SUPPLYING ELECTRICITY TO THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER IN**
23 **ACCORDANCE WITH THIS SECTION ANY DIRECT OR INDIRECT COSTS AND FEES THAT**
24 **ARE NORMALLY APPLIED TO THE RETAIL ELECTRIC CUSTOMERS IN THE SERVICE**
25 **TERRITORY IN WHICH THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER OR GENERATING STATION IS**
26 **LOCATED IF THE DIRECT OR INDIRECT COSTS AND FEES ARE ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE**
27 **LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER AND ANY GENERATING STATION SUPPLYING ELECTRICITY**
28 **TO THE LARGE LOAD CUSTOMER.**

29 **(F) NOTHING IN THIS SECTION MAY BE CONSTRUED TO PROHIBIT**
30 **COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL CUSTOMERS FROM FORMING A MICROGRID THAT:**

31 **(1) RELIES SOLELY ON NEW GENERATION OUTPUT; AND**

32 **(2) DOES NOT INTERCONNECT WITH:**

1 **(I) THE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS;**

2 **(II) ANY LOAD CONNECTED TO THE ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION**
 3 **OR DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS; OR**

4 **(III) ANY OTHER GENERATING STATION.**

5 **SUBTITLE 12. ENERGY SOLICITATION AND PROCUREMENT.**

6 **PART I. ~~EMERGENCY ENERGY PROCUREMENT~~ DEFINITIONS; GENERAL**
 7 **PROVISIONS.**

8 **7-1201.**

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

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

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

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

18 **(C) “EFFECTIVE LOAD CARRYING CAPABILITY” OR “ELCC” MEANS THE**
 19 **EXPECTED CAPACITY CONTRIBUTION OF AN ENERGY RESOURCE DURING PJM**
 20 **INTERCONNECTION’S OPERATING HOURS WHEN THERE IS HIGH ELECTRICITY**
 21 **DEMAND AND LOW RESOURCE OUTPUT.**

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

25 ~~(D)~~ **(E) “ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §**
 26 **7-216 OF THIS TITLE.**

27 ~~(E)~~ **(F) “GENERATING STATION” HAS THE MEANING STATED IN § 7-207 OF**
 28 **THIS TITLE.**

29 **(G) “LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE” MEANS A GENERATING STATION**
 30 **THAT:**

1 **(1) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025:**

2 **(I) HAS APPLIED TO PJM FOR INTERCONNECTION APPROVAL;**

3 **OR**

4 **(II) HAS BEEN APPROVED BY PJM FOR INTERCONNECTION;**

5 **AND**

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

9 **7-1202.**

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

12 **(B) A COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT SHALL:**

13 **(1) PROMOTE INCREASED OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES**
14 **AND SMALL, MINORITY, WOMEN-OWNED, AND VETERAN-OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE**
15 **CLEAN ENERGY INDUSTRY;**

16 **(2) ENSURE THE TIMELY, SAFE, AND EFFICIENT COMPLETION OF THE**
17 **PROJECT BY:**

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

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

25 **1. ESTABLISHES THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF**
26 **EMPLOYMENT AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE OF THE PROJECT OR A PORTION OF THE**
27 **PROJECT;**

28 **2. GUARANTEES AGAINST STRIKES, LOCKOUTS, AND**
29 **SIMILAR DISRUPTIONS;**

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

4 **4. CREATES MUTUALLY BINDING PROCEDURES FOR**
5 **RESOLVING LABOR DISPUTES ARISING DURING THE TERM OF THE DISPATCHABLE**
6 **ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT;**

7 **5. SETS FORTH OTHER MECHANISMS FOR**
8 **LABOR-MANAGEMENT COOPERATION ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND**
9 **CONCERN, INCLUDING PRODUCTIVITY, QUALITY OF WORK, SAFETY, AND HEALTH;**
10 **AND**

11 **6. BINDS ALL CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS TO**
12 **THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT THROUGH THE INCLUSION OF APPROPRIATE**
13 **PROVISIONS IN ALL RELEVANT SOLICITATION AND CONTRACT DOCUMENTS;**

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

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

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

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

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

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

34 **7-1203.**

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

4 7-1204. RESERVED.

