PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF WEST VIRGINIA
CHARLESTON

At a session of the PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA in the City of Charleston on the 8th day of January 2024.

CASE NO. 23-0460-E-42T

MONONGAHELA POWER COMPANY and
THE POTOMAC EDISON COMPANY
Rule 42T tariff filing to increase rates and charges.

COMMISSION ORDER

The Commission schedules a public comment hearing and orders publication of notice.

BACKGROUND

On May 31, 2023, Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company (collectively the Companies) filed revised tariff sheets reflecting increased base rates and charges of $207,452,687 or 13 percent in total revenues, including the proposed Infrastructure Investment Program and the Energy Assistance Outreach Program for low-income customers detailed in the filing, on a combined company basis. The Companies also proposed changes to their Net Metering tariff. The noticed effective date of the rate increase was June 30, 2023. Tariff Application, May 31, 2023; additional direct testimony, June 7, 2023.

On June 28, 2023, the Commission issued an Order suspending the proposed effective date until March 26, 2024.

DISCUSSION

To date, 1,285 public comments have been filed opposing the proposed rate increases or the changes to net metering proposed by the Companies. The Commission will schedule a public comment hearing to provide customers an additional opportunity to make public comment. The Commission anticipates that a large number of the Companies' customers and other interested persons will intend to speak at a public comment hearing. The Companies have customers in forty counties including Barbour, Berkeley, Braxton, Brooke, Calhoun, Clay, Doddridge, Fayette, Gilmer, Grant,
Greenbrier, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Lewis, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Monroe, Morgan, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pleasants, Pocahontas, Preston, Randolph, Ritchie, Roane, Summers, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Webster, Wetzel, Wirt, and Wood counties. The Commission, in previous cases, held public comment hearings regionally; however, the Commission is aware that many interested persons have been unable to attend those scheduled public comment hearings due to schedule conflicts or distance. The Commission hopes to ease the burden on those wishing to speak at a public comment hearing by scheduling a virtual public comment hearing that will allow all interested persons to comment virtually using either a telephone and/or internet service. The virtual hearing will also be webcast on the Commission website for those who wish to view the hearing without making a public comment. The Companies will be required to publish a notice of the virtual public comment hearing detailing the process to register to speak, and the Commission will release a press release at a later date. Any interested person may also attend, and speak, at the hearing at the Commission headquarters.

In addition to attending the public comment hearing virtually or in-person, interested persons who are not parties to these cases may make public comment in writing addressed to Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia, 25323, or online at http://www.psc.state.wv.us by clicking “Submit A Comment” in the left column and following the directions provided. The Companies will be required to publish notice of the public comment hearing.

FINDING OF FACT

To date, 1,285 public comments have been filed opposing the proposed rate increases or the changes to net metering proposed by the Companies.

CONCLUSION OF LAW

In the interest of public convenience, the Commission should hold a virtual public comment hearing.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that the Commission will hold a virtual public comment hearing in this case on Monday, January 22, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The Commission will issue a press release detailing the process to register to speak at the virtual hearing. Interested persons may also attend
the hearing in person at the Public Service Commission, Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company shall publish the notice of the public comment hearing, attached hereto as Attachment A, one time as soon as possible, in qualified daily newspapers published in the counties in which Monongahela Power Company and The Potomac Edison Company serve their customers, making due return to the Commission of proper certification of publication as soon as that certification is received.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Executive Secretary of the Commission serve a copy of this Order by electronic service on all parties of record who have filed an e-service agreement, and by United States First Class Mail on all parties of record who have not filed an e-service agreement, and on Commission Staff by hand delivery.

A True Copy, Teste,

Karen Buckley, Executive Secretary

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING

The Commission will hold a public comment hearing on January 22, 2024, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The public comment hearing will be held virtually, allowing for interested persons to make a comment telephonically, through the Microsoft Teams application from the internet, or in-person at the Commission headquarters. Interested persons intending to make a virtual public comment should register with the Commission by 4:00 p.m., Thursday, January 18, 2024. Registration may be made by any of the following methods:

(1) through the Microsoft Teams meeting link located on the Commission's website, http://www.psc.state.wv.us under the “PSC Hot Topics” section located at the top of the homepage;

(2) by calling 304-340-0836 (Karen Hall) or 304-340-0820 (Andrew Gallagher); or

(3) by emailing khall@psc.state.wv.us or agallagher@psc.state.wv.us.

Interested persons wishing to comment in-person at the public comment hearing should attend and sign up to speak at 5:30 p.m. at the Public Service Commission, Howard M. Cunningham Hearing Room, 201 Brooks Street, Charleston, West Virginia.

As an alternative to speaking at the public comment hearing virtually or in-person, individuals or entities interested in providing written comments regarding this case should submit their comments by mail or hand delivery to Executive Secretary, P.O. Box 812, Charleston, West Virginia 25323 or on-line at http://www.psc.state.wv.us by clicking on “Submit A Comment” in the left column and following the directions provided. All written comments should be marked with Case No. 23-0460-E-42T. Interested persons may also attend the
public comment hearing in-person or via webcast to observe the public comment hearing. The webcast may be viewed by clicking “Commission Webcast” located under the “Inside the PSC” section in the left column on the Commission's website: www.psc.state.wv.us.

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