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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

March 31, 2021

Chair Delores G. Kelley
Senate Finance Committee
3 East, Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

RE: INFORMATION – Public Utilities – Bills for Electricity Service – Meter Reading

Dear Chair Kelley and Committee Members:

Senate Bill 949 would require Maryland utilities to provide exact meter readings on a customer's bill for the close of the previous and current billing cycles. Currently, Maryland Code of Regulations 20.50.04.03A(1) and (3) includes a substantially similar requirement -- a meter reading at the end of the period for which the bill is rendered and the number of units consumed. In reviewing the sample bills available on utility websites, it appears that the majority of Maryland utilities (Baltimore Gas and Electric, Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative, Potomac Edison and Choptank Electric Cooperative) currently provide beginning and ending meter readings.

The Potomac Electric Power Company (Pepco) and Delmarva Power and Light Company (Delmarva) do not currently provide meter readings on their Maryland customer bills. In 2013 Pepco and Delmarva (collectively, the Companies) sought waivers of COMAR 20.50.04.03A(1) as part of the installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI). In their request, the Companies stated that with the new AMI meters customers would no longer be billed based on beginning and ending meter readings. Rather, billing would be based on the sum of the consumption recorded in each hour by the meters over the course of the billing period. The Companies would provide daily consumption data on the bill in lieu of the meter readings. In the case of a dispute, the Companies would provide the hourly data to the customer upon request. The hourly data is also available on demand through the customer's online account.

In a Letter Order dated October 9, 2013, the Commission approved this request finding that there was good cause to waive the requirements of COMAR 20.50.04.03A(1). No party has asked the Commission to revisit this waiver since 2013. The waiver remains in effect. As noted above, it does appear that Pepco has the capability to provide the

information required in SB949 as that information is currently provided on their Washington, DC customer bills.

Thank you for your consideration of this information. Please contact Lisa Smith, Director of Legislative Affairs, at 410-336-6288 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jason M. Stanek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jason M. Stanek
Chairman