5 7-1205. RESERVED.

6 PART II. DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION AND LARGE CAPACITY
7 RESOURCES.

8 7-1206.

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

14 (I) DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION; AND

15 (II) LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCES.

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

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

22 (C) THE COMMISSION SHALL PROVIDE TO THE POWER PLANT RESEARCH
23 PROGRAM A COPY OF EACH PROPOSAL RECEIVED IN RESPONSE TO THE
24 SOLICITATION.

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

1 **(2) A DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT OR LARGE**
2 **CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE PROJECT APPROVED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THIS**
3 **PART MAY PARTICIPATE IN OTHER PROCESSES UNDER WHICH RATEPAYER FUNDS**
4 **ARE AWARDED TO DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION OR LARGE CAPACITY**
5 **ENERGY RESOURCES.**

6 ~~**7-1203.**~~

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

12 ~~**7-1207.**~~

13 **THE COMMISSION SHALL INCLUDE SPECIFICATIONS IN A SOLICITATION**
14 **ISSUED UNDER § 7-1206 OF THIS SUBTITLE THAT REQUIRE EACH PROPOSAL FOR A**
15 **DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT AND LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY**
16 **RESOURCE PROJECT TO:**

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

21 **(2) INCLUDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE TIMELINE FOR**
22 **CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECT, INCLUDING:**

23 **(I) IDENTIFYING THE ENTITY THAT HAS OWNERSHIP OR SITE**
24 **CONTROL OF THE PROJECT SITE;**

25 **(II) QUEUE POSITION FOR PJM APPROVAL;**

26 **(III) THE ABILITY TO PROCURE MATERIALS, INCLUDING**
27 **TURBINES AND OTHER PIPELINE MATERIALS; AND**

28 **(IV) ANY INFORMATION THAT DEMONSTRATES THE**
29 **APPLICANT'S:**

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

1 **2. ABILITY TO DEVELOP THE PROJECT WITHIN THE**
2 **TIMELINE PRESENTED;**

3 **(3) INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCATION OF THE PROJECT**
4 **SITE, INCLUDING;**

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

7 **(II) WHETHER THE PROJECT WOULD BE RETROFITTING A**
8 **CURRENT OR PREVIOUS GENERATING STATION SITE;**

9 **(4) IF APPLICABLE, INCLUDE A DESCRIPTION OF:**

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

13 **(II) THE AMOUNT OF CO-LOCATED ENERGY STORAGE THAT**
14 **WOULD BE USED WITH THE PROJECT;**

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

17 **(IV) THE AMOUNT OF HYDROGEN OR ZERO-EMISSIONS**
18 **BIOFUELS THAT THE PROJECT WILL MIX WITH NATURAL GAS FOR ENERGY**
19 **GENERATION; AND**

20 **(5) STATE THE EMISSIONS INTENSITY OF THE GENERATION OUTPUT**
21 **OVER THE LIFE OF THE PROJECT.**

22 **7-1208.**

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

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

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

8 **(C) IN ADDITION TO THE CRITERIA SPECIFIED IN § 7-1207 OF THIS**
9 **SUBTITLE, THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE WHICH PROPOSALS TO APPROVE**
10 **BASED ON THE FACTORS AND REQUIREMENTS SPECIFIED IN § 7-1209 OF THIS**
11 **SUBTITLE.**

12 ~~(B)~~ **(D) (1) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION, THE**
13 **COMBINED TOTAL CAPACITY OF DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS**
14 **AND LARGE CAPACITY ENERGY RESOURCE PROJECTS APPROVED UNDER THIS**
15 **SECTION SHALL BE GREATER THAN THE COMBINED SUMMER PEAK CAPACITY**
16 **PROFILE OF COAL AND OIL ENERGY GENERATING STATIONS IN THE STATE AS**
17 **OUTLINED UNDER TABLE 9 OF THE COMMISSION'S TEN-YEAR PLAN (2024-2033)**
18 **OF ELECTRIC COMPANIES IN MARYLAND.**

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

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

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

1 (F) AN APPROVAL OR CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF A PROJECT UNDER THIS
2 SECTION DOES NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE PROJECT WILL BE ISSUED A
3 CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER § 7-207 OR §
4 7-207.4 OF THIS TITLE.

5 ~~7-1204.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 ~~(I) THE PROXIMITY OF THE SITE TO EXISTING TRANSMISSION~~
12 ~~LINE AND RIGHTS OF WAY; AND~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 ~~7-1205.~~

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

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

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

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

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

9 ~~(II) POSITION IN THE PJM INTERCONNECTION QUEUE; AND~~

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

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

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

16 ~~(6) IF APPLICABLE:~~

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

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

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

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

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

1 ~~7-1206. RESERVED.~~

2 ~~7-1207. RESERVED.~~

3 7-1209.

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

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

12 (I) THE COMMISSION HAS SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO
13 COMPLETE THAT NUMBER OF EXPEDITED REVIEWS OF APPLICATIONS FOR A
14 CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER § 7-207.4 OF THIS
15 TITLE; AND

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

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

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

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

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

31 (2) IN ADDITION TO THE PRIORITIZATION IN PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
32 SUBSECTION, IF THE COMMISSION DETERMINES THAT MORE THAN 10 PROPOSALS

1 MAY BE APPROVED UNDER § 7-1208 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE COMMISSION SHALL
2 BASE THE APPROVALS ON:

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

5 (II) WHICH PROJECTS ARE READY TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION;

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

7 (IV) WHICH PROJECTS HAVE THE LOWEST EMISSIONS
8 INTENSITY.

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

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

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

21 7-1210. RESERVED.

22 7-1211. RESERVED.

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

24 ~~7-1208.~~ 7-1212.

25 (A) AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF COMMISSION REGULATIONS
26 IMPLEMENTING THIS PART, A PERSON MAY SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE
27 COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL OF A PROPOSED NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION
28 PROJECT, INCLUDING AN APPLICATION TO UPGRADE THE GENERATION
29 CAPABILITIES OF AN EXISTING NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATING STATION.

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 ~~7-1209.~~ 7-1213.

15 (A) ~~UNLESS EXTENDED BY MUTUAL CONSENT OF THE PARTIES~~ SUBJECT TO
16 SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL APPROVE,
17 CONDITIONALLY APPROVE, OR DENY AN APPLICATION SUBMITTED UNDER ~~§ 7-1208~~
18 § 7-1212 OF THIS SUBTITLE WITHIN 1 YEAR AFTER THE CLOSE OF THE APPLICATION
19 PERIOD.

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

23 ~~7-1210.~~ 7-1214.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 (7) A COMMITMENT TO ABIDE BY THE REQUIREMENTS SET FORTH IN
31 ~~§ 7-1213~~ § 7-1202 OF THIS SUBTITLE;

1 **(8) A DESCRIPTION OF THE APPLICANT’S PLAN FOR ENGAGING SMALL**
2 **BUSINESSES, AS DEFINED IN § 14–501 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT**
3 **ARTICLE;**

4 **(9) IF APPLICABLE, THE STATEMENT SPECIFIED IN ~~§ 7–1211(C)(2)~~ §**
5 **7–1215(B)(2) OF THIS SUBTITLE; AND**

6 **(10) ANY OTHER INFORMATION THE COMMISSION REQUIRES.**

7 ~~7–1211.~~ 7–1215.

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

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

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

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

17 **(4) POTENTIAL REDUCTIONS IN LOCATIONAL MARGINAL PRICING;**

18 **(5) POTENTIAL LONG–TERM CHANGES IN CAPACITY PRICES WITHIN**
19 **THE STATE FROM THE PROJECT AS IT COMPARES TO CONVENTIONAL ENERGY**
20 **SOURCES;**

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

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

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

1 **(9) THE EXTENT TO WHICH AN APPLICANT’S PLAN PROVIDES FOR THE**
2 **USE OF AN AGREEMENT DESIGNED TO ENSURE THE USE OF SKILLED LABOR AND TO**
3 **PROMOTE THE PROMPT, EFFICIENT, AND SAFE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT,**
4 **PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION, MANUFACTURING, AND**
5 **MAINTENANCE OF THE PROJECT;**

6 **(10) THE EXTENT TO WHICH AN APPLICANT’S PLAN PROVIDES FOR**
7 **COMPENSATION TO ITS EMPLOYEES AND SUBCONTRACTORS CONSISTENT WITH**
8 **WAGES OUTLINED UNDER TITLE 17, SUBTITLE 2 OF THE STATE FINANCE AND**
9 **PROCUREMENT ARTICLE;**

10 **(11) SITING AND PROJECT FEASIBILITY;**

11 **(12) THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE PROJECT WOULD REQUIRE**
12 **TRANSMISSION OR DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE**
13 **STATE; AND**

14 **(13) ANY OTHER CRITERIA THAT THE COMMISSION DETERMINES ARE**
15 **APPROPRIATE.**

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

20 ~~**(c)**~~ **(1) IN THIS PARAGRAPH, “MINORITY” MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS**
21 **A MEMBER OF ANY OF THE GROUPS LISTED IN § 14-301(k)(1)(i) OF THE STATE**
22 **FINANCE AND PROCUREMENT ARTICLE.**

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

27 **(i) MAKE SERIOUS, GOOD-FAITH EFFORTS TO SOLICIT AND**
28 **INTERVIEW A REASONABLE NUMBER OF MINORITY INVESTORS;**

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

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

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

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

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

21 ~~7-1212.~~ 7-1216.

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

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

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

33 (3) OVER THE DURATION OF THE PROPOSED LONG-TERM PRICING
34 SCHEDULE, THE PROJECTED NET RATE IMPACT FOR ALL NONRESIDENTIAL
35 CUSTOMERS, CONSIDERED AS A BLENDED AVERAGE AND COMBINED WITH THE
36 PROJECTED NET RATE IMPACT OF OTHER NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION

1 PROJECTS, DOES NOT EXCEED A PERCENTAGE DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION
2 OF NONRESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS' TOTAL ANNUAL ELECTRIC BILLS; AND

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

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

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

11 ~~7-1213.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 ~~(4) PROMOTE SAFE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT BY ENSURING~~
5 ~~THAT AT LEAST 80% OF THE CRAFT WORKERS ON THE PROJECT HAVE COMPLETED~~
6 ~~AN OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION 10 HOUR OR 30 HOUR~~
7 ~~COURSE;~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 (1) SPECIFY THE LONG-TERM PRICING SCHEDULE;

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

14 (3) PROVIDE THAT:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 ~~7-1215.~~ 7-1218.

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

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

22 (B) THE COMMISSION MAY NOT ~~APPROVE~~ ISSUE AN ORDER TO FACILITATE
23 THE FINANCING OF A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT UNLESS THE
24 PROJECT IS SUBJECT TO A COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT UNDER ~~§ 7-1213~~ §
25 7-1202 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

26 ~~7-1216.~~ 7-1219.

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

31 (B) TO THE EXTENT PRACTICABLE AND AUTHORIZED BY THE UNITED
32 STATES CONSTITUTION, AN APPLICANT APPROVED FOR A NUCLEAR ENERGY

1 GENERATION PROJECT UNDER ~~§ 7-1209~~ § 7-1213 OF THIS SUBTITLE SHALL COMPLY
2 WITH THE STATE'S MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM.

3 (C) (1) WITHIN 6 MONTHS AFTER THE ISSUANCE OF AN ORDER THAT
4 APPROVES A NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT AND INCLUDES A
5 LONG-TERM PRICING COMPONENT, THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SMALL,
6 MINORITY, AND WOMEN BUSINESS AFFAIRS, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OFFICE
7 OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND THE APPROVED APPLICANT, SHALL ESTABLISH A
8 CLEAR PLAN FOR SETTING REASONABLE AND APPROPRIATE MINORITY BUSINESS
9 ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION GOALS AND PROCEDURES FOR EACH PHASE OF THE
10 NUCLEAR ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT.

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

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

20 ~~7-1217, 7-1220.~~

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

26 (B) THE COMMISSION SHALL ADOPT REGULATIONS THAT:

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

33 (2) ~~ESTABLISH A NONBYPASSABLE SURCHARGE THAT ALLOWS AN~~
34 ~~ELECTRIC COMPANY TO RECOVER ALL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE PURCHASE OF~~
35 ~~NUCLEAR ENERGY FROM ALL DISTRIBUTION CUSTOMERS OF THE ELECTRIC~~
36 ~~COMPANY;~~

1 ~~(3) ESTABLISH AN ESCROW ACCOUNT THAT IS UNDER COMMISSION~~
 2 ~~SUPERVISION; AND~~

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

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

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

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

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

18 (5) TO MEET THE TOTAL STATEWIDE LONG-TERM PRICING PURCHASE
 19 OBLIGATION FOR ALL APPLICATIONS APPROVED IN AN ORDER ISSUED UNDER §
 20 7-1217 OF THIS SUBTITLE, REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO ANNUALLY ESTABLISH
 21 EACH ELECTRIC COMPANY'S ZERO-EMISSION CREDIT PURCHASE OBLIGATION
 22 BASED ON THE MOST RECENT FINAL ELECTRICITY SALES DATA AS REPORTED BY
 23 PJM INTERCONNECTION AND MEASURED AT THE CUSTOMER'S METER IN
 24 PROPORTION TO THE ELECTRIC COMPANY'S SHARE OF STATEWIDE LOAD.

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

29 (2) ~~(H)~~ SUBJECT TO ANY ESCROW ACCOUNT RESERVE
 30 REQUIREMENT THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHES, IF THERE ~~IS~~ ARE INSUFFICIENT
 31 NUCLEAR ENERGY ZERO-EMISSION CREDITS AVAILABLE TO SATISFY THE ELECTRIC
 32 COMPANIES' NUCLEAR ENERGY OBLIGATION ZERO-EMISSION CREDIT PURCHASE
 33 OBLIGATIONS, THE OVERPAYMENT SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO ELECTRIC
 34 COMPANIES TO BE REFUNDED OR CREDITED TO EACH DISTRIBUTION CUSTOMER

1 BASED ON THE CUSTOMER'S CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY SUPPLY THAT IS
2 SUBJECT TO THE RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD.

3 ~~(H) SUBJECT TO ANY ESCROW ACCOUNT RESERVE~~
4 ~~REQUIREMENT THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHES, THE CALCULATION OF AN~~
5 ~~ELECTRIC COMPANY'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PURCHASE OBLIGATION SHALL BE BASED~~
6 ~~ON FINAL ELECTRICITY SALES DATA AS REPORTED BY PJM INTERCONNECTION AND~~
7 ~~MEASURED AT THE CUSTOMER METER.~~

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

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

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

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

23 ~~7-1218.~~ 7-1221.

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

26 7-1222. RESERVED.

27 7-1223. RESERVED.

28 PART IV. TRANSMISSION ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES.

29 7-1224.

30 (A) THE COMMISSION SHALL, BY REGULATION OR ORDER, ESTABLISH A
31 COMPETITIVE PROCESS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF PROJECTS FOR THE

1 CONSTRUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF FRONT-OF-THE-METER TRANSMISSION
2 ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES IN THE STATE.

3 (B) (1) (I) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL
4 ISSUE A PROCUREMENT SOLICITATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PROJECTS FOR THE
5 CONSTRUCTION AND DEPLOYMENT OF FRONT-OF-THE-METER TRANSMISSION
6 ENERGY STORAGE DEVICES.

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

10 (2) ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2026, THE COMMISSION SHALL ISSUE
11 A DECISION ON WHETHER TO APPROVE ONE OR MORE PROPOSALS IN ACCORDANCE
12 WITH § 7-1208(B) OF THIS SUBTITLE.

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

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

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

23 (2) THE PROCUREMENT SOLICITATION SHALL BE FOR A MAXIMUM OF
24 800 MEGAWATTS OF CUMULATIVE ENERGY STORAGE CAPACITY, AS MEASURED IN
25 EFFECTIVE NAMEPLATE CAPACITY.

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

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

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

1 7-1225.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 **(VII) ANY OTHER AVOIDED COSTS;**

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

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

8 **(5) INCORPORATE A COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT;**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

32 **7-1226.**

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

3 (1) SHALL SPECIFY:

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

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

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

18 (IV) THAT THE ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT SHALL RETAIN ANY
19 ENERGY AND ANCILLARY SERVICES REVENUE EARNED;

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 **(I) PROJECT MATURITY DATES;**

7 **(II) INTERCONNECTION QUEUE STATUS;**

8 **(III) SITE CONTROL;**

9 **(IV) DEVELOPER EXPERIENCE, INCLUDING PROCURING,**
10 **CONSTRUCTING, AND OPERATING FRONT-OF-THE-METER TRANSMISSION ENERGY**
11 **STORAGE DEVICES;**

12 **(V) ANY EVIDENCE OF KEY DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES TO**
13 **SUBSTANTIATE PROJECT DELIVERABILITY WITHIN 24 MONTHS AFTER THE AWARD**
14 **DATE;**

15 **(VI) SAFETY PLANS; AND**

16 **(VII) ANY OTHER RELEVANT NONPRICE FACTORS AS**
17 **DETERMINED BY THE COMMISSION; AND**

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

23 **(B) (1) EACH ENERGY STORAGE PROJECT SHALL INCLUDE A PROPOSED**
24 **DECOMMISSIONING PLAN.**

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

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

1 **(C) THE COMMISSION SHALL:**

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

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

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

11 **7-1227.**

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

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

21 **7-1228.**

22 **ANY TRANSMISSION ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE BUILT IN ACCORDANCE WITH**
23 **THIS SUBTITLE SHALL COUNT TOWARD THE ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE**
24 **DEPLOYMENT GOALS UNDER § 7-216.2 OF THIS TITLE.**

25 **7-1229.**

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

30 **Article – State Finance and Procurement**

31 **13-102.**

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

3 (1) competitive sealed bids under § 13-103 of this subtitle;

4 (2) competitive sealed proposals under § 13-104 or § 13-105 of this
5 subtitle;

6 (3) noncompetitive negotiation under § 13-106 of this subtitle;

7 (4) sole source procurement under § 13-107 of this subtitle;

8 (5) emergency or expedited procurement under § 13-108 of this subtitle;

9 (6) small procurement under § 13-109 of this subtitle;

10 (7) an intergovernmental cooperative purchasing agreement under §
11 13-110 of this subtitle;

12 (8) auction bids under § 13-111 of this subtitle;

13 (9) architectural, engineering, and land surveying services qualification
14 based selection under § 13-112 of this subtitle;

15 (10) master contracting under § 13-113 of this subtitle; [or]

16 (11) pay-for-success contracting under § 13-112.1 of this subtitle; OR

17 (12) **LEGISLATIVE FAST-TRACK PROCUREMENTS UNDER § 13-117 OF**
18 **THIS SUBTITLE.**

19 **13-117.**

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

21 (1) **RECOGNIZE THE NEED FOR STATE AGENCIES TO BE RESPONSIVE**
22 **TO THE REQUESTS AND LEGISLATIVE DIRECTIVES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY;**

23 (2) **REDUCE THE TIME IT TAKES FOR STATE AGENCIES TO PROCURE**
24 **CONSULTANTS TO ASSIST WITH LEGISLATIVE MANDATES THAT HAVE DEADLINES**
25 **SPECIFIED IN LAW; AND**

26 (3) **BE TIMELY IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENTAL,**
27 **ENERGY, AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS RELATED ISSUES.**

1 **(B) THIS SECTION APPLIES ONLY TO THE PROCUREMENT OF CONSULTANTS**
2 **THAT:**

3 **(1) ARE LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED WITH SPECIFIC TIME FRAMES**
4 **ESTABLISHED IN LAW; AND**

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

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

10 **(1) THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION;**

11 **(2) THE OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL;**

12 **(3) THE MARYLAND ENERGY ADMINISTRATION;**

13 **(4) THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT; AND**

14 **(5) THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.**

15 **(D) BEFORE AWARDING A PROCUREMENT CONTRACT UNDER THIS SECTION,**
16 **THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER SHALL OBTAIN THE APPROVAL OF:**

17 **(1) THE HEAD OF THE UNIT; AND**

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

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

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

26 **Article – State Government**

27 **9–20B–05.**

28 **(a) There is a Maryland Strategic Energy Investment Fund.**

1 (e) The Fund consists of:

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

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

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

7 (4) interest and investment earnings on the Fund;

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

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

11 (7) money transferred from the Public Service Commission under [§
12 7–207.2(c)(3)] § 7–207.2(D)(3) of the Public Utilities Article; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 **(II) THE REFUNDING OR CREDITING OF AMOUNTS TO**
 8 **RESIDENTIAL DISTRIBUTION CUSTOMERS SHALL BE IDENTIFIED ON THE**
 9 **CUSTOMER’S BILL AS A LINE ITEM IDENTIFIED AS A “LEGISLATIVE ENERGY**
 10 **HARDSHIP CREDIT”.**

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

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

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

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

21 **SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the laws of Maryland read as**
 22 **follows:**

23 **Article – Tax – General**

24 **10-207.**

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

28 **(QQ) (1) IN THIS SUBSECTION, “LEGISLATIVE ENERGY HARDSHIP CREDIT”**
 29 **MEANS A CREDIT AGAINST A PERSON’S ELECTRIC UTILITY BILL THAT IS OFFERED**
 30 **THROUGH GRANTS PROVIDED TO ELECTRIC COMPANIES IN ACCORDANCE WITH §**
 31 **9-20B-05(I)(3) OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

1 [(13)] (11) raw or treated wastewater used as a heat source or sink for a
2 heating or cooling system.

3 7-704.

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

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

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

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

13 (ii) Energy from a Tier 1 renewable source under [§ 7-701(s)(13)] §
14 7-701(S)(11) of this subtitle is eligible for inclusion in meeting the renewable energy
15 portfolio standard only if the source:

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

18 2. processes wastewater from Maryland residents.

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

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

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

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

33 **Article – Public Utilities**

1 7-207.

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

5 1. a generating station; [or]

6 2. a qualified generator lead line; OR

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

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

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

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

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

34 7-207.4.

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (4) "ENERGY STORAGE DEVICE" HAS THE MEANING STATED IN §
17 7-216 OF THIS SUBTITLE.

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

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

22 (I) ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 1, 2025:

23 1. HAS APPLIED TO PJM FOR INTERCONNECTION
24 APPROVAL; OR

25 2. HAS BEEN APPROVED BY PJM FOR
26 INTERCONNECTION;

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

30 (III) IS PART OF A PROPOSAL APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION
31 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) ONCE FIVE APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED UNDER THIS SECTION**
31 **WITHIN A 2-MONTH PERIOD, THE COMMISSION MAY DELAY PROCESSING ANY**
32 **SUBSEQUENT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED UNDER THIS SECTION WITHOUT**
33 **IMPACTING THE TIMELINES SPECIFIED IN THIS SECTION.**

1 ~~(E)~~ (G) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

2 (I) EXPEDITE ALL PROCEEDINGS FOR THE REVIEW AND
3 APPROVAL OF A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR A
4 ~~DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION PROJECT AND PRIORITIZE THESE~~
5 ~~PROCEEDINGS, IF NECESSARY, OVER OTHER MATTERS; AND QUALIFYING PROJECT;~~
6 AND

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

13 (2) ~~A STATE AGENCY SHALL SUBMIT ANY RECOMMENDED LICENSING~~
14 ~~CONDITIONS OR TESTIMONY REGARDING THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF~~
15 ~~PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR A DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION~~
16 ~~PROJECT NOT LATER THAN 90 DAYS AFTER THE DATE THE COMMISSION MAKES THE~~
17 ~~VERIFICATION UNDER SUBSECTION (D)(1) OF THIS SECTION~~ THE COMMISSION MAY
18 EXTEND THE TIME TO TAKE FINAL ACTION ON A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC
19 CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER THIS SECTION IF AN APPLICANT FAILS TO
20 COMPLY WITH THE LAW, REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS, OR COMMISSION ORDERS
21 ASSOCIATED WITH OBTAINING A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND
22 NECESSITY.

23 (3) NOTWITHSTANDING ANY OTHER LAW OR REGULATION, IN ORDER
24 TO MEET THE REQUIRED TIMELINES FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF
25 PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER THIS SECTION, THE COMMISSION
26 MAY REVIEW AND DETERMINE WHETHER TO APPROVE DECOMMISSIONING PLANS
27 FOR A QUALIFYING PROJECT AFTER THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE
28 AND NECESSITY HAS BEEN ISSUED.

29 ~~(F)~~ (H) (1) IF A PROPOSED SITE FOR A ~~DISPATCHABLE ENERGY~~
30 ~~GENERATION~~ QUALIFYING PROJECT WAS PREVIOUSLY OR IS CURRENTLY USED FOR
31 ELECTRICITY GENERATION AND HAS A HIGHER GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION
32 PROFILE COMPARED TO THE ~~DISPATCHABLE ENERGY GENERATION~~ QUALIFYING
33 PROJECT;

34 (1) ~~THE APPLICANT IS EXEMPT FROM THE,~~ THE TIMELINES
35 ASSOCIATED WITH THE PRE-APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS OF COMAR 20.79.01.04
36 AND COMAR 20.79.01.05; AND

1 ~~(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL PRESUME THE PROPOSED SITE IS~~
2 ~~APPROPRIATE AND CONSISTENT WITH THE CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE~~
3 ~~AND NECESSITY FOR A NEW OR EXPANDED GENERATING STATION SHALL BE~~
4 ~~SHORTENED TO 45 DAYS FOR APPLICATIONS FOR A CERTIFICATE OF PUBLIC~~
5 ~~CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY UNDER THIS SECTION.~~

6 (2) PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION MAY NOT BE CONSTRUED
7 TO LIMIT THE AUTHORITY OF THE COMMISSION TO CONDITION OR REQUIRE
8 COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR A NEW OR EXPANDED GENERATING STATION AT
9 THE PROPOSED SITE.

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

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

17 SECTION 7. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That on or before January 15, 2026,
18 the Public Service Commission shall report to the General Assembly, in accordance with §
19 2-1257 of the State Government Article, on:

20 (1) the status of developing regulations for the establishment and purchase
21 of zero-emission credits in accordance with § 7-1217 of the Public Utilities Article, as
22 enacted by Section 3 of this Act; and

23 (2) whether any legislative action is necessary to implement the
24 zero-emission credit provisions in § 7-1217 of the Public Utilities Article, as enacted by
25 Section 3 of this Act.

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

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

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

32 (2) beginning July 1, 2026, and to each renewable energy portfolio standard
33 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, 2025.

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.